

LUDGVAN PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE TWELVE MONTH PERIOD TO 31ST MARCH 2014
TO THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 14TH MAY 2014

1. CHAIRMAN & VICE CHAIRMAN:

At the 8th May 2013 Annual Parish Meeting, Councillor R Sargeant was nominated and re-elected as Chairman. Due to the small number of Councillors in place following the election no Vice-Chair was elected.

2. PARISH COUNCILLORS:

Just prior to the election in May 2013, Councillor Nigel Honess, the Council's longest standing Member, resigned on a matter of principle regarding the provision of a combined pedestrian and cycle route at Beach Road, Marazion. His great knowledge and commitment to the parish have been sorely missed. It is hoped that he will re-join the Council in the new municipal year.

Only five people stood for election leaving the Council well short of the twelve Members needed.

A co-option process was instigated and Peter Vaughan, Maureen Hollow, Lorna Trudgeon and Maggy Parker were co-opted onto the Council.

Following an un-contested election Cornwall Councillor, Roy Mann also joined.

A matter of concern for the Council is that there is no representation for Long Rock.

3. MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL:

The Parish Council held twelve monthly Parish Council Meetings and one Extraordinary Meeting to deal with planning applications. The Employment Committee met on a number of occasions as did the Accounts & Audit Committee. The newly formed Allotment Committee also met three times.

4. STAFF & CONTRACTORS:

The Parish Council's only employee is the Clerk, Mr. S P Hudson who completed his first year in March 2014. As Chairman I would like to thank the clerk for all his hard work during the year. This has made a major contribution to the smooth running of the Council

Mr John Clemence, a longstanding contractor for the Council died in June 2013, he was a great friend to the parish and is missed by all those who knew him.

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.
- Chris Fry and Kirstan Gorvin – public footpaths/bridleways.
- 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 2013/14 precept was set at £24,000 the same as the previous year.

Balances at the end of the year stood at £14,906 an increase of £1,038 during the year. The balance in the Aggregate Fund Earmarked Reserve was £2,441.

The Council's internal auditor is Mr David Gallie, the internal audit was completed to his satisfaction on 7th May. The Annual Return will be approved at the Annual Parish Council Meeting on May 14th after which it will be delivered to Grant Thornton the external auditors.

Full details will appear on the councils website once the accounting statements have been approved.

6. 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. Some other grants are provided under specific powers. In an environment of shrinking resources the Council has introduced a grant policy to assist its deliberations in awarding monies and during the financial year ending 31 March 2014 total donations totalling £1,342 were made.

7. ALLOTMENTS:

The Council maintains allotments at Long Rock (11 plots) and Church Hill, Ludgvan (49 plots). As at 31st March 2014 most plots were let and under cultivation. Mains water is connected to standpipes at both sites.

The newly formed Allotment Committee has looked at the terms of the tenancy agreement, introduced a policy of splitting plots to encourage more users and reviewed the annual rent which was increased to £26 per annum from 1st January 2014 to ensure that income received matched the cost of providing the sites.

A combined waiting list is maintained for both sites which at the time of writing stands at eleven, many of whom live outside of the parish.

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.

8. 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, three at St. Pauls and three at Crowlas.

9. 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 Fry, Mr Gorvin and Mr Bennetts the cutting programme was substantially completed.

10. BUS SHELTERS/PUBLIC SEATS/GRASS CUTTING/CHURCHTOWN PLOT:

The responsibility for the maintenance, insurance and cleaning of bus shelters was transferred to Fernbank Ltd, public seats and the White Cross Monument all within the Parish were cleaned and maintained to the usual high standard.

11. 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 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 was very evident. However, Cornwall Council resolved to extinguish the right of way, a public inquiry will now be held in October by the Planning Inspectorate.

12. PLANNING:

The Council considered 60 planning applications during the year, compared to 61 in the previous twelve months. The move towards completing its consultations online and viewing plans digitally at meetings was implemented in May 2013.

The long awaited planning application in respect of 46 affordable housing units at Ludgvan Lease unfortunately did not materialise and that particular is unlikely ever to be realised.

13. PUBLIC TOILETS:

Following the decision to close Long Rock car park toilets by Cornwall Council the Parish Council utilised a saving on bus shelter cleaning to pay for them to be opened during the summer holidays.

14. COUNCIL WEBSITE:

The Council website is up and running and is substantially complete and has been a great asset to the Parish. Recently a working party was set up to review the current content and it will be meeting soon and will report back to the Council in due course.

15. 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 has remained fairly constant with 95 investigations compared to 92 in the previous year.

CONCLUSION

Another busy year for the Council with the usual high standard of service provision maintained.

Richard Sargeant
Chairman, Ludgvan Parish Council