

## PADSTOW TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Tuesday 7 May 2019 commencing at 7.30pm at Padstow School, Grenville Road, Padstow

**Present:** Padstow Town Council (PTC): Councillor R Higman (Chair of the Council and Town Mayor) Councillors M Evans, K Freeman, Mrs A E Symons, D N Vivian, Mrs T Walter and C Watson-Smyth

**In Attendance:** 16 members of the public  
Sgt Sue Honeywill Devon & Cornwall Police (until 7.55pm)  
PC Amy Honeywill Devon & Cornwall Police (until 7.55pm)  
Kate Whitford, Padstow School  
Kevin Harris, Padstow Fire Station  
Mrs K Pemberton: Town Clerk, Padstow Town Council  
Mrs S Daly: Support Officer, Padstow Town Council

**1** **Apologies:** were received from Councillors F J Bealing, R Buscombe, A P Flide, A Rickard and H M Saunders

**2** **The minutes of the last Annual Parish meeting** held on 8 May 2018 were agreed as a true record of the meeting and signed by the Chair.

**3** **Mayors report:** The Mayor opened the meeting with a 1 minute silence in memory of Laura Smallwood and expressed his sincere condolences to her family and friends on behalf of the Council.

The Mayor welcomed all to the Annual Parish Meeting and thanked the evening's speakers, Sgt Sue Honeywill and PC Amy Honeywill from Devon and Cornwall Police, Kate Whitford, Head of Padstow School and Kevin Harris, Station Manager for Padstow Fire Service for their attendance. He passed on apologies from Cornwall Councillor Buscombe and announced that Councillor Buscombe would be holding a surgery on Thursday 9 May at Station House between 10am – 12pm.

Councillor Higman then provided an update to the community regarding matters of interest from the past year, Council finances and future projects (copy attached).

**4** **Police report:** Sgt Sue Honeywill echoed Councillor Higman's sympathies to the friends and family of Laura Smallwood. She shared that enquiries were continuing in this matter and therefore respectfully asked that no questions be put to the police regarding this during the meeting. Sgt Honeywill then provided a report on matters of interest (copy attached).

Sgt Honeywill concluded that subsequent to writing the report, a number of burglaries had taken place at local commercial properties following the bank holiday weekend which the police were looking in to. Overall the service had certain targets however priorities were narrowed to the needs of the local area, for the Padstow and Wadebridge area these continued to be drugs, anti social behaviour and parking on pavements.

Some questions were raised after the presentation as follows:-

- In response to a query regarding the nature and increase in non-notifiable offences, PC Honeywill advised that these were typically traffic related. The increase was in part due to a proactive new project called "no excuses". A Bodmin based team using automatic number plate recognition systems were picking up on vehicles which were not insured or taxed and actively stopping and checking vehicles. Whilst the increase may appear negative, the increase was in fact positive.
- Query was raised as to how the Community Speed Watch Scheme was set up in St Issey. It was noted that potential sites first need assessing for a speeding issue. St Issey was found to be on the threshold and volunteers were then sought to operate the speed watch. Sites also have to be deemed safe for volunteers to operate. It was noted that St Issey had passed the safety measures and were in the process of signing up volunteers.

PC Honeywill reminded the community of the Devon and Cornwall ALERT scheme which residents could sign up to, in order to receive accurate information and appeals via email or text, relating to matters in the Wadebridge and Padstow area.

PC Honeywill advised that she was covering both the Wadebridge and Padstow areas and was trying to operate foot patrols. Anti-social behaviour remained a priority and police were always happy to listen to information from the public. It was noted that in Wadebridge recently, the Police had received enough information from members of the public to carry out a "stop and search" of person which had led to the seizure of drugs and cash and an ongoing investigation.

It was noted that Wadebridge Police Station has its own Facebook page which was a useful resource. In Wadebridge there was a currently a problem with parking on the pavement. Police were issuing warning letters to offending vehicles and making visits to owners who receive more than 2 letters.

The Mayor expressed thanks to Sgt S Honeywill and PC A Honeywill, they then left the meeting.

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**Padstow School:** Kate Whitford, Head of Padstow School addressed the meeting. Mrs Whitford expressed thanks to Padstow Town Council for the grant awarded to the Friends of Padstow School. She also gave thanks for the funding received from Paul Ainsworth, Rick Stein and the PTFA. The school had now been able to purchase 30 chrome books and a recharging station allowing the children better access to technology needed for the curriculums Computing element.

It was noted that the school had received 2 monitoring visits from Ofsted since the last annual parish meeting. One in June 2018 and

one in February 2019. Both visits had been positive with Ofsted commenting that i) Leaders and managers were taking effective action toward the removal of special measures; ii) the trusts statement of action was fit for purpose; and iii) the schools' action plan was fit for purpose. A 3<sup>rd</sup> visit was expected at any time and it was hoped this would be converted into a full inspection which could take the school out of Special Measures and into Requires Improvement. The school would then have 2 years to continue to improve to achieve Good or Outstanding. Mrs Whitford expressed thanks to the staff and community for their support, without whom so much could not have been achieved in such a short space of time.

Mrs Whitford highlighted that the school were keen to improve the outdoor environment to provide outdoor learning spaces. Current fundraising efforts were focused on this. Thoughts were to clear the garden pond, create a willow area and fire pit area and convert the space outside class 1 into a usable outside space. Mrs Whitford also expressed a need for outside shade during the summer term, noting that last year it had been necessary to keep the children in on occasions when it was too hot due to a lack of adequate shade for the children.

The school were pleased to have introduced some new camp experiences for the children this year with Year 5 going to Nine Ashes Scout Camp and Year 6 spending time in Bristol on a city experience linked to their learning topic Isambard Kingdom Brunel.

The Mayor expressed thanks to Kate Whitford

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**Local Fire Service:** Kevin Harris, Station Manager at Padstow Fire Station addressed the meeting. He highlighted that the team covered a small local area and as such were rarely called to support other crews so as not to leave Padstow without support. The current team comprised of 10 members with an 11<sup>th</sup> member currently in training. 2 further team members were needed and anyone interested was encouraged to call into the station on a Thursday evening; applicants needed to be 17 ½ years and up.

The team train every week on a Thursday and also train regularly with the RNLI. They also carry out free home safety checks and if necessary fit free smoke alarms. Mr Harris urged people to let them know of anyone who may benefit.

Mr Harris advised that due to its location, the fire station was relatively quiet. Last year there had been 62 call outs, only 9 of which were property fires such as a barn fire and industrial estate fire and 11 had been Road Traffic Collisions. An increase in gorse and field fires was seen last year due to the hot weather.

The team were also seeing an increase in calls to assist ambulances to make entry to properties in place of police due to lack of police funding. The Fire Service were part of a safeguarding initiative with South Western Ambulances where both parties pass on the

details of those in need i.e vulnerable people living in clutter, to Cornwall Council for assessment.

It was noted that most other call outs were false alarms with good intentions, for example instances where the fire is controlled.

Another aspect of the teams work was fire safety within the community and they often visited schools in the area. Recently Padstow School visited the fire station with models of buildings related to their Great Fire of London topic to demonstrate how quickly fire spreads.

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**Open Forum:** The following questions and comments were received from members of the public:

i) Did the Council have any plans to upgrade the top path of Stile Field as it was hard to walk on 3 abreast, being that it was patchy and narrow? and; ii) The brambles at Stile Field should be cut back as they were in danger of overgrowing and taking over.

- The Mayor advised that these matters could be looked in to.

iii) Was there an update on repairs to the path from Stile Field to St George's Well?

- The Town Clerk advised that the path belonged to Cornwall Council and the matter had been flagged with them. The Town Clerk would encourage members of the public to forward any concerns to Cornwall Council as an additional voice however she would also chase the matter again.

iv) Why did the Town Council consider it necessary to support more parking restriction in Fentonluna Lane at a recent meeting?

- The Mayor advised that the matter had been raised through Cornwall Councillor Buscombe and the money had been funded via a ring-fenced budget from the Community Networks. He understood the initial case had been brought to Councillor Buscombe via members of the public.

v) When did the Town Council expect to hear back from Cornwall Council with comments regarding the draft 1<sup>st</sup> Consultation Version of the NDP?

- The Town Clerk confirmed it was not the formal submission version that had been sent to Cornwall Council (CC). It was felt a good idea to seek CC's thoughts on this draft version's conformity prior to an informal consultation. She did not think it would take CC too long to respond but highlighted that following this, CC's comments would need to be taken to the Steering Group for consideration. She estimated that the informal consultation would take place in a couple of months.

vi) In light of the police comments regarding parking on pavements, who should be responsible for A frames obstructing pavements as this is was also danger and obstruction?

- The Mayor advised this was a matter for Cornwall Council however he understood from Cornwall Councillor Buscombe that in the past CC had taken the signs away to a depot only

for them to be collected and reinstated by the business owners. It was suggested that the matter be raised with Councillor Buscombe during his surgery. The Town Clerk advised that they would also raise it with the Neighbourhood Beat Manager.

Meeting closed at 8.12pm

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## COUNCILLOR HIGMAN'S SPEECH (7 MAY 2019)

Firstly I would like to express my sincere condolences to Laura Smallwood's family and friends on behalf of the Council, it is a really sad time for our community and our thoughts are with everyone concerned.

Welcome to the meeting, I appreciate you all coming this evening, I would like to introduce you to Sgt Sue Honeywill and PC Amy Honeywill from Devon & Cornwall Police, Kate Whitford, Head of Padstow School and Kevin Harris, Station Manager for Padstow Fire Service, thank you for your attendance.

We had a new Councillor join us recently. We welcomed Councillor Matt Evans to his first meeting in March and we are all very much looking forward to working with him.

Apologies from Councillor Buscombe our Cornwall Councillor for not being able to attend this evening. He was initially intending to do a written update however, instead he has asked that I let you know that he will be holding a surgery at our Council Offices at Station House on Thursday 9 May, from 10 am to 12 pm. Any queries or questions please come along so he can help. There are leaflets available for anyone interested in meeting with Richard.

I'd like to take a moment to update you on what our Council has been doing since our last Annual Town Meeting.

**Skate Park:** Last year I advised that we had received planning permission and were able to move forward with this project. As I'm sure you know we have completed the skate park project, which we celebrated with a grand opening which took place over the Easter holidays. Our opening was also a fun day with face painting, Easter games and support from the Social Club in providing a BBQ. We also invited Mount Hawke Skaters who did a demonstration and supported the young people on the day. We also had support from Padstow School with us arranging for Year 6 students to undertake a "test day" with Mount Hawke skaters, this went down very well and was enjoyed by all who attended – even the teachers! Pupils also designed skate safe posters which we used to decorate the skate park. We will soon be awarding the prizes for the best posters. The cost of this project was £87,500

**Neighbourhood Development Plan:** We have been progressing the NDP. A draft 1<sup>st</sup> Consultation Version of the Padstow Parish Neighbourhood Development Plan has been developed, which was considered by the NDP Steering Group. The Group agreed to send this to Cornwall Council to give the local planning authority an early opportunity to peruse the document and flag any potential issues of non-conformity with the Local Plan's strategic policies or intentions. The Steering Group will then give consideration to their views. After this, the intention is to undertake an informal community consultation on this 1<sup>st</sup> version. This will give yourselves and other local stakeholders an opportunity

to make comment on its contents. The consultation will "test" whether the draft properly reflects local views and aspirations. So watch this space, as we hope consultation events will be arranged soon and I would urge you all to participate - I'd like to stress that a Neighbourhood plan comes from the community so please do take part in any consultations. Regular updates are available to view on the Town Council website.

**Remembrance Day:** As with every year, and with thanks to our Local Royal British Legion, our Remembrance Day was well attended and supported by our community. This year was particularly important as it was the Centenary of the end of the First World War. The Town Council worked alongside the local branch of the Royal British Legion to complement the day, marking this anniversary with a plaque which was positioned close to the War Memorial. This was unveiled jointly by the Town Council and the Royal British Legion. The Town Council also bought a 6 foot commemorative Tommy figure which unfortunately arrived too late for Remembrance Day therefore, we held a separate ceremony at Stile Field with our Tommy being unveiled and with a blessing from our vicar.

**Victoria Shelter:** Due to its age and exposure to the elements the Victoria Shelter was in much need of attention. The main area for attention was the roof and trusses. This is almost complete and will be returned to his former glory and providing shelter for those walking the Saints' Way. The cost of this project is £28,623

A flagpole has been put on The Green at Trevone for the Blue Flag and Seaside Award and many general repairs of play equipment etc. have been financed.

**The Railway toilets:** The toilets now have a new tiled floor at a cost of £14,735 which is more durable for the thousands that use this facility. These toilets and the others around the Quay are provided free of charge to the public.

**Grants:** The Council is again delighted to offer a community grants scheme with £25,000 in total given to Padstow or Trevone based, not for profit organisations. Grants range from £100 to several thousand pounds and really helps local charities.

**Council Finances:** The income from the car parks and rental units pays for the running costs of Padstow Town Council and has also been invested in capital projects in the last few years.

The Accounts for year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019 detail the car park income of £532,462 and rental income of £241,979. This enables Padstow Town Council to be the only town council in Cornwall not to set a precept (Padstow Town Council is the only town council in Cornwall not to set a precept).

The old Council offices, Unit 5b Treceus Industrial Estate, have been sold and the money must be reinvested in to capital projects, this is likely to be the Lawn car park improvements.

The Railway and Lawn car parks cost £116,472 to run. The Council's open spaces such as Stile field etc cost £144,617 to maintain. Padstow Town Council toilets cost £53,579 pa to run. Administration expenses are £141,731 pa. The Cemetery costs £17,427 pa.

Overall the Council had an excess of revenue income over revenue expenditure of £177,962. This will be used to finance capital projects and maintain reserves.

The Council has received positive internal and external audit reports for the last few years and Councillors and staff work hard to obtain best value for the community.

Further details of Padstow Town Council finances are available on its website [www.padstow-tc.gov.uk](http://www.padstow-tc.gov.uk) or please call in at the office if you have any queries.

So to future plans.....

The Town Council has made a formal offer to buy the Core Building from LiveWest, for the benefit of the whole community, we are awaiting a formal acceptance.

**Lawns Car Park Improvements:** On our display board you will see plans for improvement. Planning permission has recently been submitted as well as an application to change the entrance. As you will all know the entrance is very narrow and causes congestion problems. We are also improving the layout which will see more car park spaces, approximately 25 which will be welcomed during our busy periods and also generate more revenue for the Council. We hope, all going well, that these works will commence this winter and completed in time for Easter next year.

**Cory and North Quay Toilets:** These have not had much attention for a number of years and are well used. We are currently engaging the services of a surveyor to undertake a survey to help us to redesign the space and pull together a specification. Again we are hopeful these works could take place this winter. We are also investigating the possibility of a hoist in our Railway Toilets to assist with disabled users. We are waiting on expert advice to ascertain if this is a possibility.

I would like to introduce our first speaker, Sgt Sue Honeywill.



## Padstow Town Council Annual Meeting 7<sup>th</sup> May 2019 Police and Crime Report

The below report provides a direct comparison of crimes and incidents over a twelve month period to the 1<sup>st</sup> May 2019. The statistics reflect only those crimes / incidents that took place in the Padstow & St Merryn area.

### Crimes:-

Offence	Recorded Crime 01/05/2018 to 30/04/2019	Recorded Crime 01/05/2017 to 30/04/2018	Recorded Crime % Difference
Violence with Injury	37	26	42.3%
Violence without Injury	84	49	80.6%
Rape	3	7	-57.1%
Other Sexual Offences	4	9	-55.6%
Burglary Dwelling	15	5	200.0%
Burglary Non-Dwelling	10	15	-33.3%
Vehicle Offences	13	8	62.5%
Shoplifting	7	6	16.7%
Other Theft	34	41	-17.1%
Criminal Damage	33	45	-26.7%
Public Order Offences	6	5	20.0%
Possession of Weapons	0	3	-100.0%
Possession of Drugs	2	1	100.0%
Other Offences	2	5	-60.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>2.2%</b>
Non Notifiable Offences	20	11	81.8%



Devon & Cornwall Police

## Incidents:-

Incident Closing Category	Incidents - 01/05/2018 to 30/04/2019	Incidents - 01/05/2017 to 30/04/2018	Incidents % Difference
Anti Social Behaviour	80	79	-24.1%
Crime Not Recorded	1	5	-80.0%
Crime Recorded	86	76	-13.2%
Public Safety	350	292	19.9%
Transport	163	159	2.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>640</b>	<b>611</b>	<b>4.7%</b>

This year's May Day celebrations have been sadly overshadowed by the tragic loss of Laura Smallwood. Her death is currently being investigated as unexplained and enquiries are continuing. Our thoughts and sympathies are with the family and friends of Laura and we respectfully ask that no questions are put to us this evening about this matter.

You will see from the statistics that there has been a slight increase (2.2%) in overall recorded crime reported over the past twelve months when compared to the previous twelve months. There is a similar increase (4.7%) in incidents. Whilst any increase is unwelcome, this is a very small rise and is smaller than the East Cornwall LPA as a whole (4.9% increase in crime).

Offences of violence have increased in line with the force and national trend; and no particular concerns have been identified that are specific to your local area. Some of this rise is due to a change in the way that crimes have been classified, with crimes such as Harassment and Malicious Communications (for example abuse over Facebook), now being included within the 'Violence' crime categories.

Dwelling Burglary has seen a 200% increase, but it must be stressed that the actual number of offences is very small. Only 15 offences were recorded for the entire year from 1<sup>st</sup> May 2018 to 30<sup>th</sup> April 2019. Some of these will fall within the series of offences that took place from November 2018 to February 2019, where we saw a number of holiday homes targeted across the north coast of Cornwall and into Devon. Some arrests have been made and some convictions secured. Enquiries into some of these offences continue with positive lines of enquiry.

County Lines Drug activity has been and remains the top priority for Police Teams across the Bodmin & Wadebridge sector. Over the past year we have executed 18 Misuse of Drugs Act Warrants and secured two Premise Closure Orders. Numerous people have been arrested. Significant quantities of drugs have been taken off the streets and cash and weapons have been confiscated. Whilst this may appear concerning, the vast majority of this activity has taken place in the Bodmin area.

We continue to urge members of the public to contact us to report anything suspicious which might relate to drugs activity. This can be done by visiting our Station Enquiry Offices during weekdays; by telephoning us on 101; by emailing through our website, or by phoning Crime Stoppers on 0800 555111.

We are pleased to say that we have gained two additional PCSOs in Bodmin Sector - PCSOs Jenny Mitchell and Anita Parry. Both are experienced PCSOs and are a valuable addition to the team. Amongst her other tasks, Anita will be asked to work with the county's Rural Crime Officer – PC Chris Collins - to develop initiatives to combat rural crime and incidents.

In January 2019 PC Amy Honeywill replaced PC Helen Lentern as the Wadebridge / Padstow NBM. Amy joins the team after a period of ten years as a Firearms Officer. She too brings plenty of experience and is embedding well into the neighbourhood team.

Over the past year we have grown our Citizens in Policing establishment. We have recruited a number of Local Police Support and Neighbourhood Watch Volunteers. We have also recently recruited volunteers to run a Community Speedwatch Scheme in St Issey. We are grateful for the time dedicated by our volunteers to assist us; and we aim to grow our numbers over the coming twelve months.

A total of 4 crimes were recorded in Padstow on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2019. Of these two were assaults and the other two were Thefts.

Questions.