

**Notes from the Meeting with Sheviock Parish Council, Local Residents
and Sheryll Murray MP at Portwrinkle Harbour on the 17th May 2014.**

The repairs to the harbour at Portwrinkle, estimated to be in the region of £60k, were due to start in April. A JCB was deployed by Cornwall Council to begin the work and some minimal safety work was carried out. However, it was pulled off of the site when it seemed apparent that there was no funding from Central Government for the cost of the work. The Environment Agency funding for such repairs is being allocated on a priority basis and Cornwall Council was uncertain whether it was appropriate for Portwrinkle.

This meeting was called by the Parish Council to ask Sheryll Murray to explain the dichotomy between what Central Government is saying regarding the funding for flood repairs and what Cornwall Council is saying. Sheviock Parish Council would like an assurance that the Prime Minister's statement 'money will be no object' will be honoured.

Cornwall Council has estimated that £21m is required to repair the storm damage in the County. It will be bidding for approximately £2m from the Bellwin Fund and it is understood that the safety work at Portwrinkle will be funded from this money. A special fund of £2m from the Department of Transport to the British Ports Association is specifically for funding small ports recovery schemes and Cornwall Council has made a bid for this funding.

Sheviock Parish Council would like Sheryll Murray to lobby very hard to ensure that Portwrinkle obtains some of this funding.

Councillor Kennedy said that the repairs to the harbour are vitally important because they are needed to protect it from further damage. If the repairs are not carried out before next winter it is very likely that the harbour wall will disappear with the seasons storms. This will have a knock on effect because without the wall the slipway could disappear and with it the access to the beach. Fishing is no longer possible from Portwrinkle because the registered fishermen cannot moor their boats alongside the wall and tourism could be seriously affected if the access to the beach is lost. The damage is also making the harbour inaccessible for other boats in the area that would use it in an emergency.

Peter Nicholas, the local representative for the Cornwall Archaeological Society, said that the pier is scheduled as a listed building and that Cornwall Council, as the owner, has a duty of repair.

Sheryll Murray said that there is no limit on the Bellwin fund and there appears to be a lack of communication between DEFRA and Cornwall Council. Sheryll said that she has been assured that money is available and that she will facilitate a joint meeting between Cornwall Council and Government Ministers where any funding issues can be talked through and resolved. She will also write a letter of support for Cornwall Council in its grant application and will contact George Eustace MP about possible money from the European Fisheries Fund. However, Sheryll pointed out that any letters that are sent will not be followed up until after the 4th June when Parliament sits after the Queen's speech.

It was noted that the large turnout to the meeting reflected the concern of the community for the issue.

Signed Date.....
Chairman, Sheviock Parish Council