

An Introduction to Portreath Parish



PORTREATH
PARISH COUNCIL

Portreath Parish

The Parish of Portreath spans a stretch of the North coast between Porthtowan and Gwithian, bordering with the village of Illogan to its South. Its closest towns are Redruth and Camborne.

Our community is very close with many events and gatherings throughout the year. At the heart of the Parish is the village of Portreath with its beautiful beach. In the past, Portreath prospered from its busy harbour, exporting tin ore and importing coal for the mining industry. Fishing also played a major role in village life and continues into the present.

Today, Portreath is a very popular tourist destination, and the village welcomes our visitors every year. Evidence of our industrial and war time past can still be found all over the Parish. Surfers flock here, as well as families looking for a friendly relaxed holiday.

Portreath Parish Council - History

The first meeting of the parish council was held on Monday 15 April 1985. It came about through the hard work of members of The Portreath Improvements Committee in particular the late John Martin. He had worked tirelessly since 1978 to get a parish council formed in Portreath to gain independence from the Illogan parish. The election for councillors was held on 28 March 1985 and the winners were, John Martin, Ashton White, Nigel Mathews, Madge Powell, Simon Moyle, Alan Vine, Alice Fitton. With Nigel Mathews enjoying uninterrupted service to 2012. With the original Clerk to the Council Jean Oates serving until 2017.

The first big task the new council tackled was the virtually derelict area of quayside, which was transformed into a public seating area. At the opening ceremony Councillor Ashton White immediately appealed for motorcyclists to stay clear of the area and for dog owners to clear up after their pets. Councillor White unveiled a plaque mounted on a granite cairn, which was once, one of the original bollards when the harbour was built in 1750. The total cost of the improvements was £1759.89, which was raised from the parish council, public donations, a Kerrier district council grant and monies from the Alice Fitton Memorial fund.

Parish Councils

Local councils were set up as legal entities when the church was excluded from local government. The Council is a corporate body, made up of elected members, the first tier of local government. Councils have powers to raise money through taxation and powers to spend public money. The role of the council is to represent the interests of the community.

Local councils must understand the views of the electors that they represent to enable them to improve and provide the required services. Councils must engage with their electors and act as consultors where required. Local councils are also statutory consultees in areas such as planning. Councils must hold a minimum number of meetings per year including the Annual meeting of the council and at least three other meetings which must be open to the public.

Local councils must comply with obligations including those to publish certain information including annual accounts, notice of meetings, agendas and meeting notes. Local councils must also appoint an independent auditor. Local councils must ensure the rules for

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administration of the council are met by appointing a chairman and officers to carry out its functions, including a Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer.

Portreath Parish Council - Today

Councillors: Portreath Parish Council has 9 seats which are all currently full.

Mr Simon Goodwin – Chairman
Mrs Shirley Nash – Vice Chairman
Mr Ian Stewart
Mr Mark Hitchen
Mrs Gillian Tull
Mr John Tull
Mrs Vicki Webb
Ms Julie Parker
Mrs Ann Jarman

Committees: Portreath Parish Council has one standing committee which have delegated authority to make decisions on all staffing matters

Staffing Committee: The key responsibilities of the Staffing Committee are to manage staffing matters on behalf of the council.

Mrs Shirley Nash – Chairman
Mr Ian Stewart
Mr John Tull
Mr Simon Goodwin
Ms Julie Parker

Working Groups

Climate Action Working Group:

- The role of the Portreath Climate Action Working Group is to both keep the Climate Action Plan up to date and to maximise progress with implementing the action plan on behalf of the Parish Council and in conjunction with other groups/interested parties within the Parish and County. The working Group will also provide immediate feedback to the Parish Council on any day-to-day concerns relating to climate change, for example where planning applications have a potential climate or environmental impact.
- Made up of councillors and members of the public
- No Delegated Authority
- Vacancies – YES

Parish Office Project Working Group:

- In 2018 Portreath Parish council identified the need to regenerate or redevelop the former public toilets for the use of a parish office and community space. Preparations for this started in 2022 with permission granted for the redevelopment of the building for use as a parish office and community hub in early 2023. Funding for the initial feasibility works was sought from the Community Capacity Fund (CCF), but it was quickly identified that further funding to complete the works would be

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required. The Community Levelling Up Program (CLUP) was identified. An initial expression of interest was submitted in the spring of 2023 and approved for full application by the summer of 2023. It was soon identified the need for a close-knit team to work thought the application and tendering process for the works as timescales for the application to the CLUP grant were incredibly tight. The project is coming to its final stages of fruition and is due to be open and fully functioning in Spring 2025.

- Made up of councillors, staff and members of the public

Lighthouse Hill Acquisition Working Group:

- In November 2023 full meeting of the council, it was resolved to express an interest in the land known as Lighthouse Hill carpark, recreation area and surrounding area to Cornwall Council with the view of consulting with Parishioners on how the land could be best used for the benefit of the parish. It was quickly identified that a working group would need to be established to manage the work load a project of this size might generate.
- Made up of councillors and members of the public
- No Delegated Authority

Youth Engagement Working Group:

- The need for a youth engagement working group was identified in 2022, the working group was swiftly formed and following a period of consultation with the young people of Portreath a number of events were held and now the council supports a successful youth club and has facilitated community outreach with the young people in Portreath over the summer months.
- Made up of councillors and members of the public
- No Delegated Authority
- Vacancies – YES

Staff

Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer – **Lucy Jose**

Administrative Assistant – **Vacant position**

Contractors

Litter Picking Contractor – **Mr E Sampson**

Public Toilet Management Contractor – **Helping Hands, Mrs M Southerden**

Meetings

The Full Council usually meets on the first Monday of the Month, at St Mary's Church Hall at 6:30 pm. The council has a break from meeting in August. Where the meeting schedule clashes with bank holidays the meeting is usually held on the next Monday. Additional meetings may be scheduled where urgent parish council business need transacting.

Services, Events and Assets

Portreath Parish Council owns and manages the public toilets in Portreath and the soon to be completed Parish Office and Community Hub. The parish council maintains notice boards in several locations throughout the parish including three in Portreath itself a, one in Bridge and one at Cambrose. The parish council funds, monitors and maintains the Mobile Speed Activated Signage and a number of public seats throughout the parish.

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Along with St Mary's Church and The Royal British Legion the Parish Council hosts the annual Remembrance Service.

Community Organizations

Portreath Parish Council works closely with the following organisations:

- Portreath Improvements Committee
- Portreath CP School
- St Mary' Church
- Portreath Preschool
- CC Crabtree (Cornwall Council)
- Devon and Cornwall Police
- Local Parish Council's
- Mining Villages Regeneration Group
- Community Area Partnerships
- Cornwall Association of Local Councils
- Society of Local Council Clerks
- National Association Local Councils



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