PADSTOW TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Tuesday 16 May 2023 commencing at 6.30pm in the Church Rooms, Church Street, Padstow

Present: Padstow Town Council (PTC): Councillor J O'Keefe (Chair of the Council and Town Mayor), R Higman (Vice-Chairman), J Colwill, P Curgenven, Mrs J Dawe, K Freeman, A J Hoskin, A N Rees, M Rickard and C WatsonSmyth

In Attendance: 1 member of the public
Councillor Stephen Rushworth: Cornwall Council
Mrs K Pemberton: Town Clerk, Padstow Town Council
Mrs S Daly: Assistant TC/Assistant RFO, Padstow Town Council

1 **Apologies:** were received from Councillors A P Flide and Mrs T Walter

2 **The minutes of the last Annual Parish meeting** held on Tuesday 10 May 2022 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 to the meeting and advising that invitations had been extended to the police and the Petroc Group Practice for them to attend the meeting but that these had been declined.

Councillor O'Keefe then provided an update on matters of interest from the past year including historic moments, community events and projects (copy attached).

Following the report there was a vote of thanks for 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 thanking the Town Clerk and Council for their support enabling them to work together. Councillor Rushworth also expressed thanks to Padstow's former CC representative, Richard Buscombe who continued to be a support.

In respect of Cornwall Council matters, Councillor Rushworth commented that a big issue had been the Mayor for Cornwall item. He considered this had taken up too much of Council's time and that it was clearly not wanted by residents and businesses. He felt the issue had "muddied the water" in relation to the deal for Cornwall.

Councillor Rushworth advised that Cornwall Council is working hard on distributing the £126 million shared prosperity fund, noting that a lot of interest and scheme proposals had been put forward. However, he believed that from North Cornwall only Bodmin and Launceston had applied. He emphasised that the fund provided a good opportunity for levelling up. Councillor Rushworth further advised that there would also be opportunity for funding from the

new Community Area Partnerships (CAPs) with c.£2-3 million being made available between them.

A brief update on the spaceport was given. Councillor Rushworth considered this matter had taken up a lot of time and money. His concern for the project had always been whether the technology was sufficient. It was noted that sponsorship had failed to come through but that Cabinet have approved funding for the next 2 years.

It was noted that the recent review of Cornwall Council car parking charges had undergone a lengthy scrutiny process with a new policy being introduced.

An update on housing issues was provide:

- The 55 houses for social affordable housing and shared ownership due to be available from June had been delayed. Councillor Rushworth was unclear as to the reasons for delay, the projects main Cornwall Council Officer contact was no longer working on the project. Information from their replacement was that the project was waiting on electric, legal and warranties. However, looking at the site itself, there are still building works being undertaken and the roads are not finished.
- Councillor Rushworth expressed he was pleased the Padstow Parish Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) had been made and he considered it a "really good plan" that would "help to protect Padstow and the surrounding areas for many years to come".
- In a recently released paper it had been noted that there is a "watering down" of affordable housing led developments so there will be more flexibility in where these can be applied for.
- Councillor Rushworth advised he still had a high housing caseload and that currently 25-30 houses were desperately needed. He was working to make sure that the social housing comes forward asap and noted that he was supported by the Chairman in this;
- The Hawkers Cove retrofit by Cornwall Council housing was expected any day.

An update on the Link road re-lining work was provided. This had now been scheduled for 12 June and was expected to take 2-4 weeks, weather dependant. During the work the car park would be closed as the scheme will involve a complete re-fit. Works should also include safety fencing.

Councillor Rushworth closed by saying he would help with any issues the Town Council would like support with and expressed his thanks to the Chairman and all members of Padstow Town Council, stating it was a pleasure to represent the area.

Open Forum: There were no questions or comments received.

Meeting closed at 6.50 pm

Mayor's Report 2022/2023

I would like to begin by welcoming Cllr Rushworth, fellow councillors, The Clerk, Support Officers and members of the public to the Annual Town Meeting for 2023. I would like to say that the police and a representative from the Petroc group practice were asked if they would like to attend this meeting, but unfortunately as you can see they have declined after being contacted numerous times by our support officers.

I think we can all agree that the past 12 months has certainly been a rollercoaster, with a lot of highs but also some lows. After being voted in as the Mayor for PTC in May 2022 it was head first into the Jubilee celebrations of our late Queen, Queen Elizabeth 11 at the beginning of June which was a great success and the whole community came out to support the events over the jubilee weekend which included, beacons being lit here in Padstow and out at Trevone, a family fun day out at Wheel Jubilee Parc, cream teas at Prideaux Place, the senior citizens tea party and numerous other events that were enjoyed and supported by all throughout the parish.

In September we received the news that The Neighbourhood development plan had been adopted which was great news for everyone that had worked so hard for so many years to get this in place. Since being adopted it has been used in several comments that the planning committee have submitted to Cornwall Council in the consultation on planning applications throughout the parish, and it has been great to see that Cornwall Council are also using it when it comes to decision making on certain planning applications.

At the beginning of September is when we received the news of the passing of the late Queen, Queen Elizabeth the 11 and then it was an altogether different aspect of being Mayor, it was my duty to read the proclamation outside of the council offices which although at first was very daunting it was also a very proud moment for me as this was the first time in 70 years that this duty had been asked of to be performed.

A few weeks ago it was another time to celebrate with the coronation of King Charles 111,following the success of the family fun day at Wheel Jubilee Parc for the Platinum jubilee celebrations of the late queen it was thought that an event with a big screen to watch the coronation be organised for the whole parish to come together and celebrate another moment in history. Unfortunately this was not to be the case as the weather did not play ball with us and even though it did end up to be sunny at the time of the coronation, a decision had to be made in advance and with the weather forecast not looking good the decision was made by all that the event would have to be cancelled at Wheel Jubilee Parc and a scaled down version of entertainment was held at the social club thanks to Pauline offering the upstairs of the club for face painting and the circus act skills entertainer.

During the winter months the council agreed that the council chamber would be opened up as a warm space as the cost of living crisis began to bite, this space was also used to hand out food parcels that were provided by the Wadebridge foodbank to families that are struggling within our community and had been referred to the council offices to collect. This project is in the early stages but is growing in momentum.

In respect to projects that have been done over the past 12 months, the lawns play area has been totally rebuilt and the children are now back in there playing and enjoying all of the new equipment that has been installed. It is a great pleasure to hear all of the positive feedback about this area from the children and also from the parents.

The MUGA is now within touching distance of being open to the public and anyone that has taken a look at how the old tennis court area has been upgraded for multiple sports use will have to admit that this is going to be another great area on offer to the public whether it be couples or groups enjoying an area purposely designed and built for sports use within the community.

The Core building is now in the process of being cleaned, painted and made into a space that hopefully the foodbank can be moved into, along with having social prescribing events that can provide helpful advice and

workshops for members of the community who are seeking help about numerous difficulties that they are encountering in these uncertain times. I think that this is going to be a great space and asset that the council have and it will be a space that if we start small and then let it grow to become a great hub within the town.

Projects that are in the budget to be addressed throughout 2023/2024 are the roadway leading towards the entrance and start of the Camel trail, also to focus more on community led events of which one is going to be a fun day for the official opening of the MUGA, the play area and the Core building, so volunteers are going to be sought for that one.

I would like to say a big thank you to Cllr Richard Higman for all his hardwork and dedication in ensuring that Trevone Bay has again been awarded the Blue flag award for the 2023 bathing season, Richard does do a lot of work in Trevone which goes unmentioned but working to gain awards like this richly deserves a mention i think.

Grants awarded for 2023/2024 totalled £45,744, and on top of that Trevone was awarded another£1000 towards the costs of the Coronation celebrations which were held at the Well Parc.

Over the last 12 months I along with Lisa have been invited to numerous Mayor making ceremonies, concerts, fetes, and one of the big highlights was to attend the High Sheriff's Garden party which was a lovely evening at Lanhydrock. We have both met numerous people from all walks of life and along with many social events have learnt a great deal about different subjects that are affecting people's lives throughout Cornwall which you don't hear much about in everyday conversation. We have also made many friends along the way who are also proud and passionate about the towns and villages that they represent.

To conclude my report there are some personal thank you's that i would like to say starting with the clerk and all of the inside staff who sometimes under extreme pressure keep the day to day running of the council running like clockwork, the outside team who maintain that Padstow always looks clean, tidy and well manicured not just for the

visitors but for the local community aswell. I would like to thank the councillors who give up their own time to volunteer and help out with events that the council put on, and i am hoping that this is something that will be built on within the council for the whole community to realise we are human and we are here to hopefully help and support them to the best of our ability. Finally I would like to thank my wife Lisa who without her support I wouldn't be sitting here giving you this report. She is the one who accompanies me to all of the social and civic events, she is the one who has to calm me down when things get what I think are beyond me, but most of all she gives me the encouragement that I can carry out my duties to the best of my ability.