

ST AUSTELL BAY PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 19 APRIL 2018

As a result of the Governance review, the size of the council increased from 7 to 9 last May. We were sorry that Patrick Wharton and Nick Tamblin did not stand again as councillors. They were replaced by Tamsin Low representing Charlestown and Haydn Webb, Duporth. Trudy Reynolds became the member for Porthpean and Trenarren. Sadly, both Tamsin and Haydn had to leave us for quite different reasons during the year; I thank both for their contributions and wish them well for their futures. Steve Morris was co-opted onto the council at its March meeting as a councillor for the Duporth ward. Steve is the Chairman of Duporth CIC and will bring a vast range of experience to the council while Richard Hallows is the councillor designate for Charlestown.

Over the year we have been consulted on 48 planning applications some of which continue to be the subject of enforcement. The whole area of 'Enforcement' is one that continues to frustrate the council as we watch the Grade 2* chapel fall into disrepair and become an unsafe eyesore and the Clay Dry face virtual destruction. A working party has been meeting to examine and record the history of the various planning applications and enforcement actions on both buildings with a view to submitting reports to the Ombudsman for his consideration. It came as a shock to discover that a parish council could not complain to the Ombudsman as it is deemed part of 'the Council' and is therefore required to submit its complaint to the very people it is complaining about! Therefore, we hope that individual members will want to take the matter forward. For our part, the council has raised the matter with Steve Double, our MP who has promised to progress our concerns to ministerial level if necessary.

Your council continues, too, to be frustrated by the length of time it takes Cornwall Council to get things done eg Highways were asked to remove redundant signage almost 10 months ago which has still not been done while we have been waiting almost 2 years for the railings on Porthpean slipway to be replaced! This is particularly frustrating knowing that the money is there but not the action!

While we accept that, following the severe winter, roads and potholes are a national problem we are increasingly concerned about the state of both Charlestown Road and Duporth Road and will continue to press for urgent attention to both.

On a more positive note, we are pleased to see South West Water investing in Charlestown's waste system and hope that the work will soon be completed.

Following the unanimous support of the many residents attending our monthly parish meetings the council decided to begin work on establishing a Neighbourhood Plan for the parish which was designated in October.

It is sad therefore to report that the first meeting of the Strategic Group, which was attended by Cornwall Council's Group Leader for Neighbourhood Plans, caused her to comment on the high level of negativity from non-council members. There has continued to be a 'them and us' attitude which has now resulted in the council seeking advice from CALC on the way forward. New Terms of Reference were adopted by the council at its February meeting. Hopefully, these new Terms of Reference will ensure better progress in the future and ensure that the group fairly represents all wards of the council.

Over the year, councillors have attended many training events including planning, finance, code of conduct, being a good councillor, minutes and agendas as well as representing the council at many and various meetings. I thank my fellow councillors for all their hard work.

Over the year, the council has made grants to The Sea Cadets, The Merlin MS Centre and the Cornwall Air Ambulance.

Money was given towards the Christmas Lights in Charlestown (what a super evening the switch on was!) and for 50 slates for the roof of St Paul's Church.

Your council made representations to the Boundary Commission in connection with the electoral review of the county and we await the outcome.

We continue to have problems with camping and long term parking on the Ledrah and are hoping to meet with the Chair of the Penrice Board to seek a solution.

To finish on a positive note, The Pattern Hall is proving a valuable asset with a very high level of usage and support.

And finally, as ever, may I thank our staff; Brian Reynolds, Roy Rodriguez and Keith Carter – how lucky we are to have such a great team!

This, very finally, leaves me with just one other person to thank - our parish clerk, Julie Larter. She always has a smile, is unfailingly positive and is one of the hardest working people I know – thank you from us all Julie!

Councillors

Charlestown Cllr Linda Lang (Vice Chairman)
Cllr Sue Osbrink
Cllr Dave Nicklin
Cllr Rick Hallows

Duporth Cllr Bill Leach (Chairman)
Cllr Sue Leach
Cllr Malcolm Neill
Cllr Steve Morris

Porthpean and Trenarren Cllr Trudy Reynolds

All councillors can be contacted via the Clerk Julie Larter
The Pattern Hall
Foundry Parc
Charlestown Road
Charlestown
St Austell
Telephone 01726 72334 or 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

Like most parish and town councils St Austell Bay Parish Council's main source of income is the precept which is provided by local residents as an element of the Council Tax. The amount of precept received in 2017/18 was £42,517.97. In addition to this, income is derived from charging for the use of our public toilets and hiring the community hall. The council has also received a number of grants for specific projects.

Income

	2017/18	2016/17
Precept	42,517.97	£40,630.79
Bank interest	10.06	£31.84
VAT	3,524.07	£2,046.23
Toilets	£6,156.65	£6,742.60
The Pattern Hall	£6,936.97	£2,644.75
Other Income	£7,936.97	£14,505.37
Total Income	£67,119.97	£66,601.58

Expenditure

	2017/18	2016/17
Staff Costs	£24,916.68	£21,604.39
Training	£1,460.00	£1,340.44
Administration	£3,781.50	£2,975.47
Chairman's Allowance/Cllrs Allowance	Nil	Nil
Street Furniture Maintenance	£170.00	£181.27
Grants	£580.00	£600.00
Projects	£1,680.34	£2,839.00
Toilets	£12,000.58	£6,317.11
The Pattern Hall	£4,853.27	£7,013.88
Seagull Egg Removal Scheme	£228.00	£280.00
Footpath Maintenance	£2,685.00	£2,330.00
S106 Improvements	Nil	£3,409.00
Contingencies	Nil	£904.28
Election costs	£630.60	Nil
Neighbourhood Development Plan	£1,307.98	N/a
VAT	£3,197.56	£3,485.95
Total Expenditure	£57,491.51	£53,280.79
Surplus	<u>+£12,461.48</u>	<u>+£13,320.79</u>