



Budock Parish Council

Annual Report 2013/14

Chairman's Report

2013/14 has been another year of constant change and uncertainty and threats to Budock's identity. In the absence of a clear strategic plan from Cornwall Council, developers are continually probing the edges of our Parish on the assumption that Falmouth needs to expand its housing stock. As a result of this, permission has been granted for 300 new houses at Kergilliack, and this move alone has increased our potential Parish size by 75 per cent. Falmouth Town Council has been our much appreciated supporters in this situation, making clear that they see no need for Falmouth to expand over the border into Budock. Indeed they greatly value the buffer between the two areas as part of their tourist appeal.

Putting our Clerk's office back into the village within the Village Hall has been a great success, with more people now finding it easier to make comment to and connect with the Parish Council. I am also pleased to say that our new Clerk, Mrs Iddon has settled in very quickly and become a focal point for parish issues. The Clerk is available on Tuesday mornings and Friday afternoons within the Parish Office. At other times she is available via e-mail at clerk@budockparish.net

Over the past few months we have been reviewing our Footpaths and Bridle ways and it has become clear that some are in need of rejuvenation, mainly as a result of the very extreme winter. Hopefully this work will take place over the next few months ready for next winter. The path that passes through the 'new churchyard' has been successfully resurfaced, now being mud free in all weathers. 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, however it is good to see our rural heritage being enjoyed. A project to produce a comprehensive footpath guide is about to come to fruition and will soon be available from local outlets, including the local shop, pub and hotel.

The role of a Parish Councillor has changed substantially over the years, now involving more responsibility, accountability and time commitment, but it can also be very interesting and rewarding. Councillor Tim McCabe has recently stepped down after many years of service and I would like to publicly thank him for his past enthusiasm and wisdom. 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 myself or the Parish Clerk.

Local community spirit has again shone this year, with many activities taking place, including the Christmas lights that gave an opportunity for people to get together despite the inclement weather. 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 continued enthusiasm and commitment. As with the Parish Council, they rely entirely on volunteers and are always keen to find new members.

Budock Garden Show has also gone from strength to strength with a renewed interest in 'home grown' and allotments giving 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 and we all need to keep an eye on anything that may seem unusual or out of character within our community. We also have a continuing issue of excessive vehicle speeds within all the villages of Budock Water, Treverva and Lamanva.

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

Cllr John Bastin – Chairman 2013/14

Budock Parish Council

Members of the Council 2013/14:

Cllr John Bastin (Chairman)
Cllr Peter Fairbank (Vice Chairman)
Cllr Mrs Irene Clark
Cllr Rob Gibson
Cllr Phil Hart
Cllr Nigel Hennell
Cllr Tim McCabe
Cllr Mrs Hazel Perham
Vacancies (x 2)

Clerk: Ms Sarah Wilshire (until 31/08/13)
Mrs Lois Iddon (from 30/09/13)

Cornwall County Councillor:

Cllr Neil Hatton

Attendance at Full Council Meetings 2013/2014 (out of a total of ten).

Cllr Bastin	8	Cllr Hart	10
Cllr Mrs Clark	10	Cllr Hennell	7
Cllr Fairbank	9	Cllr McCabe	3
Cllr Gibson	10	Cllr Mrs Perham	7

Parish Council Office

Budock Parish Council office is now 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: - 01326 373727
Email: clerk@budockparish.net
Web address:
www.budockparish.net

Expenditure

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

During 2013/14, 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, which this year cost £3,763.

Additional expenditure incurred this year was for the Boundary Stones and Signs marking the edge of Budock Parish, and for the initial set up of an office for the Parish Clerk within Budock Village Hall.

Precept

Budock Parish Precept for the year was £18,562. While the Council is very aware of the need to keep costs to a minimum, we had to make a small increase in the Precept for 2014/15 (to £19,596) in order to keep our reserves at an adequate level.

ACCOUNTS SUMMARY – 2013/14

Opening Balance	£27,741*	
Total		£27,741
Plus Income		
Precept	£18,562	
Other Receipts incl VAT Repayment	£ 3,450	
Total		£22,012
Less Expenditure		
Insurance	£ 624	
Salary & Training	£ 4,678	
Council Office/Equipment/Administration	£ 3,823	
Footpaths & Open Spaces	£ 3,514	
Village Hall Grants	£ 1,623	
Subscriptions	£ 391	
Street Lighting Loan Repayment	£ 3,763	
VAT	£ 1,599	
Audits	£ 250	
Boundary markers/stones	£ 2,761	
Other	£ 1,350	
Total		£24,376
Closing Balance		<u>£25,377</u>

* Closing balance of £27755 for 2012/13 amended following comments from the Auditors.

Planning Report:

During 2013/14 the council was consulted on 35 applications within the parish.

The most controversial of these were relating to wind turbines and the Midas development off Bickland Water Road for over 150 houses. A lively Public Meeting was held in November to give the public a chance to express their views. These applications were eventually refused at county level, but both Midas Developments and Clarity Renewables have lodged appeals

against those decisions. This will involve considerable work for the Parish Council in order to prepare responses to the appeals.

A summary of Applications considered during 2013/14 is:-

- Development - 8
- Tree Works - 6
- Extensions, Alterations & Other - 21

Trevera 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 Trevera 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 Village Hall has enjoyed another reasonably successful year with an increase in both private and regular bookings. The increase in regular bookings has mainly come from the Parish Council who now rent the Committee Room for two sessions a week, as well as storing files and equipment. A Martial Arts group also started renting the Main Hall on a Thursday evening. This should hopefully show as an increase in the Hall's revenue next year. A serious enquiry has also been received from a lady who is interested in holding language classes one afternoon a week.

In June 2013 Ray Selley finished as Caretaker and because of the difficulties the HMRC have made with their new accounting system, and because we wanted to save money, we decided to employ a contract cleaner to clean the hall and to share the other duties between myself and Peter (Fairbank), using a self-employed carpenter to carry out any small repair work. We

have been very lucky to find an excellent cleaning company. These moves have led to an overall saving of about £1500 a year, without any detriment to standards.

In November the annual Feast Night was held. It was a very enjoyable evening with entertainment by The Lemonnaires. The turnout was disappointing but a small profit was made.

On the negative side the hall does seem to have been somewhat neglected over the last few years. Some attempts to redress this have been made over the last year with improvements being made to the heating and hot water system, and also the electrical circuits have been updated. The basement under the stage has been cleared out and the wilderness that had grown down the side of the hall has also been cleared. This work has been expensive but has partly been offset by the successful application of a £1,500 grant from the Parish Council.

Essential external work needs to be carried out which includes new UPVC guttering and fascias, a new fire door, a new back door and a new window. The lowest quote received for this work is £5,500 and another application for a grant is to be made to the Parish Council to cover about 50% of the cost.

Finally I would like to thank everyone for their co-operation in keeping the hall tidy in the absence of a Caretaker. Thanks also to Phil (Hart) for his support as Vice Chairman, to Joan (Martin) for all her work as Secretary, and to Peter (Fairbank) for not only being the Treasurer but helping me with some of the Caretaker duties.

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 purpose 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 maintenance contractor to do this work. When the work has been carried out satisfactorily, we are then 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 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.

After a considerable amount of work by both Caroline Uff (the artist) and the graphic designer staff at Booths the printers, the long awaited footpath leaflet titled "Walks around Budock" has now been produced. Funding for this was provided by a grant from Cllr Hatton's Community Chest Fund, together with generous sponsorship from Penmorvah Manor Hotel, the Trelowarren Arms pub, and Budock Village Stores. Supplies of the free leaflet have now been distributed at various tourist locations, including the Visitor Information Centre in Falmouth.

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. Unfortunately, although some additional bins were requested, it has not proved possible to get funding for them.

Councillors - 2014/15

Cllr Peter Fairbank took over as Chairman and Cllr Phil Hart as Vice Chairman for the year 2014/15. Cllr Tim McCabe resigned and three new Councillors have now been co-opted with effect from the end of July 2014. They are as follows:-

Cllr Malcolm Bennett
Cllr Treve Geraty
Cllr David Heritage

The Council is now up to its full complement of ten.

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 Lower Hall of 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 are advertised in advance on our website and on the Parish Noticeboards, and the agendas for full council meetings will be on the Budock Parish Council website – www.budockparish.net 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 2015 are as follows:-

29 th September 2014	30 th March 2015
27 th October 2014	27 th April 2015
24 th November 2014	18 th May 2015 (incl Annual Parish Meeting)
26 th January 2015	29 th June 2015
23 rd February 2015	27 th July 2015