PADSTOW TOWN COUNCIL

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14 May 2024

TO: ALL MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

Dear Sir/Madam

I hereby give notice that the **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING** will be held in the **Padstow Community Hub, Lawns Car Park, Padstow** on **Tuesday 20 May 2025** at **6.30 pm.** All Members of Council are hereby summoned to attend.

Yours faithfully

Janet Dawe

Councillor Mrs J Dawe
Chair of the Council

AGENDA
Public & Press are invited to attend

1. **Apologies:** To receive apologies for absence.

2. **Minutes:** To approve the minutes of the last meeting held on **Tuesday 14 May 2024.** p1-6

3. **Mayor's Report:** To receive Mayor's report for 2024/2025.

4. **Cornwall Councillor's Report:** To receive an update from Cornwall Councillor O'Keefe and receive any questions.

5. **Devon and Cornwall Police Report**: To receive report from Devon and Cornwall Police (no representative attending).

6. **Open Forum:** To receive and respond, as appropriate, to any questions.

PADSTOW TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Tuesday 14 May 2024 commencing at 6.30pm in the Community Hub, Lawns Car Park, Padstow

Present: Padstow Town Council (PTC): Councillor J O'Keefe (Chair of the Council and Town Mayor), R Higman (Vice-Chairman), G Chapman (part), Mrs J Colwill, P Curgenven, Mrs J Dawe, K Freeman, A Hoskin (part), A Rees, M Rickard, Mrs T Walter and C Watson-Smyth.

In attendance: 7 members of the public (2 part)
Councillor Stephen Rushworth: Cornwall Council
PC Bartlett: Devon and Cornwall Police
Kate Birch: Trustee, Wadebridge Foodbank
Mrs S Daly: Assistant Town Clerk/Assistant RFO, PTC
Mrs S Ford: Support Officer, PTC

1 **Apologies**: None.

2 **The minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting** held on Tuesday 16 May 2023 were agreed as a true record of the meeting and signed by the Chair.

3 **Mayor's Report**: The Mayor opened the meeting by welcoming all to the meeting including Councillor Rushworth, PC Bartlett and Kate Birch.

Councillor O'Keefe provided an update on matters of interest from the past year including projects completed, future planned projects, cemetery developments and new regulations, community grants, community events held in 2023 and free to attend events planned for 2024 (copy attached).

Following the report thanks were expressed to Councillor O'Keefe in recognition of his work on behalf of the Town Council during the last year.

4 **Cornwall Councillor Report:** Cornwall Councillor (CC) Stephen Rushworth began by saying it was an honour to have represented Padstow from 2009 to 2013 and again, over the past three years.

He thanked Councillor O'Keefe and the Town Council office staff for their assistance.

Councillor Rushworth advised that after 16 years he would be stepping aside and would not be standing at the next election but expressed that he would be pleased to help and assist whoever is next elected.

The following updates were also provided:

- From his Community Chest Grants budget, grants have been awarded to Trevone Village Hall, Padstow Rowing Club, Padstow United Football Club and Padstow Carnival Committee.

- Housing Update: The newly available social houses have been built to a high standard but he considered these have taken too long. As a Councillor, Councillor Rushworth advised that he was unable to get involved with allocation of properties which has been frustrating but feedback has been given to Cornwall Council Officers. There has been an issue with the Title to the entrance to the shared prosperity housing and this is currently being negotiated with solicitors. Other housing projects include retrofitting of houses at Hawkers Cove – there were lots of issues with contractors and Councillor Rushworth has been assisting residents. Completion is anticipated by mid-June.
- Upcoming events: The new Cornwall Council refuse/recycling arrangements for North Cornwall will come into effect in September (no start date confirmed yet for the start of the new collections). Cornwall Council will be advising residents of the new arrangements in due course.
- Newquay Airport: Councillor Rushworth has been advised that a preferred partner for the purchase of the airport has been identified and decisions are expected at the June Cabinet meeting, together with confirmation of the partner. No other details known at present.

Questions from the floor:

i) Housing: In response to the questions, a) how many houses (shared and social) are yet to be allocated; and b) are any further housing projects planned for Padstow, Councillor Rushworth was aware that five shared housing houses have been signed off so far, he did not know the number with regard to social housing. Councillor Rushworth is not aware of any more social housing plans in Padstow, he added that Padstow Town Council could build their own if they identified some land and took the project forward themselves. A project of 44 affordable and social housing properties is proposed for St Merryn (50/50 split). Councillor Rushworth acknowledged that many would not be able to afford the combined mortgage and rent on the affordable housing scheme. Councillor Rushworth agreed that the issue of housing is very frustrating and advised he spends a lot of time advocating for individuals and families who contact him. There are certain rules that he has to abide by as a party affiliated Councillor that Independent Councillors do not have to.

ii) Streetlight Switch-Off: In response to a comment, Councillor Rushworth advised that he had voted against Cornwall Council's streetlight switch-off scheme.

iii) Cornwall Council offices/employees: Following a question from the floor as to why Cornwall Council employees were still working from home post-Covid, Councillor Rushworth advised that this was the decision of the Chief Executive of Cornwall Council but agreed that this system was not working for those who wanted to speak to someone at the Council.

iv) Link Road Car Park: A member of the public observed that the newly allocated coach bays on the Link Road car park are "never used" and considers them wasted space. Councillor Rushworth agreed that these coach spaces are a waste when they could be used for car parking to raise revenue for Cornwall Council.

v) Council Tax Banding: A member of the public advised that they lived in a 3-bedroomed house and are currently on a Council Tax E Band. Having looked online at houses for sale, there is a 6-bedroomed house in Porthcothan of considerably greater value currently on a Band D, similarly in Trevone there is a property on Band A. Councillor Rushworth confirmed that houses are allocated Council Tax banding based on historical land valuations. If a planning application is approved for a property to undergo vast improvement and extension it will hold its previous valuation for Council Tax purposes until re-valued. It was his understanding that a land valuation is due by the government in the next year or two and he advised the member of public to contact local MP, Scott Mann

Councillors G Chapman and A Hoskin, and 1 member of the public left the meeting and did not return.

Councillor O'Keefe thanked Councillor Rushworth for his report.

5. **Devon and Cornwall Police Report**: PC Barlett introduced himself to the meeting – Neighbourhood Beat Manager for Wadebridge.

The Wadebridge Neighbourhood Team are based in Wadebridge and cover an area from Bedruthan Steps to Port Isaac. There are now 3 Officers in the team. Another PCSO was joining the team soon.

Crime Stats: In the last year there has been an 8.8% decrease in *reported* crimes, it was unclear if this means there is less crime happening or less crime being reported. Shoplifting incidents have risen 200% however, it was noted that in actual terms this was an increase from 3 incidents to 9.

PC Bartlett stressed the importance of reporting crime so that the team can continue to make the case for additional Beat Managers.

With regard to the Padstow area, the Police are currently working on the areas of anti-social behaviour, knife crime and drugs but are not aware of any specific issues at present.

In order to present a case to a Judge, for example to enter a property to look for drugs, a report has to be made and a significant amount of evidence put forward for the Judge to consider. Sometimes the request is declined due to lack of evidence.

Two teams of Officers attended on May Day. There were a few minor incidents only.

As the Summer season approaches, the Team will attempt to get out and about in the area – undertaken in addition to their own caseload.

Questions from the floor:

i) Shoplifting at Tesco is reported every time and a crime number given, however there is no follow up or investigation, it is understood that this is a large area and there are not enough Police staff.

Whilst unable to comment on specific cases, PC Bartlett informed the meeting of the process following a report: If 999 is dialled and an immediate response is required an Officer will be allocated and an arrest made if appropriate. For 101 reporting, a Local Allocation Unit will allocate the report, the victim will be asked about their preferred route moving forward and then this report will be allocated to an Officer, in addition to their 999 caseload, to look at as soon as they are able. Police will gather evidence which will be passed to the Evidence Review Officer. This evidence must pass certain thresholds to be progressed to making a charge, or not. If the report is 'timed out' it cannot be moved forward. Indictable crimes go to the Crown Court, non-indictable crimes to the Magistrates Court; for the Magistrates Court this must be within 6 months of the crime and therefore can "time out". PC Bartlett understands the public's frustration but encourages people to keep reporting crime to help keep the Police aware of need in the area.

PC Bartlett advised that the 101 email address is no longer in use and recommended using the 'report a crime' online reporting facility on the Devon and Cornwall Police website. The Assistant Town Clerk/RFO advised that having liaised with PC Bartlett, the Council Support Officer had pulled together a list of ways to contact the Police, based on the reason for contact, which had been made available as a flyer at the meeting.

Councillor O'Keefe thanked PC Bartlett for his report.

5 **Foodbank:** Kate Birch introduced herself as a Trustee of the Wadebridge Foodbank. Kate also attends the Padstow Foodbank on Thursday afternoons 1pm to 3pm.

Wadebridge Foodbank started in 2009. When it started, the Foodbank issued 350 meals per year, this has now risen to over 4,000 per year. From March 2023 to April 2024 40 tonnes of food was distributed.

There has been a 62% increase in referrals in the Padstow and surrounding areas since COVID.

The Padstow Foodbank opened initially at the Town Council offices but are now based at Padstow Community Hub. Since opening at the Hub numbers are increasing.

As well as food, the Foodbank also distribute toiletries, Christmas boxes, frozen food, pet food, nappies and household cleaning products. Other services include benefit checks, grants and signposting to other support services. Currently, in Bodmin and Wadebridge there is also support from Citizens Advice, Christians Against Poverty and Community Energy Plus with Foodbank staff assisting and advocating for clients where required.

There is also the Foodbank Storehouse which sells items of furniture to raise funds. Furniture is also donated to families and individuals in need.

Councillor O'Keefe gave the Foodbank his thanks and also thanks from the Town Council and local community.

7 **Open Forum**: Questions received from the floor:

A letter was hand-delivered to Councillor Rushworth from a member of the public who then left the meeting.

i) Streetlight Switch-Off: Concern was expressed that it was not safe for those walking home late at night from work, leaving people vulnerable. The local area should have been consulted on this. Councillor Rushworth advised that he believed that Cornwall Council had consulted on this and considered it would not save money as the lights were billed as a standing charge not based on use. It was his opinion that this agenda is being pushed by the Green lobby. Councillor Rushworth agreed that no streetlights is dangerous which is why he voted against this.

ii) A member of the public thanked the Town Council for their efforts over the last 12 months. They advised that the footpath beside the Rope Walk allotments has lots of weeds and nettles to sting people. The member of the public has been clearing these. Weeds are coming through from the allotment. The Assistant Town Clerk/RFO advised she believed the footpath belonged to Cornwall Council but that it would be looked into.

iii) The issue of the 'heap' at Planation was raised and the question raised of when this would be removed. The Mayor advised that the Town Council were currently waiting on a response from the Environment Agency. The Assistant Town Clerk/RFO also advised that environmental issues such as nesting birds and hibernating lizards had to be taken into account when considering the removal of the heap but confirmed that the Town Council was aware of the issue and working to get it removed.

iv) The McCarthy Stone proposed extra-care accommodation was raised by a member of the public. Councillor O'Keefe advised that the Town Council cannot comment until the full application is

submitted to Cornwall Council. He advised that McCarthy Stone and their design and consultation associates delivered a presentation to the Planning Committee meeting held on 7 May. The meeting and presentation had been open to the public and all Town Councillors had been invited to attend.

Councillor O'Keefe closed the meeting, thanking all for attending.

Meeting closed at 7.40pm