

Portreath Parish Council

Annual Report

May 2024 – April 2025



PORTREATH
PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman's Welcome and Report

As Chair of the Portreath Parish Council, I am pleased to introduce the Council's interim annual report for the year 2024/25. It is the last annual report of the current council due to the council elections taking place on May 1st 2025. The full annual report will be produced after the elections and membership of what will be a new Council is determined. If you have an interest in becoming a parish councillor, please contact the Parish Clerk who will advise on the process and provide the paperwork required. You will see from this interim report, largely produced by the Clerk to the Council and the Assistant to the Clerk, that once again it has been an incredibly busy year for the council. I will highlight some of the key developments and issues in this introduction.

At the time of the annual report last year, the planning application for 22 affordable homes on the former WAAF site had not been determined. It remained an issue with strong views for and against the proposal within and beyond the Parish. In July 2024 the application was refused largely based on the site's lack of proximity to local amenities. This was disappointing to some Parishioners, who saw the opportunity for affordable housing in the Parish, but a positive outcome for other Parishioners who felt strongly that the site should remain a haven for wildlife and was not the right location for affordable housing. Now the dust has settled on what

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has, at times, been a difficult issue, the Parish has recently established a working group with Parishioners to identify future options for the WAAF site for the Parish Council to consider after the council elections in May.

Early last year the Council established a working group to consider the option for the Parish to take on a 2.2 hectare site known as Lighthouse Hill Car Park & Amenity Space. Members of the working group consulted widely within the Parish including knocking on most doors, to determine if Parishioners believed the council should take the site on, and if so, what the site should be used for.

The outcome of the consultation was positive in supporting the parish council taking on the site and that it should be largely left to nature with the possibility of picnic tables. The consultation also identified one important caveat, there should be no or little cost of transferring the site to the parish council. Through the process, discussions took place with Cornwall Council with repeated indications that the transfer would likely be at minimum cost. Unfortunately, in January this year Cornwall Council formalised the position advising their intent to sell or lease the site. Unless this position changes, given feedback from Parishioners that the site transfer should be at no cost, this project is now in effect mothballed until if and when the nil cost transfer is available. This is incredibly disappointing given the hard work, time and cost

working up options and consulting with Parishioners on this project.

On a much more positive note, the Parish Office and Community Hub is now open and already thriving. Under the leadership of the previous Chairman, Ian Stewart, the Parish made a successful bid against the levelling up fund for a project to knock down the old toilet block and build the new Office and Community Hub. The building was completed both on time and within budget. The Parish received £200k from the levelling up fund, over 97% of the total project costs. The Parish received great support from the Cornwall Council team administering the fund and also benefitted from great suppliers with Mitchell Son and Daughter being the main supplier. I also must give special mention to Ian Stewart for his huge effort over the lifetime of the project. It is down to Ian's fastidiousness in all aspects of the project, that ensured the project was delivered to budget. I must also give a huge thank you to Lucy Jose, Parish Clerk, who has managed what has been a complex administrative process to meet the requirements of receiving the funding. Brilliant job Lucy and Ian.

In this introduction, it would be wrong to not thank all councillors who, as well as preparing for and attending the monthly council meetings, get stuck into so many community projects. From community speed watch, to making cakes, to assembling Ikea flat packed furniture, to cleaning, to moving the speed awareness camera to different locations, to attending

meetings beyond our parish and many other unpaid activities across the Parish and more widely. Again, brilliant job councillors, thank you.

On a linked issue the residents of Portreath are fortunate to have so many other groups in this Parish including:

- the surf live saving club helping to develop life-saving skills, fitness and keeping our beaches safe with a little fun and socialisation thrown in;
- love Portreath, focusing on the environment, monthly village clean and helping move Portreath to plastic free status;
- the Portreath Improvement Committee who use the funds collected from the car park to support so many initiatives including the multiuse pitch and play area, providing Portreath pre-school with free to use facilities, halls and greenspaces around the village. Having recently purchased the freehold of the shop to ensure its long-term viability, the collapse of the ceiling in the hall has severely stretched its finances but still the PIC finds ways to support so much that is good in our village.

My final highlight of the year is the Remembrance Day event that was as ever well organised, well attended and extremely moving in these days of increased conflict. It was a true honour to represent the Parish at our own and other

remembrance events held in neighbouring localities as well as the Battle of Britain service that took place in Illogan Church and RRH Portreath.

Looking ahead to the year about to start with what will be a new council, there are a few hopes I have. First is that I hope we better integrate climate action into our day-to-day activities as a council. It will be brilliant if a parishioner with a passion for climate change issues put themselves forward to be a councillor at the elections in May. If not, we must work closely with love Portreath going forward. Second, the community hub is already being well used and I hope to see its use increasing over the year. Third I look forward to hearing the detailed plans from South West Water to prevent the frequent activation of the Portreath storm overflow. Finally, I look forward to hearing regular updates from the Environment Agency on developing their full business case to increase the capacity of the Portreath stream. This will enable the stream to cope with what they describe as a one in 20 year rain event that without being put in place will likely see many lower lying areas of the Parish flooded.

Simon Goodwin
Chairman

Parish Office and Community Hub

In 2024 the old toilet block was demolished and work began on the new Parish Office and Community Hub. The new building was completed in December, with staff moving into the

office in January 2025, and community groups quickly taking advantage of using the space for their meetings.

An official opening for the new building took place on Saturday 1st March 2025 which was well attended by officials from local organisations and residents.

We feel it is only right that we recognise those people and organisations that helped us achieve this new home for the parish council. It started with the teams from the Localism Dept of Cornwall Council who initially awarded us a small grant from the Community Capacity Fund to pay for some of our initial surveys and then a much larger grant from the Community Levelling Up Programme that funded the vast majority of the demolition and construction costs. We were very fortunate in appointing what turned out to be a very good contractor for the build project. Mitchell & Sons & Daughter were everything we could have wished, bringing the project in both on time and in budget. Trezona Electrical who carried out all of the electrical installation including the solar panels and battery have also been excellent. Finally we contracted South West Community Builds to oversee and project manage on our behalf and once again our plaudits to them. Not only did they save us money on items through the build, but their experience and advice could not be understated.

The new building marks a new era for the Parish Council who have their own office for the first time in its history. It is hoped that this will improve the community's



access to the Parish Council.

If you are part of a community group and would like to use the new Community Hub, please contact the Clerk:

clerk@portreath-pc.gov.uk



General Election

On the 22nd May 2024 Rishi Sunak, the then Prime Minister, announced a General Election to be held on the 4th July. The calling of the General Election limited some of the work and decisions of the council, which was disappointing to councillors and parishioners alike. However, an additional meeting was called to cover any business that needed addressing before the summer break.

New gov.uk Domain

In July the new .gvo.uk domain went live, with email address following shortly after. Using funding from Parish Council Domains Helper Service, a suitable provider was identified and engaged. Now all councillors and staff have their own individual .gov.uk domain email addresses! Not a short process, the Clerk set the ball rolling in February, attending a briefing session followed by reporting back to councillors the importance of the domain highlighting both professionalism and security.

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Community Catch Up

The Community Catch Up sessions took a short break during 2024 due to lack of councillors' capacity to host sessions. However, with the opening of the new Community Hub, the weekly community catch up sessions are back, this time at the Community Hub with the brilliant Cllr Gill Tull making tea and lush cakes.

The sessions run on Thursday mornings from 10am to 12noon. Open to everyone to stop in for a drink and some cake if they fancy it and a bit of a chat.

If you have some time to help support these sessions, get in touch with the clerk: clerk@portreath-pc.gov.uk



Youth Engagement

Unfortunately, in October 2024 the Youth Club ceased due to lack of numbers. Thank you to Action for Children for all their help and to everyone who was involved in the Youth Club.

Remembrance Service

The annual Remembrance Service was well attended, starting with a full parade

from the beach to the war memorial, led by Illogan Sparnon Silver Band. This year we were lucky to have the assistance of the Devon and Cornwall 4x4 response team who professionally actioned the road closures for the event.

Many local organisations were involved in the parade, wreath laying and the service with special thanks going to the Portreath Coastguard team and representatives from RRH Portreath and Portreath School for their contributions.

Thanks also go to the Royal British Legion Parade Marshal and Poppy Appeal organiser for their help and support. And last, but not least, the ladies of St Mary's Church who served refreshments on the day.

The 2025 Portreath Parish Remembrance Service and Parade will be held on Sunday 2nd November.



Council Membership

24/25 saw a change in membership with Cllr. Webb resigning in October 2024. Cllr. Webb was instrumental in engaging with the youth of the parish and the project to build the parish office and community hub. Staff and Members of the council thank Vicki for all her hard work while a member of the council.

At the end of 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 Julie Parker
Councillor Ann Jarman
Vacancy

Committees and Working Groups

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

Councillor Shirley Nash (Chairman)
Councillor Ian Stewart (Vice Chair)
Councillor John Tull
Councillor Julie Parker
Councillor Simon Goodwin

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.

Climate Action Working Group

Councillor Gillian Tull
Councillor Shirley Nash

WAAF Site Working Group

Councillor Simon Goodwin (Chairman)
Councillor Mark Hitchen
Councillor Ian Stewart
Councillor Ann Jarman
Councillor Shirley Nash
5 members of the public

Facilities Working Group

Councillor Simon Goodwin
Councillor Ian Stewart
Councillor Shirley Nash
Lucy Jose – Clerk to the Council

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!

Councillor Attendance at Meetings

The overall attendance for councillors' attendance at meetings is listed below (*please note that not all councillors sit on all committees*)

Chairman Cllr Simon Goodwin – 78%
Vice-Chairman Cllr Shirley Nash – 80%
Cllr Ian Stewart – 93%
Cllr Mark Hitchen – 50%
Cllr Gillian Tull – 8%
Cllr John Tull – 67%
Cllr Julie Parker – 80%
Cllr Ann Jarman – 67%

Grants & Donations

Donations totalling £935.42 were given in 24/25, including donations to Portreath Preschool, Illogan Sparnon Silver Band, Portreath School PTA 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 26/27 budget.

Finance & Budget

The council is pleased to report that the Parish balanced its books for the year 2024/25.

To prepare for the 2025/26 budget setting the Council held community engagement sessions asking parishioners how they wanted their money to be spent.

Unfortunately, there were not well attended, which is a shame. If you have any ideas of how parishioners could be more involved in the budget setting process, please contact the clerk:

clerk@portreath-pc.gov.uk

Details of the budget are:

| Area | Budget |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| Toilets | £30,856 |
| Buildings | £11,520 |
| Parish Maintenance | £8,550 |
| Admin | £10,714 |
| Staffing | £35,364 |
| Community Engagement | £5,000 |
| S137 | £3,250 |
| Projects | £9,000 |
| Total | £114,254 |
| Reserves | |
| Election Reserve | £5,924 |
| Emergency Grant | £1,000 |
| Staffing Reserve | £11,588 |
| Operational Reserve | £45,144 |
| Future Projects Fund | £10,000 |
| CIL | - |
| Total Budget | £187,910 |

Precept

The precept for the 2025/26 year was set at £108,000.

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| Increase on the 24/25 precept | £14,382 |
| Overall increase | 15.53% |
| Increase to the average Council taxpayer | 2% |
| Actual increase for the average Council taxpayer | £3.26 per year £0.26 per month £0.09 per week |

Councillor Contact Details

If you would like to contact any of the Councillors you can email them directly.

Cllr Simon Goodwin

simon.goodwin@portreath-pc.gov.uk

Cllr Shirley Nash

shirley.nash@portreath-pc.gov.uk

Cllr Mark Hitchen

mark.hitchen@portreath-pc.gov.uk

Cllr Ian Stewart

ian.stewart@portreath-pc.gov.uk

Cllr Gillian Tull

gillian.tull@portreath-pc.gov.uk

Cllr John Tull

john.tull@portreath-pc.gov.uk

Cllr Julie Parker

julie.parker@portreath-pc.gov.uk

Cllr Ann Jaman

ann.jarman@portreath-pc.gov.uk

Contact Us

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25/26 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.

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|----------|----------------------------|
| 12/05/25 | Annual Council Meeting |
| 02/06/25 | Full Council Meeting |
| 16/06/25 | Staffing Committee Meeting |
| 07/07/25 | Full Council Meeting |
| 01/09/25 | Full Council Meeting |
| 15/09/25 | Staffing Committee Meeting |
| 06/10/25 | Full Council Meeting |
| 03/11/25 | Full Council Meeting |
| 01/12/25 | Full Council Meeting |
| 12/01/26 | Full Council Meeting |
| 02/02/26 | Full Council Meeting |
| 02/03/26 | Full Council Meeting |
| 03/04/26 | Full Council Meeting |