

Portreath Parish Council

Annual Report

May 2023 – April 2024



PORTREATH
PARISH COUNCIL

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Chairman's Welcome



As newly elected Chairman of the council, I am pleased to introduce the Council's annual report, that is in large produced by our parish Clerk. The report outlines what has been a busy year under the leadership of our retiring Chairman, Ian Stewart. Over his period as Chairman, Ian has put considerable effort not only as leader but into all aspects of Parish life, from ensuring the parish toilets are fully operational each day to personally supporting the warm welcome sessions throughout the year. He moved the parish forward into becoming a more professionally run organisation, he's improved relationships with other councils, led the successful bid for circa £200K government levelling up funding, that will see the old toilet block transform into a parish office and community hub, whilst overseeing the Parish meetings, some of which have been challenging. I thank Ian on behalf of his fellow councillors and our parishioners for all that he has done for the parish. As for me, I will not attempt to fill the void left by Ian's retirement but will rely on the

ongoing support from the excellent parish councillors, including Ian, who week in week out put their time and energies into the various schemes and initiatives outlined in this report. You are an amazing team.

As well as encouraging parishioners to come to our meeting, I will make myself available to speak to any members or member of the parish, ideally face to face, to discuss ideas, issues or concerns outside of parish meetings, I can be contacted through the Clerk at portreathparishcouncil@gmail.com or direct at simongoodwin.ppc@yahoo.com

Outgoing Chairman's Report

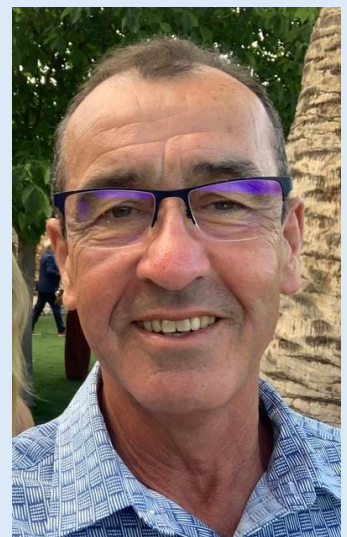
2023/24 has been a busy year for our council.

The youth club has now been up and running for over a year now and is being supervised and organised by Action for Children. It appears that this is popular with the younger children but not so much with the older ones. The junior netball project has also come out from the initial engagement with the young people and is very well attended with sessions being held at Cornwall College in Pool and open to the wider area – not just Portreath. We have held weekly “Warm Welcome” sessions throughout the year with monthly guest speakers, bingo and a general chance for a coffee, cake, and chat. Unfortunately, the numbers of people attending have dwindled and these have suspended these for now.

The Remembrance parade and service was organised back in November and was very well attended.

The council had entered into an option agreement with a developer to investigate the possibility of building 100% affordable homes on the former WAAF site which would be managed by Coastline Housing if built. Whilst we were aware of how important affordable housing is from the NDP and from talking to residents, I think it's fair to say that the council were surprised by the amount of opposition to this scheme that arose regarding this. It is presently in the hands of the planning authority for a final decision after the planning application was lodged by the developers in February. This process had insured the ability for members of the public to comments on the proposed scheme.

The biggest project undertaken is the redevelopment of the old redundant toilet block to build a parish office and meeting room in its place. We applied for funding from the CLUP fund administered by Cornwall Council, which was a huge administrative task that took many, many hours of work from the working group of the parish council. In the end it was worth it, and the necessary funding was awarded. The work has actually commenced with the demolition



complete and construction underway. We envisage completion in the Autumn.

I have now handed the over the reins to the new Chairman Cllr Goodwin with Cllr Nash as his Vice Chairman, I wish them the best of luck with their new roles within the council. I would like to take this opportunity to thank councillors and officers for their support over the past four years and am looking forward to seeing the completion of our major projects before this term of council is up!

Councillor Ian Stewart

Chairman: Portreath Parish Council

July 2020 - May 2024

Parish Office and Community Hub

April finally saw spades hit the ground for the start the of the project to demolish for former public toilets and replace with a purpose-built office and community hub.



Councillors have been working on this project for a number of years, but it has finally come to fruition with help from Cornwall Council's Community Capacity Fund which funded some of the costs for the surveys and structural design allowing councillors to bring the project together and successfully apply for funding from Cornwall Council's Community Levelling up

Programme. Securing the grant for £198,605.57 from the UK Government through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund enable the start of the much-needed office and community hub.

The new building to be opened in early 2025 will provide the Parish Council with an office, as well as having a small community meeting room. It will also be a place to celebrate and promote Portreath Parish Heritage and local Tourism to visitors. The building will be repositioned in line with other buildings to allow the public footpath to be widened in the process so that it is fully accessible and safer for pedestrians.



Community Speed Watch



Community Speed Watch – Illogan and Portreath

The group began on the 22 November 2022 and currently has 14 volunteers recorded. To date, the group has run 14 sessions. The group covers sites in Portreath and Illogan,

which have been identified as 'problem speeding areas'.

Portreath Parish Council invested in a 'Speeding Sign', which moves between the bottom of Tolticken Hill and Bridge Moor, which is and will remain to be a 30mph limit (Bridge itself is changing to 20mph). This sign has shown some concerning statistics, with motorists speeding along this stretch, some have reached speeds in excess of 80mph – in a 30mph zone!! Since the group started, 97 vehicles have been recorded as being over the speed limit, with a maximum speed of 51mph, in a 30mph area. Due to this project, we have seen an increase of Traffic Police in the area.

We would like to deliver more sessions; however, this is dependent on Volunteer time, availability, and the Cornish weather! If you are interested in volunteering for this local project, please contact Cllr Dave Crabtree or Cllr Vicki Webb

Lighthouse Hill Consultation

Thank you to everyone who responded to the Portreath Parish Council (PPC) Survey, regarding the Lighthouse Hill Car Park and

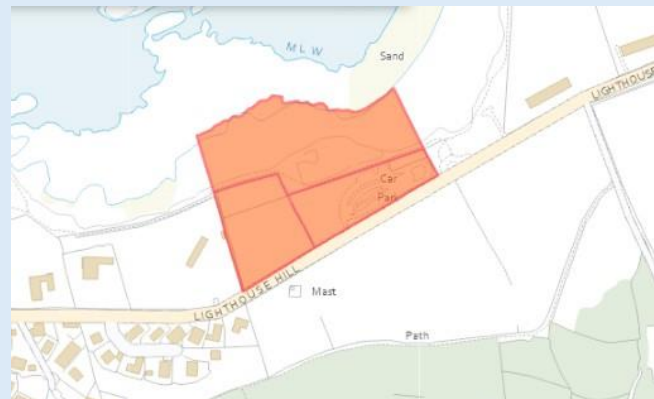


The poster features the Portreath Parish Council logo at the top left. The main heading is 'Lighthouse Hill' in a large, blue font, with the subtitle 'Car Park & Amenity space' below it. A large blue speech bubble contains the text 'NEEDS YOU!' in white. Below this, a smaller blue speech bubble asks: 'Should Portreath Parish Council ask Cornwall Council if we can take ownership of this land and if so how should we use it?'. A QR code is positioned to the left of another blue speech bubble that says: 'PLEASE SCAN THE QR code to take part in our short survey! We care what you think!'. At the bottom, it says 'For more info visit the Portreath Parish Council Website' and is accompanied by a graphic of several colorful hands raised.

parishioners as possible, through door

knocking, letterbox drops, posters and surveys in local businesses and an open event at the Millenium Hall!

Overall, the community would like PPC to gain ownership of the land, as long as it doesn't cost anything. Through



conversations with parishioners and feedback on the Survey form, many felt that the offer on the table was far too expensive and not in the best interests of the parish. The next step is for a conversation between Cornwall Council and PPC, to negotiate a better offer, with the aim for the land to be gifted or received it for a nominal amount (£1 + legal fees). We will keep you updated as soon as we are able!

To see the full report, you can access this on the PPC Website, which also includes the survey results.

We would like to say a HUGE THANK YOU to the Working Group and Volunteers, who helped the PPC to deliver this consultation! Your time and dedication to this project, has been invaluable to the success of this project so far!

Community Catch Up

Since they wer set up in 2023 the Coffee Mornings were well attended, and we have held some great sessions, from

chatting over cake, tea/coffee, to flower arranging and inviting in guest speakers! In 2024, these sessions have continued every Thursday, with the brilliant Cllr Gill Tull making the lush cakes and being the BINGO Caller once a month!

Due to dwindling numbers and councillors the lack of capacity to deliver these sessions, we have taken the difficult decision to close the coffee mornings. The council will review this again in September 2024.

Youth Engagement



In January 2023, the PPC embarked on a Youth Consultation. We spoke with over 50 young people, to find out what they

would like to see in the Parish for young people. As a result, we were able to create a partnership with Action for Children, who had the capacity to deliver Youth Nights in the village EVERY MONDAY night. We also created a Youth Action Plan. You may not know, but there is a Youth Working Group! This Working Group consists of Youth Workers from Action for Children, councillors and until recently, a PIC member (we are hoping for a representative to join us soon). If there are any members of the public, who has

an interest in the Young People of Portreath Parish, please contact Cllr Vicki Webb for more information.

The Youth Nights times have changed recently, to adapt to the way the young people use the space and to incorporate working with young people who are home schooled. Please encourage your young people to use these nights and help to spread the word!

Community Junior Netball

As many may remember, Portreath Parish Council (PPC) delivered some sport Taster Sessions in the village. One of which was Netball and was kindly hosted by Portreath Primary School and 3 local parishioners who delivered the sessions! The netball sessions evolved into Community Junior Netball sessions, as a need was identified and a gap in delivery in this area for the sport.



PPC has created some amazing partnerships with Portreath Primary School, Netball Cornwall and Lastonets Netball Club, in order to take this opportunity further. We were successful in gaining funding through the Community Chest, supported by Cllr Dave Crabtree and our Community Link Officer. Overall, we reached 42 Young People and recruited 8 new Volunteers. The feedback that we have received from both young people and volunteers has been incredibly

positive. Our volunteers have now teamed up with Lastonets Netball Club, and formed a junior committee, in the hope that funding can be secured to take this forward. Portreath Parish Council wishes the committee well with taking this project to the next step of its journey.

A Tribute

The sad news of the passing of former Councillor Patrick Kessel was heard by councillors and the community in February 2024. At their March meeting councillors held a minute's silence as a mark of respect. Patrick was only a councillor for a short time but during his time on the council he made a massive impact. His determination and drive led the council to instigate many projects including exploring the use of the former WAAF Site as social housing, for local people. The community he loved and the people in it were always at the heart of his ideas, decisions, and actions. Patrick served many years as a member of the Portreath Improvements Committee a number of those as Chairman. He supported their work by dedicating much of his time to ensuring smooth running of the beach car park. We know many members of the community have their own memories of Patrick quietly helping out where help was needed.

The thoughts of councillors and officers remain with Patrick's family, friends, colleagues at the Portreath Improvements Committee and the wider community. A man who will truly be missed by so many.

Council Membership

23/24 saw a change in membership with Cllr. Symonds resigning in the late summer. The Chairman and members of the council thank Mr. Symonds for his contribution to the council during their time served as councillor. It took a while to fill but the casual vacancy was filled at the March meeting of the council by experienced Councillor Ann Jarman.

Moving into 24/25 the membership of the council stands as:

Councillor Simon Goodwin - **Chairman**
Councillor Shirley Nash – **Vice Chairman**
Councillor Mark Hitchen
Councillor Ian Stewart
Councillor Gillian Tull
Councillor John Tull
Councillor Vicki Webb
Councillor Julie Parker
Councillor Ann Jarman

Committees and Working Groups

The council has one separate committee the **Staffing Committee**. Membership of the committee is:

Councillor Vicki Webb (Chairman 23/24)
Councillor Shirley Nash (Vice Chair 23/24)
Councillor John Tull
Councillor Julie Parker
Councillor Ian Stewart

There are several working groups of the council. Membership of these is made up of Councillors, staff and in some cases members of the public.

Lighthouse Hill Working Group

Councillor Vicki Webb
Councillor Shirley Nash

Councillor Simon Goodwin
Councillor Gillian Tull
6 members of the public

Climate Action Working Group

Councillor Gillian Tull
2 members of the public

Parish Office Project Working Group

Councillor Simon Goodwin
Councillor Mark Hitchen
Councillor Ian Stewart
Councillor Vicki Webb
Councillor Ann Jarman
Clerk to the Council - Lucy Jose

Youth Engagement Working Group

Councillor Vicki Webb
Councillor Gillian Tull
2 Staff from Action for Children
1 member of the public

WAAF Site Working Group

Councillor Simon Goodwin
Councillor Mark Hitchen
Councillor Ian Stewart
1 member of the public

There are currently spaces for parishioner to join the Climate Action Working Group. Please get in touch with the Clerk if you would like to be involved!

A new .gov.uk Domain

In a bid to continue to progress with the increased professionalism of the council, members resolved to adopt a .gov.uk domain for the council's website and individual email addresses for each officer and councillor. The transition to the new domain will be happening over the coming weeks so please check the website for the

most up to date contacts for the council and councillors!

Grants & Donations

Donations totalling £1242.00 were given in 23/24, including donations to the Portreath Preschool, Illogan Sparnon Silver band and the Poppy Appeal.

Portreath Parish Council has a budget allocated for a range of grants for local organisations. For further details see our website for the Grant policy and application form. We ask that any applications for large grants are with the council no later than October for consideration with the 25/26 budget.

Finance & Budget

The council is pleased to report that the Parish balanced its books for the year 2023/24. To prepare for 2024/25 budget setting the Council held community engagement sessions asking parishioners how they wanted their money to be spent. Unfortunately, these weren't well supported by parishioners, which is a real shame. Councillors welcome input from parishioners especially when it comes to how the council administers its finances. Watch out for budgeting workshops in later in the year when the council will start to look ahead to 25/26 budget!

In summary the planned spend for 2024/25 is £102,932.00 reserves of £50,697.00. The increase in the precept to cover the planned expenditure has resulted in an overall increase of 17.02%, which reflects a percentage increase to the average Council taxpayer of 13.96% or 35p per week increase. The full budget

document is available on our website. The cost of the parish office and community hub has been funded from Cornwall Council's Community Levelling up Programme, meaning that the cost of this project is not being covered by parishioners in Portreath. This funding is ring fenced for the project and cannot be used to fund other parish council work or projects. The Community Levelling Up Programme is part of the Good Growth Programme, which is delivering the UK Shared Prosperity Fund in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly. Portreath Parish Council received £198,605.57 from the UK Government through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

BOPP

With more than 30% of the councils' budgets being spent on maintaining the public toilets councillors have discussed at length



the idea of charging for the public toilets, however have never committed to this as they are aware that parishioners already contribute towards their up keep when paying their council tax.

Councillors have considered donation boxes but concluded that the cost of administering them would likely outweigh the donations received, especially when people are generally using less cash! For the last year we have been using BOPP a donation platform where members of the public can scan a QR code to make a donation to the running of the public toilets. During 23/24 the council received

donations totalling £194.50. This is equivalent to the electricity used over 5 months of the year!

24/25 Meetings

Meeting of Portreath Parish Council are held at St Mary's Church Hall, Penberthy Road, Portreath. Usually on the first Monday of the Month at 6:30pm.

13/05/24	Annual Council Meeting
20/05/24	Annual Meeting of Electors
03/06/24	Full Council Meeting
17/06/24	Staffing Committee Meeting
01/07/24	Full Council Meeting
02/09/24	Full Council Meeting
16/09/24	Staffing Committee Meeting
07/10/24	Full Council Meeting
04/11/24	Full Council Meeting
02/12/24	Full Council Meeting
13/01/25	Full Council Meeting
03/02/25	Full Council Meeting
03/03/25	Full Council Meeting
07/04/25	Full Council Meeting
12/05/25	Annual Council Meeting

Contact Us

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Please note our imminent switch to the .gov.uk domain for our website and emails. Please check the website, Facebook and notice boards for more details and to keep up to date contacts for the council and councillors!