

Breage Parish Council



Annual Report 2020/2021

May 2021

Parish Rooms

Breage

HELSTON

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Chairman's Report 2020-2021

This past year has been a challenging year for all, business, local government and on a personal level for us all. The civic functions of the parish have been curtailed along with the generally accepted community activities. The Parish Council is very grateful to those organisations that have found novel and innovative ways to continue to support and encourage limited community engagement whilst still remaining Covid-19 compliant. Breage Post office and Godolphin Cross Community Association received a letter of appreciation from the Lord Lieutenant of Cornwall for their efforts in supporting parish communities. As in previous years the Unitary Authority continues to devolve more and more responsibility to Town and Parish Councils under the localism agenda but seldom with the funds to allow its implementation. I am pleased to report that Breage Parish Council has managed to maintain a zero percent increase in the portion of council tax that it sets via the precept. This is despite Cornwall Council indicating a 1.2% increase in the tax base and an approximate 5% increase overall. This should also be seen against the financial requirements of the Police and Crime Commissioner. The Chairman of the Finance and General Purposes

Website: www.breagepc.org.uk

committee and committee members have kept the council within its budget and compliant with all local authority financial requirements with a clean bill of health from the auditors. This has been achieved in no short measure by the diligent work of our Clerk and Financial Responsible Officer Mrs C Macleod. The play and exercise areas at Ashton, Breage, Carleen and Praa Sands continue to be well used. Breage Parish Council continues to ensure that the areas remain compliant with Health and Safety through monthly inspections and by updating the Covid 19 requirements as laid out by central government. Breage Parish Council was recently asked to take temporary responsibility for the custody and care of the ex snooker club at Ashton due to the closure of the membership and the lack of officers. I am pleased to report that the villagers have come forward to form a committee which will take custody of the building and explore various ways of making the building available for the benefit of the community. During the second phase of the lockdown it became apparent that the public toilets at Praa Sands were not fit for purpose and beyond the scope of the Parish Council resources to operate in a safe manner. In order to ensure that this vital public service was maintained for our parishioners and visitors Cornwall Council were invited to reassume

responsibility, both financially and operationally for them. They have now done this. Breage Parish Council as a burial authority is delighted to have been able to strengthen its ties with the Church of England at Breage via Reverend Kirsten Richards and the church wardens in refurbishing and renovating the War Memorial closed graveyard and the open Cemetery. The first phase is nearly complete and we have received many comments from parishioners about how splendid it looks. Despite working hard to promote various road safety and traffic control schemes, including a "20 is plenty" speed control for our villages, I have to report that we have not been very successful in persuading Cornwall Council of their merits but we are resolved to push hard for these in the next financial year. Our footpaths and general rights of way under the Public Rights of Way (PROW) have been well maintained under the stewardship of Councillor Phil Darby and we hope to engage in the enhanced PROW scheme during the coming year. Breage Parish Council has taken over the responsibility of "Lengthsman", clearing ditches, drains and culverts and generally looking after the fabric of the non-classified roads in the parish. This has been a successful partnership with Cormac that has resulted in no significant flooding in the parish and prompt attention being given to problem areas. We hope to continue this scheme into the future. All the Commons and Greens over which we exercise a duty of care are in good repair and we operate a zero tolerance to fly-tipping in the parish which with support from other agencies helps to keep them clear of rubbish. Cornish Tin, a mineral exploration company, has released details of its intended exploration of old tin mine working in the Wheal Vor and Carleen areas to assess the viability of further exploration of the mineral deposits should they prove viable. Breage Parish Council has hosted one meeting between the residents and the company and stands ready to assist both parties as required to ensure that an accurate and unambiguous understanding of the current situation is achieved. We hope this year in conjunction with the University of Plymouth to engage in a system called "CoastSnap". This will see a fixed post position that will accept a smart phone and record the status of the beach and sediment shift at any given time. You simply place your phone in

position, take your shot and email your photograph off to the University to become a part of the research effort. Councillor Chris Ralph and his steering group have worked tirelessly to complete the Neighbourhood Development Plan which will hopefully inform any future developments within or that affect the parish. Details of the referendum by parishioners to approve its adoption will be promulgated later. Shortly after this report is produced, the Unitary Council, Parish Council and the Police and Crime Commissioner will all be subject to scrutiny and the subject of an election on the 6th May 2021. This will see Cornwall Council councillors reduced from 123 members at present to 87 and Breage Parish making up part of the new Porthleven, Breage and Germoe division. Time will tell what, if any, impact this will have on the activities of Breage Parish Council. We all hope that the route out of lock down and freedom from the restrictions caused by this pandemic will materialise as forecast and we can all get back to some sort of normality soon. As soon as we are able as a council we intend to get back to actual meetings rather than the remote Zoom or Team meetings which have become the norm. We look forward to being able to welcome our parishioners back to our meetings - usually held on the first Tuesday of the month commencing at 1900 and the Planning and land use meeting on the last Wednesday of the month, again commencing at 1900. If you require further information with regards to this report or any other activity of Breage Parish Council please contact the Clerk, Mrs C Macleod on 01326 574781 or (Mobile) 07767165077 or email

breageparishcouncil@btconnect.com

In closing I would like to thank all my Councillor colleagues for their support and encouragement and the parishioners for their engagement with the council over this difficult period, our Clerk Mrs C Macleod for looking after the administration of the Council and Mrs Orpin for ensuring that our offices are maintained and kept clean. Finally thanks to all the unnamed, unsung volunteers who have toiled long and hard to keep the fabric of the parish together and to the local contractors who have carried out work in the parish. Thank you all.

Councillor Tony Woodhams Chairman Breage Parish Council

Attendance at Council Meetings 2020/2021

There have been 11 Ordinary Parish Council Zoom meetings this year and a Precept Meeting – a total of 12 meetings. There was also a Finance and General Purposes Committee Zoom meeting that is not included in the attendance figures.

Cllr Tony Woodhams 12 meetings

Cllr Tony Best 11 meetings

Cllr Howard Bradford 8 meetings

Cllr Jackie Burchell 5 meetings

Cllr Simon Caddick 9 meetings

Cllr Caroline Carver 11 meetings

Cllr Phil Darby 11 meetings

Cllr Colin Macleod 11 meetings

Cllr Chris Ralph 11 meetings

Cllr Nicola Roberts 4 meetings

Cllr Matt Southam 8 meetings

Cllr Mrs Wyvern Batt 11 meetings

Retired and New Councillors during the past year

There have been two resignations, Nikki Roberts and Colin Macleod. Thanks go to them for their service with all good wishes for the future.

All remaining Councillors step down on 5 May 2021.

Members of the Council after The Local Elections 6 May 2021

The following Councillors have been
elected uncontested:

Cllr Howard Bradford

Cllr Caroline Carver

Cllr Chris Ralph

Cllr Diana Thomas

Cllr Tony Woodhams

Cllr Rose Wyvern Batt

The remaining places
will be filled by
co-option

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**

Council Meeting dates 2021/2022

Meeting due dates at 7.00 p.m. in the Parish Rooms Breage or other larger building ONCE Covid-19 restrictions have been lifted. Until then they will be Zoom meetings. 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**

6 April 2021 Zoom meeting

28 April 2021 no physical or virtual meeting

4 May 2021 Annual Parish Meeting Zoom followed by a Parish Council Meeting

11 May 2021 Annual Parish Council Meeting

26 May 2021

1 June 2021

30 June 2021

6 July 2021

28 July 2021

3 August 2021

8 September 2021

14 September 2021

29 September 2021

5 October 2021

27 October 2021

2 November 2021

18 November 2021 Precept/Budget

1 December 2021

7 December 2021

5 January 2022

11 January 2022

26 January 2022

1 February 2022

23 February 2022

1 March 2022

30 March 2022

FINANCE

The Clerk is the Responsible Finance Officer. She and Cllrs Best (Chairman), Caddick, Carver, Thomas and Wyvern Batt were the Members of the Finance and General Purposes (F&GP) Committee 2020/21. 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 are also checked before presentation to the Council. The Council's Internal Auditor was Mr DJL Gallie. The External Audit will be carried out by PKF Littlejohn.

Accounts Summary 2020/2021

Opening Balance		
Balance at Bank	65,862.67	
Cash in Hand	150.00	
Salaries		26,000.59
National Insurance Employer		2,300.65
Pension Employer		526.66
Travel Expenses		
Councillor/Clerk Training		120.00
Bank Charges		
Audit Charges		819.80
Insurance		1,182.55
Office consumables and goods		1,375.42
Advertising & Website		70.00
Solicitors		
Election/Referendum Provision		
Electricity Parish Rooms		1,258.94
Telephone/Mobile/Broadband		1,751.96
Water Parish Rooms		32.31
Maint/Repairs/Renewals Parish Rooms		801.37
Rates Parish Rooms		
Notice boards/Benches/Signs/Fences/Ph		1,642.00
Bus Shelters		
Praa Sands/Praa Green		
Contracts - Footpaths		4,496.11
South West Coastal Path		2,093.82
Miscellaneous expend.		2,800.00
Amenity Areas		112.88
Grants s137		350.00
Grants		2,050.00
Subscriptions		1,180.15
Contracts Grass & Hedge Cutting		3,844.00
Streetlights electricity		
Neighbourhood Plan costs		
Streetlights repairs & maintenance		
Defibrillator costs		
Playground & Leisure Equipment		1,182.38
N461 Remembrance expenses		
Circular Walk construction link PSands		
Lengthsman work completed		10,725.68
Loan Repayment Streetlight upgrade		5,472.14
Covid-19 expenses		411.40
Precept	85,000.00	
Council Tax Support Grant	1,782.77	
General Admin	45.00	
Grants and Donations	10,020.00	
Footpaths LMP grant	4,112.41	
South West Coastal Path grant	2,452.06	
Bank Interest	45.67	
VAT recovered		
Misc. Income	2,800.00	
Neighbourhood Development money in	4,000.00	
Lengthsman Scheme	14,000.00	
CIL	2,685.71	
NDP money out		3,000.00
Cemetery costs		3,085.95

Cemetery maintenance Capital works		14,946.00	
Cemetery fees interments	4,985.00		
Donations Cemetery/closed graveyards			
Tank Emptying/Disposal			
Cleaning		2,878.68	
Rates		366.90	
Water		34.14	
Repairs/Unblocking		471.00	
Electricity		120.70	
Rent			
Signs			
Grants			
Donations	266.24		
Ashton Field costs		306.48	
Ashton Field grass cutting		1,140.00	
Ashton Amenity Area receipts	0.02		
Elsan Tank			
Ashton Snooker Club Zionist Chapel exp		29.98	
Ashton Snooker Club Zionist Chapel recpts	962.26		
VAT	5,681.57	10,163.96	
		138,838.71	109,144.60
Closing balance Receipts and Payments as at 31 March 2021	95,706.78		

Bank Accounts: 95,556.78
Cash in hand 150.00
95,706.78

The closing balance at 31 March 2021 shows a increase of £29,694.11 compared to the previous year. Receipts for 2020/2021 decreased by £18,382.45 and Payments decreased by £94,988.63. Streetlights payments will now only be for electricity for 10 units. The account being at present in credit no payments for this year are nil. Cemetery fees decreased by £1,095 as there were fewer interments; Admin by £2,054.80; Precept increased by £3,000 but the Council Tax Support grant was further reduced this year; Praa Sands Toilets' costs were less by £9,864.51 as Cornwall Council took over responsibility in July; Cemetery costs were up by £12,012.21 as a vast amount of maintenance work has been carried out. VAT payments were less than last year as there were no large payments for play and exercise equipment and reclaims were also less for the same reason. Two reclaims were outstanding at the end of the year.

Grant payments decreased this year by £5,330 and were awarded to community groups as follows: £500 to Ashton Village Committee towards a fence around the play area; £250 to Breage Silver Band towards repairs and updates of instruments; £250 to Breage Field Committee towards new and replacement play equipment; £500 to Breage Snooker and Social Club towards outside space clearing and provision of furniture; £500 to Carleen Village Hall towards new hand driers and soap dispensers; the 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 and an additional £300 was held in reserve for emergencies.

Fixed reserves are £20,558.06 Expected receipts for 2021/22 are £111,382.77 based on budget figures and expected payments £134,792.14.

After the accounts had been examined by an Accounts Team Councillor, Cllr Caroline Carver, they were passed to the Internal Auditor, Mr D J L Gallie. The Annual Audit Return was completed on 3 May 2021 and signed by Mr Gallie. Mr Gallie is thanked for auditing the accounts and the Breage Field Committee's Accounts this year.

FOOTPATHS AND RIGHTS OF WAY

Due to the Covid pandemic it has been a strange year but it has been good to see that our Public Rights of Way have had a lot more use as people are taking their daily exercise.

During the course of the year there have been many repairs to broken stiles, posts and handrails and a boardwalk replaced.

Could we make a plea to any landowners who have paths running across their land to leave the pathway clear when planting the fields, whether it is an area around the edge or a diagonal path.

As well as the normal cutting contract (Local Management Partnership) we have also joined a new scheme offered by County (Enhanced LMP) which should enable us to tackle issues such as missing waymarkers, drainage issues, installation of small bridges etc.

There is the opportunity up until 2026 to register modification orders with County for regularly used paths that are not currently in the Definitive map or paths, for example, that could link to other paths to make a circular walk and be protected into the future.

Thanks must go to our Contractor, Bob Sanders and his lads who have again managed to keep our paths in good order and also to our Senior Ranger at County, Colin Bayes who has also come to our rescue during the year.

Cllr Mrs P Darby – Footpaths Representative

BREAGE FIELD

During the last year progress on fundraising and upgrading The Field facilities have been hindered due to the Covid-19 pandemic. During a time when green space has been of utmost importance the area has been enjoyed by various members of the community and continues to be well used.

Breage Parish Council has continued to maintain the area, the basketball hoop has been upgraded and the large slide repaired.

As a committee we now look forward to restrictions relaxing in the summer. As soon as we are able we hope to pick up where we left off planning fundraising events and prioritising improvements. It is expected to be a very busy summer of visitors with many events happening so we are unlikely to hold anything specific to ourselves.

We strongly encourage community involvement and if you have suggestions, comments or concerns, or would like to help with volunteering or management of the area please contact us through the Facebook page which is open for information and promotion of future events. Additionally, we hope to reinstate the notice board as soon as we are able which will hold contact information.

We are still hopeful that exciting times lie ahead at The Field as we continue to build on the foundations already in place to add new elements which enhance the facilities and offer the area to its full potential. We thank all those involved with the running, care maintenance and upkeep of the field and Breage Parish Council for its continued support.

Mrs Caroline Fitzpatrick – 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.

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 2019/2020 towards the preparation of a NDP for the parish. This has been used over the course of the year to support parishioner engagement, publicity, research and the preparation and publication of a first Consultation Draft of the NDP. In July a second newsletter outlining the results of the 2019 household survey and proposed strategic objectives for the NDP was produced and circulated to all households across the parish. This was complimented by public exhibitions on the results of the survey and the proposed objectives that were held at Breage School Fair, Godolphin Fete, Carleen Table Top Sale, Carleen Agricultural Show and the Trevena Cross Christmas Fair. The majority of work on the NDP over the course of the year has been spent on research and the preparation and drafting of planning policies relating to each of the six identified strategic objectives with these being considered and approved by Breage Parish Council at its September, October, November, December and January meetings. The Steering Group was therefore in a position to publish a Consultation Draft of the NDP in February of this year. Notification of the publication of the Consultation Draft, a summary of its content, and details on how to comment on the NDP was undertaken through a third newsletter that was circulated to all households in the parish in early March. A significant programme of community engagement on the Consultation Draft was planned for March and April including: the deposit of the Consultation Draft at some 13 venues across the parish; web site and face book notification; exhibitions at Godolphin Cross Farmers Market and Carleen Table Top Sale; and, drop in events in Ashton, Breage, Carleen, Godolphin Cross and Praa Sands. It has not been possible to deliver the entire programme of community engagement as a result of the measures introduced by central government in response to Covid-19. However, the Consultation Draft was placed on deposit at all 13 venues. The Steering Group has also ensured that there has been notification of the cancellation of proposed events and has signposted the NDP web site as the most suitable route for parishioners to review and comment on the emerging NDP.

At the current time and given the impact of the Covid-19 restrictions further work on the preparation of the NDP is largely on hold. However, once able to do the Steering Group intends to submit a further bid to central government to support a further year of work on the NDP over 2020/2021. It is expected that this will be used to support: management of the web site, publicity materials and attendance at community events; an annual newsletter to all households across the parish; analysis of response to the Consultation Draft; and, the preparation and publication of the next key iteration of the NDP - the Pre Submission Edition. It remains the goal of the Steering Group to prepare, publish and consult on the Pre Submission Edition of the NDP by the end of the current financial year.

There are currently a small number of 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 - Acting Chair, Breage Parish Neighbourhood Development Plan Steering Group