

Breage Parish Council



Annual Report 2021/2022

May 2022

Parish Rooms

Breage

HELSTON

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Chairman's Report 2021/22

For the second year the business of Breage Parish Council has been influenced by the dictates of Covid 19 and latterly the Omicron virus. We have managed to successfully discharge the functions of local government whilst following central government guidelines to keep parishioners and councillors safe. The thanks of Breage Parish Council go to all the many parish community and faith groups who have worked so hard to maintain the social cohesion that is so vital to the wellbeing of the communities. The latest and newest addition being Ashton Hub at what was previously the snooker club. The group are making terrific progress in providing much needed community space in the village. Whilst the majority of council meetings were held remotely via zoom in the early stages of the pandemic, we are now steadily moving back to our previous role with no personal restrictions at our regular meetings. The regular meetings are held on the 1st Tuesday of the month with the Planning and Land use meetings held on the last Wednesday preceding the regular meeting. Both meetings commence at 1900 in the parish rooms and members of the public are welcome and encouraged to attend. We also hold Planning

Pre-Application meetings where an individual parishioner or developer thinking of submitting a planning application can arrange an informal meeting with Breage Councillors to better understand the policies outlined in the Neighbourhood Development Plan and other planning issues. This has proved to be a useful method of developing a better understanding of the planning process and parish planning compatibility. The parish finances are in good order with several projects underway or completed. We have constantly striven to keep the tax/ precept burden for Breage parishioners as low as is practicable whilst supporting parish services. Currently the services provided by Breage Parish Council cost 66p per week or £34:32 per year. We are constantly monitoring the situation to ensure that our parishioners are not being "double taxed" for services that are already paid for via council tax to Cornwall Council. Last year saw local government elections with some councillors leaving and new members arriving. The parish council is currently three Councillors short of its complement so if you feel that you would be interested in serving your community as a Councillor please contact the Clerk for an informal discussion. Due to its rich mining heritage, Breage in general and the

Carleen/ Wheal Vor area in particular has found its self sharply in focus in the search for precious metals. A series of small exploratory drills will be carried out during this year to examine the viability of future larger scale mineral extraction. Breage Parish Council in conjunction with Cornish Tin, the exploration company, has held both virtual and live meetings to ensure that the parishioners are kept fully aware of progress. Derek Thomas MP has generously facilitated the e-news mail drop to ensure that as many parishioners as possible are aware of developments. Breage Parish Council is actively engaged with the D&C Police and Cornwall Council to reduce the speed of traffic through our villages by implementing the "20 is Plenty" scheme and to reduce the incidence of speeding further by joining "Speed watch" which, after suitable training, uses volunteers with speed cameras to monitor and report speeding motorists. The Council is also a partner in the scheme of traffic regulation orders (TRO) that is attempting to ensure that emergency and utility vehicles can access our villages in safety. This has not always been the case due to the inconsiderate and frequently dangerous parking of some individuals. The play and recreation areas at Breage, Ashton, Praa Sands and Carleen continue to be well used and are, with the exception of Carleen, in the ownership of the parish council. Health and safety checks and maintenance are carried out on a monthly basis with public liability insurance being in place with BPC. As a burial authority we have made vast improvements to the cemetery at Breage and have incorporated additional land to ensure that Parishioners can be confident that this service will be available in the future. Further improvements are ongoing along with routine maintenance. The Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) is in its final stages of examination and will be submitted to you as parishioners by referendum during the course of this year. The wooden parish council notice boards scattered around the parish are being replaced with aluminium which should give years of good service. Where space permits they double up to allow community use. Lower Trevurvus pond will be fully reinstated by the end of the year as a wildlife haven and water source. This exciting project is being carried out by BPC in partnership with the local school and others. The public rights of way (PROW) in the parish

continue to be maintained by BPC and the council has signed up and agreed to be part of the Enhanced Local Maintenance Project which seeks to further improve and where appropriate create new and enhance the existing paths to ensure they are accessible to all users. BPC has taken the responsibility for the Lengthsman project in the parish; this scheme ensures that culverts, gullies and run-off areas are kept clear and that excess rainwater is able to run off safely to prevent flooding. Additionally road junctions on B, C and unclassified roads are kept safe by cutting back excessive vegetation. Funding has been put in place to enable BPC to employ an apprentice Clerk/ Financial Responsible officer who it is anticipated will be in post this year. This exciting opportunity will allow the right candidate to be fully trained to degree level and be able to progress to wherever their ambition takes them in local government administration and further. Full details will be available on the BPC website and in the press later this year. Preparations by the parish council are in place to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee celebrations of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Second. A small leaf lime tree has been planted in the cemetery and a Jubilee garden is planned for Coaches Corner at Breage. This is supported by Trevena Cross nursery. Additionally all the school children in the parish schools will be given a celebratory gift to commemorate the occasion. Individual community groups are arranging their own street parties and other events which will be promulgated on social media outlets. Breage Parish Council would like to take this opportunity to thank the many organisations and individuals who so generously give up their time to make the parish the pleasant place it is to live in and so welcoming for our visitors. On a personal note, I would like to thank my councillor colleagues for their enthusiasm and support over what has been a difficult year for us all. Our Clerk and Financial Responsible Officer, Mrs Carol Macleod, has managed to keep the office and services running throughout and Mrs Sarah Orpin has kept the parish rooms clean and safe during this difficult period. The continued support of the contractors and sub-contractors who have kept the technical and maintenance operations of the parish in good working order is very much appreciated. Finally in closing, thank you to the Parishioners for your

support in enabling Breage Parish Council to deliver these community services.

**Councillor Tony Woodhams Chairman
Breage Parish Council**

Attendance at Council Meetings 2021/2022

There has been an Annual Parish Council meeting; 22 Ordinary Parish Council meetings and a Precept Meeting – a total of 24 meetings this year.

Cllr Tony Woodhams 24 meetings

Cllr Tony Best 17 meetings co-opted 1 June 2021

Cllr Howard Bradford 12 meetings

Cllr Caroline Carver 19 meetings

Cllr Phil Darby 21 meetings co-opted 1 June 2021

Cllr Chris Ralph 21 meetings

Cllr Nicola Roberts 12 meetings co-opted 6 July 2021

Cllr Matt Southam 16 meetings co-opted 1 June 2021

Cllr Diana Thomas 21 meetings

Cllr Rose Wyvern Batt 18 meetings

Members of the Council

Elected Councillors May 2021

Cllr Howard Bradford

Cllr Caroline Carver

Cllr Chris Ralph

Cllr Diana Thomas

Cllr Tony Woodhams

Cllr Rose Wyvern Batt

New Co-opted Councillors during the year

Cllr Matt Southam 1 June 2021

Cllr Phil Darby 1 June 2021

Cllr Tony Best 9 June 2021

Cllr Nicola Roberts 6 July 2021

Cornwall Unitary Councillor for the Parish:

Cllr John V Keeling MBE

Phil Darby who joined the Council in July 2007 retired on 5 April 2022.

She gave wonderful service to the Parish especially on Footpaths and the Council thanks her for her hard work and wishes her a very happy retirement. She is however continuing to

assist the Council as a volunteer regarding Footpaths. At the end of her last meeting Phil was presented with a hanging basket of flowers and a card signed by the other Councillors.

Clerk/RFO: Mrs Carol Macleod

The Clerk is available at the Parish Council office, by appointment only (due to Health & Safety Regulations)

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www.breagepc.org.uk

**PLEASE NOTE THAT THE OFFICE IS
CLOSED ON TUESDAYS AND FRIDAYS**

Council Meeting dates 2022/2023

Meeting due dates at 7.00 p.m. in the Parish Rooms Breage. Meetings are notified on the Parish notice board outside the Parish Rooms, Breage and on the website

www.breagepc.org.uk **Planning meetings are held on the Wednesday before the main meeting each month**

5 April 2022

4 May 2022

10 May 2022 Annual Parish Meeting 6.30 p.m. followed by An Annual Parish Council Meeting

1 June 2022

7 June 2022

29 June 2022

5 July 2022

27 July 2022

2 August 2022

7 September 2022

13 September 2022

28 September 2022

4 October 2022

26 October 2022

1 November 2022

17 November 2022 Precept/Budget

30 November 2022

6 December 2022

4 January 2023

10 January 2023

1 February 2023

7 February 2023

1 March 2023

7 March 2023

29 March 202

FINANCE

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2021/2022

The Clerk is the Responsible Finance Officer. She and Cllrs Carver (Chairman), Roberts, Thomas and Wyvern Batt were the Members of the Finance and General Purposes (F&GP) Committee 2021/2.

Payments and other accounts matters were checked by a Member of the F&GP Committee before being presented to the Council each month. Bank Reconciliations are also checked. The Council's Internal Auditor was Mrs Barbara Goraus. The External Audit will be carried out by PKF Littlejohn.

Statement of Accounts 2021/2022

Opening Balance		
Balance at Bank	95,556.77	
Cash in Hand	150.00	
Salaries		25,891.49
National Insurance Employer		2,053.70
Pension Employer		811.54
Travel Expenses		72.77
Audit Charges		621.60
Insurance		1,216.53
Office consumables and goods		1,580.95
Advertising & Website		1,550.00
Solicitors		
Election/Referendum Provision		255.00
Electricity Parish Rooms		1,493.48
Telephone/Mobile/Broadband		1,991.55
Water Parish Rooms		54.78
Maint/Repairs/Renewals Parish Rooms		878.85
Notice boards/Benches/Signs/Fences/Ph		1,495.54
CIL community payments		100.00
Praa Sands/Praa Green		1,077.00
Contracts - Footpaths		4,639.64
South West Coastal Path		2,114.76
Miscellaneous expend.		75.00
Amenity Areas		794.34
Grants s137		250.00
Grants		3,345.96
Subscriptions		356.61
Contracts Grass & Hedge Cutting		4,760.00
Queen's Platinum Jubilee costs		624.76
Streetlights electricity		418.57
Streetlights repairs & maintenance		3,508.00
Playground & Leisure Equipment		2,928.99
Lengthsman work completed		10,188.00
Loan Repayment Streetlight upgrade		5,472.14
Covid-19 expenses		1,221.37
Enhanced LMP		6,455.00
Precept	85,000.00	
Council Tax Support Grant	1,560.72	
General Admin	37.00	40.00
Grants and Donations	750.00	
Footpaths LMP grant	4,112.41	
South West Coastal Path grant	2,178.41	
Bank Interest	11.03	
Misc. Income	1,368.30	
Lengthsman Scheme	14,000.00	
CIL	3,171.43	
NDP money out		1,000.00
Queens' Platinum Jubilee donations	450.00	
Cemetery costs		4,655.82
Cemetery maintenance Capital works		25,443.89
War memorials LPA Act 1923 LGA 1948		130.00
Cemetery fees interments	2,800.00	
Donations Cemetery/closed graveyards	200.00	
Ashton Field costs		677.50
ASHTON Snooker Club Zionist Chapel		920.88
VAT	14,571.49	13,762.16
	130,210.79	136,283.17

**Closing balance Receipts and Payments as
at 31 March 2022**

89,634.39

Bank Accounts: 89,484.39

Cash in hand 150.00

89,634.39

The closing balance at 31 March 2022 shows a decrease of £6,072.39 compared to the previous year. Receipts for 2021/2022 decreased by £8,627.92 and Payments increased by £27,138.57.

Cemetery fees decreased as there were fewer interments; Admin by a small amount, no Covid grant this year when there was £10,000 last year; Precept remained the same but the Council Tax Support grant was further reduced this year; there was an increase in VAT reclaims.

There were Jubilee expenses, a new item, small increases on insurance and Parish Rooms costs, increases in footpath and grass cutting; Removal of 10 Streetlights that Cornwall Council would not adopt £3,508.00; Enhanced LMP, new this year £6,455.00; Cemetery maintenance costs increase for further work £10,497.89; Cemetery and play area costs increased. No Toilet's costs this year.

Grant payments increased this year by 1,195.96 and were awarded to community groups as follows: £500 to Ashton Village Committee towards renewal and repair of electricity boxes for Christmas lights; £500 to Breage Silver Band towards repairs and updates of instruments; £500 to Breage Field Committee towards support for short term plans and to act as match funding; £500 to Breage Snooker and Social Club towards replacement seating in snooker room; £500 to Carleen Village Hall towards disabled car park fencing needing replacement; £500 to Godolphin Cross Community Association towards signage/notice board; the Royal British Legion was supported by the purchase of wreaths for Remembrance Sunday services, £100 and Breage Band was awarded a £50 grant for playing at the Remembrance Service; £50 to Breage Parochial Church Council towards the cost of the maintenance of the Village clock; £100 to Cruse Bereavement Services towards support services for Breage Parishioners an additional £300 was held in reserve for emergencies.

Fixed reserves at 31 March 2022 were £33,941.60. Expected receipts for 2022/23 are £117,131.90 based on budget figures and expected payments £157,372.14.

After the accounts had been examined by an Accounts Team Councillor, Cllr Nikki Roberts, they were passed to the Internal Auditor, Mrs Barbara Goraus. The Annual Internal Audit Report 2021/22 was completed on 21 April 2022 and signed by Mrs Goraus who is thanked for auditing the accounts and the Breage Field Committee's Accounts this year.

FOOTPATHS AND RIGHTS OF WAY

Due to the Covid pandemic it has been a strange year but it has been good to see that our Public Rights of Way have had a lot more use as people are taking their daily exercise.

During the course of the year there have been many repairs to broken stiles, posts and handrails and a boardwalk replaced.

Could we make a plea to any landowners who have paths running across their land to leave the pathway clear when planting the fields, whether it is an area around the edge or a diagonal path.

As well as the normal cutting contract (Local Management Partnership) we have also joined a new scheme offered by County (Enhanced LMP) which should enable us to tackle issues such as missing waymarkers, drainage issues, installation of small bridges etc.

There is the opportunity up until 2026 to register modification orders with County for regularly used paths that are not currently in the Definitive map or paths, for example, that could link to other paths to make a circular walk and be protected into the future.

Thanks must go to our Contractor, Bob Sanders and his lads who have again managed to keep our paths in good order and also to our Senior Ranger at County, Colin Bayes who has also come to our rescue during the year.

Cllr Mrs P Darby – Footpaths Representative

BREAGE FIELD

Breage Field has had a fantastic year of events and improvements. Early in the year the committee made

the decision to invest in some picnic benches, including a wheelchair friendly bench predominantly for the residents of Swallow Court. These benches have been a fantastic addition and allowed us to run coffee mornings at the park over the summer holidays. Swallow Court made a very generous donation towards the costs for which we are very grateful. The weekly "Coffee Patrol" throughout the summer raised just over £300 for the Field Committee. It also raised awareness of how the field is managed and recruited several new volunteers to help with future events. It was really lovely to get the community together after such a long period and for the children to meet others in the village they may not know from school.

At the end of November we teamed up with Breage Christmas Lights Committee to provide pallet wood Christmas trees for the village. The Field ran an incredibly successful day, painting and decorating our trees. Breage and District Silver Band came to play some festive tunes, we sold refreshments and had a fantastic raffle which enabled us to raise £250 which we split with the Christmas Lights Committee. It was lovely to see the Christmas trees dotted throughout the village and many people commented on how lovely it was that they had been created by the local residents.

Breage Parish Council has continued to maintain the play equipment, recently carrying out some safety critical repairs. The notice board was finally reinstated towards the end of last year by a very generous handyman who provided not just his labour but also the materials for free. In addition we have teamed up with Village Works, a local group who

assist in getting unemployed people back into work through volunteer projects to help improve confidence and skills. Village works have had two sessions at the field to paint the equipment and will be back again in the summer to finish off. We are delighted with the work they have carried out and it really helps keep the field looking fresh and loved.

During February half term we ran a Willow workshop headed up by local willow expert Geraldine Jones. Geraldine, assisted with volunteers, installed a willow den & tunnel in the bottom corner of the field to help soak up extra moisture. The day was incredibly successful and despite the very windy conditions everyone had a fantastic time and got to take home a willow keepsake for themselves to plant in their own gardens. The den and tunnel have been very popular with the children and are starting to look lovely now it, and the climbing Clematis donated from the garden centre, are starting to flower. Finally, we managed to finish off our financial year with the long-awaited return of the Eggstravaganza. With the help from Millie - our local landscape architect, we was able to combine this event with creating some wildflower areas in the field. The weather was awful but we still had around 100 people arrive to do the egg hunt, assist in planting our wildflower meadow areas and make seed bombs to take home. We had craft activities to amuse the children and the local farmer Steve, at Trewithick Farm very kindly bought some bottle-fed lambs for the children to cuddle and pet. Local businesses were incredibly generous in donating some really lovely raffle prizes and the supermarket Community Champions at Asda, Tesco and Morrisons donated almost 70 Easter Eggs. This allowed us to keep our costs down for the day so we can put more into the field in the future. We raised just shy of £500 from donations on the day and really thank our community for being so supportive and giving so generously at our events.

We are looking forward to continuing Coffee Patrol this summer. Plus having a role to play in the village Jubilee Celebrations. October half term we shall be holding a bird box building workshop with Rake and Cake to maintain our new wildflower areas.

We are always on the lookout for more helpers and volunteers and later this year we shall be in search of a new chairperson. If you have any ideas, suggestions or would like to be involved please contact us on Facebook (Breage Field) or carolinepenrose@yahoo.co.uk.

Mrs Caroline Fitzpatrick – Chair for Breage Field Committee

The Play equipment in Breage Field is checked monthly by a RoSPA (Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents) qualified inspector and faults are rectified. If anyone notices any faults during the time between the checks please inform the Parish Clerk. The Parish Council owns the field and holds full public liability insurance and has the responsibility for safety checks, hedge trimming and grass cutting.
