

The Annual Parish Meeting was held in the parish hall on Tuesday 24 April 2018 at 7:00pm with the Parish Council Chairman Stephen Pawley in the chair. Also present were parish councillors Brenda Alison, Brian Furse, Colin Gilbert, Alison Rowland, Fred Ward, twenty members of the public and the parish council clerk Mrs. Lynn Pluess.

The Chairman of the Parish Council Cllr. Stephen Pawley welcomed everyone to the meeting and followed with a report from the Parish Council. As the Chairman he was very pleased to present a positive report with the Council having had a proactive and productive past 12 month completing many outstanding issues, introducing some changes to assist with the running of the parish and taking on some new initiatives. He spoke of the parish clerk Lynn Pluess who works tirelessly and with the number of years' experience she has been a constant source of help and information. A formal contract of employment has now been established with an appropriate amount of pay which was long overdue. Lead members have been appointed to take on a first line role in specific areas namely planning; highways; public footpaths; cemetery and closed churchyard; public toilets. Any matters relating to those specific issues may now be addressed to the appropriate lead member. The Council aims to place small works contracts with local people which include the maintenance of the churchyard and cemetery; public rights of way maintenance; cleaning of the public toilets and the refurbishment of the public toilets. A detailed maintenance plan has now been established for the closed churchyard to satisfy the obligation with regards to biodiversity and ecology. A subsidised contract for clearing the Widemouth to Canceleave section of the coastal path is currently under discussion.

The public toilets are now run by the Parish Council and are in the process of being completely renovated. The running costs are mainly met by a levy on car parking charges with an honesty box complimenting this source. A local cleaning company has the contract for the summer period and this is now becoming a public facility of which we can be very proud. He thanked Cllrs. Colin Gilbert and Fred Ward for monitoring the building and on a number of occasions going well beyond the call of duty to clear and clean blocked drains. There are ongoing problems of overnight camping in the car park and the disposal of chemical toilets which has resulted in a number of blockages to the drains, the Chairman encourage anyone seeing infringements to report them immediately, contact numbers will be on the new signage. The gravel footpath in the cemetery has been replaced with a smooth tarmaced surface making access for all much easier and the Council is looking to improve the entrance gateway to the West of the Church. Two new bus shelters have replaced the damaged shelters at Bangors and Treskinnick Cross and the Council is working hard to improve the safety for children crossing the A39 at Bangors although ultimately responsibility lies with the parents and children themselves. Speeding and parking in Widemouth Bay is a cause for concern and both issues are under discussion with Cornwall Council.

The Chairman said up to date information is very important and although criticized in the past communication is now easier than before. The Poundstock Packet has regular extracts from Council minutes as well as news updates. The Parish Council website is under review to make it more useful. New noticeboards have been ordered for Bangors, Treskinnick Cross and Widemouth Bay car park and these will be available for general use as well as Council business. Planning is a major part of the council's work and the Neighbourhood Development Plan which will define the future physical character of the parish is now underway. The Terms of Reference document is ready to be presented to the Council for adoption after which the steering group responsible for overseeing the preparation of the plan, ensuring that it truly reflects the ambition of the parish will be appointed.

Parish Council Chairman's Signature.....

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Separate working groups will look at specific aspects of the plan giving plenty of opportunity for everyone to take part and have a positive input.

The second major initiative is the rebuilding of the parish hall which was finally condemned in October and in the absence of positive feedback from the public the parish council hopes to make a decision on a location for a new building by autumn 2018. Further consultation will be sought over the facilities in due course. The Chairman spoke of the precept which has remained unchanged this year as sufficient income is available for the current expenditure through the precept, grant and fees. Council reserves are being placed in approved funds for added security. The Chairman thanked fellow councillors, the Clerk and Cornwall Councillor Nicky Chopak for their continued support and hard work in achieving a great deal in a short time although there is still a lot to do. He spoke of not always winning the battles especially over planning decisions and asked that if tempted to criticize people remember the councillors are all volunteers doing their best on behalf of the community. On conclusion the Chairman's speech was met with a resounding round of applause.

Peter Moore of the Cornwall Rural Housing Association was introduced and picked up at the stage the recently completed affordable housing scheme Buttercup Fields at Bangors which was then beginning to go through the tender exercise to secure a building contractor to build the homes and was encouraging people to register on the list. Funding was secure just before the deadline with some additional funding from Cornwall Council from raised from Section 106. An extensive pre-tender exercised was carried out with five companies interested in submitting a price but in the week before the deadline two of the more local companies said they would not be tendering, the contract was won by a Hampshire based company who had already done a lot of work in North Devon. The official start on site was December but work actually began in January delays due to wet weather conditions. There is to be an official opening ceremony on Friday 27 April 2018 with Scott Mann MP, an invitation has been sent to the parish council and councillors were encouraged to attend. The housing development was called Buttercup Fields because of lovely pictures sent by the parish council of fields of buttercups where the development is now located. He explained that Cornwall Council do not usually permit roads to be called fields anymore, but with the support of the parish council it was permitted and there is supporting documentary evidence of the buttercups!

Peter Moore said people were encouraged to register with themselves and Cornwall Home Choice, Cornwall Council's choice based letting scheme. A local lettings plan was drawn up to ensure the local connections set out in the planning agreement was reflected. Successful events were held in the parish with representation from Cornwall Home Choice to assist people with the local connection. When the properties were advertised a total of 577 bids were received for the eight properties which they found quite astonishing. Cornwall Home Choice confirmed 38 people of the bids received actually had a primary connection to Poundstock and only 8 were housed which means there are still a great many people looking for affordable housing indicating a real housing need in Poundstock. Initial enquiries are being made for more affordable housing in the parish with the obvious place for further development being to continue on from Buttercup Fields, an initial pre-application is being submitted to Cornwall Council to see if the principle of further development is acceptable. He explained the CRHA only builds enough housing to meet local needs and there is evidence that more affordable housing is needed in the area. Now is a good time to be thinking of more homes as the government is keen to get the construction industry moving and there are grants available and Cornwall Council is very supportive of more

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affordable housing. He found it interesting that the first letter for this scheme was dated in 2007 but with the support of the local community, parish council and good evidence of housing need the process would be quicker. He gave a breakdown of the housing and bids received for each as follows: - One-bedroom 148 bids; Two-bedroom 82 bids; Three-bedrooms 75 bids; Four-bedrooms 78 bids; Two-Bedroom Bungalow 194 showing a huge demand for rented accommodation. Following a brief question time, the chairman congratulated Peter Moore on a job well done which has clearly satisfied a very important need in the parish and provided useful statistics which going forward will help in the Neighbourhood Development Plan.

The chairman introduced Cornwall Councillor and Ward Member Nicky Chopak now in her fifth year she attends most of the parish council meetings on a monthly basis. She spoke of the upcoming boundary changes which will see the number of Cornwall Councillors being reduced from 123 to 87 which potentially means the councillors currently looking after 3,500 residents will then have 5,500 residents. In a rural area this is difficult however with the inclusion of an area in Bude it has been made possible. To give an idea of her work as a County Councillor she explained the biggest percentage of her time is taken up with planning issues, housing, transport, potholes and highways. General day to day issues include closure of the public libraries, public toilets and how to improve Cornwall as a whole. It was noted that Cornwall Council keeps putting up the rates but it may not seem that much is being done for the money, everything goes into front line services namely adult social care, education, transport and highway issues which unfortunately is why libraries and public toilets are being closed. She spoke kindly of Poundstock Parish Council taking on the public toilets in Widemouth Bay which she realised has taken up a great deal of the Council's time but Cornwall Council are most grateful for this as the public toilets would have been closed.

Cllr. Nicky Chopak is on the Adult and Social Care Committee of Cornwall Council and spends a great deal of time at all-day meetings discussing cuts to health care and adult social care which takes up quite a lot of her time and being on this committee she get involved with quite a lot of people, she asked that anyone with issues specifically around adult social care and health speak directly to her. She is also on the Neighbourhood Scrutineers Committee all about libraries and localism and moving services down to a more local level. Household waste is soon to be collected fortnightly and recycling collected weekly hoping to encourage more recycling, along with the introduction of a food waste bin, also to be collected weekly. Cornwall Council is currently a little behind with this arrangement proven elsewhere to be successful at reducing waste and encouraging recycling. This may take quite some time to put in place with details for final arrangements now being discussed.

She spoke of the stadium for Cornwall seen recently in the press and possibly quite a contentious subject which has been debated by Cornwall Councillors at length. It could be a useful project that may attract capital funding and more people into Cornwall. On closing she asked if anyone has any issues specifically relevant to Cornwall Council contact her direct. Following questions from residents the Chairman thanked Cornwall Councillor Nicky Chopak and closed the meeting at 7:30 pm.

Parish Council Chairman's Signature.....

Dated.....