

Clerks Report 7th October 2024

Meetings/ Training/Holiday

- Training
- Parish Office Working Group Meeting **1 hour** 05/09/24
- Parish Office Working Group Meeting **1.5 hours** 11/09/24
- Tech Support (email set up) **1 hour** 13/09/24
- Parish Office Working Group finance meeting 16/09/24
- Planning Meeting **1 hour** 23/09/24
- Staffing Committee Meeting **2 hours** 23/09/24
- Parish Office Working Group Meeting **1.5 hours** 25/09/24

Points of Interest

- Parish Office Project Work **4 Hours** 25/09/24
- Parish Office Project Work **6 Hours** 26/09/24
- Parish Office Project Work **1 Hour** 27/09/24

- The CLUP team approved the full £200,000.00 for the parish office project as costs have increased since the quotes were all gathered last year.
- Unity trust Bank have informed the council that there will be a change in interest rate from 01/11/2024 as detailed below:

Account type	Existing rate Gross rate*/AER**	New rate from 5.11.24 Gross rate*/AER**
Instant access		
All balances	2.75% / 2.77%	2.60% / 2.62%

Staffing Committee Update

The staffing committee held a committee meeting on the 23rd September. The meeting finalised the need for further staff, a job description, personal specification, job title, a starting SCP, time scale for advertising and recruiting.

Agenda Items

- Cormac have advice of some urgent tree works that need to be carried out on the Duke of Leeds Land. An invitation to quote has been sent to a number of local tree surgeons. These works are essential. Councillors see attached S154 notice, invitation to quote for the works and relevant quotes from contractors.

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- During routine inspection of the Duke of Leeds Land here were several small areas of Japanese knot weed were identified. As land owners we have a legal responsibility to ensure the JKW is dealt with.
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Planning Report

Applications for consideration:

5 Day Notices:

None

Approved:

[PA24/05156 | Proposed two storey side extension and single storey rear extension with variation of condition 4 in respect of decision PA23/06361 dated 21.09.23 | 4 Tregae Close Portreath Redruth Cornwall TR16 4TR](#)

[PA24/05427 | Erection of garage | Pot Luck North Coast Holiday Cottages New Portreath Road Redruth Cornwall TR16 4QL](#)

Refused:

Closed Advice Given:

Planning for note:

None

Donation Request (confidential personal data redacted)

None

Correspondence

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

- 06/09/24
Hello All
Monday 2nd Sept 3.30pm on walk through Illogan Woods to Portreath
two men with two (XL) ? American Bully Dogs - off the lead and not muzzled
dogs were tan in colour
men - one well built sun tanned and lots of tatoos
second younger man very light hair frizzy and shorter height
They may have walked up later via Gwelamor/Trengrove Farm /Tehidy Woods paths as they were not seen in Portreath/beach

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I've also seen a young lady with similar type dog on footpath by Trengrove Farm also off the lead and not muzzled

Law is that these dogs should be on lead/ muzzled in public places/registered etc

I've reported this to Police and have witnesses if needed on same walk

- Received 25/09/24

Dear Sirs,

I am writing to you with exactly the same observations and concerns that I had in September 2022, (Copy below), concerning the lack of any actions by either the EA or Cornwall Council concerning the silting up of the stream at Portreath. (Apologies to Mr Moon).

This week saw another ecological survey by Atkins, (one of the costliest consultant groups in the UK), being undertaken along the length of the stream, on behalf of the EA. There was a similar survey around 6 weeks ago; also undertaken by Atkins. I spoke to the people undertaking both surveys, and was flabbergasted to learn that they were a repeat of the 2020 survey???

So this only goes to emphasise my comments of 2022, in that the EA are wasting vast amounts of tax payers money doing surveys, instead of getting on with the job of de-silting the stream.

This has to change! The EA, and probably Cornwall Council, are hiding behind the "need" for surveys, (ticking boxes), and not getting on with, what in my opinion, is a straight forward job that any engineer with good earthmoving experience could tackle in a couple of weeks.

Once the stream is de-silted then the use sluice gate can re-instigated in times of heavy rain, when the tunnel if full, to avoid Penberthy Road and beyond being turned into a torrent and risking flooding and its consequences.

I would ask that you get yours heads together and instigate necessary actions to get this matter sorted out before home and lives are put at risk in Portreath.

I look forward to your replies.

LETTER WRITTEN TO EA, CORNWALL COUNCILLOR CRABTREE, MP EUSTICE - 24 SEPTEMBER 2022

I am writing to you all concerning the potential of flooding and condition of the stream that runs through Portreath. I have two main points to raise, the first being my amazement at learning that the EA has spent £1.3 million pounds on the study into various schemes to help alleviate/ reduce/ prevent flood in the village - only to come up without a solution! If the EA had just listened to the locals this £1.3 million could have been better spent in de-silting the stream bed between the school and the beach, using simple earthmoving equipment from a local contractor instead of lining the pockets of up-country consultants. Thereafter re-instating the practice of opening the sluice gate once or twice a year to flush through the stream bed to maintain its depth and gradient.

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*My second point, again concerning the silting up of the stream bed between the school and the beach, is how the rate of this silting up appears to be increasing and backing up more and more towards the school. Indeed it would be interesting to find out, if as part of the £1.3 millions study, the rate of silting up was measured and a prediction made of when the stream bed will actually be too high to allow the passage of water. A question I am sure the consulting engineers must have thought of and calculated. **I would like a specific answer from the EA to that question please.***

I have been living next to the stream, just below the school, for nearly 40 years and, over the last few years, I have noticed the character of the stream bed, immediately behind my house, change from a stoney/ pebbly bed to a silty/ muddy bed. I have thought about this and have several suggestions as to why this is happening. -

- 1. The increase in run-off from the developments in Illogan and, in particular Gwel an Mor, during heavy rain is increasing the rate of erosion of the stream valley through Illogan Woods. Gwel an Mor have not fully followed the SUDS conditions for soak-aways of their planning permission, in that they have a water canalisation system around their site that collects and discharges run-off directly into the stream. I walk through the woods several times per week and note that stream bank erosion, in my opinion, is increasing as is evidenced by the number of trees that are collapsing along the stream banks.*
- 2. At Nance Farm there are a series of small dams, presumably used by the farmer to collect water for irrigation. Over time these have become silted up and they have probably lost their ability to catch the silts that arise from Illogan and the surrounding fields. Also, in the past they would have acted as a reservoir in times of "flood", so without that capacity flows will increase. I am not saying the farmer needs to take any action, but simply trying to define a reason for increased erosion and the generation of silt.*
- 3. This increase in silt generation then reports to the stream bed behind the school where the gradient of the stream bed greatly reduces for the remainder of its course to the beach. Over the last decade or so, since the authorities have desisted in flushing the stream by opening the sluice gate, the bed of the stream has, and is continuing, to lose more and more of its gradient ever increasing siltation of the stream bed. Until now, the residents of Portreath have been pointing out to the EA of the need to clear the stream bed from its lower reaches from the Chinese restaurant to the beach, I now believe that the silting up is escalating and is now affecting the stream right back to the school - some 900 meters!*
- 4. Over the last years I have noticed a marked decrease in the fauna in the stream. There always used to be small fish, minnows and eels, and I have seen Kingfisher at the odd times. These days I am lucky to see a minnow once or twice a year.*

*So my point is that, if there is no positive action from the EA, Cornwall Council or some other authority, then the stream is going to silt up more and more, and at what, in my opinion, will be an increasing rate. **More silt = loss of gradient = more silt - the circle continues until blockage.** This will -*

- a. increase the likelihood of flooding from this part of the stream,*
- b. lose the ability to open the sluice gate if the Redruth stream floods the tunnel. Further increasing the likelihood of flooding in the village,*
- c. Increase the costs of any remedial works, and,*
- d. reduce the capacity of the stream to support wild life.*

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I would like to hear a positive response to my concerns being made by all the public bodies concerned.
