

# **LUDGVAN PARISH COUNCIL**

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE TWELVE MONTH PERIOD TO 31ST MARCH 2015  
TO THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 13TH MAY 2015

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

At the 14th May 2014 Annual Parish Meeting, Councillor R Sargeant was nominated and re-elected as Chairman. Councillor Peter Vaughan was elected as Vice-Chair.

## **2. PARISH COUNCILLORS:**

During the year Nigel Honess rejoined the Council when he was co-opted, when Andy Branchett was co-opted to the Council later in the year not only did this bring the Council up to full strength it also provided much needed representation from Long Rock.

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

The Parish Council held twelve monthly Parish Council Meetings. The various Committees met as and when required.

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

The Parish Council's only employee is the Clerk, Mr. S P Hudson who completed his second year in March 2015. 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 Michael Bennetts, a longstanding contractor for the Council retired after 25 years of footpath maintenance and grass cutting. I'd like to thank him for his years of dedicated service.

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

- Henry Rich – Grass cutting and general maintenance.
- Chris Fry and Kirstan Gorvin – public footpaths/bridleways.
- Mr Simon Rhodes – Cemetery maintenance and significant works at the new churchyard and garden area as well as the Churchtown plot.

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 2014/15 precept was set at £26,746 an increase over the previous year of £2,746.

Balances at the end of the year stood at £22,782 an increase of £7,876 during the year. The balance in the Aggregate Fund Earmarked Reserve was £6,441. Newly created reserves for election expenses and Neighbourhood Planning stood at £1,000 and £2,876 respectively.

The Council's internal auditor is Mr David Gallie, the internal audit was completed to his satisfaction on 6th May. The Annual Return will be approved at the Annual Parish Council Meeting on May 13th 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 2015 total donations totalling £1,067 were made.

## **7. ALLOTMENTS:**

The Council maintains allotments at Long Rock (11 plots) and Church Hill, Ludgvan (49 plots). As at 31st March 2015 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 maintained at £26 per annum from 1st January 2015 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 nine parishioners and ten non-parishioners.

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 four burials took place, all at St. Pauls.

## **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. The Council has now taken responsibility for the St Michael's Way and has set up a working party to look into path improvements and the cutting of 'silver' paths.

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

The responsibility for the maintenance, insurance and cleaning of bus shelters has been transferred to Fernbank Ltd, public seats and the White Cross Monument all within the Parish were cleaned and maintained to the usual high standard. Maintenance of the Royal British Legion site on Church Hill is carried out through the Spring and Summer.

## **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.

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 and public inquiry held in October by the Planning Inspectorate upheld that decision and the crossing is now permanently closed.

## **12. PLANNING:**

The Council considered 55 planning applications during the year, compared to 60 in the previous twelve months. There has also been considerable involvement in the production of a Town Framework for Penzance as this includes the Long Rock area. The final outcome has yet to be decided.

## **13. PUBLIC TOILETS:**

Following the decision to close Long Rock car park toilets by Cornwall Council the Parish Council continues to pay for them to be opened during the summer holidays. The future for toilets in the parish is once again uncertain as Cornwall Council are removing all funding from April 2016.

## **14. COUNCIL WEBSITE:**

The Council website is up and running and is substantially complete and has been a great asset to the Parish. The working party set up to review the current content 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 reduced to 80 compared to 95 in the previous year.

## **16. NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN:**

The Council has taken the decision to produce a Neighbourhood Plan which will provide statutory planning policies applicable in the parish. The process will take up to two years. A Steering Group of volunteers and councillors has been established to manage the project.

## **CONCLUSION**

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

Richard Sargeant  
Chairman, Ludgvan Parish Council