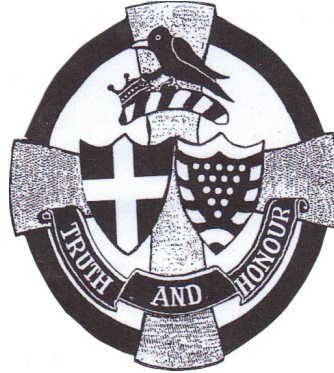


Breage Parish Council



Annual Report 2018/2019

May 2019

Parish Rooms

Breage

HELSTON

TR13 9PD

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Chairman's Report

This reporting year has been particularly busy for Breage Parish Council.

I have attended the various civic functions representing the Parish Council in our neighbouring council areas and attended seminars and meetings to ensure that Breage Parish Council is kept up to date with the ever changing local government legislation.

The Unitary authority (Cornwall Council) continues to delegate responsibility for functions to the town and parish councils but unfortunately this is rarely accompanied by funding. It is a constant battle to ensure that parishioners are not double taxed for services that have already been paid for through the council tax and are then provided by the Parish Council.

Planning issues continue to consume enormous amounts of time and effort sometimes with what appears to be little noticeable effect upon the final outcome. We have separated the Planning and Land Use council meetings from the main meeting in order to achieve closer scrutiny to the application and thereby exert greater influence on the outcome. These meetings are held on the last Thursday of the month at 1900 in the Parish room. We are always delighted to see

Website: www.breagepc.org.uk

Parishioners at these meetings where the councillors will receive your views with regard to any application under discussion. This is also the opportunity to bring any planning issues forward for the Council's attention.

Our regular meetings take place on the first Tuesday of the month at 1900 in Breage Parish Council Rooms. Parishioners are most welcome at this meeting where there is the opportunity to discuss the wider issues of the Parish. At these meetings and in its administration duties, Breage Parish Council is fully compliant with its responsibilities under GDPR (General Data Protection Regulations) and Councillors can be contacted individually by using their name followed by

@breageparishcouncil.org.uk

The Parish Council Neighbourhood Development Plan is in its second year and is producing very detailed evidence that will ultimately be converted to policy. I am extremely grateful for the tireless and diligent efforts of the Steering Group, which under the Chairmanship of Cllr Chris Ralph is undertaking this important piece of work.

The Council has taken on a scheme called "lengthsman" from Cornwall Council: essentially this means that Breage Parish Council will take on the responsibility for minor and unclassified roads, ditches, gullies, verges

and road signs. It is hoped that this will go a long way towards preventing flooding in the Parish and will improve safety generally.

Praa Sands toilets are undergoing a full refurbishment that includes new underground pipe work and a revolutionary low water use system in order to reduce the cost of their operation. The running of this facility is funded solely from the Parish with no business rate or Cornwall Council assistance. The toilets have remained open all though this year and the intention is to maintain this position during 2019. It is Breage Parish Council's intention to sub let the facility to a third party at a suitable point this year.

Breage Parish Council has completed negotiations with Cornwall Council and is now the owner of Ashton Amenity area. It has entered into an agreement with Ashton Village Committee that allows that committee to run the field for the benefit of Ashton villagers. The Council has secured funding for play equipment for Ashton Amenity area and keep fit equipment for Carleen Village Hall; it is hoped that both sets of equipment will be installed on 6th May.

The Council resolved that the focus for grants this year will be Community endeavour. Full details of other grants being made are available from the Clerk.

The Parish Rooms have been completely refurbished and redecorated and are fully compliant with all current legislation. We are grateful to Mrs Sarah Orpin for keeping them spic and span.

The Council is in the process of bringing all the Street lighting in the parish up to the latest specification prior to handing them back to Cornwall Council. This will provide significant savings for our parishioners both in maintenance and electricity charges.

All the bus shelters in the parish have been returned/transferred to Cornwall Council for maintenance and repair purposes. Various Traffic Regulation Orders are in the process of being implemented or are in the pipeline and the Council wishes to thank all those Parishioners who contributed to these schemes.

Praa Green continues to be maintained and improved under the care of the Council with sections of the SW Coastal footpath becoming subject to the provisions of the Marine Coastal Access Act 2009. It is anticipated that the steps to the beach will be repaired and fully serviceable by the end of May.

The Parish had a return visit from our friends in Australia to remember those brave young men who landed their wounded Sunderland flying boat off the beach at Praa Sands during the Second World War.

The Public Rights of Way network in the parish is maintained under the Chairmanship of Cllr Philippa Darby who will be joined by Cllr Matt Southam.

Full details of the comings and goings of Breage Parish Councillors are included in the Clerk's report. We are currently one Councillor short of our full complement and this vacancy will be filled either by election or co-option.

I know that I speak for all the Councillors in notifying you of our sadness at the death of Councillor Tony Ackland in March of this year, a valued colleague, Councillor and friend.

Thanks are recorded to Cornwall Councillor John Keeling for his support over this year with many issues.

I would like to thank all the Councillors for their efforts on your behalf through the various council committees and their continued support during this year and for the ongoing guidance of our Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer, Mrs Carol Macleod.

Councillor Tony Woodhams, Chairman Breage Parish Council

Members of the Council

Cllr Tony Best
Cllr Howard Bradford
Cllr Mrs Jackie Burchell
Cllr Simon Caddick
Cllr Mrs Phil Darby
Cllr Colin Macleod
Cllr Will Perrin
Cllr Chris Ralph
Cllr Matt Southam
Cllr Tony Woodhams
Cllr Mrs Rose Wyvern Batt

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 conditions)

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

Retired and New Councillors during the past year

There have been many changes during this year. Trevor Coleman resigned in May 2018 as he was moving away from Breage Parish. An election was called by 10 Parishioners and held in July. Cllr Colin Macleod from Ashton was elected. Carole Rashleigh resigned in November 2018. An election was again called by 10 Parishioners and Cllr Jackie Burchell from Ashton was elected uncontested in December. Karen La Borde resigned in early January 2019 as she had moved away from the Parish. This place was filled by co-option in April by Matt Southam from Praa Sands. In March 2019 Tony Ackland died after battling his illness bravely for some long time whilst dutifully serving the Parish as a Councillor all through this time. Therefore there is at present a vacancy which will be advertised to see if Parishioners apply for an election, and if not, a co-option vacancy will exist. Thanks go to all the past Members for their service with best wishes for their futures and warm welcomes to the new Members.

Attendance at Council Meetings

2018/2019

There have been 10 Ordinary Parish Council meetings this year plus 10 to discuss and vote on Planning, 1 Extraordinary Meeting, an Annual Parish Meeting and a Precept Meeting – a total of 23 meetings. There have also been Finance and General Purposes Committee meetings that are not included in the attendance figures.

Cllr Tony Woodhams 23 meetings

Cllr Tony Best 17 meetings

Cllr Howard Bradford 14 meetings

Cllr Jackie Burchell 6 meetings (elected 27 Dec)

Cllr Simon Caddick 19 meetings

Cllr Mrs Phil Darby 21 meetings

Cllr Colin Macleod 19 meetings (elected 19 July)

Cllr Will Perrin 14 meetings

Cllr Chris Ralph 18 meetings

Cllr Mrs Wyvern Batt 21 meetings

Council Meeting dates

2018/2019

Meetings at 7.00 p.m. in the Parish Rooms Breage.

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

2019

2 April 2019

2 May 2019

7 May 2019 Annual Parish Meeting at 6.30 p.m. followed by Parish Council Meeting

30 May 2019

4 June 2019

27 June 2019

2 July 2019

1 August 2019

6 August 2019

10 September 2019

26 September 2019

1 October 2019

31 October 2019

5 November 2019

21 November 2019 Precept/Budget

28 November 2019

3 December 2019

2020

9 January 2020

14 January 2020

30 Jan 2020

4 February 2020

3 March 2020

FINANCE

The Clerk is the Responsible Finance Officer. She and Cllrs Best (Chairman), Caddick, Perrin and Wyvern Batt are the remaining Members of the Finance and General Purposes Committee 2018/19. Payments and other accounts matters are checked by a Member of the Accounts Team before being presented to the Council each month. Bank Reconciliations are also checked before presentation to the Council. The Council's Internal Auditor this year was Mr DJL Gallie.

Accounts Summary 2018/20188

Opening balances as at 1 April 2018:

Banks	£63,084.10	
Petty cash	£150.00	£63,234.10

Add: Receipts in the year

Precept	£74,500.00	
Council Tax Support	£2,286.45	
LMP Payments footpaths	£4,019.74	
SWCP Payments	£2,403.98	
Cemetery fees	£6,977.00	
Administration	£2,290.00	
Grants and donations	£20,000.00	
Bank interest	£157.84	
Donations Praa Sands Toilets	£1,254.75	
Neighbourhood Development Plan	£3,400.00	
Loan towards streetlights updating	£30,975.00	
VAT reclaimed	£14,193.47	£162,458.23

Less: Payments in the year

Administration	-£32,236.28	
Elections	-£4,760.60	
Grants s137	-£1,640.00	
Grants other	-£8,429.00	
Contract work	-£10,493.76	
Open Spaces	-£4,672.50	
Public Lighting	-£9,400.65	
Neighbourhood Plan	-£1,250.00	
Neighbourhood Plan	-£2,600.00	
N461 Remembrance	-£206.99	
Running costs:		
Cemetery	-£2,614.76	
Praa Sands Toilets	-£17,447.24	
Bus shelters/benches/notice boards/signs/phone box/handyman tasks	-£1,680.79	
Parish Rooms	-£5,766.80	
VAT paid	-£9,668.72	
Devolution grant	£100.50	-£112,767.59

Closing balance receipts & payments as at 31 March 2019

£112,924.74

The closing balance at 31 March 2019 was increased by £118.44 as 2 direct debits were forwarded to 2019/20 accounts by order of the external auditor. Receipts for 2018/2019 increased by £69,234.45. £10,000 was received from Ashton Village Committee towards Play equipment on Ashton Amenity Field and £10,000 from Carleen Village Hall towards exercise equipment in their field. A £31,000 loan was taken out via The Public Works Loan Board to pay for streetlighting updates to enable lights to be taken over by Cornwall Council, freeing the Parish Council from paying annual maintenance and repairs and electricity for the lights. 10 lights will not be taken over as they are in unadopted road. Nearby home owners have been asked if they and their neighbours wish to take on these lights. If not, the lights will be disconnected from the system. The Neighbourhood Development Plan received £3,400. £7,222.58 received was reclaimed Vat from last year and £6,970.89 has been received for this year. There is a further £2,898 outstanding. There were increases in Cemetery fees, LMP footpaths and South West Coastal Path receipts. The Precept remained the same as the previous year. Praa Sands Toilets donations were down a little.

Payments increased by £26,106.69. Praa Sands Toilets' costs, Footpaths, street furniture costs, Neighbourhood Development plan costs all rose. Street Lighting costs were up by £6,167.52 due to a large increase in the SSE maintenance contract costs. Sadly no other contractor could be found to carry out this work. Contract work and Open Spaces work costs increased as more work was done and new areas were cleared at Praa Green.

Grant payments increased this year and were awarded to community groups as follows: £800 to Breage Silver Band towards repairs and updates of instruments, music stands and cases and a cupboard; £1,000 to Praa Sands Community Centre towards new tables; £1,000 to Godolphin Cross Community Association towards the purchase of solar panels and insulation for the Godolphin Chapel; £1,000 to Carleen Village Hall towards tarmac to repair dangerous surfacing; £379 to Ashton Village Committee towards a generator for the marquee lights; £1,000 to Breage Village Lights towards new lights; £300 to Breage Snooker and Social Club towards toilets refurbishment; 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. Breage Church was awarded £50 towards the maintenance of the Village clock. Cornwall Air Ambulance received £250 towards assistance for Parishioners needing aid. Although the closing balance is a large figure there are fixed reserves of £67,495.68 to come out of it, including the loan repayments. Expected receipts for 2019/20 are £93,625.97 based on budget figures and expected payments £115,120.00.

After the accounts had been examined by an Accounts Team Councillor, Cllr Wyvern Batt, they were passed to the Internal Auditor, Mr D J L Gallie. The Annual Audit Return was completed on 30 April 2019 and signed by Mr Gallie. Mr Gallie is thanked for auditing the accounts and the Breage Playing Field Accounts this year.

BREAGE PLAYING FIELD

Another year has passed and the Breage Playing Field continues to be used by all ages. Breage Parish Council owns the field and retains responsibility for grass and hedge cutting, safety checks and the maintaining of public liability insurance. Day to day management of the field is devolved by the Parish Council to the Breage Field Committee which is made up of volunteers from the local community. It looked likely over the course of the year that the Committee would have to fold due to not being quorate but a number of new members came forward to take on officer positions and ensure its continuation. A number of administrative matters had to be attended to in order for the new officers to become operational but with this completed by the end of 2018 work has now started on the maintenance and improvement of the play equipment and this is set to continue over the course of this financial year. The Committee still remains short of active members and new members who wish to help in the management and improvement of the field are always welcomed - please do not hesitate to contact any member of the Committee if you wish to help out! The Committee would like to place on record its thanks to the previous officers who have done so much to make the field such an important community asset, the grass contractor who continues to do a great job and of course Breage Parish Council for its continued support.

Chris Ralph, Treasurer 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.

FOOTPATHS AND RIGHTS OF WAY

Footpath 56 After a lengthy closure the footbridge has been rebuilt and the path in Godolphin is now open again. Our thanks Cormac for this work.

Footpath 80 This footpath in Praa Sands has been closed off by the property owner and the County Enforcement team are now working to get it re-opened.

Footpath 16 Two granite stiles on this path in Breage are to be rebuilt by the landowner in order to keep cattle and walkers safe.

Footpath 14 The owner of Trevena Nursery has applied for a modification order to divert this path so that it does not run through the Nursery, however this procedure does take rather a long time.

During the year there have been reports of various fallen trees, crops covering footpaths, broken gates etc. which we have done our best to resolve but our biggest difficulty at the moment is getting fallen or damaged waymarkers replaced. There is very little money available at County and therefore they are only dealing with Health and Safety issues.

Our thanks to our Contractor who does a great job in cutting the pathways and who is always willing to help out when things go wrong!

Cllr Mrs P Darby – Footpaths Representative

BREAGE PARISH NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN

The Breage Parish Neighbourhood Development Plan Steering Group was successful in its bid to central government to secure funding support over 2018/2019 towards the preparation of a NDP for the parish. This has been used over the past year to support publicity, parishioner engagement and the preparation of an evidence base report to inform the direction and content of the NDP.

A dedicated face book page (breageparishneighbourhooddevelopmentplan) and web site (<https://breageparishndp.org.uk>) have been established as primary tools for communication. In addition, a newsletter reporting on progress on the NDP was circulated to all households in the parish in September. Members of the Steering Group manned exhibitions on the NDP at a number of community events including the Ashton Fete, Carleen table top sale, Godolphin Summer Fair, Carleen Agricultural Show and the Trevena Cross Christmas Market. A consultation event was held with local school children at Godolphin Cross School. In January a survey of all households in the parish was undertaken to obtain detailed views on what the direction and content of the NDP should be. This generated an excellent response rate of some 35%. The reporting of research tasks undertaken by the Steering Group, community consultation events and the results of the household survey are fully reported in the NDP Evidence Base Report - this was published via the web site at the start of April.

The Steering Group intends to submit a second bid to central government early in the current financial year to support a further year of work on the NDP. It is expected that this will be used to support: the preparation of publicity material and a public meeting on the results of the household survey; management of the web site; publicity materials and attendance at local community events; an annual newsletter to all households in the parish; and, on-going consultation to inform the preparation of a first draft of the Neighbourhood Development Plan.

The Steering Group continues to meet monthly to coordinate the delivery of the above activity. All meetings are open to attendance by local residents and all agendas and meeting notes are published on the Parish Council's and the Steering Group's web sites. There are currently a few vacancies on the Steering Group and new volunteers to help take forward the NDP are always welcomed. If you would like to join the Steering Group please do not hesitate to contact any of the current members.

CLlr Chris Ralph - Interim Chairman Breage Parish Neighbourhood Development Plan Steering Group