

Clerks Report 3rd June 2024

Meetings/ Training/Holiday

- Monday 27th May- Friday 31st May (Using holiday)
 - Toil Accrued during May: 1hour
-

Points of Interest

Staffing 121, 1 hour	01/05/24
Parish Office Working Group Meeting, 1.5hours	13/05/24
Meeting with Preschool Committee, 1.5 hours	15/05/24
Annual Parish meeting	20/05/24
Staffing 121, 1 hour	21/05/24

Planning Report

Applications for consideration:

None

Approved:

[PA24/00506 | Proposed modular classroom building | Portreath Community Primary School Penberthy Road Portreath Redruth Cornwall TR16 4LU](#)

[PA23/07206 | Change of use of land to form driveway and parking area | Harbour Heights Glenfeadon Terrace Portreath Redruth Cornwall TR16 4JT](#)

Closed Advice Given:

[PA24/00082/PREAPP | Pre-application advice for a highly sustainable and ecologically sound Tree House Tourism offer of between 2 and 9 tree houses. | OS Field 8998 Bridge Moor Redruth Cornwall](#)

Donation Request (confidential personal data redacted)

Dear Lucy and Councillors

I am helping to organise a leaver's disco and class of 2024 hoodies for the year 6 children at the school. I am hoping there will be some fundraising to help support this, but I wondered if the Parish Council would be in a position to make a donation to this at all please?

It's a very special (and often sad) occasion for the children and we would really like to give them some lovely memories. I know how close the council are to the school, if you are able to help then we would be very grateful.

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Parishioners Request for Vote of No Confidence in South West Water:

Correspondence from parishioners (confidential personal data redacted)

13/05/24 - Dear Portreath Parish Council

You will all be aware of the appalling regular pollution of Cornish beaches with untreated sewage. While understanding the physical system is now more than two decades old, the lack of investment in infrastructure to manage the current conditions is paltry. As a Cornish resident, I am very unhappy with the performance and delivery by South West Water of its statutory obligations. The impact on local amenities, local health, local businesses and on our visitors is already significant and is clearly increasing. The additional cost to the local NHS is not inconsiderable, and Cornwall Council's own obligations resulting from South West Water's failures are also a drain on our local authority funds.

Additionally, you may also be aware of the £143,000,000 South West Water spent in the fiscal year ending March 2023 (the last available full accounts) on repurchasing its shares and dividends to shareholders. None of this £143 million benefited Cornish customers who have no choice in their provider.

Whatever one's personal view of privatisation of national infrastructure systems, most would agree that the essential requirement for a successful privatisation is competition. Without competition in the local water industry, the feebly regulated South West Water has asset stripped the business to the benefit of its shareholders not its customers and now fails all reasonable sewage standards.

Portreath manages half of all the untreated sewage for the largest urban conurbation in Cornwall so it is a good example to consider. Portreath's beach recently had 171 out of 173 consecutive days from 1 November 2023 when the advisory information indicated diluted raw sewage outflow. The current Portreath information reported on the Environment Agency's website - see attachment - states "no pollution incidents reported." This absolutely does not match the lived experience so South West Water is either lying, the testing is wrong or the public reporting regime is also sadly not fit for purpose.

I am now asking Portreath Parish Council to discuss and hopefully pass a motion of no confidence in South West Water's performance and future ability to manage our sewer systems in line with their legal obligations. This action has been taken by other local authorities in the south west and Portreath now needs to step up to join them. I look forward to hearing your views in reply.


Environment Agency **Bathing Water Quality** Find Get the data Glossary Help Web widgets

2024 Bathing Water Profile for Portreath

Cornwall, England

No pollution incidents reported.

The most recent classification is **Excellent**, based on samples taken from 2019 through to 2023.




Excellent bathing water quality

About Portreath is on the north coast of Cornwall. It is a sand and shingle beach resort, approximately 520 metres wide, backed by cliffs. There is a stream that flows across the beach to the sea.

Here you can see the recent results from water quality assessments under the Bathing Water Directive. For historical measurements, [view the detailed water quality data](#).

Water quality

Samples taken	ten times between May 1st 2024 and Sep 30th 2024
Most recent sample	no samples have been collected yet
2023 classification	★★★★ excellent
2022 classification	★★★★ excellent
2021 classification	★★★★ excellent



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13/05/24 - Portreath PC

I am very dissatisfied with the terrible performance of South West Water with regard to untreated sewage flows into our sea.

I'm sure you know the figures and the strength of feeling among your local voters so I won't set them out here.

However, I do want Cornwall Council to speak up formally for us and send a clear message to South West Water.

Please work to ensure that Cornwall Council passes a motion of no confidence in South West Water's performance and future ability to manage our sewer systems in line with their legal obligations. This action has been taken by other local authorities in the south west and I want my council to join them.

I look forward to hearing your views in reply.

Yours sincerely

14/05/24 - Dear Parish Councillors and Cllr Crabtree,

Vote of No CONFIDENCE SWW

As a sea swimmer for my well-being and to support my mental health – started around covid pandemic, I am writing to cite my absolute shock at the state of our water – the regular pollution of our seas and in particular Portreath which has been impossible to swim since November 2023 other than the very odd occasion.

Untreated sewage discharged into our sea on this scale- indeed at all- is something we should feel great shame towards, particularly those in positions of power as this is a long -standing problem that erodes the quality of life for ordinary people – denying us the right to swim in clean bathing water and putting our children and all of us 'at risk'. The physical systems have not been invested in whilst house building has exceeded unprecedented heights with no clear public awareness campaign by CC to help us to understand how antiquated systems can cope, which they cannot, hence the discharges. People scratch their heads in disbelief at what appears to be immense and increased strains on our infrastructures. The rain and run off from farms is blamed but this is not good enough, global change will be impacting but all the more reason for SWW to be responding to this- it has been known for many years and no excuse to be blaming increased rain and run off.

The release of untreated sewerage and failure by SWW to meet its statutory obligations, impacts on local people, businesses and visitors in this Parish who should be notified of the quality of the water in which they swim, often oblivious to the risks they and their children are taking. There are increased evidence of illness and potential for death from bacteria in our water. I understand it is the responsibility of CC from start of bathing season, 18th May but what about outside these times and how clear is the advice within the season. I have contacted CC about this alongside other sea swimmers who are now taking increased action including asking for vote of no confidence in SWW. I have been speaking with Cllr. Crabtree and he is organising a meeting with SWW and we will attend and thank him for this though sadly, we have no confidence give the back story of which we are well versed and have researched. We will be posing formal questions at this meeting.

People like Stev Bacshall and many others are gathering this evidence regarding the serious nature of swimming in polluted water. This will gather pace and adds to the shame of our nation, and we urge you to stand with us and with others on this matter. Local people will become ill and indeed are, we will be investigating this further with SAS and others.

Share holders have been rewarded for their failures with none of the £143.000.000 year ended March 2023 benefitting Cornish people. This money was spent on repurchasing shares to benefit share holders. We have been told by our local Councillor that SWW are going to invest £150.000 on proposed work as Portreath 'houses' the pump for all of the sewerage (including all the increase from house building in Redruth and locally) and as mentioned previously, we will attend this meeting but will not be placated by measures that do not fully address the magnitude of what is needed. Portreath manages half of all the untreated sewage for the largest urban conurbation in Cornwall and this must be taken account of.

There is no competition to SWW. South West Water has now asset stripped to the benefit of its shareholders not its customers and now fails all reasonable sewage standards leaving our community and the wider communities who use

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our beaches, holiday makers and little children who have less robust immune systems, at risk but also denying a right to be in clean seas for quality of living and wellbeing. It is nothing short of a disgrace and as our Parish Council, we ask you to act and vote as a Council that you have no confidence in SWW. Portreath's beach recently had 171 out of 173 consecutive days when the advisory information indicated diluted raw sewage outflow. The current Portreath information reported on the Environment Agency's website -states "no pollution incidents reported." This absolutely does not match our experience so South West Water is either lying, the testing is wrong or the public reporting regime is also sadly not fit for purpose. This needs urgent addressing and a **no confidence vote by Portreath Parish Council** will help spur on much needed action. Scrutiny, challenge and action is at the core of our democracy, you as our Council are our voice- please take this action.

Yours sincerely,

14/05/24 - Dear Portreath Parish Council

I am a resident in Portreath (forty years) and all year round cold water swimming is my pastime. I have been horrified by the amount and frequency of undiluted sewage , and for almost five months since last November there have been almost daily sewage alerts at Portreath beach, meaning that I am unable to do this without travelling further afield. The system is obviously antiquated and needs a major overhaul. There is no sign of this coming any time soon. I would be grateful if you would therefore discuss and pass a vote of no confidence in South West Water.

14/05/24 - Dear Portreath Parish Council

As a very long term Cornwall resident I am very dissatisfied with the way South West Water regularly discharges diluted raw sewage into the sea near Portreath.

This has gone on too long and too regularly this year to be ignored. Their current plans to act are clearly inadequate so I see no sign of this stopping.

Other councils in the south west have passed motions of no confidence in South West Water's ability to manage our sewage effectively and I would like my parish council to do the same.

14/05/24 - Good afternoon

In light of the near constant pollution on Portreath Beach I am writing to you to ask you to table a vote of no confidence in South West Water's ability to manage the sewer systems at Portreath and elsewhere in Cornwall.

This situation is disgraceful and putting people's health at risk, and cannot be allowed to continue.

19/15/24 - Dear Councillors

I think you are all as concerned as me about the ongoing water pollution problems around the country and particularly in our own parish.

Sadly SWW have neglected the whole system and not invested as they should have done over the last twenty or so years. Added to this the huge increase in housing putting more and more demands on this creaking infrastructure I really fear we are in huge trouble.

Still managing however to pay dividends to their shareholders and massive bonuses to management by asset stripping. When SWW took over they inherited NO debt they are now in debt for over £3 billion pounds!!!!

Myself and other like minded people are asking Cornwall County Council to discuss and hopefully pass a motion of no confidence in South West Water's performance and future ability to manage our sewer systems in line with their legal obligations. I would be thrilled to know you would support us in this and look forward to hearing from you.

Thank you

Correspondence

Correspondence from members of the public (confidential personal data redacted)

16/05/24

Hi,

As a regular dog walker in Portreath I was wondering whether adequate measures are in place to mitigate any potential pollution, from the Parish offices development next to the toilets, into the river, beach and

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sea. From my experience as a Principal Planning Officer for a local authority it seems very slap dash with herrace fencing, that is leaning over, being the only barrier to the river.

Response for Office Project Working Group: sent 22/05/24

We can confirm that the heras fencing currently in place is a temporary measure whilst drilling, to keep the public off the site and not as an environmental barrier. There have been further control measures implemented to mitigate risk from the piling works to the environment and the contractors are constantly monitoring the situation, carrying out assessments to mitigate any further risk. To date, the only liquid on site is from the ground- there has been no use of any chemicals or pollutants. We do hope that this has put your mind at rest.

Citizens Advice (confidential personal data redacted)

23 May 2024

LATEST STATISTICS FOR YOUR AREA FROM CITIZENS ADVICE CORNWALL

Dear Sir / Madam,

Please find attached the latest 2023/24 statistics for your council area from Citizens Advice Cornwall.

In the last year, **our charity helped more than 8,000 people across Cornwall** with a wide range of issues including housing, energy bills, debt, benefits claims, work problems, relationship breakdowns, emergency support (such as foodbanks) and consumer issues.

Although the national economic picture may be easing, **the cost of living crisis is still having a deep and prolonged effect on many people in Cornwall and we're continuing to see increasing numbers of people who desperately need local help**. We are seeing a rise in debt cases and more disabled people who have been disproportionately affected by rising costs.

To meet the increasing need, we're planning to recruit more volunteer advisers and have a presence in more places across the county.

Our funding from Cornwall Council only covers a third of our advice service costs and doesn't allow for expansion to meet growing demand. We would be grateful for any donation that might help us reach out to more people.

If your members would like more information about the work of Citizens Advice and the sort of cases we're seeing in your area, please contact me. We're always happy to come and talk at council or public meetings.

Yours sincerely,

XXXXX XXXXXX- COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

CITIZENS ADVICE CORNWALL

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Parish Dashboard

citizens
advice

In this/these parish/es we helped

Clients	19
Issues all	123

Top Issues

Benefits Universal Credit	61
Benefits & tax credits	24
Debt	16
Financial services & capability	7
Housing	5

Top 5 benefit issues

01 Initial claim	21
03 Housing element	11
08 Calculation of income, earnings and capital	8
02 Standard element	6
05 Child elements	5
19 Employment Support Allowance	5

Top 5 debt issues

49 Debt Relief Order	3
09 Council tax arrears	2
13 Credit, store & charge card debts	2
16 Water supply & sewerage debts	2
17 Unpaid parking penalty & cong. chgs.	2

Homelessness

Clients seen (parishes)



Gender



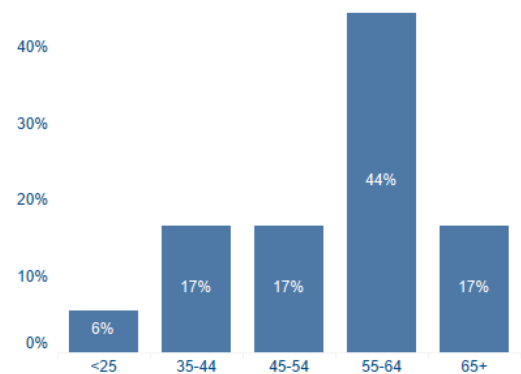
Ethnicity



Disabled or Long term health



Age group



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