

Probus Parish Council

Annual Report 2011/2012

May 2012

Probus Parish Council

115 Carne View Road

Probus

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Parish Clerk: Amanda Kendall

01726 883614

Members of the Council

Derek Colton (Chairman)

01726 882913

Vivian Rogers (Vice-Chairman)

01726 882600

Michael Williams

01726 883091

John Cole

01726 882775

Anthony Courtman

01726 884108

Melanie Fielder

01726 882063

James Harvey

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Sue Booth

01726 882949

David Datson

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Clive Jones

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Barry Willcox

01726 884176

County Councillor

Bob Egerton

01726 884451 or

07785 748844

Chairman's Report

By Councillor Derek Colton



This report is based on my observations over the last year. Cornwall Council has now been in existence for three years and my impression is that I have seen very little to benefit Probus Parish. Paperwork, e-mails, meetings and committees have definitely increased.

I have been asked about the procedure for planning applications. From the parish council's side each application is judged on its own merit. The site is visited by two councillors, it is then discussed and voted on at a planning sub-committee, then forwarded to Cornwall Council who make the final decision.

Still on the subject of Cornwall Council, the new waste/recycling collections, whilst in its infancy, appears to be a total shambles. Cornwall Council and Cory need to get their act together! The last year has seen a year of controversial issues. For example, the Truro Eastern District Centre; wind turbines; Fairfield development; and road layouts.

The updating of the Multi-Use Games Area in the playing field will be going ahead with the benefit of the S106 money. The CCTV in the children's play area has proved successful in reducing vandalism. Whilst on the subject of vandalism, can anyone explain to me the benefit someone gets from damaging a disable toilet?

In 2011, the parish council increased the precept. I can see that in November when we set the precept for 2013 that could well rise again. Still looking forward, a neighbourhood plan is to be formulated which all parishioners will be able to have an input. The Diamond Jubilee will soon be upon us so please support the committee's fund-raising and the planned events.

Finally, I would like to remind parishioners of two things:

1. Parish Councillors spend a lot of time doing council work, not just attending one meeting a month and, contrary to what I have been told recently, parish councillors do not get paid.
2. Amanda Kendall, the parish clerk, does an excellent job and spends far more time on parish work than her allotted hours. So I would ask for Amanda and myself that anyone wishing to contact us do so at a reasonable time and preferably not at weekends.

D. L. Colton

How the Parish Precept was spent in 2011/2012

The main income of Parish and Town Councils is provided by local residents via the Parish Precept, an element of your Council Tax. The other income is provided by renting out car parking spaces and burials.

A major expenditure was the Play Area; due to significant vandalism a large amount was spent on repairs and the installation of CCTV to avoid more vandalism. Other necessary expenditure included the day-to-day operation of the Parish Council (clerk and administration), along with maintenance of grass verges and cemetery, plus maintenance and cleaning of the public toilets and bus shelters, servicing the parish clock and looking after the car park.

PARISH
PRECEPT,
2012-13

The Probus Parish Precept is £43,000 which equates to a Band D property paying £53.91 per year.

Income		£
Precept		38,000.00
Interest		5.32
Burial Fees		571.00
Other Receipts		3,397.65
VAT Refund		3,918.05
TOTAL		<u>45,892.02</u>
EXPENDITURE		
General Administration		
Village Hall	1,102.37	
Administration	16,635.73	
Grants	<u>0.00</u>	
		17,738.10
Capital		12,856.77
Section 137		1,516.50
Burial Ground		3,240.00
Playing Field		8,540.47
Street Lighting		491.04
Car Park		617.00
Public Toilets		3,982.25
Other Payments		0.00
VAT		4,405.03
TOTAL		<u>53,387.16</u>
NET INCOME		<u>-7,495.14</u>
Balance at Bank 31st March 2012		17,605.66

PARISH COUNCIL GRANTS

The Council is empowered to make some grants to local organisations to help with special events or purchases. None of this is "free money". It comes out of YOUR pocket (via the Precept/Council Tax), so we have to carefully consider the merits of each and every application. We have to budget 18 months ahead so the budgeted sum for 2012/13 will need to be agreed between October and November 2012.

Cornwall Councillor Bob Egerton's Report



The last year seems to have been full of controversial issues, some for Cornwall Council in general, some particularly in Probus. The council has been under continued financial pressure because of significant cutbacks in Central Government grants. The excellent bus service that Probus has enjoyed for the past few years came under threat as the council asked for new tenders from the bus companies on all the subsidised routes in Cornwall with the hope of saving money from the process. At one point, it looked like up to half the routes in the county could be lost. Fortunately, a last minute deal to put funding back into this area resulted in the services being saved.

Waste has been another difficult subject. The long-running saga over the proposed incinerator at St. Dennis looks like it is now being resolved and the project should be going ahead. At the other end of system, the new contract for collecting household waste was implemented from 1 April. This has had a difficult start, but I hope that the process will settle down soon.

The Taylor Wimpey site in Probus is nearing completion. This development has also presented a few issues. I have worked with residents to try to mitigate these as far as possible.

Probus Parish had its first wind turbine installed last summer – popular with some, but not with all. Then there has been the Truro Eastern District scheme which was approved by the strategic planning committee in March.

“*May you live in interesting times*” seems to have been the most appropriate phrase to describe the last year!

Cornwall Councillor, Probus Division

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COUNCIL MEETING DATES FOR 2012/13

The Parish Council meets at Probus Village Hall on the third Monday of each month at 7.30 pm. The Planning Committee meets as and when required to consider any planning applications for which observations are required in advance of the next full council meeting.

MEETINGS ARE NOTIFIED ON THE PARISH NOTICE BOARD AND ON THE WEBSITE.

Residents are welcome to come along to any meetings, take part in the public participation, and listen to the proceedings.

MONDAY, 21st MAY 2012

(Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Meeting of the Parish Council).

MONDAY, 18th JUNE 2012

MONDAY, 16th JULY 2012

NO AUGUST MEETING

MONDAY, 17th SEPTEMBER 2012

MONDAY, 15th OCTOBER 2012

MONDAY, 5th NOVEMBER 2012

(Precept Setting)

MONDAY, 19th NOVEMBER 2012

MONDAY, 17th DECEMBER 2012

MONDAY, 21st JANUARY 2013

MONDAY, 18th FEBRUARY 2013

MONDAY, 18th MARCH 2013

MONDAY, 15th APRIL 2013

Playing Field Representative Report

By Councillor Tony Courtman

Unfortunately, committee meetings have been a bit of hit-and-miss over the last year; the biggest problem has been not having a secretary. We need a secretary desperately to arrange minutes and agendas, etc. However, we have changed from quarterly meetings to bi-monthly in order to keep members more up-to-date as to what is going on. Maintenance of the football pitch area has been carried on mainly with thanks to Colin Lyndon, of the football club.

Enquiries have been made with regard to funding for the new pavilion and we have received confirmation of the S106 money from Cornwall Council (which we can use as match funding) we can start to make some serious applications to funders. Some of the S106 money has gone on purchasing an all-weather pitch which will be installed in the very near future. This will enable a more varied sporting use of the Multi-Use Games Area, ie tennis, five-a-side football, basketball, netball, etc. It is also hoped to get the lighting working around the Multi-Use Games Area making it available for evening use as well as during the day. Since fitting CCTV in the children's area, the vandalism seems to have stopped. This has been a good investment. Just a pity we had to go to these lengths. Planning permission has been applied for to trim the trees which separates the main playing field from the children's play area. This will make the play area more visible and safer.

Hopefully, 2012/13 will see some marked improvements in the facilities at the playing field and this will encourage more people in the village to get involved in sport and help with its running. As we said, we need a secretary and also volunteers to join the committee and help maintain this facility. This is a wonderful village asset, but it won't run itself.

TONY COURTMAN

*Parish Councillor and Playing Field Committee Member
18th April 2012*

Village Hall Representatives Report

By Councillors Viv Rogers and John Cole

The Village Hall has had a good year. Bookings were up and the Pantomime had a successful run after the disappointment of not being able to produce one last year. Laura Keam has been appointed as the new secretary and a possible replacement for Myrna Harrison as hon. treasurer attended the meeting on Wednesday, 11th April. The Annual General Meeting of the hall committee was held on Wednesday, 18th April followed by a committee meeting. Councillor Cole presented a copy of the hall accounts to the Parish Council on Monday, 16th April, as I was unable to attend the annual meeting.

VIV ROGERS and JOHN COLE

*Parish Councillors and Village Hall Committee Members
18th April 2012*

***Don't forget! You can keep up-to-date with
Probus Parish Council***

via the website

www.probusparishcouncil.gov.uk

Down load Minutes and Agendas. See what Planning Applications are current. Also useful contact numbers for village organisations.

If you wish to add an organisation or promote an event, please contact the Clerk (01726 883614) or email probuspc@tiscali.co.uk who will be happy to add you to the site.