

# **LUDGVAN PARISH COUNCIL**

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE TWELVE MONTH PERIOD TO 31ST MARCH 2013  
TO THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 8TH MAY 2013

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## **1. CHAIRMAN & VICE CHAIRMAN:**

At the 9th May 2012 Annual Parish Meeting, Councillor N Honess was nominated and re-elected as Chairman. However he stated that he wished to step down in July after the diamond jubilee celebrations. Councillor R Sargeant was nominated and re-elected as Vice Chairman and it was agreed that he would assume the Chairmanship in July and Councillor Honess would then continue as Vice Chairman.

## **2. PARISH COUNCILLORS:**

During the year two councillors resigned, Councillor Hopkins who had served on the Council since 2004 and the Council's longest standing Member, Councillor Miss Irene Bailey. Speaking of her retirement the Chairman stated that "It is no exaggeration to record that Irene has dedicated her life to the betterment of West Cornwall in general and Ludgvan in particular. Mind you she did have a good start being born and brought up in the White Hart."

Following a number of edits a new Code of Conduct for councillors was agreed by Cornwall Council and was adopted at the December meeting of the Parish Council.

## **3. MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL:**

The Parish Council held a total of fifteen meetings during the year, in addition to the twelve monthly Parish Council Meetings there were three Accounts & Audit Committee meetings.

## **4. STAFF & CONTRACTORS:**

The Parish Council's only employee is the Clerk who's hours were increased to thirty per week from January 2013. During the year Mr L W Edwards resigned as Clerk after six years of service and was replaced from the 1st March 2013 by Mr. S P Hudson.

Thanks are again due to the following contractors who carried out various tasks to their usual very high standard on behalf of the Council:-

- Mr Michael Bennetts – public footpaths/bridleways and grass cutting.
- Mr John Clemence – public footpaths/bridleways, significant works at the Church Hill Allotments and Parish bus shelter cleaning & repairs.
- Mr Simon Rhodes – Cemetery maintenance and significant works at the new churchyard and garden area.

The ability and willingness of all contractors to undertake work at very short notice to high standards and at competitive rates is much appreciated.

## **5. FINANCIAL MATTERS:**

The 2012/13 precept was set at £24,000 an increase of £4,000 from the previous year, the increase was necessary to counter the loss of the cemetery grant (usually around £2,300) and to keep finances at a sustainable level.

Balances at the end of the year stood at £13,868 a reduction of £3,927 during the year. This was primarily caused by the Aggregate Fund grant in respect of 2012/13 having been received during the previous financial year.

The Council's long standing internal auditor Mr Brian White has retired and been replaced by Mr David Gallie, the internal audit was completed to his satisfaction on 30th April. The Annual Return will be approved at the Annual Parish Council Meeting on May 8th after which it will be delivered to Grant Thornton who have taken over from the Audit Commission as external auditors.

## **6. AGGREGATE LEVY FUNDS:**

A statement of the use of Aggregate Funds during the year is shown below:

	Receipts	Payments	Balance
BACS Payment 28/03/12	5,000.00		5,000.00
Ludgvan Cricket Club		500.00	4,500.00
Ludgvan Lions Junior FC		1,500.00	3,000.00
Luncheon Club Christmas Dinner		250.00	2,750.00
St Julia's Hospice Auction		150.00	2,600.00
Christmas Trees		216.00	2,384.00
LFC Goal posts		300.00	2,084.00
IT Equipment* (estimate to carry forward)		1,500.00	584.00
<b>Balance Remaining</b>			<b>584.00</b>

\* The IT equipment was purchased after the year- end at a cost of £1,198.

## **7. DONATIONS:**

Under Regulation S137 of the Local Government Act 1972 the Council is authorised to spend a limited (capped) sum on 'good causes' within the Parish. During the Financial Year ending 31 March 2013 donations totalling £900 were made.

## **8. ALLOTMENTS:**

The Council maintains allotments at Long Rock (11 plots) and Church Hill, Ludgvan (49 plots). As at 31st March 2013 all plots were let and under cultivation. Mains water is connected to standpipes at both sites. There has been some turnover of tenancies during the year with plots in general being maintained to a good standard. A combined waiting list is maintained for both sites which at the time of writing stands at three.

The Parish Council again supported the popular Ludgvan Horticultural Annual Summer Show and provided prizes for the "Most Improved Allotment", the "Best Kept Allotment" and the vegetable "Top Tray" competition.

## **9. CEMETERIES:**

All the Council's cemeteries and the new amenity area were maintained to the usual high standard during the year.

In total six burials took place, four at St. Pauls and two at Crowlas.

## **10. FOOTPATHS:**

Footpaths and bridleways within the Parish continued to be maintained to a high standard throughout the year. The budget of £2,888 represented a standstill compared to the previous year, however, due to the efforts of Mr Clemence and Mr Bennetts the cutting programme was successfully completed.

Footpath 17 was closed for some time due to the need for bridge repairs which were completed to a high standard and the path re-opened in March.

## **11. BUS SHELTERS/PUBLIC SEATS/GRASS CUTTING/CHURCHTOWN PLOT:**

Bus Shelters, public seats and the White Cross Monument all within the Parish were cleaned and maintained to the usual high standard.

The contract with Fernbank Advertising Ltd. to assume ownership of the bus shelters in the parish and to maintain, insure and clean them is close to being finalised.

## **12. ROAD & OTHER SAFETY MATTERS:**

The Council continues to campaign for road safety improvements to the main A30 trunk road and the various Parish secondary roads.

The required improvements outside Ludgvan School have been completed.

The Council was particularly disappointed with the decision to implement a shared pedestrian and cycle way along Beach Road in direct contradiction of its wishes.

Large scale local opposition to the proposed closure, by Network Rail, of the Long Rock Mexico rail crossing has become very evident. The Council has been asked by Cornwall Council to provide its official view on the closure by 22nd May 2013.

## **13. PLANNING:**

The Council considered 61 planning applications during the year, compared to 65 in the previous twelve months. The move towards completing its consultations online and viewing plans digitally at meetings will be implemented early in the new financial year.

The long awaited planning application in respect of 46 affordable housing units at Ludgvan Lease is expected soon.

## **14. PUBLIC TOILETS:**

During the year the Council considered an offer from Cornwall Council to assume ownership and responsibility for the public toilets at Long Rock and Marazion Station Car Park. Due to the difficulties encountered in getting adequate information in respect of the ongoing costs associated with such a transfer the offer was declined.

## **15. DIAMOND JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS:**

As part of the celebrations for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee the Council provided commemorative medallions for children in the parish.

## **16. COUNCIL WEBSITE:**

In March 2011 Council agreed to set up a small committee to oversee (working with the chosen webmaster) the specification, design and implementation of the Council's first website - a two-year task that proved to be more demanding and time consuming than at first anticipated.

After a considerable amount of work on the part of all involved, Council has reached the stage that, as at 31 March 2013, ending the year under review, the website is now approximately 80%+ complete and well worth viewing at [www.ludgvan.org.uk](http://www.ludgvan.org.uk). Although, as you will see as you work your way through the site, it is still a case of 'work in progress', there is at present plenty of interesting information about both the Council and the wider Ludgvan parish. It is important to stress that although the website will be maintained and financed by the Council it is, and was always intended to be, a '**Ludgvan community**' website - as will become more apparent as the site is populated by more and more locally-specific information.

Stating the obvious, it is clear that for a website to achieve the purpose intended and justify the costs of annual support via the webmaster it must be maintained on an up-to-date basis (many parish and town council websites are not always as up-to-date as they could be) and the Clerk (working with members) will during the present financial year be addressing those remaining areas still outstanding, particularly **Directories: Business and Commercial; Community Groups and Clubs: Health, Education and Other Bodies** together with **Visitors: Information**.

The Council has received unsolicited compliments on the present design and appearance of the website - which is very pleasing. It is Council's intention to build on this success and 'finish the job' during the present financial year.

If anybody has any comments, suggestions, criticisms etc. to make about the website please do so via the '**Contact**' page on the website.

## **17. POLICE MATTERS:**

Throughout the year the parish council has continued to enjoy an excellent and productive working relationship with our Rural Neighbourhood Police Team.

The number of police investigations in the parish dropped by nearly 25% to 92 from 122.

## **CONCLUSION**

Another busy year for the Council with the usual high standard of service provision maintained. It also saw the end of the long chairmanship of Councillor Honess and the retirement of its longest serving Councillor Miss Irene Bailey.

S P Hudson  
Clerk