

Chairman's Annual Report 2023/2024

Faces on Ludgvan Parish Council have changed over the past year, with the resignations of Clive Price-Jones, Jonathan Mayall, Michael Payne and Andrew Segal (with thanks given by the council for all of their work during their terms of office) and welcoming new parish councillors, Cllrs Leon Miucci, Lydia Brindley, Bev Richards and Stephen Oliver to the council.

The council's allotments are running at a 100% occupancy rate for most of the year. There is a short waiting list and parish residents in particular are encouraged to put their name down for an allotment if they would wish to take one up. Feedback from allotment tenants is very positive and the benefits of working an allotment are huge. Each year when the annual inspections are carried out we see an improvement in the overall standard of the majority of the allotment plots – a tribute to the hard work put into them!

The council receives monthly finance reports at each of its meetings, where Cllrs are able to raise questions and assure themselves that everything that needs to be done to ensure that the council acts prudently, is done. Council policies and governance procedures are kept under review with a view to bringing in improvements when possible. The council has signed up to a national initiative, the Civility and Respect Project, and has made its Civility and Respect Pledge.

The parish council is consulted on planning applications within the parish, and often members of the public attend to speak during the public participation period at the start of council meetings, and to hear the councillors debate and make decisions. During the year, the council has considered 58 planning applications (10 fewer than the previous year).

The parish council has been a consultee on traffic and highways matters in the parish, including proposals for a 20mph scheme. Feasibility work has continued on potential improvements to highways layout in Long Rock, Ludgvan Churchtown and Ludgvan Lower Quarter, with public consultation expected to be carried out by Cormac in June 2024 for the improvements proposed for the latter.

Grants to local organisations have been paid, including to the Ludgvan Community Centre, the Long Rock Playing Field Association and Citizens Advice.

The public rights of way network (footpaths and bridleways) has been maintained under an agency agreement with Cornwall Council.

The parish council is working on improving facilities for the benefit of the local parish:

Funding was secured from South West Water for a water-saving project, with 62 water butts provided for the allotment plots at Church Hill and Long Rock. Each water butt holds 210 litres of water, and so a significant saving in use of tap water at the allotments, bringing environmental benefits and saving money on water bills.

Representatives from this council have been active in meetings with Highways England, Cormac, Cornwall Council and neighbouring parish councils, working on identifying issues associated with the A30, and improvements that can be made. This work is ongoing, and it is hoped that in coming months and years there will be improvements to bus stops and shelters, road crossing points, verges, and facilities for pedestrians.

Also on the A30, there have been an increasing number of complaints about blocked drains and mud on the road and pavement. We have been working to identify the agency best placed to deal with these issues. This work is also ongoing, with improvements anticipated in the near future.

The new housing development at Morva Reach, Long Rock, is under construction and so the parish council has been liaising with the developers to ensure that there is local input into the design and build of the new Community Hall which will be part of the development, and will be handed over to the parish council to run once completed. The parish council will be working to run the Community Hall as a facility for the parish, one of a few halls in the parish available for hiring for events and functions.

In Long Rock, the parish council has transferred the Trusteeship of the Long Rock Memorial Institute charity to local residents who volunteered to become Trustees and have now taken on full responsibility for maintaining the hall and bringing it back into use. Already fundraising has been held, and I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the organisers and all who took part to raise over £1,200 at the recent auction of promises.

In response to a request from members of the public, the parish council has applied for the Star Inn at Crowlas to be listed as an Asset of Community Value. The aim of this listing would be to have a period of time before the building can be sold, to give the local community the chance to raise funds to bring the building into community ownership. The application is currently with Cornwall Council for consideration and decision.

The parish council provides and maintains defibrillators at Ludgvan Community Centre and at the Station House café, Long Rock.

The old BT phone box at White Cross has been kitted out with shelves and a noticeboard and transformed by the parish council into a community book exchange. Thanks to Steph and Leon for their care and effort to get the book exchange up and running, and for keeping the phone box tidy and welcoming.

Funding from Cormac, from their operations at the Castle an Dinas quarry was this year put towards repairing play equipment at the Long Rock playing field.

The parish council continues to work closely with the three Cornwall Council ward members who each cover a section of the parish, Cllrs Linda Taylor, Andrew George, and John Martin.

Changes in the planning consultation process mean that parish councils now have a shorter consultation period and so the parish council has appointed a planning committee which can meet between council meetings to consider planning applications when necessary.

The parish council also works closely with neighbouring parishes, whether on joint initiatives (such as with Marazion Town Council and Madron Parish Council), or information sharing and liaison to keep up with latest opportunities and matters of note.

My thanks to the following:

- the contractors who work for the parish council, keeping the rights of way and cemeteries well maintained

- our Cornwall Councillors for their support and advice
- members of the council old and new, I must give particular thanks to, for their support and expertise in many different aspects. Parish Councillors give their time and efforts to the work of the council for the benefit of the local community. In addition to attending meetings, councillors take on roles in projects carried out by the council, attend training and meetings with residents and other organisations. It can be a demanding but rewarding role!
- and finally thanks to our clerk for holding everything together and advising us on all aspects of council work, thank you Louise.

Cllr Roy Mann, Chairman, Ludgvan Parish Council

May 2024