

Breage Parish Council



Annual Report 2013/2014

May 2014

Parish Rooms

Breage

HELSTON

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Members of the Council:

Cllr Mrs Rose Wyvern Batt (Chairman)

Cllr Pete Greenough (Vice-Chairman)

Cllr Tony Ackland

Cllr Tony Best

Cllr Mrs Tanis Board

Cllr Howard Bradford

Cllr Simon Caddick

Cllr Trevor Coleman

Cllr Mrs Phil Darby

Cllr I Davis

Cllr Graham Higginson

Cllr Ms Carole Rashleigh

Cornwall Councillor:

Cllr John Keeling MBE

Clerk: Mrs Carol Macleod

The Clerk is available at the Parish Council office, by appointment only (due to Health and Safety conditions), on Thursdays from 11.00 a.m. to 12 noon and on Fridays from 3.30 to 4.30 p.m.

Chairman's Report

I wish to thank the Parish Councillors for their support since I was elected Chairman – which happened very suddenly and without warning!!

I also thank Jan Anthony for her time as Chairman and her wonderful organisation of the N461 event on June 2 2013, which sadly I missed by being unwell. A big thank you to all the Parish Councillors and individuals who helped in any way to make the day the tremendous success it was. More detail is included at the end of the annual report. Another great success this year is the new houses being built in Penbro Way and Penbro Vean, (road names chosen by the Parish Council), adjacent to St Breaca Close, Breage. This is a credit to the Parish Councillors for their hard work before, during and since the Affordable Housing Survey held in Breage Parish in 2009 and to Cornwall Councillor John Keeling who was Chairman at that time. These homes are now being allocated but sadly with no input from the Parish Council. Personally, I

Receipts for 2013/2014 increased by £4,868.87 over the previous year. The N461 event costs of £2,493.54 were covered by donations, a £243.54 grant from the Cornwall Councillor's Community Chest and a £750 grant from the Parish Council. There was no increase in the Precept this year but a Council Tax Support grant of £4,475.02 was received. There was also a grant of £2,918.00 for the South West Coastal Path cutting.

Payments increased by £7,957.73. Of course, the South West Coastal path cutting had to be paid for. Non-routine streetlight repairs amounted to £6,608.01 – necessary work that had to be completed. Hopefully some of these lights will now be taken on by Cornwall Council. A new bench was sited next to the bus shelter in Pengersick Lane, Praa Sands. A laptop and projector were purchased for use in the Parish Rooms. It is hoped to display the agenda, minutes, etc. at Parish Council meetings. A new document storage cupboard was purchased to enable the Clerk to re-locate some of the files from the office. It was necessary to purchase a new hot water heater. Grants of £500 each were made to community groups this year as follows: to Ashton Amenity Association towards running costs for the amenity area; to Ashton Village Committee towards a marquee; to Breage Silver Band towards cost of free tuition and providing musical entertainment for Parishioners; to Breage Village Hall towards new pans/crockery for preparation of monthly meals; to Carleen Church Community Centre towards a hoist, crockery and a carpet; to Praa Sands Community Centre towards tables; to Carleen Pantomime Group, towards new scenery; to Carleen Village Hall towards security system costs. Breage Playing Field received a £200 grant towards tree covers, spirals and mulch for the new trees.

St Breaca Church was paid a £30 annual grant towards the upkeep of the village clock and the British Legion was supported by the purchase of wreaths and Breage Band was awarded a grant for playing at the Remembrance Service. Small grants were awarded to Cornwall County Playing Fields Association towards continuance of work to help the cause of children's play in the Parish; to Cornwall Air Ambulance towards assistance for Parishioners needing aid; to

Victim Support Cornwall to help victims, witnesses, families and friends in Truro Magistrates Court; to Open Spaces towards the work of the Association in Breage Parish; to CAB Helston (nearest branch) to help Parishioners sort their problems and to Helston Museum towards the running of the museum to benefit Parishioners of Breage who visit it. Breage Pump was given a magnificent new surface by the Handyman, Steve Babbage and a commemoration stone placed there. Expected receipts for 2014/15 are £56,043.45 and expected payments £68,798.00, as listed in the budget figures. Hence the carried forward figure of £30,417.69 will be much needed. After the accounts had been examined by an Accounts Team Councillor, Cllr Greenough on 17 April 2014, they were passed to the Internal Auditor, Mr D J L Gallie. The Annual Audit Return was completed and signed by Mr Gallie on 29 April 2014. Mr Gallie is thanked for auditing the accounts this year and also taking on the Breage Playing Field Accounts.

Retiring and New Councillors

Cllr John Keeling had decided not to stand for Parish Council election this year, giving him more time for home life and his Cornwall Council duties. At the Parish Council meeting on 2 April 2013, Cllr Keeling said that this was a sad time as it would be his last time in the Chair after 6 years. He said that it had not been an easy decision to stand down from the Parish Council but he had of late experienced great difficulty in giving the time needed to attend 3 lots of Parish Council meetings and to Chair one of them. He assured Council that if he is returned as a Cornwall Councillor he will be delighted to attend meetings. He thanked everyone and said how much he had enjoyed his time with Breage Parish Council. At the Annual Parish Council Meeting in May, Cllr Keeling was presented with a thank you card featuring a photograph of the Parish Rooms, which was signed by all the Parish Councillors and the Clerk, that marked his years with Breage Parish Council and a Keep Calm and Carry On personalized, commemorative mug.

Cllr Keeling opened his parcel at the meeting and was delighted with the contents.

An Election was due to be held in May 2013 but this was unnecessary as there were insufficient applicants to fill the 12 vacancies on the Parish Council. Therefore Cllrs Janet Anthony, Tony Ackland, Tony Best, Tanis Board, Howard Bradford, Simon Caddick, Philippa Darby, Carole Rashleigh and Rose Wyvern Batt were returned as Parish Councillors uncontested. They are thanked for their service.

Trevor Coleman had submitted his application paperwork but this was mislaid by Cornwall Council and he was not included in the uncontested list. He was therefore co-opted at the Parish Council meeting on 14 May 2013. Cllr Mrs Jan Anthony was elected Chairman and Cllr Mrs Rose Wyvern Batt Vice-Chairman at this meeting.

On 6 August 2013 Pete Greenough, from Godolphin and Graham Higginson, from Carleen were co-opted to Breage Parish Council, both having previously served on the Council. They are congratulated, thanked and welcomed. Their co-options meant that Breage Parish Council was back to full strength. However, sadly, after making a wonderfully meticulous start to her office as Chairman, Cllr Anthony resigned from the Parish Council on 1 October 2013 because of what she felt to be, lack of support. She gave her sincere good wishes to Councillors working in the interests of Breage Parish Council and its Parishioners. At the meeting on 5 November 2013 Cllr Mrs Rose Wyvern Batt was elected Chairman and Cllr Pete Greenough, Vice-Chairman. They are congratulated and sincerely thanked for agreeing to serve.

Council was sad to hear of the death of a former Breage Parish Councillor on 21 February 2014: Barry Nicholls, from Balwest, who resigned in 2010 due to ill health. He was a hardworking, knowledgeable Councillor and a great asset to the Accounts Team. Sympathy is extended to his wife, Miriam.

At the 1 April meeting there was a further co-option: Ian Davis, the Landlord of the Queen's Arms, Breage. He is congratulated on his co-option, thanked for applying and welcomed to Breage Parish Council. The Parish Council is, once again, at full strength.

Council Meeting dates

2014/2015

Meetings at 7.00 p.m. (unless otherwise stated), in the Parish Rooms, Breage.
Meetings are notified on the Parish notice board outside the Parish Rooms, Breage.
1 April 2014
6 May 2014 Annual Parish Meeting at 6.30 p.m. followed by Parish Council Meeting
3 June 2014
1 July 2014
5 August 2014
2 September 2014
7 October 2014
4 November 2014
2 December 2014
13 January 2015
3 February 2015
3 March 2015

Attendance at Council Meetings

2013/2014

There have been 12 Ordinary Parish Council meetings this year, an Annual Parish Meeting, 1 Extraordinary Meeting and a Precept Meeting – a total of 15 meetings. There have also been several preapp and other informal meetings that are not included in the attendance figures.

Cllr Mrs R Wyvern Batt 12 meetings
Cllr T Ackland 15 meetings
Cllr T Best 14 meetings
Cllr Mrs T Board 15 meetings
Cllr H Bradford 12 meetings
Cllr S Caddick 15 meetings
Cllr T Coleman 14 meetings
Cllr Mrs P Darby 14 meetings
Cllr P Greenough co-opted on 6 August 2013 10 meetings
Cllr G Higginson co-opted on 6 August 2013 5 meetings
Cllr Ms C Rashleigh 15 meetings

BREAGE PLAYING FIELD

The field continues to be a very important part of the village and with the new houses being built it becomes even more important as a community space.

It has been a year of contrasts for the field from last

summer, hot and dry, to the storms of a few months ago where we unfortunately lost three pine trees. Planting of many tiny hedge/trees took place in the winter with two Royal Oaks included. We hope to very soon replace the basket ball post that broke in November, as this piece of equipment is very popular with all age groups. We are also going to move the football posts to enable restoration of the grass. By putting new sockets in the ground we will be able to move the posts more regularly and therefore avoid the mud pit! Thank you as always for the parish council's support. We look forward to another successful year.

Jane Ratcliffe, Secretary for Breage Field Committee

The Field is checked annually in April by RoSPA (Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents) and further checks are carried out by the Parish Council's Handyman in January, July and October. If anyone notices any faults during the time between the checks please inform the Parish Clerk.

The Parish Council owns the field and has responsibility for the grass and hedge cutting, safety checks and Public Liability insurance.

BREAGE ALLOTMENT GROWERS

2013 marked a year of various changes on the allotments. Another year of "unsettled weather" had an effect on the quantity and quality of produce, with the site being so exposed.

Two allotments were lost due to new parking requirements needed by The Queen's Arms, the pub now under new ownership. This had no real effect on the BAG, due to dwindling members which included the Chairman leaving for personal reasons.

The polytunnel, which the local Parish Council had kindly helped in purchasing, was sold for its original purchase price and all monies returned to the coffers. Its proposed and only site had become unavailable. By the end of 2013, the allotments were treading water, sometimes literally; hopefully things will move forward in 2014.

Although the allotments may appear to be in the doldrums for now, nowhere else locally offers the chance to "give it a go" for very minimal outlay. So come and have a look or chat to the pub, plots are available for immediate use.

Andrew Smith on behalf of Breage Allotment Growers

FOOTPATHS AND RIGHTS OF WAY

Once again we have been grateful for the help this year from our Contractor, Bob Sanders, and our new Countryside Officer, Hamish Gordon. Reports have come in about stiles and gate posts that have become loose or rotten and these have been, or are being, dealt with. With all the strong winds there have also been several fallen trees.

We were asked by Germoe Parish Council to consider opening a path on Tregonning Hill to gain access to an Airmen's Memorial. Following an initial meeting with Germoe Chairman a second site meeting was arranged when 5 councillors met to assess the feasibility but it was eventually decided, after a lot of careful thought that it would be too dangerous as the memorial stone is placed on the very edge of a deep quarry.

A new venture this year was to take on the cutting of part of the South West Coastal Path, which Bob Sanders was happy to do and for which a grant from Cornwall Council was offered in April 2013. The cuts are expected to be done at specific times and the Natural England specification relating to the coast path is: 'the path should generally be cut about 18" (50cm) each side of any worn path, to provide a path at least 3 feet (1m) wide, with surface vegetation cut back to a maximum height of about 2 - 3 inches (5 - 8cm)' with vegetation beyond this cut in such a way as to prevent it from falling back onto the path (i.e. at 45 degrees). All cut material to be removed from the surface of the path. Some work has been done at Praa Sands to improve the drainage and hopefully reduce the amount of water running down the tarmac path at the side of Praa Green and the brambles etc. at the edges of the basketball court have been cleared back.

Presumably, because of a very muddy section on path 46, some walkers/cyclists (?) cut a diversion through the brambles to bypass the difficulty. Unfortunately this ran along the edge of an open mineshaft and so had to be blocked off again. However, as a result of this, Cornwall Council has now promised us a boardwalk which should be a safer answer to the problem.

As always, if you know of a difficulty on any of our Public Rights of Way, please let us know.

Cllr Mrs P Darby – Footpaths Representative

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Sites agreed as possible sites by the Parish Council and Cornwall Council are:

1. St Breaca Close, Breage

Much of the third phase has been completed and the houses have been allocated. There are 6 open

market houses together with 4 affordable shared ownership and 14 rented affordable properties.

2. Goon Rinsey Farm (West) – for no more than about 12.
3. Adjacent to Carleen Community Church, Carleen A proposed development has been cancelled due to the additional cost regarding capping of mines and removal of contaminated soil.
4. Tregonning Terrace, Carleen – for no more than about 6.
5. Herland Parc, Godolphin Cross – for no more than about 6.
6. Two sites at Praa Sands, Germoe Cross Roads – for no more than about 30.

Site specific development statements have been prepared, establishing the principles for development of these sites and, without prejudice, to the determination of planning applications. These statements set out the preferred approach to development of the sites.

Cllr Ms Carole Rashleigh – Affordable Housing Councillor

N461 EVENT 2 JUNE 2013

A commemoration service of the 70th anniversary of the landing of the Sunderland N461 at Praa Sands after coming under fire and being unable to return to base, was magnificently led by The Revd Sharon Chalcraft. It was held in blazing sunshine and attended by some 500 invited guests and members on Praa Green, Praa Sands on 2 June 2013. It was a wonderful occasion. 16 of the crew's family members were able to attend, travelling from Australia and Canada. Some who had hoped to be there were sadly unable to come because of bereavement or illness but they were remembered in the prayers on the day. In spite of great effort the Council was unable to trace any relatives of PO Miles (killed in this action) or Flt Sgt Fuller, the two RAF members of the crew. The crew's families were overwhelmed and so delighted to be able to see the memorial stone in remembrance of their family members. The full service appears on the Parish Council's website along with the words spoken by family members.

The attendance of Colonel Edward Bolitho OBE, Lord Lieutenant of Cornwall made it a Royal occasion, most appropriate as it was also the 60th anniversary of HM Queen Elizabeth II's Coronation.

Also attending the service were residents of Praa Sands who lived here at the time of the incident (and still do) who were around 10 -15 years old at the time and who remember going down to see the Sunderland on the

beach. The Australian families were so pleased to be able to speak to them.

FLTLT Brent Thoroughgood, representing the Royal Australian Air Force served with 10 Squadron and therefore this service had special significance for him. He assisted the Lord-Lieutenant in the unveiling of the beautifully crafted commemoration stone.

Much of the information that was obtained came from John Witcomb, a veteran of 461 Squadron ground-crew, who actually worked on EJ134 – N461. He devoted many years visiting Cornwall and pulling together information and photographs and communicating with Sunderland Association members in Australia. John was invited to the ceremony but sadly was in poor health and could not make the journey.

The Penzance RAF Association Chairman, Geoff Edwards and the Cornwall RAFA President, Peter Paice were enormously helpful to the Parish Council and the event could not have been held without their valuable assistance. There was a magnificent parade of Standards: 10 RAF Association, 2 Royal British Legion, 3 Royal Naval Association, the WRENS Association, 2 Parachute Regimental Association and the Guide Association. Cara Cox-Webber who carried the Guides' standard was only made aware of what she would have to do at the last minute and coped perfectly with the left and right turns, raising and lowering of standards and marching orders of the Parade Marshall. The Helston ATC Cadets were splendid in their parading and attendance - a real credit to their Corps and a superb foundation for our future. 3 St John Ambulance attendants were at the event and coped superbly with a couple of incidents.

At the end of the service a moving Last Post and Reveille was played by Bill Bishop and flowers and wreaths were laid at the memorial.

Breage and District Silver Band played fantastically before the service began including a great performance of 'Waltzing Matilda', then for the National Anthems, the hymns during the service featuring a most moving rendition of the 'Dam Busters March' - (the looks on people's faces on hearing it were stunning) - and the marching out of the standards to a wonderfully dramatic interpretation of the 'Royal Air Force March'.

Refreshments were served at the Praa Sands and District Community Centre after the service where past photographs and Colin Walker's, (The Captain's), log book were on display. The families presented Breage Parish Council with a beautiful limited edition print of a painting of N461 in the battle of the day. This now hangs on the wall in the Parish Rooms main room at Breage. You will find the memorial stone by following the road and then the tarmac path from Praa Sands Post Office down onto the Green.

The full story of what happened on 2 June 1943 can be viewed at www.n461.com – created by the tail gunner's nephew.