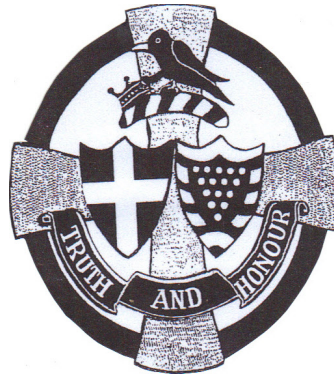


Breage Parish Council



Annual Report 2015/2016

May 2016

Parish Rooms

Breage

HELSTON

TR13 9PD

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E-mail: breageparishcouncil@btconnect.com

Website: www.breagepc.org.uk

Members of the Council:

Cllr Mrs Rose Wyvern Batt (Chairman)

Cllr Pete Greenough (Vice-Chairman)

Cllr Tony Ackland

Cllr Tony Best

Cllr Mrs Tanis Board

Cllr Howard Bradford

Cllr Simon Caddick

Cllr Trevor Coleman

Cllr Mrs Phil Darby

Cllr Graham Higginson

Cllr Mrs Karen La Borde

Cllr Ms Carole Rashleigh

Cornwall Councillor:

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), on Thursdays from 11.00 a.m. to 12 noon and on Fridays from 3.30 to 4.30 p.m.

Chairman's Report

The Annual meetings in May 2015 were very well attended by 20 Parishioners who were concerned about a particular planning application.

Meetings are now voice recorded, apart from the closed sessions.

The Mayor of Helston requested our presence at his Church Service, meeting in the Guildhall and then processing to St Michael's. A very good service and many children winning awards.

The Mayor of Porthleven had a similar, well-attended service in the Church. Cllr Bradford kindly represented the Parish Council at the Remembrance Sunday service at Breage as I was away.

Godolphin pub finally shut the doors in October; planning permission for three bungalows in the car park was refused. A further application for two houses is currently being considered. A group representing Godolphin Community tried to put together a purchase package but could not raise the money needed. Godolphin Methodist Church closed on 24 April this year. Godolphin Community

Group is now trying to put a bid together to purchase the Church and has requested that Cornwall Council considers Godolphin Methodist Church for inclusion in the Council's List of Assets of Community Value. As well as losing the Church, the hall, used by the Community, will also be lost. The Post Office is trying to find a location in which to hold Post Office sessions. Permission to use the hall until September 2016 has however, now been given. The Community Group asks Parishioners to please support the functions held in the hall.

The Parish Council has agreed to run the Praa Sands toilets for a year. A Parish Council sub-committee is to be formed to help out with this. Keys were handed over to me on 29 March 2016.

There has been no finalisation regarding Ashton Amenity Area Playing Field and the quest is ongoing.

The telephone kiosk at Carleen Village Hall has been adopted by the Parish Council and received repairs and a sparkling new coat of paint. 2 other kiosks at Praa Sands could not be adopted as the owner of the land on which one stood did not wish it to remain there and the other was in a very poor condition.

After tender, new grass cutting and footpath/SWCP cutting contracts were awarded in 2015, both contracts going to R Sanders.

A workplace pension has been put in place for the Clerk, thanks to Cllr Greenough who spent considerable hours doing this.

Thank you to Cllr Board for her comprehensive report on the Dune Management Plan and future management options.

A site meeting at Ashton Motel was informative but, as yet, no planning application has been received. So, sadly, this remains a blot on the landscape.

A few more streetlights have been brought up to Cornwall Council standard and have been taken over.

The Breage Allotment Group has disbanded and has been closed down. The remaining money has been returned to the Parish Council and has been ring-fenced for future use at Ashton Playing Field should the Parish Council be permitted to take this on. Breage Playing Field has managed some equipment repairs and renewals this year which is good news for children – and parents.

It was good to have the Queen's Arms open once more in Breage after its eight-month closure - the longest closure in its 500-year history. The new publicans: Neil and Jodie invited the Parish Council to attend the opening that saw queues around the block. It is sad that the Parish Council now rarely sees the Community Police Constable or receives a report. They are greatly missed. Apparently everything is now on-line! There have been purchases for the Parish Rooms this year: An A3 printer to enable planning applications to be printed as Cornwall Council has gone paperless on these and a new computer as the old one had given 'up the ghost' and the Clerk was struggling with it! There has been a little water entering through the ceiling of the meeting room and also in the toilet but the Handyman is putting things to rights. We said goodbye and thank you in 2015 to Ian Davis and hello and welcome to Karen La Borde. Also a goodbye and thank you to Peran Treloar who had been Caretaker of the Parish Rooms and a welcome to Mrs Sarah Orpin who joins us as Cleaner. The Councillors enjoyed a lovely meal together at the Lion and Lamb in Ashton in December.

My thanks go to all the Councillors for the support they have given the Parish Council this year.

**Councillor Mrs Rose Wyvern Batt – Chairman
Breage Parish Council**

FINANCE

The Clerk is the Responsible Finance Officer. She and Cllrs Wyvern Batt, Best, Caddick, Greenough and Higginson form the Accounts Team.

Payments and other accounts matters are checked by Cllr Best, Caddick, Greenough or Higginson 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 2015/2016

Opening balances as at 1 April 2015:

Bank	£35,944.11	
Petty cash	£150.00	£36,094.11

Add: Receipts in the year

Precept	£49,000.00	
Council Tax Support	£3,618.79	
LMP Payments footpaths	£3,273.00	
SWCP Payments	£1,670.98	
Cemetery fees	£1,409.00	
Administration	£118.15	
Bank interest	£21.22	
Grant Paperless Planning	£700.00	
Breage Allotment Growers Closure	£1,228.28	
VAT reclaimed	£4,103.01	£65,142.43

Less: Payments in the year

	-	
Administration	£27,457.27	
Grants s137	-£525.00	
Grants emergency	-£497.60	
Grants 2014/2015	-£800.00	
Grants other	-£4,224.86	
Contract work	-£8,882.14	
Open Spaces	-£612.98	
Public Lighting	-£5,551.80	
Solicitor's fees Cemetery	-£300.00	
Running costs:		
Cemetery	-£459.46	
Praa Sands Toilets	-£105.00	
Bus shelters/benches/notice boards/signs/phone box/handyman tasks	-£1,418.37	
Parish Rooms	-£3,663.23	
VAT paid	-£4,103.01	
		-£58,600.72
Closing balance receipts & payments as at 31 March 2016		£42,635.82

Receipts for 2015/2016 decreased by £1,667.24 compared with the previous year. There was no increase in the Precept this year, it remained at £49,000 but a reduced Council Tax Support grant of £3,618.79 was also received. Grants were received towards the South West Coastal Path cutting, £1,670.98 –some two hundred and fifty pounds less than the previous year and the Footpaths cutting, £3,273.00 – the same as the previous year. Cemetery fees were down by £2,496. A 3,000 grant was received from Cornwall Council for a new bus shelter at Breage. It had been hoped to have it on the Trewithick Road side of the main road but Cornwall Council did not own the ground and it therefore had to be put on the Shute Hill side. There was also a £700 grant to help with the Paperless Planning costs. £1,228.28 was received from the BAG. Payments decreased by £2,558.33. An outstanding 2014/15 grant of £800 was paid to Carleen Village Hall towards storm drainage. 2015/16 grants were made to community groups this year as follows: £500 to Ashton Snooker Club towards re-pointing the building; £200 to Breage Village Hall towards storage cupboards; £400 to Ashton Village Committee towards a sound system; £1,000 to Breage Playing Field towards repair/renewal of play equipment; £600 to Breage Silver Band towards running costs; £300 to Carleen Village Hall towards a new water boiler; £1,000 to Praa Sands Community Centre towards further kitchen work; £174.86 to Godolphin Community Centre to insurance and licences costs for Youth Work
An emergency grant of £497.60 was made to Ashton Snooker Club for emergency

heaters and dehumidifiers to dry out the building.

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 and £35 for the VE day celebration at Godolphin. 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 and to CAB Penzance (nearest branch) to help Parishioners sort their problems.

A new computer and a new A3 printer were purchased for the office as the old computer was causing much trouble for the Clerk and the printer was needed to enable the Clerk to print the Planning Applications that are no longer to be printed by Cornwall Council.

Expected receipts for 2016/17 are £84,615, a large increase as the Precept has been increased to cover Praa Sands Toilet costs. Expected payments are £88,728, again, an increase to cover Praa Sands Toilet costs. These figures are as listed in the budget figures.

After the accounts had been examined by an Accounts Team Councillor, Cllr Higginson on 15 April 2016, they were passed to the Internal Auditor, Mr D J L Gallie. The Annual Audit Return was completed and signed by Mr Gallie on 28 April 2016. Mr Gallie is thanked for auditing the accounts this year and also the Breage Playing Field Accounts.

Retiring and New Councillors

There has been one retirement this year and Councillors said goodbye and thank you to Ian Davis who had served so well on the staffing Team. His mother's ill health was the main reason for his retirement.

Cllr Karen La Borde was co-opted and welcomed at the meeting on 8 September 2016. Karen, a business person, has lived in the parish along with her husband and children for 10 years, firstly at Lesceave and now in Praa Sands. She was keen to become involved in local issues and have determination to protect and improve the place and community in which she lives and has indeed become involved as part of the Praa Sands Toilet Sub-Committee and has already spent a great deal of time helping the Parish Council with this.

Council Meeting dates

2016/2017

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.
5 April 2016
3 May 2016 Annual Parish Meeting at 6.30 p.m. followed by Parish Council Meeting
7 June 2016
5 July 2016
2 August 2016
13 September 2016
4 October 2016
1 November 2016
6 December 2016
10 January 2017
7 February 2017
7 March 2017

Attendance at Council Meetings

2015/2016

There have been 12 Ordinary Parish Council meetings this year, an Annual Parish Meeting, 3 Extraordinary Meetings and a Precept Meeting – a total of 17 meetings. There have also been other informal meetings that are not included in the attendance figures.

Cllr Mrs R Wyvern Batt 16 meetings
Cllr T Ackland 12 meetings
Cllr T Best 14 meetings
Cllr Mrs T Board 16 meetings
Cllr H Bradford 10 meetings
Cllr S Caddick 17 meetings
Cllr T Coleman 14 meetings
Cllr Mrs P Darby 14 meetings
Cllr P Greenough 17 meetings
Cllr G Higginson 15 meetings
Cllr Mrs K La Borde 7 meetings (co-opted 8 Sept)
Cllr Ms C Rashleigh 14 meetings

BREAGE PLAYING FIELD

It has been a quiet year for the Field, it's ticked along quite nicely. It continues to be a central meeting place for all ages and is well used.

The play equipment is now 8 years old and in some places showing its age, repairs have been made and hopefully will last a few more years.

The trees are maturing nicely and it's easy to imagine what a beautiful place it will be in the future. I'd like to thank the Parish Council for their continued support of this lovely amenity.

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

As ever there have been a few problems on our footpaths but I'm pleased to say, nothing too major. Due to a rather wet winter there were inevitably a few trees down and also a dead fox which were removed.

The new definitive route for pathway 39 in Praa Sands has at long last been finalised.

The Parish Council was contacted by Cornwall Council in connection with pathway 77 near Pengelly Mill as it had been reported as difficult to access. The path runs between Breage and Crowan Parishes and as the Breage section is only approx. 17 metres long and comes in the middle between the two Crowan sections. Breage has requested that perhaps it would make more sense for it to be dealt with totally by Crowan and a decision on this is awaited.

The bridleway section of 65 in Godolphin has been temporarily closed as County feels the wooden bridge needs repair and is not currently safe to take the weight of horses. The pathway is open to walkers.

It is hoped that County will soon be able to reconstruct the stile on footpath 20 on the road east of Tolmennor as it is just a slippery slide down on to the road at the moment.

The Council is also aware that several waymarkers are missing around the Parish but has been told that there is no budget for this at the moment and so patience is needed.

Our thanks again to our Contractor, Mr. Bob Sanders and our Countryside Officer, Mr. Hamish Gordon.

Cllr Mrs P Darby – Footpaths Representative

BREAGE ALLOTMENT GROUP – BAG

Sadly, due to lack of folk wanting the allotments, this Group has now been closed down. It is very sad as there was such a demand for allotments when the Group first started. The shed and equipment have been removed but

there are a number of composting bins that are available for free for anyone who is interested. The remaining balance has been transferred for use on Ashton Playing Field once ownership has been secured by the Parish Council. Thanks go to Sally Herriet and Robin Carr for their valiant work at the end in the struggle to keep things going.

PRAA SANDS PUBLIC CONVENIENCES MARCH-APRIL 2016

The keys to the Praa Sands toilets were officially handed over to Breage Parish Council the last week of March 2016.

All agreed defects to the toilets and building were repaired by Cornwall Council before handover. New showers were installed and a new concrete floor laid to direct water away from the building.

Before handover the holding tank was emptied, the toilets cleaned and the meters were read.

The signs were changed to Breage Parish Council.

A press release was made and a photographer present at handover.

Breage Parish Council was publicised taking on the toilets in the Cornishman, West Briton and on Radio Cornwall.

Minor repairs have been made in the first month - cistern/handle - at no cost.

The toilet working group has had two meetings in the first month to make proposals to become a sub-committee of Breage Parish Council.

An independent Charity has been registered that will be raising funding to improve the toilet facilities. This is currently on hold until the sub-committee has been formalised.

**Cllr Mrs K La Borde – Praa Sands Toilets
Working Group**
