

Budock Parish Council

Annual Report 2012/13



Chairman's Report

2012/13 has been another year of constant change and uncertainty. Some time ago in 2008 there was a strategic move which was supposed to transform local government in Cornwall, with all services being delivered by the single authority in partnership with the community. Despite promises at the time that a lot more 'power' would be devolved to Town and Parish Councils we are still a long way off this in reality.; I hope with the advent of a new Council following the elections in May that this will now have another chance to happen and that in this time of austerity, funds will be used wisely.

As part of the reconfiguration of local government Budock Parish Council took the opportunity to share a council office with Mawnan Parish Council in Mawnan. Because of changes within the company that provided the office space we have now reviewed our options and decided to put the Clerk's office back into the village within the Village Hall.

One of the main factors affecting Budock Parish this year was the proposed industrial development inside the Parish boundary at Bickland Water Road. Despite objections from Budock Parish Council, Falmouth Town Council and numerous members of the public. The decision to refuse the development by Cornwall Council was over turned by a Government Inspector. This emphasises how Budock is intermeshing with Falmouth, and demonstrates the need for us to be clear on how far we are prepared to allow our boundaries to coalesce while retaining our rural identity, that said there are opportunities for joint working and we have an excellent relationship with Falmouth Town Council.

Public Rights of Way – Over the past few months we have been reviewing our Footpaths and Bridal ways and it has become clear that some are in need of rejuvenation as a result mainly of the extreme winter. Hopefully this work will take place over the next few months ready for next winter. The number of people using our rights of way has increased considerably over the last few years and this in itself increases the wear and tear aspect.

The role of a parish councillor has changed substantially over the years with more responsibility, accountability and time commitment, but it can be very interesting and rewarding. We currently have vacancies following the local elections for two members. It is particularly important to have councillors with a history of local knowledge, and also representation from the younger sector of the community. If you would like to know more about what would be involved please speak to me or the Parish Clerk.

Local community spirit has shone this year, with many activities taking place. In particular the Christmas lights and gave an opportunity for people to get together. Another success story has been Budock Playing Field, where young children can let off steam and interact safely. I thank the Playing Field and Village Hall Committees for their enthusiasm and commitment. As with the Parish Council, they rely on volunteers and are always keen to find new members. Budock Garden Show has also gone from strength to strength and with a renewed interest in 'home grown' and allotments gives the opportunity for local gardeners to showcase their products with of course the usual friendly rivalry.

Crime and disorder is still relatively low within the Parish but this should not lead to complacency. We also have a continuing issue of vehicle speed within both Budock and Treverva.

Finally I would like to place on record my thanks to all past and present members of this council, the Clerk and also to our County Councillor Neil Hatton for his loyalty and hard work in supporting the Parish and its community.

Cllr John Bastin

Expenditure

The main income of Parish and Town Councils is provided by the Parish Precept, an element of your Council Tax.

During 2012/13, Budock Parish Council's recurring expenditure included the day to day operation of the Parish Council, along with maintenance of public footpaths, and grass cutting at Budock Playing Field.

In addition, the Street Lighting Loan still has a schedule of repayments for quite a few more years, and continues to cost over £3,000 per annum.

Precept

Budock Parish Precept for the year was £18,562. The Council is very conscious of the need to contain costs in the current economic climate.

The precept for 2013/14 remains unchanged at £18,562.

Budock Parish Council

Members of the Council :

Cllr John Bastin Chair)

Cllr Peter Fairbank (Vice Chair)

Cllr Rob Gibson

Cllr Nigel Hennell

Cllr Tim McCabe

Cllr Mrs Irene Clarke

Cllr Mrs Hazel Perham

Cllr Phil Hart

Vacancy

Cornwall County Councillor :

Cllr Neil Hatton

ACCOUNTS SUMMARY, 2012/13

Opening Balance	£25,690	
Total		£25,690
Plus Income		
Precept	£18,562	
Other Receipts	£1,833	
Total		£20,395
Less Expenditure		
Insurance	£1,240	
Salaries & Training	£5,472	
Council Office / Equipment	£1,200	
Administration	£685	
Footpaths & Open Spaces	£2,537	
Donations	£817	
Subscriptions	£424	
Street Lighting Loan Repayment	£3,763	
VAT	£641	
Audit	£310	
Other	£1,241	
Total		£18,330
Closing Balance		£27,755

Parish Council Office

Budock Parish Council now have an office based in Budock Village Hall. The Clerk will be available for members of the public to drop in on a Friday morning between 9am and 12 noon. Please see below the new contact details for the Parish Council:

Budock Parish Council, Budock Village Hall, Budock,
TR11 5DR

Tel: 01326 373727

Email: clerk@budockparish.net

Planning Report

During 2012/13, the council was consulted on 33 planning applications within the parish.

Budock Parish Council takes great care to consider each application on its merits, demonstrated by the fact that the council held a site visit for appropriate applications, to allow it to understand the nature of that specific proposal and its potential effects on the surrounding area.

A summary of Applications considered during 2012/13 is :-

- Development 5
- Work on Trees in Protected Areas 3
- Extensions, Alterations & Other 25

Treverva Village Hall Committee

This year saw Paul Bennett step down as chairman to be replaced by Malcolm Bennett (No relation!). During his years as chairman Paul has maintained the Hall and its finances in very good health. Mrs Cheshire and Mrs Cole have continued the successful coffee mornings. To hire the Hall contact 01326 340728

Budock Village Hall Committee

Budock Village Hall has had another very successful year. Finances and building are all in fine fettle. It has been quite a busy year, the hall plays host to a number of different organisations and activities. You can take instruction in yoga, play carpet bowls, learn how to quilt or enjoy an interest in model railways, there is even a club for the over 60's. All of these activities and many more take place in the Village Hall throughout the year. If you would like more information then visit the web page <http://www.budockparish.net/budockhall.htm> alternatively from 1 July 2013 enquiries can be made at Budock Village Stores in Trelowarren Terrace, Budock. We look forward to seeing you at our Hall.

Council Meeting Dates, 2013/14

The Parish Council meets at 7.30pm on the final Monday of each month, unless this is a Bank Holiday. Meetings usually take place in the Lower Hall of Budock Village Hall, except for June and October, when they are held at Treverva Village Hall.

There are no meetings held in the months of August or December.

The Planning Committee meets as and when required, to consider any planning applications for which observations are required in advance of the next full council meeting.

Meetings are notified on the Parish Notice Boards in the Jubilee Garden and the Church Car Park, Budock Water, and outside Treverva Village Hall.

Residents are welcome to come along to any meeting, take part in the public participation, and listen to the proceedings.

Meeting dates for 2012/13 are as follows :-

29th July 2013	24th February 2014
30th September 2013	31st March 2014
28th October 2013	28th April 2014
25th November 2013	19th May 2014
27th January 2012	30th June 2014

Footpaths and Public Rights of Way

Footpaths and Public Rights of Way are some of the most valuable assets of the parish. Not only do they serve a useful purpose in enabling people to get around the parish without using cars or public transport, they also provide amenity spaces for everyone to enjoy.

Following a Cornwall Council reassessment of the parish paths several years ago and prior to improving some of them and upgrading others to Gold Standard, the maintenance agreement was looked at again. While most of the paths in the parish had previously been classified as requiring to be trimmed twice each year, many of them are now only subject to this regular maintenance once each year.

The Parish Council acts in partnership with the Cornwall Council, and appoints and pays its own maintenance contractor to do this work. When the work has been carried out satisfactorily, we are then able to claim back most of the cost from Cornwall Council. Now that some paths are only routinely trimmed once each year, it may be that some will get overgrown in between the scheduled cuts. If you find this to be the case, please let the Parish Council know about it – although we cannot guarantee to have the work carried out as money might not be available, we can ensure that the Highways Authority in the Cornwall Council are made aware of the problem. Cornwall Council is ultimately responsible for maintaining the paths in a satisfactory condition, but again that will be subject to budgetary constraints!

Please remember that the Parish Council (acting as agent for Cornwall Council) is only responsible for any growth **underfoot** on the paths – brambles, nettles, branches etc growing out from the edges of fields or walls are the responsibility of the landowner to keep trimmed in order to keep the path open and clear! The landowner also has a legal responsibility to reinstate any footpath, bridleway or byway that they plough or disturb when sowing or cultivating a crop, and this must be done within 14 days of the first disturbance. Any subsequent disturbance to the Right of Way must be made good within 24 hours unless the landowner has been allowed an extension by the Cornwall Council. If you come across cases where the path has not been reinstated properly, please inform the Parish Council, or alternatively let Cornwall Council know about it by using their website and filling out a Public Rights of Way Report Form. It is also important to remember that any Right of Way is identified as such on the Definitive Map, and unless the landowner allows access to other areas of their land, you must stick to the actual footpath and not wander off the path.

The Parish Council is currently undertaking a revision of the footpaths leaflet complete with photographs, with the intention of encouraging more people to use and enjoy the paths. It is hoped that this leaflet will be published before the summer and will be distributed via tourist information centres, local shops, pubs and libraries.

One final point – if you walk along the paths with your dog, please remember to clear up after it. Bins for dog and other waste are sited around the parish, so please use them and keep the paths pleasant for everyone to enjoy. If more bins are needed, then please let the Parish Council know and we will try to get funding for some more.

Attendance at Full Council Meetings 2012/2013

Cllr Bastin	9	Cllr McCabe	7
Cllr Fairbank	10	Cllr Perham	9
Cllr Cotton	6 *	Cllr Clark	9
Cllr Gibson	8	Cllr Hart	10
Cllr Hennell	9		

There were 10 Full Council meetings held in 2012/2013.

* Cllr Cotton resigned in March 2013.