

Annual Report

May 2023



PORTREATH
PARISH COUNCIL

As Chairman of the council I am pleased to present this Annual Report on the councils activities. As you will see it's been a busy year with a wide range of new activities undertaken on behalf of the parishioners.

I am delighted to have been elected the Chairman for the year 23/23 and am looking forward to the challenges this municipal year brings.

I am keen to engage with parishioners, and encourage parishioners to attend our meeting to hear about the great things that are happening in our parish.

I can be contacted through the Clerk:
portreathparishcouncil@gmail.com
or direct
ianstewartppc@outlook.com



Chairman, Councillor
Mr Ian Stewart

Finance & Staffing Committee News

The council is pleased to report that the Parish balanced its books for the year 2022/23. To prepare for 2023/24 budget setting the Finance & Staffing committee asked parishioners how they wanted their money to be spent. Based on this the Finance & Staffing committee worked on the budget for 2023/24 which was approved at the December meeting of the council.

In summary the planned spend for 2023/24 is £80,000 with reserves of £45,000. The increase in the precept to cover the planned spend of £80,000 has resulted in an overall 9.45% or 20 pence increase per week for the average band D council taxpayer. A full budget break down is available on our website:

[23/24 Budget](#)

The Finance and staffing committee dissolved at the end of March 23, and has been replaced with a staffing committee. The detailed finance work carried out by the committee will now be undertaken by working groups and all decisions made by the full council.



Late June 2023 saw the installation of the Welcome to Portreath Parish signage. An ongoing project from the 21/22 budget saw the bilingual signage at the main boundaries to the parish. Further welcome signage was installed at the parish boundary in bridge in March 23.



The referendum for the Neighbourhood Development Plan was held on the 23rd June. With 84.18% of the vote the NDP for the Parish of Portreath was adopted immediately following the referendum. There was a 19.93 turnout for the referendum, which may seem a small percentage of electors, but around the average turnout for Neighbourhood Development Plan Referendums in Cornwall. At the July meeting of the council, recognising the challenges pose by the pandemic the Chairman and Councillors thanked the NDP Steering group for their hard work over the past 4 years.



RRH Portreath Visit

Following a query from a parishioner regarding new signage at the RRH Portreath boundaries, the council was invited for a tour of RRH Portreath! The group enjoyed light refreshments and listened to the Detachment Commander explain how the site works, who works there and their relationship with civilian contractors who work on site. At the end of the visit the group had the opportunity to see the radar and the operating rooms. The group were also interested to learn that some of the land is used by a local farmer, and the model aircraft club also use the facilities. Many Thanks to the Detachment Commander for enabling the group this opportunity.

With almost 25% of the councils budgets being spent on maintaining the public toilets councillors have discussed at length the idea of charging for the public toilets, however have never committed to this as they are aware that parishioners already contribute towards their up keep when paying their council tax. Councillors have considered donation boxes but concluded that the cost of administering them would likely outweigh the donations received, especially when people are generally using less cash! Then, along comes BOPP, a way of donating via the use of a mobile telephone and a QR code. To date we have received £ 16.90 donations from those who have benefitted from the public



Casual Vacancies

Following the resignation of Cllr Kessell in June, the council saw a terrific response to the call for a new councillor to fill the vacancy by co-option. In total 7 members of the community applied for the position which was filled at the August meeting. Each candidate addressed councillors explaining what they could bring to the council. Following a close vote, Cllr. Webb was co-opted to fill the position and hit the floor running being part of the debate and decision making for the remainder of the meeting.

December saw the resignation of Cllr. Jose and following the same process as before Cllr. Parker was co-opted on to the council at the Marchs Full Council meeting

The Chairman and members of the council thank Mr. Kessel and Mr. Jose for their contribution to the council during their time served as councillors. Members concurred that it was unlikely the affordable housing project would have come to fruition without the input of Mr. Kessell and Mr. Jose, The Chairman thanked Mr. Jose for his practical support in managing the public toilets.

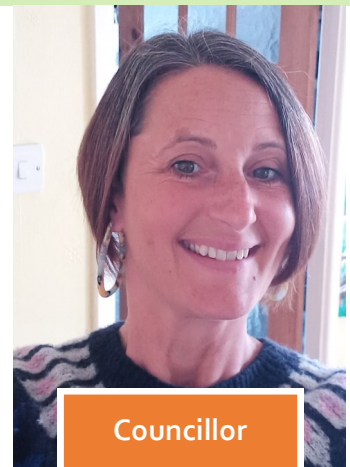


Councillor
Julie Parker

Planning Councillors continue to engage in the planning process as consultees and looking at applications that affect the parish, in particular any developments that may have a negative impact on the Portreath Stream. With the Neighbourhood development plan now adopted councillors have a clear guide of acceptable development in the parish.



Following a request from parents at Portreath School to assist with the recruitment of a new crossing patrol officer, councillors Gill and John Tull have volunteered to fill the role until a permanent crossing patrol officer can be found. Thank you to Gillian and John for stepping in, crossing the road is much safer now for the families at school.



Councillor
Vicki Webb

Grants & Donations Donations totaling £1182 were given in 22/23, including a donation to the Portreath Surf Lifesaving Club at the June meeting of the council in recognition of the service to the community in providing emergency lifesaving cover outside of the operational house of the RNLI. Donations were also given to Illogan Sparnon Silver band and the Poppy Appeal.

In April 2023 Portreath preschool were awarded a grant for planters and gardening supplies for the children to use with volunteers from the community. We look forward to seeing their progress as the summer comes!

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 24/25 budget.

Tribute to Her Majesty the Queen Elizabeth II

Sadly, on the 8th September Her Majesty The Queen Elizabeth II Passed away peacefully at Balmoral in Scotland. The Chairman paid tribute to Her Majesty:

*Her Majesty The Queen, Elizabeth II
21st April 1926 – 8th September 2022*

Portreath Parish Council offers its condolences to the Royal Family on the Death of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II.

Her duty, service and devotion to the people of the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth was unparalleled. We have lived in a truly golden Elizabethan age, the likes of which we will never see again.

Portreath Parish Council join with people around the world in mourning her loss.

Chairman Councillor Ian Stewart



Working with representatives St Mary's Church and Portreath Improvements Committee a condolence book for the parish was placed in the Church for those who wished to leave thought and memories about Her Majesty The Queen and led by Vice Chairman Cllr. Byron Jose led the laying of Floral Tributes at the foot of the cross outside the church. Following the period of National mourning the flowers were removed to be composted, following on from the wishes of Her Majesty the Queen at her Platinum Jubilee Green Canopy scheme, it is the intention that the compost will be used for planting a commemorative Tree in memory of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Councillors have also installed a memorial bench in the parish as a mark of respect to the late queen.





Our Community Speedwatch team is now up and running across the parish and in Illogan . We are always looking for new volunteers to join the Portreath & Illogan Community Speedwatch team. Volunteers will be required to complete a short online training session, following by in person training on using the equipment with the local community policing team. If you are

interested in joining the team or would like more information, contact our Chairman, Ian Stewart: ianstewartppc@outlook.com

December saw the installation of one mobile speed activated camera in the parish. The Camera has been moved around the parish and data recorded passed to the police for their analysis. Devon & Cornwall police have now identified the area between Bridge and Bridge Moor as a speeding hot spot and will be monitoring the area carefully.



WAAF Site

Progress was slow with the exchange of the Heads of Terms for the WAAF site, taking nearly all year to come to fruition they were finally signed in October '22 meaning that the developers could start the planning process.

The idea of the development is for a 100% affordable development, with a mix of rental or shared ownership homes. For anyone with a local connection who is interesting in renting or buying one of the properties will need to be registered with Cornwall Home Choice

Former Public Toilets

After years of indecision, councillors resolved to move forward with the redevelopment of the former toilets to provide, much needed office space and storage for the parish council and a small community meeting room. Planning was submitted in December and an application for funding was submitted at the end of January. Permission was granted in March and a successful bid for funding from the community Capacity fund for structural engineers fees, surveys and the services of a quantity surveyor, was awarded in May. The Council now looks to draw from the Community Levelling Up Programme funding to complete the works.



Over the winter with the increasing pressure on parishioners and with the increase in the cost of living the councillors have worked with members

of Portreath Improvements Committee and community businesses to quickly set up some Warmth Hubs. A monthly warm space was initiated led by the PIC in the Jubilee room, a weekly Community Catch Up at the Church Hall hosted by the parish council as well as various spaces in community businesses available throughout the winter.

Also working with local businesses councillors and the Portreath Improvements Committee set up a meal voucher scheme, where persons identified by our partners were issued with meal vouchers to use in the parish eateries for a free warm meal. All the eateries in the parish participated in the successful scheme.



Community Catch UP Following on from the Warm Welcome initiative, the weekly community catch up sessions have been a great success and councilors have committed to keep these sessions running all year round! The sessions on a Thursday morning are a friendly catch up over a warm drink and some (usually homemade) cake. The group has a mix of attendees, plays bingo once a month, invites guest speakers to join the group and partakes in activities such as flower arranging and day trips. Everyone is welcome, St Mary's Church Hall, Thursday's 10:30-12noon. (except during school holidays) Keep an eye on the notice boards and our social media for an update of what is planned for each week.



The annual Remembrance Service was well attended starting a full parade from the beach to the war memorial led by the Illogan Sparnon Silver Band. Many local organisations were involved in both the parade, wreath laying and the service, 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 2023 Portreath Parish Remembrance Service and Parade will be held on Sunday 5th November.



Dog Fouling Campaign - What did we do and What was the result?

Portreath Parish Council have identified that there is an issue with Dog Fouling in the parish. In partnership with Portreath Primary School and Gwel an Mor, Cllr Vicki Webb and Jo ran a school assembly, to talk about animals, how we care for them and their environment. This led the assembly onto the subject of Dog Mess and the impact it has on our environment and our wildlife. The children were keen to be involved and so we set up a competition of designing a poster that could be used in the parish, to make people think twice and to encourage people to pick up their dog/s mess.

Thank you to Feadon Farm, Gwel an Mor for your support on this project.

Whilst the children were busy designing their posters. The Chairman of the Parish Council, Ian Stewart, took on the smelly job of counting, recording and picking up all the dog poo found in two identified hot spots - Penberthy Road (nr the Garage) and at the Harbour triangle patch of grass. Ian counted these for 2 weeks.

We had an overwhelming response for the poster competition, with 37 poster entries. The panel: Portreath Parish Council; Love Portreath CAN; Portreath Primary School & Gwel an Mor, had the very difficult decision of deciding on the winner, the posters really were amazing!

The Winner was announced on the 10 February, at the school assembly. Viola, aged 10, was awarded a certificate and her poster in a frame - congratulations Viola!



Thank you to Portreath Primary School for supporting us with this project.

The winning poster was printed onto metal signs, which were then put up in the two identified 'hot spot' locations. These posters were also sent to local businesses to put up in their windows/premises should they wish. Ian continued to count the dog mess in these two areas for another 2 weeks and we are pleased to announce that the signs made a huge difference! The dog mess in the hot spot area of Penberthy Road, reduced by 67% and the dog mess at the Harbour triangle, reduced by 85%.

We are really pleased with the outcome of our first Campaign against dog fouling in Portreath Parish and we hope to run another campaign soon! If anyone wishes to volunteer and help the parish council with this project, please contact Cllr Vicki Webb at vickiwebb.ppc@gmail.com or Lucy (Parish Clerk) at portreathparishcouncil@gmail.com.

Youth Engagement



The Mining Villages Community Network Rural Status Report highlighted that Youth Engagement (& Young Adults) in local parishes, should be made a priority. Portreath Parish Council (PPC) acknowledged that currently, there was no provision for young people, since The Barn Youth Club closed before the pandemic.



After researching youth provision, talking to St Agnes Parish Council, Redruth, and Camborne Town Councils, we were put in touch with Action for Children (AfC). After a few more meetings, we approached the Portreath Improvement Committee (PIC), and then set up a Youth Engagement Working Group, made up of PPC & PIC members and Youth Workers from AfC. We have visited Redruth School, Pool Academy and Portreath Primary School, and have a positive and supportive relationship with these schools.

We successfully delivered a Youth Consultation in Portreath, which were hosted by local businesses The Atlantic Café and Tideline Café, in January and February 2023. These consultations gave young people, aged 10 – 18 and 25 with SEND, the opportunity to say what they liked about Portreath and what provision they felt was needed. We then held an event at Base Camp, which was sponsored by Gwel an Mor, to say Thank you to the young people for taking part and for the parents for supporting us.

In just five months we have achieved a lot. We have set up a working group, delivered a youth consultation, held a celebration event, organised three taster sessions: Table Tennis, Band Practice and Tag Rugby and have started to build positive relationships with local schools, businesses, and clubs. We have secured Action for Children Youth Workers, to deliver Youth Nights in the village for the young people of the Parish and beyond and we continue to look forward at how we can continue to engage with the young people of the parish, by working with our partners.

The Youth Nights start in June, and we have some young people helping to design the poster and plan the launch event. This is an exciting time, and we are looking forward to the future of Youth Engagement in the parish.



Get in touch with the council:

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Chairman – Cllr Mr. Ian Stewart

Clerk & Proper Officer – Lucy Jose

23/24 Meeting schedule

5 th June	2023
19 th June	2023
3 rd July	2023
4 th September	2023
18 th September	2023
2 nd October	2023
6 th November	2023
4 th December	2023
8 th January	2024
5 th February	2024
4 th March	2024
25 th March	2024
15 th April	2024
13 th May	2024

Councillors Contacts

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Cllr Julie Parker:

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Pledge Council**