

# Breage Parish Council



**Annual Report 2017/2018**

**May 2018**

## Parish Rooms

Breage

HELSTON

TR13 9PD

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## Chairman's Report

In an ever-changing scenario with regard to local government, Breage Parish Council has discharged its specific functions as defined by the various Acts over the past year.

I have attended various civic functions to represent Breage Parish Council in our neighbouring Towns and Parishes

Through prudent financial planning we have been able to achieve a zero percent increase in the Parish precept for this financial year in contrast with the massive circa 6% increase levied by Cornwall Council.

All services and projects have been maintained or enhanced with additional projects commenced and in their early stages. These include:

Completion of the transfer of Ashton Amenity Area to Breage Parish Council.

Commencing a bid for play/exercise equipment for Carleen and Ashton.

Establishing a steering Group to take forward the Neighbourhood Plan for Breage Parish: this will allow much more influence to be exerted

upon planning decisions once complete and will become a material consideration.

Refurbishment of the Clerk's office and the Parish Rooms is still ongoing in order to provide a more efficient business environment and a better experience for the electorate who attend our meetings.

Plans to upgrade all streetlights in the ownership of Breage with a view to hand them over to Cornwall Council.

Clean up of the Basketball Court area at Praa Sands. Thanks are recorded to Mr Matt Gordon, M2 Construction for generously donating both time and materials to enable this project to happen.

A circular walk has been created at Praa Green, partly to add interest to the current walks and to provide alternative routes to alleviate wear and tear on the regular paths.

After protracted discussion with Cornwall Council and agreement reached on the way ahead for the future management of Praa Sands Public lavatories, Breage Parish Council re-established a "tenancy at will" with Cornwall Council in order that the facility can remain open for our Parishioners and visitors. In addition financial measures have been put in place to ensure its operation during this financial year 2018/19.

Breage Parish Council has requested that Cornwall Council investigate an alternative system of operation in order to reduce the running cost and the financial burden on the Parish precept. This is currently in progress with a new system that substantially reduces water usage and the cost of emptying. This new system will be installed initially in the ladies facility and is expected to be in place by the end of May 2018. This will cause some inconvenience during the installation phase for which we apologise.

Running concurrent to this project Cornwall Council have agreed at the request of local businesses and some residents to explore the establishment of a Community Interest Company in order to allow the business community to have a greater input into the management of the facility. Breage Parish Council wholeheartedly supports this initiative.

Planning events in and around Ashton have seen the formation of the Ashton Residents Association to ensure that parishioners' views are made clear to the planning authority and also demonstrate their views regarding matters in that area.

Godolphin Cross Community Association is to be congratulated on its overwhelming success and progress with the Old Chapel Community Centre and its continuing varied program of entertainment and community events. Breage Village hall continues to provide a valuable service to the villagers and the Parish generally.

Praa Sands Community Centre continues to be busy and well supported, as does Carleen Village Hall who will hopefully see their exercise equipment installed very soon.

The Parish Council will be welcoming old friends back again to commemorate the N461 Sunderland seaplane event of the Second World War. This will take place on the 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2018 at Praa Sands with further details published closer to the date.

May 2017 saw the local authority elections; eleven Breage Parish Councillors offered

themselves for re-election and were returned which resulted in a cooption as the poll was not claimed and Mr Tony Best was co-opted, returning the Council to full complement.

Cllr Christine Toms resigned during 2017; this created an additional vacancy with the poll not being claimed. This vacancy was filled by the co-option of Mr William Perrin.

The Council has established a Finance and General Purposes committee under the Chairmanship of Cllr Tony Best; this committee is already having a beneficial impact on council business and is currently in the process of reviewing all council policy documents with recommendations being presented to full council.

The business of Breage Parish Council is work in progress and as such is under constant review in order to provide the best possible service and value to our Parishioners.

The Planning policies of Cornwall Council continue to be a challenge and occupy a large part of the Council's time and resources. We continue to represent the views of the parishioners at both the Western area and Strategic planning committees as appropriate, supported by your comments received by email/letter or presented at public participation at our regular meetings.

The Parish is currently being inundated with planning proposals and if unchallenged these would very soon outstrip any infrastructure resources that remain or are expected.

In closing I would like to thank my Vice-Chairman Cllr Rosie Wyvern Batt and all my Councillor colleagues for their support and contribution to the Council's business over the past year. We are all supported by Mrs Carol Macleod, our Clerk/ Financial Responsible Officer and by Mrs Sarah Orpin who manages to keep the administrative offices spic and span. My thanks go to you all.

**Councillor Tony Woodhams – Chairman  
Breage Parish Council**

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## Members of the Council

Cllr Tony Ackland  
Cllr Tony Best  
Cllr Howard Bradford  
Cllr Simon Caddick  
Cllr Trevor Coleman  
Cllr Mrs Phil Darby  
Cllr Mrs Karen La Borde  
Cllr Will Perrin  
Cllr Ms Carole Rashleigh  
Cllr Chris Ralph  
Cllr Tony Woodhams  
Cllr Mrs Rose Wyvern Batt

### Cornwall Unitary Councillor for the Parish:

Cllr John V Keeling MBE

**Clerk/RFO:** Mrs Carol Macleod

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

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

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## Retired and New Councillors during the past year

A co-option vacancy for a Parish Councillor existed after the May 2017 elections. There were 2 applicants: Messrs Tony Best and Will Perrin. Tony Best was co-opted on the Chairman's deciding vote at the meeting on 16 May 2017. Mr Best had been a Parish Councillor for about 20 years. He did not apply for re-election because he thought he would be the Parishioners who were interested in the Praa Sands Toilets the chance to step forward. Also, by not standing he felt it could potentially save the Parish Council from election expenses which would have been some £2,500. He was very grateful that a vacancy had now occurred. He was welcomed to the Council. Mr Perrin was thanked for his application and interest and he kindly agreed to

remain on the waiting list. Then Mrs Christine Toms resigned from the Parish Council on 9 August 2017 and Mr Perrin was co-opted at the meeting on 7 November 2017. He was welcomed to the Parish Council. He has lived in Pellor Road, Breage for the last 4 years, having lived in Porthleven all his life before this. For the last seven years he has worked for a national tool hire company. He owns a business in Helston. Alongside his family there are two people with learning disabilities that reside with him under the "shared lives" scheme. He has always had a keen interest in everything local including football teams.

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## Attendance at Council Meetings 2016/2017

**There have been 12 Ordinary Parish Council meetings this year: an Annual Parish Meeting and a Precept Meeting – a total of 14 meetings.**

**There have also been other meetings of the Finance and General Purposes Committee and Toilet Committee that are not included in the attendance figures.**

Cllr Tony Woodhams 14 meetings

Cllr Tony Ackland 14 meetings

Cllr Tony Best 13 meetings (co-opted 16 May)

Cllr Howard Bradford 9 meetings

Cllr Simon Caddick 14 meetings

Cllr Trevor Coleman 13 meetings

Cllr Mrs Phil Darby 14 meetings

Cllr Mrs Karen La Borde 12 meetings

Cllr Will Perrin 5 meetings (co-opted 7 Nov)

Cllr Chris Ralph 12 meetings

Cllr Ms Carole Rashleigh 13 meetings

Cllr Mrs Wyvern Batt 13 meetings

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## **Council Meeting dates**

### **2018/2019**

Meetings at 7.00 p.m. in the Parish Rooms

Breage.

Meetings are notified on the Parish notice board outside the Parish Rooms, Breage.

From 26 April 2018 there will be two Parish Council Meetings each month. This is hoped to reduce the length of the meetings.

### **2018**

3 April 2018

26 April 2018

1 May 2018 Annual Parish Meeting at

6.30 p.m. followed by Parish Council Meeting

31 May 2018

5 June 2018

28 June 2018

3 July 2018

7 August 2018

6 September 2018

11 September 2018

27 September 2018

2 October 2018

25 October 2018

6 November 2018

22 November 2018 Precept/Budget

29 November 2018

4 December 2018

### **2019**

4 January 2019

9 January 2019

31 January 2019

5 February 2019

5 March 2019

## FINANCE

The Clerk is the Responsible Finance Officer. She and Cllrs Best (Chairman), Ackland, Caddick, La Borde and Wyvern Batt formed the Finance and General Purposes Committee for 2017/18. Payments and other accounts matters are checked by a Member of the Accounts Team before being presented to the Council each month. Bank Reconciliations are also checked before presentation to the Council. The Council's Internal Auditor this year was Mr DJL Gallie.

### Accounts Summary 2017/2018

#### Opening balances as at 1 April 2017:

Bank	£47,405.53	
Petty cash	£150.00	
Add Outstanding receipts 2016/17	£13,821.44	
Deduct 2016/2017 outstanding unrepresented cheques	-£4,705.75	£56,671.22

#### Add: Receipts in the year

Precept	£74,500.00	
Council Tax Support	£3,040.82	
LMP Payments footpaths	£3,959.84	
SWCP Payments	£2,088.73	
Cemetery fees	£3,117.00	
Administration	£38.50	
Grants and donations	£500.00	
Bank interest	£48.79	
Donations Praa Sands Toilets	£1,296.43	
Miscellaneous income Rates reimbursement previous year	£4,724.62	
Balance of Ashton Community Association Account	£38.74	
VAT DUE 2016/17 not paid until April 2018	-£129.69	

#### Less: Payments in the year

		£93,223.78
Administration	-£33,742.70	
Grants s137	-£615.00	
Grants other	-£4,216.67	
Contract work	-£11,168.12	
Open Spaces	-£2,214.05	
Public Lighting	-£3,233.13	
Running costs:		
Cemetery	-£544.80	
Praa Sands Toilets	-£15,426.52	
Bus shelters/benches/notice boards/signs/phone box/handyman tasks	-£1,104.60	
Parish Rooms £3,047.66 from 2018/19 budget	-£6,426.03	
Neighbourhood Plan	-£794.66	
VAT paid	-£7,293.06	

-£86,779.34

#### Closing balance receipts & payments as at 31 March 2018

£63,115.66

Receipts for 2017/2018 decreased by £8,401.23 compared to the previous year. The Precept, because of good management, remained the same as the previous year and this has been much appreciated by Parishioners. The VAT reclaim not received until April 2018, £ 5,517 and a further £1,705.58 to come; The Council Tax Support grant was increased as was the LMP grant, by £259.24, and the SWCP grant, by £417.75. A rates relief payment was received on the Parish Rooms rates back to 2010. There was no large grant for the Toilets this year but an £800 donation for the use of the toilets and water came from the RNLI and a further £496.43 from the donation box. Cemetery fees were down by £768. Payments decreased by £810.27, helped by a rates relief payment of £1,762.44 meaning that the Council no longer has to pay rates for the Parish Rooms. Praa Sands Toilets' costs decreased by £6,929.65, thanks to sterling work by the Toilets' Committee. Parish Rooms' costs were £6,426.03 but £3,047.66 is accounted for in the 2018/19 budget. The Rooms have been refurbished and LED lighting, new floor covering installed and the office door replaced. Street Lighting costs were down but maintenance work of £2,934.91 that has been agreed has not yet been carried out or invoiced. Contract work and Open Spaces work costs increased as more work was done and new areas were cleared at Praa Green. Grant payments increased this year and were awarded to community groups as follows: £500 to Breage Silver Band towards running costs; £500 to Praa Sands

Community Centre towards re-rendering work; £1,500 to Godolphin Cross Community Association towards the purchase of Godolphin Chapel; £500 to Carleen Village Hall towards new tables; £350 to Ashton Village Committee towards lighting for their marquee; £750 to Breage Village Hall towards insulation costs; £100 to Praa Sands Defibrillator Group towards a defibrillators at Praa Sands Post Office. St Breaca Church was paid a £50 annual grant towards the upkeep of the village clock and the British Legion was supported by the purchase of wreaths, £90, for Remembrance Sunday services. Breage Band was awarded a £50 grant for playing at the Remembrance Service. Cornwall Air Ambulance received £250 towards assistance for Parishioners needing aid. Grants of £50 were awarded to CRUSE Bereavement Care to help in supporting bereaved people in the TR13 Breage Parish area and CAB Penzance towards assistance for Breage Parishioners. The Foot's Charities received £75 towards teaching aids for schools in the Parish and end of year gifts for the children. Expected receipts for 2018/19 are £85,069 and expected payments £101,256. These figures are as listed in the budget figures. After the accounts had been examined by an Accounts Team Councillor, Cllr Best, they were passed to the Internal Auditor, Mr D J L Gallie. The Annual Audit Return is to be completed and signed by Mr Gallie. Mr Gallie is thanked for auditing the accounts and the Breage Playing Field Accounts this year.

## **BREAGE PLAYING FIELD**

Another year has passed and this community area is still being used by all ages. The play equipment has needed a bit of TLC and a few replacement parts. The up-keep of this equipment is probably the most costly, and as it ages, repairs and replacements are required. For the last few years we haven't had to apply for a grant from the Parish but in the future this may become necessary.

As a committee we are short of members and this may become a problem this year as we won't have a quorum. New members are always sought and welcomed. We will have our AGM in May and hopefully be back up to strength.

Our thanks go to the grass contractor who is doing a great job.

I would like to thank the Parish Council for its continued support.

**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.

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## **FOOTPATHS AND RIGHTS OF WAY**

There were several complaints about footpath 41 which runs through Haulfryns and as a result we have asked for two cuts on this pathway for the coming year.

The byway 47 in Praa Sands was causing problems with many potholes. Some potholes have been filled but there is still more work to do and the temporary surface notices are back.

Problems were caused by flytipping on footpath 64 (Ashton, Rinsey Lane to Hendra Lane). The rubbish was eventually removed but there is also concern about the width and condition of the pathway at the Rinsey Lane end. It has been asked if a diversion order could be made to re-route this end of the path.

There have been several difficulties on footpath 14 (Trevena Nursery to Ashton Playing Field). The planning application from Elysian Fields for a gateway access across this path and onto bridleway 69 has now been withdrawn, the gate is to be removed and the footpath now runs its correct route exiting through the Nursery.

Footpath 56 Godolphin has been closed as the bridge is unsafe and needs replacing.

Our thanks go to our Contractor for his excellent work in cutting the footpaths and to our Cornwall Council Countryside Officer. If you are aware of problems on the Public Rights of Way network in the Parish then please do let us know.

**Cllr Mrs P Darby – Footpaths Representative**

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## **BREAGE PARISH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

In February 2017 the Parish Council sought and successfully secured from Cornwall Council the designation of the parish for the purpose of preparing a Neighbourhood Development Plan. Following the local government elections of May 2017 the Parish Council established a Working Group to test out whether there was community interest in the preparation of a Neighbourhood Development Plan and to identify initial views on planning issues facing the Parish.

The Working Group co-ordinated the delivery of a series of public meetings in each of the Parish's main settlements, and an initial postal survey of households across the Parish. The results of the public meetings and the initial household survey were reported to the Parish

Council in November 2017 and January 2018 and are available for inspection on the Parish Council's web site. The results of both the public meetings and the initial household survey were largely positive in respect of showing support from parishioners for the preparation of a Neighbourhood Development Plan.

In February 2018 the Parish Council therefore supported the establishment of a Steering Group to oversee the preparation and delivery of a Neighbourhood Development Plan. The Steering Group is made up of 15 local residents from across the Parish and is chaired by Stephen Rice who resides in Praa Sands. The Steering Group has been meeting monthly and all of its meetings are open to attendance by local residents with agendas and meeting notes also published on the Parish Council's website. The Steering Group is just about to submit a bid for funding from central government to help in the preparation of the Neighbourhood Development Plan. It is intended that this will be used over the current financial year to support the development of an evidence base for the Neighbourhood Development Plan, with a focus on an extensive programme of consultation and engagement with local residents and other stakeholders with an interest in the parish. This is intended to include a dedicated website, preparation of publicity materials, attendance at local events and liaison with community groups, further public meetings and a more detailed questionnaire survey.

**CLlr Chris Ralph - Secretary Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group**