

## **PADSTOW TOWN COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Tuesday 10 May 2022 commencing at 7.30pm in the Church Rooms, Church Street, Padstow

**Present:** Padstow Town Council (PTC): Councillor C WatsonSmyth (Chair of the Council and Town Mayor), J O'Keefe (Vice-Chairman), P Curgenvan, Mrs J Dawe, A P Flide, K Freeman, R Higman, A N Rees, M Rickard, D N Vivian and Mrs T Walter

**In Attendance:** 4 members of the public  
Councillor Stephen Rushworth: Cornwall Council  
PC Alex Allen: Neighbourhood Beat Manager, D&C Police  
Mrs K Pemberton: Town Clerk, Padstow Town Council  
Mrs S Daly: Support Officer, Padstow Town Council

**1 Apologies:** were received from Councillor Mrs J Colwill

**2 The minutes of the last Annual Parish meeting** held on Tuesday 1 June 2021 were agreed as a true record of the meeting and signed by the Chair.

**3 Mayors report:** The Mayor opened the meeting by welcoming all and noting that it had been an interesting year following a difficult couple of years for everyone. He noted it had been nice to see the return of May Day which he felt had been a success and he expressed thanks to the Oss Committees for their work given the increasing number of difficulties they faced.

The Mayor noted that COVID had been generally difficult but that the Town Council had "on the whole overcome this well". The first lockdown had caused "belts to be tightened" but he was pleased that the Council had managed not to set a precept again. He expressed his thanks to the Staff and to the Committees that work on the Council's finances. He confirmed that Council's audit reports were all clear even after such a challenging couple of years.

The Mayor provided an update on the Padstow Parish Neighbourhood Plan, noting that the Town Council had now done all that it could do in this regard. The Plan was with Cornwall Council and their acceptance of the Plan and the independent examiners modifications was awaited. If approved, Cornwall Council would arrange for the Plan to go to referendum. The Mayor stressed the importance of voting in the referendum and it was confirmed that in order for the Plan to be "made" more than 50% of the votes received would need to vote "yes".

The Mayor was pleased to confirm that the Council had again been in a position to hand out community grants and advised that the Council had several projects "on the go". These included:

- Building a Multi-Use-Games-Area on the tennis courts – works for which were hoped to start this winter;
- Town Signage – the Council was liaising with Cornwall Council Highways to improve out of town signage to alleviate traffic problems;

- Youth provision – the Council was liaising with the local police team and others to discuss possible youth provision for the town. This was something the Mayor wished to see move forward, perhaps utilising the Core Building in some way;
- Tesco bus shelter – this would be replaced with a modern, eco-living bus shelter made of glass which would hopefully deter anti-social behaviour;
- Bandstand Performances – These would be returning for Sunday performances between July and September;
- The Queen’s Platinum Jubilee – A lot of work had gone into arranging a number of events including beacon lighting in Padstow and Trevone and a family fun day. The Mayor expressed special thanks to all volunteers for their time and work on the events in particular the Gas Shack and Nadelik Lowen.

The Mayor concluded that on a personal level he wished to thank staff both outside and inside for their support during his 3 years as Mayor. He felt Padstow was well kept and wished to thank everyone for all that they do. There was a vote of thanks to the Town Council staff.

#### 4

**Cornwall Councillor Report:** Cornwall Councillor Stephen Rushworth began by apologising for missing several meetings to date, this was due to clashes with Cornwall Council meetings.

Councillor Rushworth noted that locally he had been helping solve housing, parking and planning issues. He had recently met with Councillors Freeman and O’Keefe to look at highway issues which had been accepted by Cornwall Council for action. He had also spoken with Councillors Mrs Walter and Higman regarding traffic problems in Trevone and Harlyn.

An update was provided regarding the request for lighting on the path to the Church. Cllr Rushworth advised that Highways had confirmed there were no funds available for this and it was not part of their remit. He had approached Street Lighting to see if they had an available budget.

Cllr Rushworth noted that he was happy to support the Council to look at a Public Spaces Protection Order like the one recently agreed for St Ives. He commented though that he was not sure how this would fit with the involvement of the Harbour Commissioner’s land, it was acknowledged that areas affected were mainly theirs or on the Highway.

Cllr Rushworth advised that the Government had announced changes to Council tax which would allow Cornwall Council to apply to charge second homes full Council tax fees.

As part of his role as portfolio holder for economy he advised he was working on a scheme that would support local fisherman to make improvements to their boats and equipment. Currently to access grant funding from the MMR, fishermen were required to

have 20% of the costs upfront. He hoped to set up a fund which would help with the cashflow of this 20%. He considered that although this was a scheme for the whole of Cornwall it might be possible to use it to help make improvements to the quayside in Padstow. He advised that Cornwall Council were also looking to invest in quotas and help with special rates for fishing start-ups.

Councillor Rushworth advised that he had awarded two grants from his community chest to Padstow. One was to Trevone Village Hall and the other to the Gig Rowing Club.

It was noted that a community trust was looking to run the swimming pool at Wadebridge and a deal was almost ready.

The following questions and comments were received from those in attendance:

i) Concerns were expressed regarding the condition of a) the Link Road car park including: faded parking lines, broken fencing, lack of safety rail on the slope, condition in winter, water run-off on the western side; and b) Little Hill which had not been swept by the Council since last November.

- The Town Clerk noted that she had previously raised concerns with the previous Cornwall Councillor about the classification of Hill Street as a Bronze route and the need for it to be raised to Gold (meaning more frequent sweeps) due to heavy use. She noted that Padstow Town Council sweep it when it gets particularly bad. Councillor O'Keefe commented that Highways Officer Oliver Jones had advised it had been put out for tender at the beginning of the year. Councillor Rushworth advised that he would ask the question at County Hall and noted that there had been some big restructuring at County Hall especially in property. He would speak to the Cabinet Member for Car Parking regarding the Link Road issues and report back.

ii) Thanks were expressed for the information regarding street traders and congratulations offered on the clearing of the underpass.

iii) The Foyer building in New Street built specifically for residential youth provision was advertised for sale but no notification or offer to purchase had been given to the Town Council, were Cornwall Council getting rid of youth provision in Padstow?

- Councillor Rushworth considered that the building should first have been offered to the Town Council, he would look into the matter and report back.

## 5.

PC Alex Allen addressed the meeting noting that there were now 3 Neighbourhood Beat Managers covering Padstow as part of a wider area. This increase in staff numbers meant he hoped there might be a return to named Beat Managers for each area.

PC Allen noted it had been a difficult couple of years both in terms of policing during a pandemic and reduced contact with the

community. He was pleased that during that time Padstow had been successful in setting up a community group, One Padstow. By working together, the group was able to tackle issues at an early stage during the influx of people last summer. He advised that "behind the scenes" the group discuss matters such as street trading which was a "work in progress" with the police, Harbour Commissioners and the Town Council looking at the future of this together and considering implementing a policy similar to St Ives.

PC Allen confirmed that something of concern at the moment was the increase in anti-social behaviour and the impact of that on businesses and residents in recent years and the resulting increase in tensions. He also confirmed that there had been an increase in crime in Padstow during the last year statistically, however, he felt it important to recognise that these figures were compared to a pandemic year and also to acknowledge the way in which figures were recorded. For example, people visiting or staying in holiday homes during lockdowns would be recorded as anti-social behaviour. Crime generally decreased during travel restrictions but across the country there had been an increase as the country "opened up". The statistics for Padstow during the period 01/05/2021 to 08/05/2022 (appended) were noted.

PC Allen wished to address concerns expressed elsewhere by members of the public in respect of a serious incident in Padstow on Easter Sunday involving young people and a potential weapon. An individual was currently on police bail. The police had received a number of reports concerning this and he was aware of some tensions however, he wanted to reassure all that this person was allowed to go about their daily business and should be considered innocent until proven guilty.

PC Allen confirmed he had attended May Day from 4pm and thought it had been excellently managed adding that it was great to see people enjoying themselves. There had been some incidents, one of which was an alleged assault at the fair but on the whole it had been a great day. One question which was being asked by a few of his bosses was whether Padstow wanted the fair on May Day. From a police perspective, most issues were linked to, and around, the fair and the thought was - would removing the fair or replacing it with eateries help to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour on the day? It was suggested by a Councillor that removing the fair could see the issue pushed out into the town instead. It was acknowledged that the fair was on the Harbour Commissioners car park.

In response to a concern that the reporting of crime took too long, PC Allen advised that currently police staff were still required to take 5 days absence if they had COVID and this was having a knock-on effect on the 101 service. He noted that whilst not ideal, the D&C Police live web chat was a good way to report non emergencies and was often quicker than 101.

PC Allen advised that anecdotal evidence indicated there were more issues with the trafficking of drugs and the possession of drugs in

Padstow and this was an increasing problem. Drug operations were becoming more transient due to County Lines targeting vulnerable people and this was moving into Padstow. He emphasised that to tackle this, the police rely on local intelligence and advised that anyone worried about reporting anything can do so anonymously. The police were looking at other information and also speaking with other agencies to tackle how drugs were coming into Padstow. It was suggested that the issue was also a societal one in that there was an increase in the use of recreational cocaine and therefore a demand which needed to change too.

In response to a query from a Councillor, PC Allen advised ways in which suspicious activity could be reported such as live webchat, noticing vehicle details and patterns of behaviour e.g time and place. It was suggested that a communication about this for the public could be discussed as part of One Padstow. It was noted that PC Amy Honeywill, the Vicar, the Town Council and a youth worker would be having a meeting to perhaps lay the groundwork for a youth provision which may also help to tackle anti-social behaviour. The Town Clerk added that if the police wanted to share any information on how to report such incidents that it could be shared on Padstow Town Council media platforms to help get the message out.

#### **Open Forum:**

The following questions and comments were received from those in attendance:

i) What plans were there to improve the young people's play area in the Lawns Car Park?

- The Town Clerk advised that the young people's play area was being replaced with a new scheme. It was hoped this would be undertaken this winter.

ii) Concern was expressed about the Cornwall Council owned play areas which were in an extremely poor condition and "dangerous at best"

- Councillor Rushworth suggested the Town Council might wish to consider putting a package together to take on the Link Road Car Park and to devolve the play areas in the same deal. In response it was noted that the Town Council is limited in personnel resources and that the more immediate issue was the safety of the equipment and it was requested that Councillor Rushworth take this point back to Cornwall Council.

iii) Comment was made that the use of electric vehicles was increasing and the potential need for greater provision in the area was highlighted.

- Councillor Rushworth commented that the grid connection couldn't take the demand created by increased electric vehicle usage.

iv) A member of the public expressed thanks to the Town Council for the work that it does. However, they felt that White Shelter required attention and investment, considering that it was not

swept out frequently and that there was detritus behind it. They understood that the plantation compost heaps were being removed which they were pleased about and added that they thought the upkeep of Stile Field and Lawns were "brilliant".

Meeting closed at 8.34 pm

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## Crimes Recorded – 01/05/2021 to 08/05/2022

### Padstow Town Council - Police and Crime Report 5<sup>th</sup> May 2022

The below report provide directs comparison of crimes and incidents recorded between 1<sup>st</sup> May 2021 and 5<sup>th</sup> April 2022. The statistics reflect those crimes/incidents that took place in the Padstow Area (Beat Code BW3L).

Offence	Recorded Crime 01/05/2021 to 08/05/2022	Recorded Crime 01/05/2020 to 08/05/2021	Recorded Crime % Difference
Violence with Injury	26	13	100%
Violence without Injury	15	20	-25%
Stalking & Harassment	16	12	33.3%
Rape	6	5	20%
Other Sexual Offences	1	5	-800%
Robbery	1	0	-
Burglary Dwelling	3	1	200%
Burglary Non-Dwelling	5	4	25%
Vehicle Offences	6	3	100%
Theft from the Person	1	1	0%
Bicycle Theft	0	1	-100%
Shoplifting	2	11	-81.8%
All Other Theft Offences	20	11	81.8%
Arson	1	2	-50%
Criminal Damage	33	38	-13.2%
Public Order Offences	13	3	333.3%
Possession of Weapons	2	0	-
Trafficking of Drugs	2	1	100%
Possession of Drugs	2	2	0%
Other Offences	6	1	500%
<b>Total</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>20.1%</b>
Non-Notifiable Offences	5	8	-37.5%