



**REPORT**

# Annual Town Meeting - Report

## Community Report – Meeting of the electors

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**For:** Annual Town Meeting – the meeting of the electors of Penryn

**Date:** Monday 25 April 2022

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I am very pleased to present the community report on the activities of Penryn Town Council for the last year.

The year started with the elections in May 2021, Penryn had an uncontested election where there were less people applying than seats available, thirteen seats were filled at this time. In July the Council went through the co-option process, where the remaining three seats were filled. Councillor Julie Tucker was elected as Town Mayor for the 2021/22 civic year, with Councillor Mary May elected as Deputy Mayor.

Our new website [www.penryn-tc.gov.uk](http://www.penryn-tc.gov.uk) went live in May making it more accessible for users, copies of the Councils minutes, agendas and other useful information regarding the parish can be found there, don't forget to keep checking the site for updates.

The Council amalgamated many of the small groups that arranged events in the Town and formed an Events Committee last year the committee organised, Fair Day, Mock Mayor and the entertainment at the Christmas Lights switch-on. The committee is currently arranging numerous functions to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee.

On the 19 August 2021 the referendum for the Penryn Neighbourhood Plan finally took place and we were very pleased that the residents voted 'YES' with 93.6% of those who voted supporting the plan, this helps the Council to make stronger objections to some planning applications.

There were two significant decisions made by the Town Council in October 2021, the first being to withdraw from the devolution process of having assets transferred from Cornwall Council to the Town Council.

The second was to surrender the lease on Permarin Car Park, the car park then reverted to the control of Cornwall Council on 5 January 2022. The car park will remain free to use in the short-term, Cornwall Council will carry out a public consultation on [www.engagespace.co.uk](http://www.engagespace.co.uk) prior to any changes to the terms and conditions of use being made.

October also saw the Town Council supporting the removal of fines for overdue library books, with the cessation of overdue fines commencing on 1 January 2022.

At the end of November, the budget process started, with the final budget being agreed by the Council meeting in January 2022, with the precept being set at £308,392 which equates to a Band D taxpayer paying £136.20 per annum or a 6.42% increase.

The one negative of the year happened in December when a group of youths caused some damage to the Christmas tree displays within the Town, fortunately the culprits were found, they apologised and donated £5 each towards the damage caused. A big thank-you, as always, to all the volunteers who help with the Christmas Light displays, they make the town look fabulous every year and bring so much joy to our residents.

In February we welcomed Frazer Hinch to the Town Council team as a caretaker/handyman, replacing Chris Jeffery who retired due to poor health in October, we have put Frazer to work on the numerous small jobs to keep our properties in a good condition (and it is a pretty long list).

I would like to express my thanks to all the volunteers that assist the Council in many ways, we have museum volunteers who have been working hard towards re-accreditation, library volunteers, the volunteers who help at events and all the other volunteers who have contributed to their community.

Finally, I would like to thank the Council's staff, Linda, Rob, Darren, Amie, Shirley and Frazer for their hard work and commitment to ensure that the wheels of the Council keep turning and the Town Councillors who give up their time to ensure that Penryn remains a wonderful place to live!