



Budock Parish Council

Annual Report 2014/15

Chairman's Report

The year 2014/15 was the first time for many years that the council has had a full complement of councillors throughout – a testament to the generosity of those local residents who are prepared to give up some of their valuable time and to serve the community.

The ongoing reduction of both staffing and funding which affects Cornwall Council (CC) has a knock on effect for the Parish Council. Work previously carried out by CC such as the replenishment of salt reserves in the roadside bins has already been devolved to local parishes but without the supporting funds. This means that the parish now has to find the money from its precept to fund the service if it is to continue to be provided. CC has also decided to discontinue its programme of spraying the weeds growing on various roadside edges and verges within the parish but the Parish Council resolved not to take on that work unless further funding was made available.

The system where the Parish Council (acting as agent for the CC Highways team under the LMP scheme) arranges and pays contractors for the regular routine cutting and maintenance of the footpaths in the parish and then reclaims a proportion of that expenditure from CC would also seem to be under possible threat. It could be that the Parish Council will have to find more money from its own resources if it is to continue keeping the paths in good order. They undoubtedly form an essential part of the heritage and assets of the parish – they are enjoyed by residents and visitors alike and it would be a tragedy if they are allowed to become neglected.

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) that was implemented in March 2012 by the recent coalition government has been described by some commentators as “a developer’s charter” since, in the absence of an approved Local Plan made by CC identifying those areas for development, applications for planning permission will be considered with “a presumption in favour of sustainable development”. Although the NPPF has been in existence since 2012 and requires local councils to identify supplies of land suitable for development for the next five years with further specific sites for the next 15 years, the Cornwall Local Plan has only recently been submitted to the Secretary of State for consideration. Until such time as the plan is approved by central government developers are still able to submit and achieve the grant of applications for building that do not seem to take into account the wishes of the local residents. Although CC refused an application for a proposed development of some 154 houses on land at Poolfield, the applicants appealed and after an intensive and thorough two day hearing the Planning Inspector rejected the appeal but found a flaw in CC’s arguments for its refusal and made an award of costs against CC.

As a council we have been working closely with our colleagues on both the Falmouth and more recently the Penryn Town Councils in efforts to adopt a united approach to those applications for development in areas that affect Budock parish. The most recent one of these is the proposal to develop land in the College Valley area on the outskirts of Penryn but much of which lies within Budock parish. All the councils are aware of the need for the development of genuinely affordable homes for local residents while at the same time trying to retain the separate identity of the towns and avoid the increasing threat of the coalescence of Budock with its neighbouring towns and communities. Encouraging aspects of this closer working together were the views expressed following various meetings and presentations given by the members of the Planning and Development teams in CC and which identified those areas in the locality that are now considered more suitable for development than had previously been thought. Whether that amended plan now carries any weight with the Secretary of State remains to be seen but at least it gives some token recognition to the importance of localism!!

After an initial idea (first mooted several years ago!!) to produce a leaflet showing the main public footpaths in the parish our plan eventually produced results. Thanks to the generous donations from several local businesses as well as funds from the Cornwall Council's Community Chest Grant scheme, the artwork was commissioned. After many fine adjustments by the graphic artist and printers the suggested detailed walk was "road tested" and the leaflet finally printed ready for the late spring. Supplies of the free leaflet have been made available at several locations within the parish and further afield and seem to be well received by locals and visitors alike.

Thanks to the generosity of a local benefactor, Treverva, Lamanva and Budock benefitted from a free supply of daffodil bulbs. Those at Treverva were donated to local residents to plant whilst Budock arranged a working party and planted several areas in the village. Those bulbs planted at the entrance to Trevoney gave an especially good show and all will hopefully increase over the years to welcome the spring in the future.

The parish also benefitted from a most generous grant of £1,000 from Miss Jenny Andrew who wished to make a donation in memory of her late father Alan Andrew who had done so much work for the parish over the years that the family had lived in Budock. In particular Alan had been a keen supporter of the Garden Show and was heavily involved with the fundraising and building of the Budock village hall. With the agreement of Jenny the funds were put towards the provision of a splendid new notice board in the Pump Garden.

Plans are now under way to consider the commissioning and siting of a suitable memorial to those residents of the parish who lost their lives in the various wars, so that those sacrifices may be remembered. At present the memorial plaques that were in the Methodist chapel are located in the village hall and it was felt that a more fitting place and a proper memorial would be preferable. Discussions are still continuing about where in the parish the memorial should be sited so if you have any strong views on this it would be helpful if you could let the Clerk know about them. She can be contacted by email on clerk@budockparish.net or by telephone on 01326 373727, and can usually be found at the Parish Council Office in Budock Village Hall on most Tuesday mornings and Friday afternoons.

Our Clerk remains keen to expand her knowledge and expertise and during the year has attended a number of courses which have proven to be most helpful.

We were sorry to learn that our CC Divisional member Cllr Neil Hatton had decided to retire and move away from the area to be nearer to his family and should like to express our thanks for all the work, support and advice that he gave during the 19 years that he served our community. The resultant vacancy for the Electoral Division of Constantine, Mawnan and Budock has since been filled by Cllr John Bastin.

The Management Committees that organise and administer the playing field and the two village halls respectively have continued to serve the community extremely well throughout the year. However as with nearly all voluntary organisations they could always do with more help either as committee members or simply with offers of "hands on" help for various events and functions. If you are able to offer any

assistance and don't know who to contact, please let our Clerk know and she will be able to put you in touch with the relevant person.

During the six years or so that Jacqy and Mac ran the Trelly, they had built it back up again into a vibrant social hub for the village as well as being enthusiastic supporters for village events like Fun Day and reviving the village carnival. It came as quite a shock when they announced that they were going to retire and after their final day of trading when beer was being sold for £2 a pint, the doors closed on 9th November. It was strange to walk past the pub at night and not see any lights on or people coming and going and it felt that we might follow the recent fate of many other villages and lose the "local", just to become a dormitory suburb of Falmouth or Penryn. However after a few weeks a flurry of workmen arrived, and after much renovation work the new landlords Steve and Jo opened the doors again just before Christmas. Changes are still ongoing but many of the locals have returned and there are also many new faces to be seen as well, so hopefully that essential aspect of village life will continue to flourish for many more years.

Finally, I should like to express my genuine thanks to our Clerk and all the Councillors for their support, comments and advice over the past year, and for never failing to pick me up on the errors and omissions that I have made during that time.

Councillor Peter Fairbank
Chairman
17th May 2015

Budock Parish Council

Members of the Council 2014/15:

Cllr Peter Fairbank (Chairman)
Cllr Phil Hart (Vice Chairman)
Cllr John Bastin
Cllr Malcolm Bennett – from 28/07/14
Cllr Mrs Irene Clark
Cllr Treve Geraty – from 28/07/14
Cllr Rob Gibson
Cllr David Heritage - from 28/07/14
Cllr Nigel Hennell
Cllr Mrs Hazel Perham

Cornwall County Councillor:

Cllr Neil Hatton – until 18/02/15

Clerk:

Mrs Lois Iddon

Parish Council Office

Budock Parish Council office is situated within Budock Village Hall. Opening hours are currently 9.30am to 12.30pm on a Tuesday and 2.00pm to 5.00pm on a Friday.

Contact details: telephone 01326 373727

Email: clerk@budockparish.net

Website address: www.budockparish.net

Attendance at the ten Full Council Meetings held from May 2014 – Apr 2015

Cllr Bastin	10	Cllr Bennett *	7
Cllr Mrs Clark	9	Cllr Fairbank	10
Cllr Geraty *	8	Cllr Gibson	9
Cllr Hart	10	Cllr Hennell	9
Cllr Heritage *	7	Cllr Mrs Perham	7

*co-opted from July 2014

Precept

The main income of the Parish Council is provided by the Parish Precept which is an element of your Council Tax.

Budock Parish Precept for the year was £19,596. An increase in the Precept to £21,122 for 2015/16 has been made mainly to meet costs for services that Cornwall Council may no longer be funding, and to continue to keep our reserves at an adequate level.

Expenditure

During 2014/15, 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 is still being paid off at a cost of £3,763 per annum.

Additional expenditure incurred this year was for the production of a 'Walks around Budock Parish' leaflet. This was partly funded by sponsorship from local businesses and a Community Chest Grant from Cornwall Council.

Replacement Parish Noticeboards were purchased for both Budock Pump Garden and Treverva. The Budock Pump Garden board was funded with the help of a gift from Jenny Andrew in memory of her father Alan Andrew.

Accounts 2014/15

Full details of the council's accounts are now available on our website – www.budockparish.net on the tab entitled Transparency Code found under the main Parish Council tab.

The main items of expenditure during the year were:-

Salary & Training	£ 5,775
Street Lighting Loan Repayment	£ 3,763
Village Hall Grants	£ 3,025
Footpaths & Open Spaces	£ 2,810
Council Office/Equipment/Administration	£ 2,527
Notice Boards	£ 1,553
VAT (Reclaimable)	£ 1,143
Insurance	£ 609
Subscriptions	£ 486
Walks Leaflet	£ 469
Audits	£ 250

Planning applications:

During 2014/15 the council was consulted on 36 planning applications within the parish.

A summary of those applications:-

- Development - 4
- Tree Works - 5
- Extensions, Alterations & Other – 26
- Major Road Works - 1

There was one appeal (Midas Development), which went in our favour.

Treverva Village Hall Committee report:

The Committee has tried to raise the profile of the hall by the following:

1. Advertising on the building;
2. Flyers delivered around the district, including the Spar shops in Mabe and Constantine, and delivery of flyers in papers delivered to Mawnan Smith;
3. We started a newsletter, to be produced quarterly and delivered in Treverva and Lamanva;
4. We held a social evening before Christmas to try and involve more local people to get together: hopefully, this will become an annual event;
5. We are to try a quiz at the end of May: if this is successful, it will also become an annual event.

In addition, the hall is booked by various local groups.

We have cleaned and re-decorated the outside of the Village Hall and cleaned and checked the interior. All this work has been carried out by members of the committee and volunteers; apart from keeping costs to a minimum, this has provided an opportunity for villagers to get together.

I believe that we have a good committee, whose members are willing and enthusiastic. Our finances are in good order and are overseen by our treasurer, Mr Len Cheshire.

Budock Village Hall Committee report:

The hall has enjoyed a successful year from the point of view of bookings, with an increase of revenue of over 10%, bringing the total revenue from bookings to just under £10,000. The increase has mainly come from more regular bookings with a full year from the parish council office, as well as regular sessions from a Falmouth Brownie pack and Falmouth Fencing Club. A Martial Arts group also used the hall for several months but left because their members were reluctant to travel out to Budock, even though the Hall was ideal in every other way.

The experiment to not employ a caretaker has worked well, with a contract cleaning company giving the hall a thorough clean once a week. The rest of the caretaker duties, including the bookings, are carried out by Jan, myself (Rob Gibson), and Peter on a voluntary basis. The advantage of this is a saving in costs of about £2,000 a year as well as not having to involve ourselves with the complexities of the tax system. The success of this has relied heavily on groups cleaning up after themselves and, with the exception of two or three occasions, this has worked well, and I would like to thank the regular users for their cooperation.

The only event the Committee organised during the year was Feast Night when we were entertained by the Cadgwith Singers. The event was a success but we did have the embarrassment of running out of pasties

because the Singers turned up with five times the number of people that they brought the last time they came. Another concert was organised during the summer, but had to be cancelled due to lack of interest.

The Hall is starting to show its age and we have spent a lot of money on it during the year. Two new UPVC doors and one new window, as well as replacement of all the rotting fascia and guttering, an upgrading to the fire alarm system, and the purchase of more radiators to keep the poor old Parish Clerk warm in her office, have contributed to the nearly £10,000 spent on repairs and renewals. We are grateful to the Parish Council for contributing nearly £3,000 to this sum. Without this we could not have carried out the work as our only income is from hiring out the hall. On the other hand it could be argued that as the hall belongs to the Council that they should be responsible for all Capital expenditure.

In the next two months we will have to spend several hundred pounds on an asbestos survey and a couple of thousand pounds on a new flat roof for the kitchen. We will, of course, be asking for more financial help from the Parish Council and we are optimistic that this will be forthcoming.

Finally I would like to thank all the Committee, but in particular Jan, Joan and Peter for all their help during this last year.

Budock Village Playing Field Committee report

For the past few years the Playing Field Committee has struggled to keep going as we have found it difficult to attract new people on to the committee. Without a good working group we cannot organise events and we do need a substantial amount of money for the upkeep of the field.

Many people think the playing field is run by the Council or Parks Department, but this is not the case, the playing field is maintained by volunteers and before we can even think of replacing or adding new equipment we have to raise £686.42 annually for insurance and £630.93 annually for an engineering/health and safety check of the equipment. We also have to raise money for maintenance of equipment and field and only then can we think of providing new and interesting things for the children.

Currently we are thinking of providing a circular tarmac path from the gate to provide wheelchair access and enable scooters and tricycles to be ridden on the hard surface. An initial estimate of around £5,000 has been received.

Earlier this year we held our Saturday Big Breakfast (sadly not so well attended as in previous years despite keeping prices the same), we are thinking of having a Bangers and Mash evening and our usual table top sales in the village hall. Although the Parish pays for the Christmas Tree, the committee organises it's purchase and carol service and lights, etc.

For several years we arranged concerts but attendance became poor so we have not done so in recent times. We would welcome any suggestions for fundraising (see telephone number below).

We really do need your help and support for our events, otherwise it may mean the village will lose its valuable playing area, which would be regrettable as it has been going for 50 years.

Please think of offering to join our committee, not only for your 'extra pair of hands' but new people bring new ideas. Come to one of our committee meetings to see just what goes on – ring me on 372345 for details.

We meet in the village, once a month on a Tuesday evening, beginning at 7.00pm and usually finish around 9.00pm.

Thank you – Margaret Gallacher, Chairman Budock Water Playing Field Association.

Footpaths and Public Rights of Way

Footpaths and Public Rights of Way are some of the most valuable assets of the parish, serving the useful purposes of enabling people to get around the parish without using cars or public transport and also providing amenity spaces for everyone to enjoy.

The Parish Council acts in partnership with the Cornwall Council and appoints and pays its own contractor to do the cutting and maintenance work. When this has been carried out satisfactorily we are able to claim back much 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. The unitary authority is ultimately responsible for maintaining the paths in a satisfactory condition but again that will be subject to their 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 Highways Authority. If you come across cases where the path has not been reinstated properly, please inform the Parish Council, or alternatively let the Cornwall Highways Authority 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.

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 or clean up and take the waste home with you and keep the paths pleasant for everyone to enjoy.

Councillors - 2015/16

Cllr Peter Fairbank was elected as Chairman and Cllr Phil Hart as Vice Chairman for the year 2015/16. The Council currently remains at its full complement of ten.

Cllr Bastin was elected as the Divisional Councillor for Budock, Constantine and Mawnan Parishes (replacing Cllr Hatton who resigned in February). He will continue to serve additionally as a Parish Councillor for Budock for the time being.

From July 2015, full contact details including e-mail addresses will be displayed on our website, as well Governance and Financial information. Minutes are now published in draft form which means they will be in the public domain considerably quicker than previously.

The Parish Council meets at 7.30pm on the last Monday of each month unless this is a Bank Holiday. There are no scheduled meetings held in August or December. Meetings usually take place in the Budock Village Hall except for the June and October meetings which are held at Treverva Village Hall.

Planning Meetings are held as and when required to consider planning applications that need comments in advance of the next full council meeting.

All meetings and the agendas are advertised in advance on our website – www.budockparish.net and also by notices placed on the Parish Noticeboards at least three full working days before the meeting date.

Residents of the parish are most welcome to attend any meeting.

Meeting dates up until summer 2016 are as follows:-

28 th September 2015	21 st March 2016 (1 week early as 28 th Easter Monday)
26 th October 2015	25 th April 2016
30 th November 2015	23 rd May 2016 (<i>incl Annual Parish Meeting</i>)
25 th January 2016	27 th June 2016
29 th February 2016	25 th July 2016