

ST AUSTELL BAY PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT MAY 2015

This has been an exceptionally busy year for the council!

We have dealt with 43 planning applications, some of them very controversial, most of which were within the conservation area of Charlestown. We have agreed to disagree with Cornwall Council planning officers on planning permission for a number of these applications, and we have not always agreed with the reasons for refusal on others. We do, however, continue to enjoy good relations with the county planners and the conservation officers with whom we continue to work closely. One application went to appeal at which our objections were upheld.

As a consultee we have given evidence at a number of appeals within the area and we are currently awaiting the decision on the proposal for the large development at Holmbush.

Following one appeal, the parish council sought a meeting with the Chief Planning Officer and Portfolio Holder for Planning and Regeneration to express our concerns about the Appeal process and the Cornwall Council defence of its decisions to refuse development, particularly following a 'members' overturn'. We made a number of suggestions which are now being considered and will, we believe, if adopted, improve both the process and outcomes.

The Parish Plan (2010-13) has been evaluated and a new Plan constructed following meetings with all stakeholders, a number of consultation evenings at various locations within the parish, and responses to our questionnaire. The response at 32% is considered good for this type of consultation.

The new Plan is on our website (which has also been rebuilt): www.staustellbayparishcouncil.co.uk

On a different note, we have taken on from Cornwall Council the maintenance of the verges outside of Foundry Park and Higher Porthpean Square and have adopted the old classic phone box in Higher Porthpean – if any parishioner has an idea of what we can use it for please contact our parish clerk!

The council has been involved in a number of community ventures including the daffodil planting to give a "Field of Hope" down Charlestown Road and a litter pick.

I would like to thank all members of the public who have joined us in helping to improve the appearance of the parish.

Under our Grants Policy we have made donations to: Cornwall Hospice Care, The Clay Trails Partnership, and the Air Ambulance and from our Parish Plan we have agreed

project funding for a CCTV camera in Charlestown, planting shrubs in Duporth and a wild flower garden in Charlestown. We have also played a significant role in obtaining a defibrillator for Charlestown.

As most residents will know we have completed the building of the new public toilet block in the car park at Charlestown and are awaiting the resurfacing of the surrounding area. We would like to express our thanks to Mr John Kneale for making the ground available for lease to facilitate this project. We further thank him for making available the anchors which have been sited in prominent positions around the village and on the main roundabout on the A390.

Our new Community Hall, to be called 'The Pattern Hall', is very near to completion and we hope to take over the building in a few weeks' time. The hall will become the base for the Parish Council Offices, provide meeting rooms and become a bookable space for local organisations and societies. We shall work closely with the Trustees of St Paul's Church Hall to provide the best and most suitable space for each activity particularly given the fact that the Pattern Hall is within a residential estate! When completed, the Hall will also provide a base for the 'Charlestown Outreach Post Office' which will operate twice a week at the outset.

We are grateful to Wainhomes with whom we have negotiated to establish mutually beneficial arrangements which have released funding to provide these two significant community benefits.

In addition to our regular parish council work our councillors continue to attend and contribute to local group meetings, training sessions, appeal hearings and site meetings as required. I extend my sincere thanks to them all for their hard work and support. And finally, I extend my grateful thanks to Julie Larter, our Parish Clerk, who continues to manage and support us all with great skill and good humour.

Councillors

Charlestown:	Cllr Linda Lang (Vice Chairman) Cllr Malcolm Neill Cllr Patrick Wharton
Duporth	Cllr Bill Leach (Chairman) Cllr Sue Leach Cllr Nick Tamblin
Porthpean and Trenarren	Cllr Heidi Freimuth

All councillors can be contacted via the Clerk

Julie Larter
Trethella Cottage
Ruanlanihorne
Truro TR2 5NU
Telephone 01872 501101
Email: julielarter.parishclerk@hotmail.co.uk

Cornwall Council Ward Member
Cllr Tom French
5 Trevone Crescent
St Austell
PL25 5EB
Telephone: 01726 73735
Email: tfrench@cornwall.gov.uk

FINANCE

Council Income

The main income of parish and town councils is provided by local residents via the Parish Precept, an element of your Council Tax. The amount of Precept received for 2014-15 was £27,851.72.

The Council's income was exceptional last year as it received a one-off lump sum from Wainhomes to build the new toilet block.

How we spent your money

Income

Precept	£27,851.72
Bank interest	£37.00
VAT	£8518.44
Other Income	£50,187.27
Total Income	£86,594.43

Expenditure

Employee Costs	£15,558.70	
Accommodation	£216.00	
Administration	£1,771.22	
Chairman's Allowance/Cllrs Allowance	Nil	
Website	£675.00	
Grants	£408.00	
Projects	£12,907.35	
Toilets	£50,675.33	
Seagull Egg Removal Scheme	£315.00	
Footpath Maintenance	£2146.00	£900 reimbursed by CC
Hall Set Up Costs	£2,391.83	
VAT	£11,478.07	

Total Expenditure **£98,542.50**

NET INCOME **-£11,948.07**



St Austell Bay Parish Council
SERVING OUR COMMUNITY – PRESERVING OUR HERITAGE
www.staustellbayparishcouncil.co.uk