

## Chairmans Report

### Annual Parish Meeting of Electors 20/05/2024

I will keep this report short so that we have plenty of time to network, eat cake and hear from all the other Parish organisations represented here this evening.

First, I must pass on my thanks to recently retired Chairman Ian Stewart. For the last 4 years Ian has worked tirelessly on all aspects of the work of the council and Parish life more generally. He is both Mr Toilets and Mr Cake – sorting out any problems that affect the operation of the toilets and always first in the queue for coffee and cake at the weekly warm welcome sessions.

His tenure has resulted in a more professionally run Parish, better relationships with other parishes, many projects undertaken and completed as well as leading the bid for £200k of levelling up funding that will see the old toilets replaced by a parish office and multifunction meeting room, a Parish Hub. Ian continues to drive this project forward. Ian is an impossible act to follow but I will do my best.

So more generally what else has happened this year.

The weekly warm welcome has overall been successful and been enjoyed largely by our older residents with coffee and cake, a chance to chat as well as a trip away, some good speakers and bingo. This has been paused for the time being as numbers have fallen away.

Theres been a major step forward with youth engagement. The Youth club is successfully up and running and junior netball a roaring success that will be taken on by the junior netball committee in conjunction with Lastonets Netball Club.

The remembrance parade and service continues to be well attended and supported by Parishioners and is perhaps the most important date in our Parish Calander. Many parishioners care deeply about Remembrance Day and paying respect to all those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice during periods of conflict. At a time of conflict across the world this day is a reminder of the horrors of war.

This year has seen the erection of the speed warning sign in the Bridgemoor area that whilst the top speeds recorded have been truly frightening has seen average speeds reduce due to the reminder provided by the sign. Linked action by the speed watch teams and police has seen a significant number of prosecutions or speed awareness sessions offered that we can only hope will encourage people to drive within the speed limits in our Parish.

We have consulted on the potential take on of the Lighthouse Hill car park and amenity space and are about to engage with Cornwall Council based on the positive feedback from parishioners.

In terms of planning, I think largely we have been in line with parishioners in our role as consultees with perhaps one exception, that being the former WAAF site. Whilst we were aware of how important affordable housing is through the NDP and conversations with parishioners there is no doubt we underestimated the strength of feeling of those opposed to the scheme. I am sure we are all waiting to see the outcome with bated breath. If the application is refused there will be people bitterly disappointed who had hope of an affordable house in the Parish and likewise if it is approved there will be people bitterly disappointed due to the impact on a nature rich site.

Finally I have to talk about our use of your money collected through the precept. We continue to manage our spend within our budget of £80k and carry over reserves into 2024/25 of £50k. So, we

start this year in a financially healthy position. We also have an annual independent audit of how we manage our finances, and this also gave us a clean bill of health.

Finally, as well as thanking Ian I would like to thank all the councillors for their hard work and in particular the Clerk for keeping the council on the straight and narrow financially and in all other regards.

Cllr Simon Goodwin, 20/05/2024