



Budock Parish Council

Annual Report 2015/16

Chairman's Report

Chairman's report 2015 to 2016

For the year to 31 March 16 the council had a full complement of councillors for most of the year – local residents who are prepared to give up some of their precious spare time to serve the community. We were sorry that during the year Hazel Perham decided to stand down for personal reasons after many years on the council but her place was soon filled by John Palmer, a newcomer to local government.

The continuing reduction of staff and funding in Cornwall Council (CC) ultimately also affects the Parish Council. Some work previously carried out by CC has already been devolved to local parishes but without any accompanying funds and this means that the parish now has to find the money from its precept if the work continues to be carried out. CC had decided to discontinue its programme of weed control on various roadside edges and verges within the parish but as the problem was getting unacceptable, the Parish Council decided that they should take on that work and have negotiated and engaged a contractor to do the spraying.

The Parish Council acts as agent for the CC Highways team under the LMP scheme where it 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. The Parish Council will have to find more money from its own resources if it is to continue keeping the paths in good order although CC has managed to offer a small increase in its proportion of the funding for the year 2016. The footpaths 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 leaflet showing the main public

footpaths in the parish continues to be well received and supplies of the free leaflet have been made widely available.

The National Planning Policy Framework that was implemented in March 2012 by the previous government continues to favour applicants for development within the parish since, in the absence of an approved Local Plan made by CC identifying those areas for development, applications for planning permission will be considered by them with “a presumption in favour of sustainable development”. The revised Cornwall Local Plan has only recently been resubmitted to the Inspector for consideration and 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. Regrettably despite the revised plan clearly identifying areas that are acceptable for development, there is a continuing stream of applications to build on valuable agricultural land. Such applications are currently increasingly difficult to reject.

The council continues to work with both the Falmouth and Penryn Town Councils in efforts to adopt a united approach to those applications for development in areas that affect 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. Whether that amended plan will now be approved by the Inspector remains to be seen but at least it gives some token recognition to the importance of localism which is not always apparent from the CC Planning Officers!!

The council is aware of the importance of feedback from local residents and decided to progress with the possibility of preparing a Neighbourhood Development Plan. Although those documents take quite some time to prepare and get approved, they form a very important part of the planning process and carry much more weight in deciding where development should be carried out within the parish, so it is important that you make your views known in the consultation processes.

After many years of paying off the loan that the council took out to fund the street lights in Budock village, the final payment has now been made and so the council will be able to finance further projects in the parish without necessarily having to increase the tax which is levied on residents as part of their Council Tax.

Changes that have taken place in Devon and Cornwall Police now mean that the Parish Council does not receive a monthly report from the local PCSO. Our PCSO, Ashley Fuller now attends at least one meeting a year. Information on crimes in the area can be obtained from the Police website – www.police.uk – and then using the ‘Find your neighbourhood’ link.

Plans for the commissioning of a suitable memorial to those residents of the parish who lost their lives in the various wars have progressed well and the plaques will be sited on the outside of the village hall so that those sacrifices may be remembered by everyone.

The council agreed to purchase a defibrillator for use within the parish and after some delays this was eventually delivered and sited outside the village hall. Funding for this was through the general precept together with some assistance from the CC Divisional Member's Community Chest Grant.

Another initiative that has been supported by the council was the setting up of a Community Speed Watch for the Treverva area. Training has progressed for the team of volunteers. With their high viz jackets donned, and in conjunction with the local PCSO they will be checking speeding motorists.

The three individual voluntary Management Committees that are responsible for the day to day administration of the two village halls and the playing field continued to serve the communities extremely well throughout the year. However as with nearly all such 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 year, the council agreed that they would assist the hall committees by helping to pay towards items of capital expenditure that were incurred for the halls.

Finally, after two years as Chairman I have decided to stand down. I should like to express my genuine thanks to our Clerk and all the Councillors for their support, comments, constructive criticism 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. Also it goes without saying that I wish my successor well.

Councillor Peter Fairbank
Chairman
May 2016

Budock Parish Council

Members of the Council 2015/16:

Cllr Peter Fairbank (Chairman)
Cllr Phil Hart (Vice Chairman)
Cllr John Bastin
Cllr Malcolm Bennett
Cllr Mrs Irene Clark
Cllr Treve Geraty
Cllr Rob Gibson
Cllr David Heritage
Cllr Nigel Hennell
Cllr Mrs Hazel Perham – until 25.09.15
Cllr John Palmer – from 23.01.16

Cornwall County Councillor:

Cllr John Bastin

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 2015 – Apr 2016

Cllr Bastin	8	Cllr Bennett	10
Cllr Mrs Clark	10	Cllr Fairbank	10
Cllr Geraty	5	Cllr Gibson	9
Cllr Hart	10	Cllr Hennell	8
Cllr Heritage	10	Cllr Mrs Perham *	4
Cllr Palmer **	2		

*resigned 25.09.15 - 4 out of possible 5 attended

** co-opted at the end of 23.01.16 meeting – 2 out of possible 2 attended

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 £21,122. A very small increase in the Precept to £21,227 for 2016/17 has been made mainly to further 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 2015/16 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 was still being paid off at a cost of £3,763 per annum. The final payment for this has been made in January of this year.

Accounts 2015/16

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	£ 5,332
Street Lighting Loan Repayment	£ 3,763
Village Hall Grants	£ 2,674
Footpaths & Open Spaces	£ 2,614
Council Office/Equipment/Administration	£ 2,594
VAT (Reclaimable)	£ 1,069
Deposit for new War Memorial Plaques	£ 850
New website fees	£ 692
Insurance	£ 603
Subscriptions	£ 548
Boundary stones (1 new + 1 repair)	£ 440
Audits	£ 375

Planning applications:

During 2015/16 the council was consulted on 56 planning applications within the parish.

A summary of those applications:-

- Development - 16
- Tree Works - 13
- Extensions, Alterations & Other – 27

There were 2 appeals against decisions made by CC – both were dismissed.

Councillors – 2016/17

Cllr Phil Hart was elected as Chairman and Cllr David Heritage as Vice Chairman for the year 2016/17. The Council currently remains at 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 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.

Please note that if you wish to speak at a meeting in regards to a planning application on the agenda please notify the Clerk at least 24 hours before the meeting, preferably by email.

Meeting dates up until summer 2017 are as follows:-

26 th September 2016	27 th March 2017
31 st October 2016	24 th April 2017
28 th November 2016	22 nd May 2017 (<i>incl Annual Parish Meeting</i>)
30 th January 2017	26 th June 2017
27 th February 2017	31 st July 2017

Additional Planning Meetings take place as needed. The agenda for these is always on our website and noticeboards at least three full working days beforehand.

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.