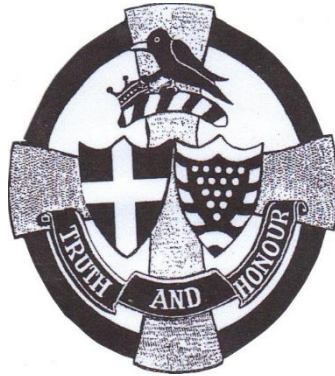


Breage Parish Council



Annual Report 2023/2024

May 2024

Parish Rooms

Breage

HELSTON

TR13 9PD

Tel: 01326 574781/07767165077

E-mail: clerk@breagepc.org.uk

Website: [https:// www.breagepc.org.uk](https://www.breagepc.org.uk)

Chairman's Report 2023/24

This year has been a very busy and varied year for local government in general and Breage Parish Council in particular.

In anticipation of large precept increases by Cornwall Council and the Police and Crime Commissioner we have, by carefully monitoring expenditure, trimmed budgets and introduced efficiency measures where possible to be able to set the lowest parish precept possible. The average town and parish precept in Cornwall has seen on average an 11% increase. I am pleased to report that Breage Parish Council has reduced its precept for the parish and returned a -1.28% settlement whilst maintaining all of its statutory obligations and adding value to its community undertakings. This means in real terms a 1.28% reduction on last years precept and a charge to parishioners of £66.73 per annum or £1.28 per week.

All accounts and financial papers have been audited both internally and externally. I would like to place on record thanks to the Finance and General Purpose Committee and to Mrs C Macleod for their diligent management of the council's finances.

Godolphin Cross Community Association continues to improve both its estate and the services it provides to the community; Carleen and Praa Sands Community Centre provide a fantastic selection of events and leisure activities for our residents. Breage Village Hall is now, after its major refurbishment, back in the community circuit and Ashton Village Hub is in the final stage of being fully prepared to be open to the public and community organisations.

For more information about any of these community facilities please contact their respective committees direct.

The outside play and exercise facilities at Praa Sands, Ashton and Breage continue to be very well used and are subject to monthly Health and safety checks and a program of upgrade. Breage in particular has seen extensive drainage work carried out this Spring which will hopefully ensure much more use by all. Thanks to all the committee members who give up so much of their time to ensure that Breage Parish has the very best of facilities available to its parishioners.

As a burial authority, Breage Parish Council is constantly improving the facilities at the Cemetery in order to provide a dignified and respectful final resting place for our parishioners should they require it. Breage Parish Council has this financial year purchased additional land to ensure that parishioners will have that facility and option for burial in the parish for a further 50 years.

Breage Parish Council has for the last three years taken on the Lengthsman responsibility on an agency basis for B, C and unclassified roads in the parish. This role is normally carried out by Cornwall Council but local knowledge has allowed the Parish to carry out this role in a more proactive and economic manner.

In the near future Cornwall Council will be implementing its 20mph speed limit in selected areas and Breage Parish will be included in the scheme. In partnership with the Police and Crime Commissioner, BPC has trialled its own scheme with limited success and as a spin off from the scheme both of our schools in the parish have been supplied with Hi-Viz tabards to keep the children safe whilst on the roads and engaged in school activities.

May next year will see the Duchy at the polling booth again for Cornwall Council and Parish elections: this is the ideal opportunity for those parishioners who want to make a difference within their communities to put themselves forward for election to Breage Parish Council or to Cornwall Council. Should you want any further details please contact BPC clerk at the office. (01326 574781)

After many years of faithful service Mrs Macleod BPC clerk/ RFO will be retiring in April 2025 so the search will be on for a suitable replacement in this challenging and interesting position. It is anticipated that the replacement officer will be in post during the Autumn of 2024 in order to have a comprehensive handover. Given the statutory legal nature of the post full external training will be available to the successful appointee. Full details and a job description and person specification will be made available later this year.

I would like to record my thanks to my colleague Councillors for their unstinting support over what has been a very busy year both with the

mainstream council business and the scrutiny of the planning applications.

Our Parish contractors whilst being competitive have returned excellent services and continue to provide value for money to the parish. This especially relevant to the public rights of way network which have been maintained and enhanced this year by Mr Bob Sanders' team. The administration of the Parish Council gets more intense as years go by with additional statutory requirements from central government and additional responsibilities being placed upon the towns and parishes as Cornwall Council relieves itself of its non-statutory obligations. This extra burden has been well managed by Mrs C Macleod in order to ensure that BPC functions properly. Our offices continue to be kept spick and span by Mrs S Orpin and the Council is grateful to them both.

Finally thank you to all the volunteers who provide the glue that holds the parish together and the parishioners who play such an active role in making Breage Parish what it is.

**Councillor AE Woodhams Chairman
Breage Parish Council May 2024**

Members of the Council

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

There have been no resignations this year.

**Cornwall Unitary Councillor for the Parish:
CLr 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

clerk@breagepc.org.uk

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

Attendance at Council Meetings 2023/2024

There has been an Annual Parish Council meeting; 24 Parish Council meetings and an Extraordinary Meeting – a total of 26 meetings this year.

Cllr Tony Best 23 meetings

Cllr Howard Bradford 12 meetings

Cllr Chris Ralph 17 meetings

Cllr Nicola Roberts 21 meetings

Cllr Rose Rogers 21 meetings

Cllr Matt Southam 17 meetings

Cllr Diana Thomas 23 meetings

Cllr Tony Woodhams 24 meetings

Council Meeting dates 2024/2025

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**

2 April 2024

24 April 2024

7 May 2024 Annual Parish Meeting 6.30 p.m.
followed by An Annual Parish Council Meeting

29 May 2024

4 June 2024

26 June 2024

2 July 2024

31 July 2024

6 August 2024

28 August 2024

3 September 2024

25 September 2024

1 October 2024

30 October 2024

5 November 2024

27 November 2024

3 December 2024

8 January 2025

14 January 2025

29 January 2025

4 February 2025

26 February 2025

4 March 2025

26 March 2025

FINANCE

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2023/2024

The Clerk is the Responsible Finance Officer. Cllrs Rogers (Chairman), Roberts and Thomas were the Members of the Finance and General Purposes (F&GP) Committee 2023/24. 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 2023/2024

Opening Balance		
Balance at Bank	131,208.90	
Cash in Hand	150.00	
Salaries		25,875.38
National Insurance Employer		2,246.75
Pension Employer		526.45
Travel Expenses		97.92
Audit Charges		621.00
Insurance		1,520.18
Office consumables and goods		2,759.81
Advertising & Website		250.00
Electricity Parish Rooms		1,967.78
Telephone/Mobile/Broadband		1,930.19
Water Parish Rooms		67.84
Maint/Repairs/Renewals Parish Rooms		2,449.29
Notice boards/Benches/Signs/Fences/Ph		1,817.94
Praa Sands/Praa Green		906.94
Contracts - Footpaths		5,912.58
South West Coastal Path		1,632.10
Amenity Areas		4,937.30
Grants s137		400.00
Grants		100.00
Subscriptions		281.00
Contracts Grass & Hedge Cutting		5,495.60
Playground & Leisure Equipment		1,013.25
N461 Remembrance expenses		352.25
Lengthsman work completed		13,024.70
Loan Repayment Streetlight upgrade		5,472.14
Covid-19 expenses		8,075.24
Enhanced LMP		2,500.00
Breage Gardening		2,380.94
Trevurvas Pond costs		41.66
20 is Plenty payments		1,125.00
War Memorials LPA Act 1923 LGA 1948		40.00
Admin		24.14
Precept	90,000.00	
General Admin	83.00	238.86
Grants and Donations	14,360.94	
Footpaths LMP grant	4,656.17	
South West Coastal Path grant	2,441.18	
Bank Interest	1,833.63	
NDP money in	378.06	
CIL	10,615.95	
Enhanced LMP money in	2,500.00	
Godolphin Shute		48.00
Cemetery costs		3,421.22
Cemetery maintenance Capital works		5,105.00
Cemetery Additional land purchase		20,000.00
Cemetery fees interments	15,830.00	
Cemetery PWLB Loan	19,975.00	
Ashton field costs		797.68
Ashton Field grass cutting		1,755.00
Ashton Amenity Area receipts	100.48	
Ashton Village Hub transfer		1,960.00
Ashton Village Hub building work payments		20885.58
VAT	16,455.33	15,167.00
	178,779.74	165,198.57

**Closing balance Receipts and Payments as
at 31 March 2024**

144,915.93

Bank Accounts: 144,765.93

Cash in hand 150.00

144,915.93

There was a closing balance of £144,915.93, of which £64,794.94 comprises of fixed, earmarked reserves.

Receipts for 2023/2024 increased by £22,002 and Payments by £50,122.

Cemetery fees increased by just over seven thousand pounds as there were many more interments and memorials; footpath grants were up a little; Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) money increased by £3,532; Bank Interest increased by £1,519; a £20,000 PWLB loan for which there was a £25 admin fee, was taken out to enable the purchase of additional Cemetery burial land -this was of course immediately paid out; VAT refunds were £5,615 more there being an outstanding payment missed by HMRC the previous year. Enhanced LMP money received was £3,955 less than last year; Cornwall Council paid no Council Tax Support this year and there were fewer grants and donations down by £9,520.

As explained, £20,000 was paid out for additional burial land; insurance costs were up slightly, there were some new benches and a notice board, grass cutting fees were up slightly as were playground inspections; the Lengthsman's charges including a back payment for the previous year showed a £2,477 increase; the fencing of Ashton play area amounted to £7,530, Enhanced LMP payments were £2,500; Cemetery Capital work was up by £2,615; Ashton Hub Costs were £16,001 more and VAT payments were £4,421 more. Small decreases on travel, audit, website, referendum, subscriptions; CIL payments down by £800; no Jubilee payments this year; Trevurvas Pond costs down by £4,084, 20 is Plenty costs down by £1,789. Other small decreases: Ashton field grass cutting – bad weather; Cemetery costs and war memorials.

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; £100 to GWCEG towards advertising of the recycling electricals event; £200 to Carleen Village Hall towards The Tea Treat. General Fund balance at 31 March 2024 was £80,120.99. Expected receipts for 2024/25 are £127,685.12 and expected payments £142,218.14, 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 2023/24 was completed on 19 April 2024 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 through the parish. Fifty-two Gold status, the rest Silver.

Maintenance

The system is well maintained for the parish by Bob Sanders and his team. The system is well used by the parishioners and visitors alike. The paths are well cut and clearly sign posted. The cutting is checked by Parish Councillor Matt Southam. Any damage or disrepair reported is quickly checked and dealt with as soon as possible.

Work being carried out

Footpath 44

Running from Lower Kenneggy to Pentreath Lane.

A stile is missing, meaning a climb over a Cornish hedge, topped with barbed wire. The landowner has received a wooden stile from the Cornwall Council and undertaken to install it before the summer months.

Footpaths 41 and 42

Running from Pengersick Farm to the A 394 and Pengersick Lane opposite the Community Centre.

By Public Path Creation Order this is to be straightened out where it passes through the Haulfryn Holiday Park, one part going round rather than through part of a car park. The top part of 41 is to be upgraded to a footpath. A new path is to run down the access road to the holiday park, making it a legally walkable path.

Public concerns

Footpath 12

Running from Rinsey to the coast path.

A complaint was put in saying it was overgrown in making walking down it difficult to access the cliffs. MS inspected it on two occasions, walking it and asking walkers their views. It was deemed to be walkable. It had had its two-yearly cuts but late summer growth had partially covered some of the rocky base. An e-mail was sent to the Parishioner explaining this.

Footpath 39

Higher Trevurvus.

MS was informed this path was overgrown. Again, it had been cut but late summer bramble growth had made it difficult to walk. The householder living close asked permission to cut it and tidy it, which was done.

Footpath 82

Lesceave Cliff.

This had also grown in after cutting and was cut back by a local householder.

Footpath 46

Wheal Fortune Farm.

A complaint was put in about litter left by people living in caravans on the side of the path. MS visited and saw the individual who stated that he was in the process of clearing the litter.

DMMO Tregonning Hill

The possible upgrading of the footpaths of Tregonning Hill to Bridleways. The Parish awaits the findings of the Public Inquiry on June 4th - 8th.

Cllr Matt Southam, Footpaths Councillor.

BREAGE FIELD COMMITTEE ANNUAL REVIEW AND UPDATE 2023-2024

We have had a fairly quiet year in the park this year with the brilliant gardening group working their magic on the maintenance and upkeep of the weeds and flower beds. We are looking forward to welcoming them back to help with the tidy up following the wet winter weather. The gardening group and Field Committee worked together to host a fabulous autumn event where the existing willow den was trimmed and prepared for the winter and a great family friendly willow nest was built using CAST contacts. As part of the event we also had light refreshments and a treasure trail for the families to be part of.

Behind the scenes we have been working tirelessly to secure assurances on the funding we were awarded last year for the park's upkeep and development. After several emails and meetings a timeline was put together and initial drainage investigations began. The initial investigations were useful in ruling out several potential flooding factors. The wet weather postponed the next phase of drainage works which began in early 2024.

We held our AGM and appointed a new Co-Chair which has really helped rejuvenate the energy of the committee and get things moving. We used the first couple months of the year to arrange for equipment quotes. Four separate quotes were quickly whittled down to two and we have very recently agreed on our supplier – SchoolScapes to begin work on installing a new slide and roundabout which is designed with disabled access in mind.

New drains were installed in the park to help to redirect water from the worst affected waterlogged areas and away to the drains at the south end of the park. At the time of writing, we are waiting on the final phase of the works to be carried out and the park tidied up – this has been delayed due to the weather of Feb and March into April.

With regards the weather, it was with sadness that we had to cancel our annual Easter Event because of the extreme weather and safety concerns. We made the decision to donate our eggs to the local children in the primary school via the P&F contacts we have. We are aiming to hold an event as soon as the new equipment and work is completed to celebrate and re-open the park with a raffle, refreshments and other activities.



Harry Pickard – Chair for Breage Field Committee

The Play equipment in Breage Field is checked monthly by a Register of Play Inspectors International Ltd 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.

