

The Annual Parish Meeting was held in the parish hall on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> May 2017 at 7:00pm with the parish council vice-chairman Alison Rowland in the chair. Also present were parish councillors Brenda Alison, Colin Gilbert, Pamela Idelson-Smith, Alistair Rowland, Fred Ward, Kirsty Philpott, seven members of the public and the parish council clerk Mrs. Lynn Pluess.

The vice –chairman of the parish council Cllr. Alison Rowland welcomed everyone to the meeting and followed with a report from the parish council. She thanked the previous chairman Cllr. Colin Gilbert for his long standing commitment as chairman over the last few years and was sorry to see Cllr. Norman Abbott stand down at the recent elections thanking him for his dedication and commitment during his term of office. Cllr. Stephen Pawley was elected the new chairman at the last meeting and is an ideal candidate for the position. Cllr. Alison Rowland welcomed the new councillors Pamela Idelson-Smith and Kirsty Philpott following the recent elections and congratulated Cornwall Councillor Nicky Chopak on being re-elected.

Vice-chairman Alison Rowland then spoke of the most prominent event for the parish council over the past twelve months was taking over the running of the public toilets in Widemouth Bay which met with a round of applause from the public present. She felt this had been a momentous undertaking for the council but is very important for the area especially so with Widemouth Beach achieving the prestigious Blue Flag Award. Moving on she commended the new development at Bangors which offers affordable housing for local people and introduced the Chief Executive of Cornwall Rural Housing Association Peter Moore.

Peter Moore introduced Cornwall Rural Housing Association a small housing association specialising in building homes in some of the more remote locations and villages throughout Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly. Their smallest scheme was one property and the largest of 25 located at the Lizard on land donated by the parish council which was finished last year. They go into villages and build where there is need and support for housing, hopefully building something that is an asset to the community going on into the future. Cornwall Rural Housing Association is a charitable organisation and has no views to sell their homes and until recently has only built homes for rent but did move into shared ownership over the last two schemes at the Lizard and Menheniott which means people who want to remain in the village but do not qualify for the rented accommodations can get a stake in the property.

Peter Moore then spoke of the Bangors Development which they have been working on for many years and recalls attending two or three parish council meetings and a consultation event prior to the planning application being submitted which then made its way slowly through the planning system. Starting this scheme three or possibly four governments ago the major delay for the development had been the availability of funding and significant changes to the government's housing policy over that period of time. He explained this time last year the government only wanted to put money into shared ownership housing but seeing this coming they managed to secure funding for the rental accommodation at Bangors before the autumn statement. A mixed development is being built at Bangors of one two bedroom bungalow with level accommodation, two one and a half bedroom houses, two bedroom houses, two three bedroom houses and a four bedroom house. Built on a rural exception

site which is on land that would not normally have been granted planning permission and because of that there is a Section 106 agreement which means the houses must be let to people with a local connection as defined in the agreement as the parish of Poundstock and also the neighbouring parishes. The Cornwall Rural Association agrees a local lettings plan with Cornwall Council giving priority to the parish where the lettings are based. This scheme has been funded by a combination with the Homes and Communities Agency and Cornwall Council and because of Cornwall Council's involvement the properties will be advertised through Cornwall Home Choice with a local label from late June or early July. He stressed any local interest in these properties must register with Cornwall Home Choice or contact the Cornwall Rural Housing Association direct. With the homes due to be complete in August Peter Moore spoke of holding an event probably the first week in July in the parish hall to show people plans of the development and offer advice on how to apply for the homes, he suggested a drop in event from 2:30 to 7:00 pm which received support from those present. He mentioned there is a two bedroom bungalow being built and was keen to make sure that if there is anyone in the parish or neighbouring parishes that needs level accommodation that they are made aware and if any disabled adaptations are required they can be made whilst the build is in progress at a lower cost, he asked for assistance to spread the word.

The government created affordable rent being 80% of open market rents which varies quite considerably across Cornwall but this is a condition of the grant and not negotiable. The process requires the properties to be valued closer to completion to establish rentable value although they would prefer to charge lower rent but that would require more grant aid from the government. Cllr. Fred Ward suggested advertising the properties for rent in The Packet and keen to make sure local people are made fully aware of this opportunity Peter Moore considered this to be an excellent means of communication to advertise a scheduled event. The rental process was discussed. Peter Moore encouraged people in need of housing with a local connection being in Poundstock, Week St Mary, St Gennys, Jacobstow or Marhamchurch to register. An event is going to be organised for the MP and parish council to view the properties upon completion. He explained Cornwall Council has funds available in the Community Housing Fund which is the additional stamp duty raised on second homes to which the association has applied for a grant to employ someone to bring more schemes forward and deliver them at least within the same parliament. If there is a need and support for housing he encouraged speaking to the Cornwall Rural Housing Association and offered his assistance to include any development of this nature in the Neighbourhood Plan. Questions were invited following which the chairman thanked Peter Moore for a very interesting talk and introduced Cornwall Councillor Nicky Chopak.

Recently re-elected Cornwall Councillor for the Poundstock Ward Nicky Chopak thanked everyone for their support and is looking forward to working together over the next four years. Since the local elections there have been some exciting changes in Cornwall Council. She is waiting to see how committees will be made up and hoping to go back onto the Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee, if successful she will be the only person from North Cornwall on this committee quite significant with the issues currently around community hospitals particularly in this area with the closure of Holsworthy Hospital and the threat of closure of Launceston Hospital. Stratton Hospital is on the list so every effort needs to be made preventing further closures. She spoke of the Sustainable Transformation Plan and talks due to begin in the autumn on significant changes in the delivery of NHS healthcare and the need to be watchful of our local healthcare.

Canvassing for the general election has increased her work load but has been a most interesting time. Within Cornwall Council the Liberal Democrat and Independent coalition focus on looking after the people in Cornwall. Cllr. Nicky Chopak said her email is changing but in the meantime she can be contacted on [nchopak@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:nchopak@cornwall.gov.uk)

In respect of the public toilets at Widemouth Bay Cllr. Chopak said she will continue to support the parish council to keep these toilets open. She spoke briefly on the news report that the public toilets at Trebarwith Strand have been closed by Cornwall Council's because the parish council would not take them on.

Very excited at the prospect of the Neighbourhood Plan she is looking forward to working with the new councillors on the many issues which will be very good for the parish. The chairman invited questions from the public who addressed the speed of the traffic through Poundstock which is a major concern highlighted by the recent accident at Bangors and traffic calming and parking restrictions along Marine Drive and Leverlake Road in Widemouth Bay, Cllr. Chopak will continue to work on these issues until a satisfactory conclusion is reached. The chairman thanked Cornwall Councillor Cllr. Nicky Chopak.

A report received from the editor Liz Jones of The Poundstock Packet was circulated. 'Now in its fifteenth year. Although the committee rarely get direct feedback, we are aware that it is well received and appreciated both throughout the parish, where, as always, it is distributed free of charge, and in the wider area as copies are passed on to friends and family. We feel the Packet plays an important role in Poundstock life and are privileged to be a part of it.

The Packet is produced by a very small group who are responsible for obtaining advertising and producing the magazine; we wish there were more of us and always warmly welcome help of any kind, on an occasional or regular basis, from anyone in the parish, and particularly from younger people. Distribution depends on a much larger group of nearly thirty faithful and much appreciated distributors who deliver the Packet to every home in Poundstock, making it a truly parish-wide enterprise.

As has always been the case the magazine is run entirely by volunteers, and the Packet operates, as it always has, on a costs-only basis; this means that we can keep our advertising rates as low as possible. We are particularly anxious to encourage small local firms to advertise with us. With generous help from the Parish Council and occasional fundraising, this method of financing worked well until last summer, when we experienced a sudden and quite unexpected rise in printing costs which we weren't able to pass on to advertisers until this spring. Thanks to the support of the Parish Council, we were able to cover this deficit until our new rates came into operation. We really rely on your backing and are extremely grateful for it, and we're also very grateful for Cllr Alison Rowland's support as a member of the committee and liaison with the Parish Council.

Our aim has always been to contribute to the sense of community throughout what is a very scattered parish. While some organisations and individuals are very good at using the magazine as a way of spreading

information, we are well aware that there are gaps. Our hope for the future is that these gaps can be filled so that the Packet more fully represents *everyone* in Poundstock’.

A report received from the PCC Secretary Liz Jones was circulated. ‘St Winwaloe’s Church has been a part of Poundstock since at least the fourteenth century. With its Gildhouse, it remains a very special part of the area for churchgoers and non-churchgoers alike, and the PCC are well aware of their role as trustees of this important place.

During the past year we have overseen the refurbishment of the vestry area of St Winwaloe’s and the replacement of furniture stolen in the burglary a few years ago. Phil Robson of Grampound was commissioned to make the new priest’s chair, lectern and welcome table and to refurbish the vestry area, which was suffering from damp and woodworm. This area also houses the new organ, given in memory of Kim and Mike Lewis after the demise of our old one. The work, which was largely paid for through the insurance settlement from the burglary, is now complete. It is of extremely high quality and will enhance our worship for many years to come.

Despite falling congregation numbers we have been able to pay our diocesan share thanks to several fundraising events throughout the year. We have also twinned both the Gildhouse toilets: this involved raising £60 per loo, thus providing a hygienic latrine and clean water for two very poor communities in the third world with no facilities whatsoever. Our current project is to raise £240 for a toilet block for a school or displacement camp.

Through a very generous gift we were able to buy a small area of land adjacent to the churchyard with the aim of protecting it from unsuitable development. We are still planning how to use the land but are determined to retain its unspoilt character. We have also been in discussion with the Parish Council concerning the maintenance of the churchyard following suggestions from Dr Tess Knight, a bat expert and ecologist, on how the environment can be improved for bats; we are very glad to cooperate fully in this.

We are grateful to the community for supporting us and we hope that they value both the church and Gildhouse as being very special places for Poundstock, whatever their religious beliefs. The church is of course always available to parishioners for baptisms, weddings and funerals and other special services, as well as regular Sunday worship. We hope it and the Gildhouse will remain at the heart of Poundstock for many years to come’.

The chairman closed the meeting at 7:45pm

