

St Austell Bay Annual Parish Assembly

17 APRIL 2025

(1) Report from the Chairman of the Parish Council

This has been another busy year for the parish council. We have considered and commented on 35 planning applications, some of which have been controversial, and others, thankfully, more straight forward. As I say every year, parishioners need to remember that the parish council merely gives a view on an application: it is Cornwall Council that remains the Planning Authority which makes the final decision.

There are now 20mph speed limits on Charlestown Road and Church Road and the council will continue to press for a 20mph limit around Charlestown School.

Rather sadly, this year saw the closure of the old-established Shipwreck Centre in Charlestown. While most of the contents were sold at auction, a few of the Charlestown specific artefacts were passed on to the parish council for safe keeping. These can be viewed at the Pattern Hall (parish council office) when the office is open, or by appointment. Discussions are ongoing regarding the future of the anchors around Charlestown. We still await the delivery of the clay carts which will also be displayed in the Pattern Hall. The History Working Party has worked on walking routes around the parish, and free booklets are available on the parish website.

We have continued with the installation of the interpretation boards around the parish, and we hope to add the final board to the Duporth ward shortly.

We regularly monitor the trees in the parish and planning applications are carefully considered against the health of the trees. New developments now require a biodiversity net gain. The severe storms of the winter saw the loss of several of our older trees and the ones that remain will continue to be monitored. The Duporth CIC continues to monitor the trees on its estate and a local resident of Duporth Bay has planted trees in an area of woodland adjoining their property. These have all been recorded as part of the Forest for Cornwall Initiative.

The Environment and Climate Crisis Working Party continues to produce monthly posters for the websites and noticeboards. Recently a member was interviewed by Chaos Radio about our initiatives. The Diggers and Doers Group continues to work to improve the parish environment. Any new volunteers would be most welcome. The 2024 Carbon Footprint Report for the parish showed a pleasing reduction in the annual carbon emissions. Planning applications continue to be assessed considering energy efficiency and carbon reduction. A problem with night time lighting around Charlestown Harbour was successfully resolved.

We have contributed to the resurfacing of part of the Mill Lane footpath, and we are pleased to have been able to give grants to the Cornish Barbarians and Cornwall Air Ambulance.

I am delighted to report that we have finally agreed a small parking scheme for the residents of the lower Duporth Road. Thanks to all involved.

The Pattern Hall continues to be very well used and in the past year generated an income stream of £10,777. This excludes staffing costs but is still an increase on last year's

revenue of £8,811 despite the increase in electricity costs. Anyone looking to book the hall should contact the parish clerk, Julie Larter, on enquiries@staustellbay-pc.gov.uk

Cornwall Council continues to press the parish council to take over the management of the Regatta Field. We have had regular meetings with the officers responsible for devolution and open spaces. While we are agreeable in principle, we have been at pains to ensure that no financial penalty would be incurred by the council in the event of flooding originating from the capping of the mine in 2014/2015. We have continued with regular meetings of the Regatta Field Working Party, who are aware of the situation. We have agreed the re-positioning of the children's football pitch, and we continue to pursue 106 funding to allow Cormac to complete the work. The Regatta Committee is aware that its existing contract with Cornwall Council will cease and be taken over by the parish council and for the continuation of the excellent Charlestown Regatta it is essential that we continue to work closely together. May I thank members of the Regatta Committee and the devolution team from Cornwall Council for their continuing work on our behalf.

Stemming from central government's plan to build a greatly increased number of houses in the coming years, we have attended 'Call for Sites' and other planning meetings and have commented on some of the proposals. For your information, the parish target for extra homes is an extra 37 by 2030. This will need to be remembered when we examine future planning applications. Thankfully, our Neighbourhood Plan, which was adopted in October 2021, is still valid apart from the Development Boundaries policy.

We continue to cut and maintain all public rights of way in the parish, provide benches and waste bins, and pay the running costs of the defibrillators in most areas, all of which now contain bleed control kits.

In June we were pleased to celebrate the 80th anniversary of D-Day in Charlestown Harbour, where former councillor Malcolm Neill lit a beacon and Cllr Mustoe read the tribute. We record our thanks to the Harbour for all their help and cooperation. We are now planning the commemoration of VE Day on May 8th.

We are saying goodbye to three current councillors who are not seeking re-election – Matt Sanders, Chrissie Wright and Trudy Reynolds. Trudy has also been our tree officer and an invaluable member of two working parties in the eight years she has served as a councillor. We thank all of them for their contribution over the time they have served on the council and wish them well in whatever they do next.

I would like to record thanks to our staff - Keith Carter, Laura Byers and Roy Rodriguez - for all their hard work.

And finally, I record my thanks to our outstanding Clerk, Julie Larter, who keeps a careful watching eye on all that we do!

Cllr Bill Leach, Chairman, St Austell Bay Parish Council

Parish Council Finances

	2023/24	2024/25
Income		
Precept	£50,097.40	£55,817.51
Pattern Hall	£8,811.50	£10,777.35
Public conveniences	£4,375.09	£5,230.28
VAT refund	£5,196.31	£4,440.05
Interest	£3,180.77	£4,302.60
CIL	£-	£1,350.85
Other income	£5,854.06	£5,859.84
	£77,515.13	£87,778.48
Expenditure		
Staff Costs	£35,628.50	£36,800.02
Training	£960.60	£825.00
Administration	£6,476.06	£6,887.69
Chairman's Allowance/Councillor Allowance	£0.00	£0.00
Parish maintenance	£4,320.65	£5,663.51
Grants	£891.49	£500.00
Projects	£3,052.93	£7,733.71
Public conveniences	£18,433.68 ¹	£7,278.64
Pattern Hall	£5,994.03	£6,851.32
	£75,757.94	£72,539.89

Julie Larter, Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

¹ The public conveniences were refurbished

(2) Devon and Cornwall Police Report

PC Lauren Ward presented the following report:

The St Austell Neighbourhood Team currently comprises of 1 Police Sargeant (PS) known as a Neighbourhood Team Leader (NTL) 5 Police Officers known as Neighbourhood Beat Managers (NBM), 4 Police Community Support Officers (PCSO) and 1 Tri-Service Safety Officer (TSSO).

The Neighbourhood Inspector responsible for the St Austell area is currently Inspector Simon Andrews.

PC Lauren Ward, PC Will Chesterfield and PCSO Wendy Christophers are the neighbourhood officers responsible St Austell town and the parish areas immediately surrounding the town which includes the St Austell Bay Parish.

There have been a number of changes to the neighbourhood team over the past 12 months. PS Ian Chambers, the former NTL, was successful in being promoted to Inspector. His replacement PS Martin Easter has recently joined the team following 5 years as a Custody Sargeant based in Newquay. Prior to this Martin was a patrol officer based out of St Austell for 9 years.

The team will have 3 new PCSO's joining in early April where they will undergo a period of tutorship prior to being deployed into the community. There is the intention that one of the PCSO's will be deployed to the town and its immediate parishes which will include St Austell Bay Parish.

We are currently waiting for information from the Police and Crime Commissioner with regard to funding for additional NBM'S.

The team also works closely with Cornwall Council Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Team and the ASB and housing teams working for the various social housing associations with housing stock in the area to deal with ASB and low level crime.

St Austell Bay Parish crime and ASB information from March 2024 to February 2025

A total of 57 crimes were reported during this period broken down as below;

Crime type	Number
Criminal damage and arson	7
Vehicle crime	3
Shoplifting	1
Other thefts	2
Possession of weapons	2
Public order offences	5
Other crimes	2
Violence and sexual offences	35

There were 13 ASB incidents reported during this period some including neighbour disputes which are not necessarily ASB but reported as such.

The Chairman thanked PC Ward.

(3) Report from Cornwall Councillor James Mustoe

I am pleased to now be in my fifth year as Cornwall Councillor for St Austell Bay Parish, and overall eleventh year as a Cornwall Councillor and would like to thank the Parish Council, and residents and businesses in general for your continued support.

I continue to work on a variety of local issues, and in all areas like to work closely with my parish councils to achieve real positive change and help address longstanding issues.

A few highlights include:

Getting the vast majority of roads and pavements adopted by Cornwall Council in the 'new' Duporth estate – something which I have picked up and ran with following my election in 2021 following years of previous delays.

Worked with Porthpean Outdoor Education Centre to ensure they were fully repaired and able to reopen following the fire in 2023.

Worked to get Footpath 9 at Trenarren reopened.

Worked with the Parish Council and Cornwall Council to finally progress the plans for resident parking restrictions and double yellow lines on Duporth Hill.

Worked with the Parish Council and Cornwall Council to continue to progress plans for the Regatta Field. This included ensuring S106 funds from The Nest site were collected by Cornwall Council and are ready to use for this purpose should they be needed.

Have worked with the NHS and Cornwall Council to get a new accessible crossing point for pedestrians installed on Porthpean Road for the hospital site.

Worked with the NHS and Cornwall Council to support plans for and then the swift construction of the Elective Surgical Hub for St Austell.

Worked with Cornwall Council and Charlestown Harbour on their successful bid for funds from the Shared Prosperity Fund for aid towards the new gates for the harbour.

Worked with Cornwall Council and the landowner and Charlestown History Group to continue works to improve and restore the historic Battery site.

I also continue to include the Parish in my regular ongoing litter pick and beach clean schedule. For 2024/25 this has included working with my St Austell Tidy Up Team, to pick up tons of litter locally, including 65 sacks recently over the Keep Britain Tidy Great British Spring Clean which lasted for two weeks in March/April.

I have also in my day to day work, continued to get out and about, meeting local residents, organisations, and businesses and always try my best to represent your issues and interests at County Hall.

There are always loads of local casework issues ongoing, particularly regarding potholes and verge trimming – I do my best to get a speedy and positive response once I get involved.

At County Hall over the past year I have:

Seconded a motion calling on Cornwall Council to campaign for push for more and fairer funding to help address issues with delays in the Education Health and Care Plans system which was passed unanimously.

Seconded a motion calling on Cornwall Council to do more to support our farmers during a tough time nationally.

With regards to my Community Chest, I have awarded grants over the past year to the Cornwall Croquet Club, the Cornwall International Male Choral Festival and to the Cornish Barbarians Gig Club.

Finally, I love getting involved in the various community events in the parish and apart from assisting the Charlestown History Group with their Battery Recharge days, it was also brilliant as ever to volunteer during the Regatta celebrations – I love doing the Bar there! My thanks go to all who volunteer in their communities.

Finally, it was a great honour to play a part in the D-Day Commemoration event in Charlestown – an incredibly well organised and touching moment for the whole community.

I would like to congratulate the Parish Council on their excellent work and positive approach and attitude. You are a pleasure to work with and I always look forward to coming to the monthly meetings.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Mustoe.

(4) Open Forum

There were no members of the public present.

The meeting closed at 6.20 pm

ST AUSTELL BAY | PARISH COUNCIL

SERVING OUR COMMUNITY, PRESERVING OUR HERITAGE
SERVYA AGAN KEMENETH, GWITHA AGAN ERTACH

