

# Breage Parish Council



## Annual Report 2025/2026

May 2026

Parish Rooms

Breage

HELSTON

TR13 9PD

Tel: 01326 574781/07767165077

E-mail: [clerk@breagepc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@breagepc.org.uk)

Website: <https://www.breagepc.org.uk>

## Chairman's Report 2025/26

This year has once again been a busy and varied year in local government. It has been the first year for our recently appointed Clerk, Mr David Rutherford, to settle into his post as Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer for Breage Parish Council following the retirement of Mrs Carol Macleod. Mr Rutherford has, after a year of study, qualified under the CiLCA process in Local Council Administration.

The parish has also welcomed Cornwall Councillor Jay Hodgetts in his first year representing the parish at County Hall. Breage Parish Council continues to work closely with Councillor Hodgetts on many issues.

Breage Parish Council has its full complement of Councillors (12) and was pleased to welcome Councillor Robert Jude and Councillor Leeann Campbell by co-option during the reporting year.

The committee organisation operates well with all internal and external groups with representation as appropriate.

Breage Parish Council has for a number of years managed through sound financial principles to

maintain its precept at a zero percent increase. It has not been possible to do so this year due in the main to outside inflationary factors beyond our control. To offset the increase to a degree, we have drawn the "second homes" premium from Cornwall Council this year. This is a sum of money available to parishes that can be used to offset expenditure by utilising the allocated portion of the tax available. It has been calculated that at the time of drafting the budget Breage Parish had 94 second homes. This generated £7509.96 and forms an element of the 2026/27 budget.

All capital projects stated in last year's report have been completed on time and within budget with the exception of the enhanced footpath work which remains work in progress; this work was delayed by the run of winter storms.

Breage Parish Council have signed off the proposed engineering and governance measures that will lead to the reinstatement of the beach steps at Praa Sands under the direction of FOPs. (Friends of Praa Sands)  
The play and exercise areas within the parish continue to be well used and maintained. The recently installed shelter at the Ashton amenity

field has been well received and provides a splendid viewing point in poor weather.

About 400 trees have been planted in and around the parish including the addition of a community orchard of apples and pears at Ashton. This is part of the forest for Cornwall with a generous donation of time and effort from Cornish Tin.

The Council is grateful to the parish volunteers who willingly give up their time to ensure that our Community centres and Village halls flourish and continue to provide the focus for their residents both in recreation and welfare.

The public rights of way continue to be well maintained and a schedule of enhancements are "work in progress." In common with other parishes, electric bicycles being used off-road are proving to be a problem on some of the PROWs by destroying the surface: this issue will be addressed by Cornwall Council.

The "King Charles 111(England) coastal path "is now operational and is intended to cover in excess of 2,700 miles. Breage Parish Council maintains the section in the parish via a service level agreement.

Breage Parish Council also operate a service level agreement with Cornwall Council to maintain the ditches and gullies in the parish on "B", "C" and "unclassified" roads. I am pleased to report that even at the height of the storms our road flood integrity was maintained. The storms identified gaps in our resilience plans and to that end a full review is being undertaken to ensure that Breage has built in resilience in the future.

One of the main failures was the total lack of communication throughout the parish and to that end a "Mobile Star Link" system has been purchased to ensure that links will be maintained. This is to be supported by an independent inverter. Temporarily a stand-alone generator is available.

Breage Parish Council is a Burial Authority and this year will be carrying out an audit of the Cemetery. This will assess the material state of the graves and surroundings in order to maintain a compliant and safe space.

Planning issues continue to occupy a large part of the agenda at Council meetings and it is becoming increasingly difficult to ensure that the views of our parishioners are given appropriate consideration. This in the main is due to the most impossible housing targets being imposed by central government. This is exacerbated by Cornwall Council's failure to provide a viable local plan.

I am pleased to place on public record a huge thank you to all the volunteers who willingly give their time to ensure that our parish is a better, safer place to live and enjoy. Our council enjoys the support and friendship of all councillor colleagues, our clerk and Mrs Sarah Orpin who have all been invaluable over the past year: without them none of the councils' functions would be possible.

In closing Breage Parish Council meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 19:00 for the ordinary parish council meeting and the last Wednesday of each month to consider planning issues received from Cornwall Council. We welcome our parishioners to attend. All our policies, minutes, agendas and contact details can also be found on our web site.

Councillor Tony Woodhams

**Chairman Breage Parish Council May 2026**

---

## **Members of the Council**

**Cllr Tony Best**

**Cllr Howard Bradford**

**Cllr Leeann Campbell**

**Cllr Robert Jude**

**Cllr Chris Ralph**

**Cllr Rose Rogers**

**Cllr Gordon Smith MBE**

**Cllr Matt Southam**

**Cllr Diana Thomas**

**Cllr Chris Tyler**

**Cllr Lynne Tyler**

**Cllr Tony Woodhams**

---

**Cornwall Unitary Councillor for the Parish:**

**Cllr Jay Hodgetts**

---

**Clerk/RFO:** Mr David Rutherford  
 The Clerk is available at the Parish Council office, by appointment only (due to Health & Safety Regulations 01326 574781 / 07767165077 [clerk@breagepc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@breagepc.org.uk) [https:// www.breagepc.org.uk](https://www.breagepc.org.uk)  
**PLEASE NOTE THAT THE OFFICE IS CLOSED ON FRIDAYS**

## Attendance at Council Meetings 2025/2026

There has been an Annual Parish Council meeting and 25 Parish Council meetings - a total of 26 meetings this year

Cllr Woodhams	26 out of 26
Cllr Thomas	25
Cllr Smith	22
Cllr Best	22
Cllr Jude	22
Cllr Bradford	18
Cllr Rogers	17
Cllr Southam	16
Cllr Tyler L	16
Cllr Tyler C	15
Cllr Ralph	12
Cllr Campbell	07 out of 8 possible since joining

## Council Meeting dates

### 2026/2027

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](http://www.breagepc.org.uk) **Planning meetings are held on the Wednesday before the main meeting each month:**

**05 May 2026 Annual Parish Meeting 6.30 p.m. followed by An Annual Parish Council Meeting**

27-May-26	Planning
02-Jun-26	Full Council
24-Jun-26	Planning
07-Jul-26	Full Council
29-Jul-26	Planning
04-Aug-26	Full Council
26-Aug-26	Planning
08-Sep-26	Full Council
30-Sep-26	Planning
06-Oct-26	Full Council
28-Oct-26	Planning
03-Nov-26	Full Council
25-Nov-26	Planning
01-Dec-26	Full Council
16-Dec-26	Planning
05-Jan-27	Full Council
7-Jan-27	Planning
02-Feb-27	Full Council
24-Feb-27	Planning
02-Mar-27	Full Council
31-Mar-27	Planning
06-Apr-27	Full Council
28-Apr-27	Planning

## FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2025/2026

The Clerk is the Responsible Finance Officer. Cllr Diana Thomas (Chairman), Cllrs Rogers and Smith were the Members of the Finance and General Purposes (F&GP) Committee 2025/26. Cllr Woodhams as Chairman of Breage Parish Council was 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 2025/2026

		RECEIPTS	PAYMENTS
<b>Opening Balance</b>			
Balance at Bank	148,423.60		
Cash in Hand	150.00		
Salaries			27,689.08
National Insurance Employer			2,889.68
Pension Employer			106.78
Travel Expenses			28.34
Councillor/Clerk Training			400.00
Audit Charges			625.00
Insurance			1,863.90
Office consumables and goods			1,439.99
Advertising & Website			325.00
Solicitors			362.50
Election/Referendum			349.52
Provision			
Electricity Parish Rooms			2,139.54
Telephone/Mobile/Broadband			2,117.46
Water Parish Rooms		100.00	111.89
Maint/Repairs/Renewals			3,726.92
Parish Rooms			
Notice boards/Benches/Signs/Fences/Phone Kiosks			1,361.71
Praa Sands/Praa Green			1,601.78
Contracts - Footpaths			5,768.45
South West Coastal Path			2,592.78
Miscellaneous expend.		2,480.00	4,125.54
Amenity Areas			1,048.84
Grants s137			3,520.00
Grants		200.00	50.00
Subscriptions			302.62
Contracts Grass & Hedge			8,354.33
Cutting			
Defibrillator costs			1,279.94

Playground & Leisure		1,016.60
Equipment		
N461 Remembrance expenses		59.00
Lengthsman work completed		11,840.00
Enhanced LMP		6,650.00
Breage Gardening		2,364.76
Staffing provision		1,125.00
Trevurvas Pond costs		145.57
20 is Plenty payments		0.00
Breage Field BBQ Area		1,000.00
Precept	90,000.00	0.00
General Admin		496.21
Grants and Donations	2,414.54	80.00
Footpaths LMP grant	5,221.30	0.00
South West Coastal Path grant	2,588.90	0.00
Bank Interest	2,163.85	0.00
Neighbourhood Development	0.00	20.83
money in		
Grants and Donations	14,000.00	0.00
CIL	4,103.54	0.00
NDP money out	0.00	0.00
Enhanced LMP money in	4,920.00	575.00
Breage Playground Repair	0.00	4,726.75
Fund		
Praa Green Fence	0.00	4,046.22
Cemetery costs	145.00	3,921.28
Cemetery maintenance	0.00	7,000.00
Capital works		
Cemetery Loan & interest	0.00	6,081.45
repayments		
Cemetery fees interments	4,714.00	234.00
Land Use Fees	600.00	0.00
Ashton Field costs	0.00	416.32
Ashton Field grass cutting	0.00	1,781.33
VAT	12,817.29	12,641.21
	<b>146,476.90</b>	<b>140,403.12</b>

**Closing Balances:**

Balances in Bank Account	154,492.38
Cash in Hand	155.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>154,647.38</b>

The Council closed the financial year 2025/2026 with total balances of **£154,647.38**, comprising **£154,492.38 held in bank accounts** and **£155.00 cash in hand**. Of this total, **£85,205.59 is held in fixed and earmarked reserves**, leaving the remainder as General Fund balances available to support day-to-day operations and future commitments.

Total receipts for the year amounted to **£146,476.90**, against payments of **£140,403.12**, resulting in an overall increase in balances during the year. The Council's principal source of income remained the precept at **£90,000**, supplemented by a range of grants, fees, and investment income.

Income from fees and charges showed notable strength, particularly cemetery fees, which totalled **£4,714.00**, reflecting increased levels of interments and memorial activity during the year. Grant income remained significant, including **£5,221.30 in Footpaths LMP grants**, **£2,588.90 for the South West Coastal Path**, and **£14,000 in grants and donations**, alongside Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) receipts of **£4,103.54**.

Bank interest continued to increase, generating **£2,163.85**, demonstrating improved returns on the Council's invested balances. VAT reclaimed during the year amounted to **£12,817.29**, broadly offsetting VAT payments of **£12,641.21**, maintaining a neutral position overall.

On the expenditure side, Operational running costs of the Parish Rooms, including utilities, maintenance, and communications, remained significant, reflecting ongoing inflationary pressures, with **electricity costs of £2,139.54**, **maintenance and repairs totalling £3,726.92**, and **telephone and broadband charges of £2,117.46**.

Expenditure on **environmental and community assets** continued to be a priority. Spending included **£8,354.33 on grass and**

**hedge cutting contracts, £5,768.45 on footpath works, £2,592.78 on the South West Coastal Path, and £11,840.00 on Lengthsman works**, ensuring highways, rights of way, and public areas remain safe and well maintained. **Amenity areas and playground facilities** also attracted ongoing investment, with **£1,048.84 on amenity areas** and **£1,016.60 on playground and leisure equipment**.

A significant area of capital expenditure related to the cemetery, including **£7,000.00 on cemetery maintenance capital works**, **£6,081.45 in loan and interest repayments**, and **£3,921.28 in cemetery running costs**. These costs reflect the Council's responsibility as a Burial Authority and the continued demand on cemetery services.

The Council also continued to support local organisations and initiatives through grant payments made under **Section 137**, amounting to **£3,520.00**, alongside smaller grants and donations, reinforcing the Council's commitment to community wellbeing and local activities.

Overall, the Council ended the year in a **stable financial position**, with increased balances, well-managed reserves, and clear evidence that income and expenditure remained closely aligned with budget expectations. Robust financial controls continued to operate throughout the year, with payments and bank reconciliations checked monthly by Members prior to approval, and the accounts subject to both internal and external audit scrutiny. After the accounts had been examined by an Accounts Team Councillor, Cllr Gordon Smith, they were passed to the Internal Auditor, Mrs Barbara Goraus. The Annual Internal Audit Report 2025/26 was completed on 24 April 2026 and signed by Mrs Goraus who is thanked for auditing the accounts.

## **FOOTPATHS AND RIGHTS OF WAY**

Footpaths report - Matt Southam, April 2026

Breage Parish footpaths are all in good condition, cut and well maintained. Any fallen way markers or styles reported, replaced or repaired.

Cutting has been an issue. Spring cutting is delayed until the bird breeding season is over, as required by law. Summer cuts (2025) are done, but third cuts have been requested due to the weather causing quick regrowth. On a couple of occasions, on Gold paths, this has been done. Due to budget restrictions, the other requested cutting cannot be done.

A report was requested by County on upgrading footpath 55, which runs from Rosudgeon to Higher Kenneggy, to Restricted Highway status. We were in favour of this as it would provide safe passage for horses and cyclists between the two places without using the main road. However, it was pointed out that in some places the path's width wouldn't give walkers a safe space to pass either horses or bikes ridden at speed.

The issue of bikes is of concern. The evidence, tyre tracks, indicates an increase in this traffic. This problem is hard to deal with, as few bikes are actually seen breaking the law.