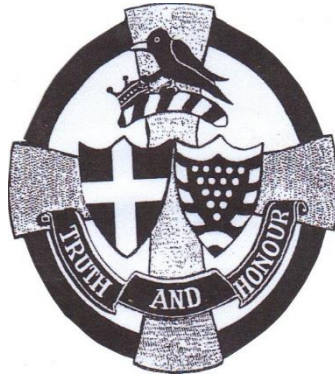


Breage Parish Council



Annual Report 2022/2023

May 2023

Parish Rooms

Breage

HELSTON

TR13 9PD

Tel: 01326 574781/07767165077

E-mail: breageparishcouncil@btconnect.com

Website: www.breagepc.org.uk

Chairman's Report 2022/23

This year saw the lifting of formal Covid precautions by central government, although lateral flow testing and other social distancing measures have remained in place at Breage Parish Council to good effect and have allowed business to be discharged effectively.

It has been a challenging year financially for local authorities as they have endeavoured to balance the books, maintain the important services that are provided for the parish against a background of spiralling service and material increases by Cornwall Council. This has seen a levy in Council Tax of some 4.99% by Cornwall Council and a substantial increase by the Police and Crime Commissioner.

Against this background I am pleased to report that Breage Parish Council has, through prudent financial management, returned a zero percent increase in its budget going forward into the next financial year. This is whilst maintaining all existing services and taking forward new projects that benefit our parishioners. Both the internal and external auditor have confirmed that Breage Parish Council is compliant with the Local Government financial regulations. Ashton hub should in the very near future, with its addition of toilets and a kitchen, be a

valuable community facility for the residents of Ashton and the parish, with a brilliant committee in place to ensure its success in the future.

Ashton amenity field continues to be extremely well used and has benefited from the planting of circa 200 trees, that excitingly includes a community orchard and hedgerow plants generously donated by Cornish Tin. Once the orchard is mature and fruiting the produce will be available to the community.

Breage field continues to be well supported and is scheduled for improvement by the field committee in the Spring by way of new equipment and the installation of a drainage field system to ensure it is available to parishioners all year round.

Our other community facilities at Breage, Carleen, Praa Sands and Godolphin continue to be extremely well used and run by their dedicated committees.

They all have a very full itinerary of events and services provided to the community. Breage Parish Council is delighted to support their endeavours with events to celebrate the forthcoming coronation of King Charles III. Full details of events can be found on the individual web sites or the Breage Parish Council website.

Breage village hall is undergoing significant refurbishment and has transferred the responsibility for the coronation celebrations to Breage Social/Snooker Club.

Breage Parish Council is a burial authority and has made significant improvements to the cemetery to ensure that it is a respectful resting place and a peaceful place for our parishioners to visit.

The Parish Council and volunteers led by Councillors Thomas and Southam have rejuvenated Lower Trevurvas Pond and it is looking splendid.

All the Public rights of way (PROWS) are currently open with immediate cutting being focused around the proliferation of wild flowers and the nesting season. Our drains, gullies and ditch maintenance continue to be maintained by the parish council to good effect under the Lengthsman scheme.

Separate to the Cornwall Council scheme, Breage Parish Council has initiated its own program of road safety by commissioning a "20 is plenty" scheme at various locations in the parish. This was necessitated by the statement issued by Cornwall Council that Breage parish would not have an active scheme installed by them until 2025.

The local scheme has met with limited success with isolated cases of vandalism to the signs and banners at Godolphin.

The Breage Parish Neighbourhood Development Plan has been approved and now carries appropriate weight as defined in planning law: this will be a major influence upon the planning decisions made in the future. The full and final version can be found on the Breage Parish Council website.

Planning applications continue to be considered by the Council with a large number of major housing applications. The council remains vigilant to ensure that applications are appropriate and compliant with national and local policies. It is fair to say that we are often at variance with Cornwall Council, mainly due to the differing policy pressures and perceived priorities. Thanks are recorded to the steering group under the Chairmanship of Councillor Ralph for their diligence in producing such a comprehensive document.

The Parish along with the other town and parish councils will go to elections next year in May when all the parish councillors and Cornwall Councillors are able to offer themselves for

reelection. This of course is an opportunity for any parishioner to come forward to be elected to serve their community as a local councillor. Full details of the procedure will be promulgated on the website and in the press nearer to the election date or contact the Clerk to the parish for an informal discussion. In closing I would like to thank my colleagues for their contributions and support over this past reporting year, the Parish Clerk, Mrs C Macleod; Mrs S Orpin and the local contractors who have supported the council so well. Finally, thanks to all the parishioners who have taken an active role in the parish and in the scrutiny of your local government.

Councillor AE Woodhams
Chairman Breage Parish Council

Members of the Council

Cllr Tony Best
Cllr Howard Bradford
Cllr Chris Ralph
Cllr Nikki Roberts
Cllr Rose Rogers
Cllr Matt Southam
Cllr Diana Thomas
Cllr Tony Woodhams

Caroline Carver, Chairman Finance and General Purposes Committee, who joined the Council in August 2019 resigned on 27 June 2022 as she was to move away from the Parish. Peter Thompson resigned on 2 May 2023. Peter had undertaken a good share of the workload to good effect whilst he was a Member and he will be missed.

Cornwall Unitary Councillor for the Parish:
Cllr John V Keeling MBE

Clerk/RFO: Mrs Carol Macleod
The Clerk is available at the Parish Council office, by appointment only (due to Health & Safety Regulations)
01326 574781 / 07767165077
[https:// www.breagepc.org.uk](https://www.breagepc.org.uk)

**PLEASE NOTE THAT THE OFFICE IS
CLOSED ON TUESDAYS AND FRIDAYS**

Attendance at Council Meetings 2022/2023

There has been an Annual Parish Council meeting; 22 Parish Council meetings and a Precept Meeting – a total of 24 meetings this year.

Cllr Tony Best 18 meetings

Cllr Howard Bradford 11 meetings

Cllr Chris Ralph 13 meetings

Cllr Nicola Roberts 17 meetings

Cllr Rose Rogers 22 meetings

Cllr Matt Southam 16 meetings

Cllr Diana Thomas 21 meetings

Cllr Peter Thomson co-opted 1 November 2022
13 meetings

Cllr Tony Woodhams 24 meetings

Council Meeting dates 2022/2023

Meeting due dates at 7.00 p.m. in the Parish Rooms Breage. Meetings are notified on the Parish notice board outside the Parish Rooms, Breage and on the website

www.breagepc.org.uk **Planning meetings are held on the Wednesday before the main meeting each month**

4 April 2023

3 May 2023

9 May 2023 Annual Parish Meeting 6.30 p.m.
followed by An Annual Parish Council Meeting

31 May 2023

6 June 2023

28 June 2023

4 July 2023

26 July 2023

1 August 2023

6 September 2023

12 September 2023

27 September 2023

3 October 2023

1 November 2023

7 November 2023

16 November 2023 Precept/Budget

29 November 2023

5 December 2023

3 January 2024

9 January 2024

31 January 2024

6 February 2024

28 February 2024

5 March 2024

27 March 2024

FINANCE

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2022/2023

The Clerk is the Responsible Finance Officer. She and Cllrs Roberts (Chairman F&GP), Thomas and Wyvern Batt were the Members of the Finance and General Purposes (F&GP) Committee 2022/23. Cllr Woodhams as Chairman of Breage Parish Council is an ex-officio Member.

Payments and other accounts matters were checked by a Member of the F&GP Committee before being presented to the Council each month. Bank Reconciliations were also checked. The Council's Internal Auditor was Mrs Barbara Goraus. The External Audit will be carried out by BDO LLP.

Statement of Accounts 2022/2023

Opening Balance		
Balance at Bank	89,484.39	
Cash in Hand	150.00	
Salaries		25,832.16
National Insurance Employer		2,359.00
Pension Employer		561.31
Travel Expenses		145.11
Audit Charges		621.60
Insurance		1,096.59
Office consumables and goods		1,749.05
Advertising & Website		430.00
Election/Referendum Provision		21.50
Electricity Parish Rooms		1,736.05
Telephone/Mobile/Broadband		2,409.51
Water Parish Rooms		55.60
Maint/Repairs/Renewals Parish Rooms		1,196.54
Notice boards/Benches/Signs/Fences/Ph		890.48
CIL community payments		800.00
Praa Sands/Praa Green		3,078.95
Contracts - Footpaths		4,634.20
South West Coastal Path		2,261.33
Miscellaneous expend.		1,539.31
Amenity Areas		270.00
Grants s137		200.00
Grants		320.00
Subscriptions		296.62
Contracts Grass & Hedge Cutting		4,861.00
Queen's Platinum Jubilee costs		2,060.16
Neighbourhood Plan costs		1,308.32
Playground & Leisure Equipment		875.00
N461 Remembrance expenses		28.98
Lengthsman work completed		10,548.00
Loan Repayment Streetlight upgrade		5,472.14
Covid-19 expenses		168.58
Breage Gardening		2,356.31
Trevurvas Pond costs		4,125.53
20 is Plenty payments		2,913.91
Admin		24.14
Precept	90,000.00	
Council Tax Support Grant	777.46	
General Admin	45.00	65.00
Grants and Donations	19,400.00	
Footpaths LMP grant	4,372.46	
South West Coastal Path grant	2,270.84	
Bank Interest	314.23	
Misc. Income	1.00	
CIL	6,634.17	
Enhanced LMP money in	6,455.00	
Godolphin Shute		32.00
20 is Plenty grants	4,480.00	
Praa Sands s106 out		803.53
N461 money in	50.00	
Trevurvas Pond receipts	50.00	
Cemetery costs		3,835.41
Cemetery maintenance Capital works		2,490.00
War Memorials LPA Act 1923 LGA 1948		95.00
Cemetery reserved grants/donations		130.07
Cemetery fees interments	8,795.00	

Ashton field costs		434.82	
Ashton Field grass cutting		2,255.00	
Ashton Amenity Area receipts	0.08		
Ashton Village Hub expenses		715.59	
Ashton Village Hub transfer		1,524.29	
Ashton Village Hub building work payments		4,604.70	
Ashton Village Hub receipts	2,292.00		
VAT	10,840.85	10,745.83	
		156,778.09	115,077.72
Closing balance Receipts and Payments as at 31 March 2023	131,334.76		

Bank Accounts: 131,208.90

**Cash in hand 125.86
131,334.76**

There was a closing balance of £131,334.76, of which £58,412.82 comprises of fixed, earmarked reserves. Receipts for 2022/2023 increased by £26,567.30 and Payments decreased by £21,205.45.

Cemetery fees increased by almost six thousand pounds as there were many more interments, especially at the beginning of 2023; Precept increased by £5,000; Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) money increased by £3,6463.74; A £4,480 grant was received for 20 is Plenty signing in the Parish; £6,445 Enhanced LMP money was received, this covering last year's expenses; Gardening expenses for Breage (including the Cemetery) are new this year.

The Council Tax Support grant was less than half the previous year and will no longer be available for 2023/2024; There were no streetlighting costs; fewer grants were awarded; The Jubilee costs were more this year; There were some Neighbourhood Plan costs; The Trevurvas Pond project, wonderfully executed by the Steering Group, incurred costs this year but grants and donations were received leaving a good balance for future upkeep; Cemetery Capital works costs were down, more work is envisaged for this year: Ashton Village Hub costs are shown but finances for all but building work have now been transferred to the Hub Committee.

Grant payments were awarded as follows: The Royal British Legion was supported by the purchase of wreaths for Remembrance Sunday services, £100 and Breage Band was awarded a £50 grant for playing at the Remembrance Service; £50 to Breage Parochial Church Council towards the cost of the maintenance of the Village clock; £50 to both Ashton Village Hub and Godolphin WI towards Platinum Jubilee celebrations; an additional £300 was held in reserve for emergencies.

General Fund balance at 31 March 2023 was £72,921.94. Expected receipts for 2023/24 are £117,555.00 based and expected payments £158,648.14, based on budget figures.

After the accounts had been examined by an Accounts Team Councillor, Cllr Nikki Roberts, they were passed to the Internal Auditor, Mrs Barbara Goraus. The Annual Internal Audit Report 2022/23 was completed on 21 April 2023 and signed by Mrs Goraus who is thanked for auditing the accounts and the Breage Field Committee's Accounts this year.

FOOTPATHS AND RIGHTS OF WAY

Introduction

The Parish has a wide network of rights of way, footpaths and bridle paths running throughout the parish. Fifty-two are gold status, the rest are silver.

Maintenance

The system is well maintained for the parish by Bob Sanders and his team. The system is well and regularly used by the local population and visitors alike. The paths are cut and maintained well. The cuttings are checked by the Parish Council footpath officer Councillor Matt Southam. The paths are clearly sign posted and stiles are kept in good condition. Any damage or disrepair is reported to the parish and repaired as soon as possible.

Work completed

Footpath 14; running between Ashton and Breage has been renovated/updated, offering a safe route between the two communities without having recourse to use the main A394.

Footpath 18; running from Rosudgeon to join footpaths 55 and 11, is in the process of being upgraded to a bridle path, giving access to Higher Kennegy and Prussia Cove at County level.

Footpaths 35 and 25; are both on Tregonning Hill and are in the process of being upgraded to a bridle path at County level.

Footpath 16; running from Breage village. The stiles have been brought up to county standards.

Footpath 10; the way marker joining Hendra Lane rotted and was replaced with new one. The stile at the

same location has been repaired as was the stile two fields across where the stones had come loose.

Footpath 6; stile at junction with Trevurvas Lane has been repaired along with the loose stones.

Footpath 17; way sign has been replaced after old one vandalised.

Footpaths 58 & 59; near Godolphin Cross way sign markers replaced after signs broken off.

Footpath 66; Carleen, waste material reported by public was removed by its owner.

Footpath 54; gate at Hoe Point, required to stop cattle encroaching into Praa Sands was fitted but spring was quickly vandalised. Has been reported and is to be refitted.

Public Comments

I have had no adverse reports from the public. Positive remarks say that the network is in very good order, well sign posted, easy to follow and the paths are clear. This compares well to those in other parishes.

There are issues with off-road bicycles on some footpaths, in particular footpath 54. There is new evidence of considerable use, cutting up of damp areas by wide wheels and where there is hard braking. Evidence of off-road motorbike use in one area near Rinsey.

CLlr Matt Southam, Footpaths Councillor.

The Field Committee was very pleased to arrange and host a very successful Bird Box Making Event last October which was well attended and seemed to appeal to a broad cross section of the community. In addition, we ran a Rake and Cake event to encourage volunteers to join us for some essential garden maintenance and preparation for the wildflower areas to bloom again. This was run with Millie who headed this part of the event. She was well supported by the committee supplying and selling tea, coffee and cake.

Towards the end of the calendar year, Chris headed up a bid and proposal with the support of the committee to apply for some funding to enable us to really make plans and progress towards the regeneration of the park – which primarily consists of drainage works as well as replacing some of the larger wooden apparatus.

Posters and social media posts were created to help attract interest in a new Gardening Group – headed by Millie – who now meet regularly and have helped to maintain and rejuvenate areas of the park as well as being a really lovely and supportive social group within the community.

At our AGM, Caroline made the decision to step down as Chair due to changing work and placement commitments. Her incredible hard work and dedication to park over the last couple of years was very warmly appreciated. During the new round of elections Harry Pickard put himself forward to continue the work and oversee the role of Chair and help to maintain some continuity with the events and bids.

In 2023 we received news that our CIL bid had been successful and, although, still lots of details to confirm, it resulted in real plans being put in place and a renewed focus for the future of the park. Chris' work, time, energy and perseverance has been a key driving factor. With this news and exciting times ahead, it was great to welcome Peter as our new Parish Council link and a Steering Group was established in January/February of 2023.

Early March saw the arrival of two new benches dedicated to Sarah's family. The benches are a fantastic addition to the park and provide safe and attractive additional seating for all park users.

March saw a follow up of our Easter Eggtravaganza Event. It was incredibly well attended and the weather was kind. We attracted almost 100 children and their families on the day. We ran a free egg hunt and also sold tea, coffee and cake. We ran a successful raffle supported by The Queen's Arm, Trenance Chocolate Factory and other individual contributors. Millie was also able to create a gardening activity with primroses planted. We also provided several crafty bits for families too. After expenses, the day raised almost £300 and the atmosphere, popularity and positive feedback was phenomenal and certainly seems to be an annual fixture for us.



Harry Pickard – Chair for Breage Field Committee

The Play equipment in Breage Field is checked monthly by a RoSPA (Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents) qualified inspector and faults are rectified. If anyone notices any faults during the time between the checks please inform the Parish Clerk. The Parish Council owns the field and holds full public liability insurance and has the responsibility for safety checks, hedge trimming and grass cutting.
