

Breage Parish Council



Annual Report 2016/2017

May 2017

Parish Rooms

Breage

HELSTON

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Chairman's Report

The Council has had a very busy year with endless planning applications to be discussed and commented on – not always in agreement with the Planning Officers. I attended the Mayor of Helston, Cllr Mrs Gillian Geer's Civic Service in the Methodist Chapel on 10 July 2016 representing the Parish Council. This was followed by refreshments in the Guildhall. On 19 March 2017 I attended A Civic Service at Porthleven Chapel to welcome the new Mayor Cllr Barbara Powell. This was followed by afternoon tea. Godolphin Community Group has done so well in raising the money needed to buy the Godolphin Chapel. Ashton has sadly lost its Container Shop. The Parish Council is now near to completing on the Ashton Amenity Field. Praa Sands Toilets have now been under the Parish Council's care for a year and considerable savings have been made by

the Committee. As a result of the report received from Mr Jon James (Cornwall Council) on 23 March 2017 with regard to the Toilets at Praa Sands Breage Parish Council is satisfied the requirements of the resolution passed on 24 November 2016 have progressed sufficiently to allow it to maintain its financial support of the Praa Sands Toilets until September 12th 2017, a regular meeting of Breage Parish Council. In order to achieve a full and formal handover of the facility from Cornwall Council to Breage Parish Council the following points listed below must be discharged and agreed by both parties. At or before this date clear evidence must be provided by Cornwall council that:

1. An alternative treatment plant is available and has been funded and will be installed by Cornwall Council at a date to be agreed, prior to formal hand over to Breage Parish Council.
2. Full legal safeguards are in place with respect to land appropriation and subsequent use for pipe work and the drainage field.

3. All licences and approvals are in place from the statutory undertakers to allow the system to operate.
4. Projected costings for the future running cost of the system to be made available to the Responsible Financial Officer of Breage Parish Council to allow future budget setting.

If any of the above points are in default, details of any proposed alternative scheme will be communicated to Breage Parish Council at the earliest opportunity by Cornwall Council or its appointed representative.

Retired and New Councillors during the past year

Cllrs Chris Ralph and Tony Woodhams were co-opted and welcomed at the meeting on 13 September 2016. Chris, who lives in Breage village, is a part-time technical director for Ecroys UK and is thus able to offer a good deal of time to parish council activities and is keen to put something back into the community. He has fully involved himself in many of the council matters that have evolved since his co-option. He has excellent planning qualifications and his knowledge and experience has greatly aided the Council in its planning application discussions. Tony is a past Chairman of Breage Parish Council and has an extensive knowledge of the Parish having lived at Praa Sands since 1969. He has been involved in the community as a Justice of the Peace and chairman of various community enterprises. He has studied Local Policy at degree level. This deals with all aspects of Local Government and he has already helped enormously with Praa Sands matters that have arisen since his co-option.

The Parish Councillors said farewell to Tanis Board at the 4 April 2017 meeting as she retires from the Parish Council on 8 May. She was presented with a bone china teacup and saucer filled with flowers and a bouquet of everlasting flowers. Mrs Board who has lived at Praa Sands for many years has been a stalwart Member and her extensive knowledge of and caring for Praa Sands and her knowledge of many other

The Parish Council's Christmas Meal was held at The Queens Arms, Breage on 15 December 2016. Excellent, mouth-watering meals were served and the staff looked after us so well.

Cllrs Chris Ralph and Tony Woodhams who were co-opted in September are already giving very valuable inputs.

I must thank **all Councillors** for their help and support this year and a big thank you goes to the Clerk, Carol Macleod.

Councillor Mrs Rose Wyvern Batt – Chairman Breage Parish Council

areas and matters of the Parish have been invaluable to the Council. Her term of office this time began on 13 June 2011 but she has previously served on the Council from June 2003 to January 2006, having been co-opted. Tanis says that she has always thought of the Parish Council as a large family with the Members having their different responsibilities and some having more time to give than others. She came to Praa Green with her family in 1964 and enjoyed walking so joined the Helston Footpath Society. From that came her interest and vast knowledge of the Public Rights of Way, the Parishes of Breage and Germoe and their local history. She would walk the paths and even cut out stiles and cut back paths. For years she regularly attended Parish Council meetings and liked being in the Public section at the back as Councillors had to sit on uncomfortable benches! She raised matters that were causing concern: litter; car parking on Praa Green; Praa Green itself and its different ownerships over the years; erosion and planning applications. Housing for the young becoming more unobtainable is one of her greatest concerns along with erosion. Mrs Board says she had the time, inclination and interest to give to the Parish and appreciates the ongoing endeavours of the present Councillors.

The Clerk hopes she will still be able to call on Mrs Board and her intense knowledge of not just Praa Sands, but the whole Parish.

All Councillors step down on 8 May 2017.

Attendance at Council Meetings 2016/2017

There have been 12 Ordinary Parish Council meetings this year, an Annual Parish Meeting, 2 Extraordinary Meetings and a Precept Meeting – a total of 16 meetings. There have also been other informal meetings that are not included in the attendance figures.

Cllr Mrs Rose Wyvern Batt 15 meetings

Cllr Tony Ackland 15 meetings

Cllr Tony Best 12 meetings

Cllr Howard Bradford 12 meetings

Cllr Mrs Tanis Board 16 meetings

Cllr Trevor Coleman 15 meetings

Cllr Simon Caddick 16 meetings

Cllr Mrs Phil Darby 16 meetings

Cllr Mrs Karen La Borde 9 meetings

Cllr Chris Ralph 9 meetings (co-opted 13 Sept)

Cllr Ms Carole Rashleigh 14 meetings

Cllr Tony Woodhams 11 meetings (co-opted 13 Sept)

Council Meeting dates 2017/2018

Meetings at 7.00 p.m. (unless otherwise stated), in the Parish Rooms, Breage.

Meetings are notified on the Parish notice board outside the Parish Rooms, Breage.

4 April 2017

16 May 2017 Annual Parish Meeting at

6.30 p.m. followed by Parish Council Meeting

6 June 2017

4 July 2017

8 August 2017

12 September 2017

3 October 2017

7 November 2017

22 November 2017 Precept/Budget

5 December 2017

9 January 2018

6 February 2018

6 March 2018

Members of the Council after The Local Elections 4 May 2017

The following Councillors have been elected uncontested and come into office on 9 May 2017:

Cllr Tony Ackland

Cllr Howard Bradford

Cllr Simon Caddick

Cllr Trevor Coleman

Cllr Mrs Phil Darby

Cllr Mrs Karen La Borde

Cllr Ms Carole Rashleigh

Cllr Chris Ralph

Cllr Mrs Christine Toms

Cllr Tony Woodhams

Cllr Mrs Rose Wyvern Batt

Cornwall Unitary Councillor for the Parish:

Cllr John Keeling MBE

Clerk: Mrs Carol Macleod

The Clerk is available at the Parish Council office, by appointment only (due to Health and Safety conditions)

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FINANCE

The Clerk is the Responsible Finance Officer. She and Cllrs Wyvern Batt, Ackland, Best, Caddick, and La Borde form the Accounts Team for 2016/17.

Payments and other accounts matters are checked by a Member of the Accounts Team before being presented to the Council each month. Three-monthly financial statements are also checked before presentation to the Council. The Council's Internal Auditor this year was Mr DJL Gallie.

Accounts Summary 2016/2017

Opening balances as at 1 April 2016:

Bank	£42,485.82	
Petty cash	£150.00	£42,635.82

Add: Receipts in the year

Precept	£51,000.00	
Precept Praa Sands Toilets	£23,500.00	
Council Tax Support	£2,822.52	
LMP Payments footpaths	£3,700.60	
SWCP Payments	£1,670.98	
Cemetery fees	£3,885.00	
Administration	£52.00	
Grants and donations	£4,720.50	
Bank interest	£21.48	
Donation Praa Sands Toilets	£1,669.00	
VAT reclaimed	£8,582.93	£101,625.01

Less: Payments in the year

Administration	-£31,161.58	
Grants s137	-£640.00	
Grants other	-£1,400.00	
Contract work	-£8,972.18	
Open Spaces	-£1,399.71	
Public Lighting	-£5,107.77	
Running costs:		
Cemetery	-£592.80	
Praa Sands Toilets	-£22,356.17	
Bus shelters/benches/notice boards/signs/phone box/handyman tasks	-£1,296.88	
Parish Rooms	-£6,079.59	
VAT paid	-£8,582.93	-£87,589.61

Closing balance receipts & payments as at 31 March 2017

£56,671.22

Receipts for 2016/2017 increased by £32,002.66 compared to the previous year. There was an increase in the Precept of £23,500 towards Praa Sands Toilets' costs and £2,000 to cover further cost increases, making it £74,500. A Council Tax Support grant of £2,822.52, £470.48 less than last year, was also received. Grants were received towards the South West Coastal Path cutting, £1,670.98, the same as last year – and the Footpaths cutting, £3,700.60 – £427.60 more than last year. A Local Devolution grant of £4,675.50 was awarded to assist in meeting the abnormally high costs associated with the operation of the toilets over the first year of their responsibility under Breage Parish Council. This is entirely consistent with the aims of Paragraph 3.13 (b) of the Local Development Fund Guidance which seeks to provide grant support to meet revenue costs in the first 12 months after the transfer of an asset or service, as a way of supporting devolution projects in their early stages. The Parish Council has taken on a new asset/service; it is in its first year of operation; revenue costs are abnormally high and significantly higher than anticipated; the provision of grant support to assist in revenue funding is therefore clearly justified in helping this important devolution project through its early stages. £1,500 plus £169 for water use was received from the R.N.L.I towards Praa Sands Toilets' costs. Cemetery fees were up by £2,476 bringing them almost level with the 2014/15 figure. The sale of the Allotment shed brought in a further £45. Payments increased by £24,511 – Praa Sands Toilets' costs being £22,356.17.

Grants were awarded to community groups as follows: £800 to Breage Silver Band towards running costs; £500 to Praa Sands Community Centre towards roofing work; and £200 to Praa Sands Defibrillator Group towards 2 defibrillators for Praa Sands. St Breaca Church was paid a £50 annual grant towards the upkeep of the village clock and the British Legion was supported by the purchase of wreaths, £90, for Remembrance Sunday services. Breage Band was awarded a £50 grant for playing at the Remembrance Service. Cornwall Air Ambulance received £250 towards assistance for Parishioners needing aid. Grants of £50 were awarded to Victim Support Cornwall to help victims, witnesses, families and friends in Truro Magistrates Court but this was returned as the Group being no longer responsible for this; to CAB Penzance (nearest branch) to help Parishioners sort their problems and to CRUSE Bereavement Care to help in supporting 19 bereaved people in the TR13 Breage Parish area. A new photocopier/printer/scanner was A3 for the office as the old one 'gave up'. Expected receipts for 2017/18 are £84,924, a small increase of £309. Expected payments are £86,825, a decrease of £1,933 on last year. These figures are as listed in the budget figures. After the accounts had been examined by an Accounts Team Councillor, Cllr Ackland on 28 April 2017, they were passed to the Internal Auditor, Mr D J L Gallie. The Annual Audit Return was completed and signed by Mr Gallie on 8 May 2017. Mr Gallie is thanked for auditing the accounts and the Breage Playing Field Accounts this year.

BREAGE PLAYING FIELD

Another year has passed and this community area is still being used by all ages. The play equipment has needed a bit of TLC and a few replacement parts. The up-keep of this equipment is probably the most costly, and as it ages, repairs and replacements are required. For the last two years we haven't had to apply for a grant from the Parish but in the future this may become necessary.

As a committee we are short of members and this may become a problem this year as we won't have a quorum. New members are always sort and welcomed. We will have our AGM in April and hopefully be back up to strength.

I would like to thank the Parish Council for its continued support.

Jane Ratcliffe - Secretary for Breage Field Committee.

The Field is checked annually in April by RoSPA (Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents) and further checks are carried out by the Parish Council's Handyman in January, July and October. If anyone notices any faults during the time between the checks please inform the Parish Clerk.

The Parish Council owns the field and has responsibility for the grass and hedge cutting, safety checks and Public Liability insurance.

FOOTPATHS AND RIGHTS OF WAY

I am glad to report that the issues that were ongoing last year have been resolved.

Pathway 77 Pengelly Mill - this is a path we share with Crowan and it was hoped, as our section is very small and is between the Crowan sections, that our part could be made over to Crowan to create one pathway, which is what it is. However, we were eventually advised by Cormac that this is not possible and so things remain as they are.

Better news on bridleway 65 at Godolphin where a new bridge has been constructed and is now open again to horse riders and pedestrians and on pathway 20 east of Tolmennor new steps have been cut into the bank making it much safer.

In December it was brought to our attention that pathway 66 between Carleen and Polladras was very overgrown. This has now been cleared and a very slippery stile removed.

Pathway 21 between Trew and Carleen - the wooden footbridge over the stream has been replaced as it had become rotten and dangerous.

Unfortunately there are still no funds available for replacing way-markers but we are trying to keep track of the missing ones around the Parish. So do let us know of any in your area and of any other problems you are aware of.

Finally, thanks to our Contractor Mr. Bob Sanders and Countryside Officer Mr. Hamish Gordon who are a great help in keeping our pathways clear and 'fit for purpose'.

Cllr Mrs P Darby – Footpaths Representative

PRAA SANDS TOILETS

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The keys to the toilets were handed to BPC on 29 March 2016. This was the start of the busiest summer season Praa Sands has experienced for a long time. Despite the pressures put on the toilets, actions taken by the toilet working group subsequently the toilet committee (established with terms of reference in September 2016), have proved successful. The toilet committee requested Cornwall Council make changes to the cisterns and flush to prevent blockages. The work completed by Cornwall Council has reduced the need for expensive maintenance. Cornwall Council was also asked to provide a float alarm for the tank to ensure collections of waste only took place when needed. This was installed in December 2016.

In terms of running costs careful measurement of water and sewage ensured costs were monitored and reduced. A new contract for waste collection was awarded later in the year and promises to reduce waste collection costs by 50% for 2017/18.

In September BPC made a bid for a grant from the Devolution Fund. They were awarded £4610 in March 2017.

The RNLI agreed to pay for their use of the toilet facilities and water for 2016/17 and contributed £1669. They have requested a meeting to discuss payments for 2017/18.

The budget of £25000 set by BPC in November 2015 was not exceeded leaving approximately a surplus of £2000. At the precept meeting in November 2016 the budget for the toilets for 2017/8 was assessed to be £29505. However, since the precept was set the anticipated costs of the toilets have been reassessed to £ 15550 mainly due to the new waste collection contract.

In 2016/7 BPC has been successful in providing better toilet provision for Praa Sands, including showers and a year round service, at a much reduced cost.

In 2017/18 BPC, in partnership with Cornwall Council, hope to have in place a new sewage treatment plant and soakaway which will ensure the toilets will cost BPC even less to run and be much better for the local environment. In addition, once a lease is in place, the toilet committee will be able to start raising revenue for the toilets from donations, sponsorship and advertising.

Cllr Mrs Karen La Borde - Chair Breage Parish Council Toilets Committee

BEACH ACCESS STEPS FROM PRAA GREEN

The long awaited repairs to the access steps from Praa Green (grid reference SW 579280) down on to the beach have been completed and are working well. Cormac carried out the work in accordance with the recommendations of report no. CN1501663/IR/100/001.

There were no financial implications for Breage Parish Council. The steps are approximately 1.9m wide and extend to a length of 44m. The lower sections are reinforced with stone filled gabions and poured concrete with the final flight of steps being constructed of wood to ease replacement should storm damage occur in the future.

Further upgrades and improvements to Praa Green and the SW coastal footpath are planned during the 2017/18 financial year.

Cllr Tony Woodhams