



# Probus Parish Council

Annual Report 2019-2020

FOXLEIGH, TREVIGLAS LANE, PROBUS, TRURO TR2 4LH

MAY 2020

## Members of Council

### Chairman:

Cllr. Nicholas Gillard 01726 883926

### Vice- Chairman:

Cllr. Nik Budden 07922 155600

Cllr Kevin Blayney 01726 882877

Cllr. Steve Dalton 01726 884080

Cllr. Liza Deards 07888 684425

Cllr. James Faull 07494 756249

Cllr Ross Goldsworthy 07967 125526

Cllr. Malcolm Maskill 01726 884368

Cllr. Larry Saunders-Fern 01726 882669

Cllr. Bill Sutherland 01726 884007

Cornwall Cllr Bob Egerton

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Clerk: Amanda Kendall 01726 883614

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## How the Precept was spent 2019-20

The main income of Parish and Town Councils is provided by local residents via the Parish Precept, an element of your Council Tax.

<b>Income</b>	
Precept	£47,566.61
Council Tax Grant	£1,327.68
Bank Interest	£5.31
Cemetery	£1,195.00
Vat refund	£16,017.63
Other Grants	£48,624.40
Car Park	£1,325.00
Other Income	£187.90
<b>Total</b>	<b>£116,249.53</b>
<b>Outgoings</b>	
Administration incl. staff wages	£25,423.05
Playing Field/ Play area/ MUGA/OS	£14,257.35
Village Hall	£636.00
Cemetery Maintenance	£3,739.55
Capital Projects	£53,187.00
Grants	£2,407.18
Streetlights	£147.82
Footpath maintenance	£750.00
Car Park	£999.00
Public Toilets( exc caretaker)	£2,580.08
Vat	£13,539.22
<b>Total</b>	<b>£117,666.25</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>-£1,416.72</b>

Additional expense this year on Play Area refurbishment, largely covered by a S106 grant and updating the public toilets & pavilion electrics. The Parish Council are also paying the room hire for the Outreach Post Office, until its new home is ready in the petrol station.

## Chairman's Report 2019-20

2019-20 has been another busy year for the Parish Council. Unusually I would like to begin this year's report by commenting on the state of affairs as we approached the end of April 2020. In February 2020 it was becoming very clear that the country would be deeply affected by what was being confirmed as the Coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic. From March 18<sup>th</sup> local schools closed and the following week the country entered an extended period of lockdown with restrictions placed on the movement of all residents. Parish Council business had to continue within these restrictions although it required the closure of some amenities and special measures for decision making in the absence of full Parish Council meetings since March 2020. Several areas of work which began in 2019 – 20 will have to be carried forward into 2020-21 due to the delay imposed by Covid-19.

Moving on to my report for the year I begin with thanks to Mrs Amanda Kendall for her support and guidance as Clerk to the Council. The upkeep of Parish Council facilities throughout the year is carried out by Glen & Vic and we acknowledge their continuing commitment under difficult circumstances.

We were fortunate enough to have the benefit of full membership over much of the year until the resignations of Cllr Hull in October and Cllr Champion in November. The Parish Council acknowledges their service and commitment.

We were pleased to welcome Mr Saunders-Fern onto the Parish Council in January, and we continue to publicise a vacancy and I encourage any residents interested in becoming a Parish Councillor to contact the Clerk and/or Chairman to register their interest.

In 2019-20 the Parish Council took on responsibility for the maintenance and upkeep additional footpaths and these have been maintained and improved throughout this year where necessary.

In November 2019 we were pleased to complete the restoration of the shrine to survivors of WW1. The refurbished shrine was completed in time for it to be unveiled as part of a blessing incorporated into the WW1 commemorative ceremonies and wreath laying on Nov 11<sup>th</sup>

At the end of November, the final work on the housing development at Tregony View was completed. The development contractor was required to be off site in December and approached the Parish Council with an offer to take possession of the site office/cabin which could be re-purposed for use in the community. The offer included meeting the cost of re-locating the cabin. The Parish Council decided to accept the offer and drafted plans for its relocation close to the village hall with a view to it being used as a community hub/resource.

Prior to its relocation the Parish Council was approached by the Doctors Surgery as they were in search of additional temporary building. This would enable them to recruit additional paramedic qualified staff and provide a new service which would speed up access to primary care services for patients in the parish and their wider catchment area. The Parish Council decided to postpone relocation of the office/cabin for use as a community hub and make it available on a temporary basis to the doctor's surgery with a view to it being released back to the Parish Council once additional permanent facilities had been created at the surgery site (in accordance with their approved planning consent).

The Playing Field Committee continues to do an important job in keeping the facilities and pavilion, which is owned by the Parish Council, in good condition. This year presented the challenge of a persistent water leak somewhere in the system. It was finally located and repaired, and some additional works carried out to improve the system and how it can be managed in future. Whilst resolving the water leak it was also decided to review and improve

the fire protection measures for the pavilion which now has an up to date fire protection certificate.

The mixed-use games area (MUGA) surface had to be repaired and re-sanded this year. The Parish Council is very grateful to Graham Smith for the additional work involved in completing the re-sanding.

The village play area was refurbished with new picnic benches/tables and new play equipment. The cost of the new play equipment was met by the Parish Council and from S106 monies made available through the planning system for the improvement of open spaces and was specified as part of the planning approval for phase 1 of Tregony view. We were delighted to involve the Primary School children in making some choices about which pieces of new play equipment were to be installed. The School children also carried out the official re-opening of the play area. The public toilet and store were refurbished and improved with new shelving fitted to the store area which improves access to the equipment needed by our staff to carry out their work in looking after these facilities. Some of our refuse bins were replaced and an additional dog poo bin installed close to Tregony View.

We worked with Cornwall Council and South West Water to try and identify the source of some foul water pollution entering the stream at the back of Gwell an Nans which eventually runs into the river Fal. We provided information and a leaflet drop to residents asking for their help and offering assistance in locating the source of the pollution. We also made repeated request to the Environment dept of Cornwall Council and SWW for further investigation. However, the official response was not to investigate any further due to the costs involved and the relatively small scale of pollution taking place. Despite our best efforts to engage with residents in the area likely to be affected no further progress has been made.

The Parish Council planning committee has reviewed and responded to planning applications submitted from across the parish throughout the year. The most significant of these being an outline application for the development of 55 houses as phase 2 of Tregony View. The most notable aspect of this application is the commitment on behalf of Cornwall Council to purchase all of the completed houses in order to make them available as a mix of affordable accommodation for rent or purchase.

The moveable radar speed sign has been doing its job and has been moved every 2-3 months around the three different locations in the village. We were pleased to hear that the go-ahead was given to set up a "community speed-watch group" in the village and training for volunteers was being organised through PC Hosking. Unfortunately, it is one of the initiatives that has been delayed due to Covid-19. We will look to re-energise this as restrictions are lifted.

The Parish Council is a member of the Truro & Roseland community Network Panel which provides us with access to funding for highways schemes. In response to the recorded number of serious accidents at the Denas Water junction and the continuing need to manage speeding on the entrance roads into the village the Parish Council put forward proposals to deal with these issues. Due to the number of fatal accidents at the Denas Water junction over the last three years a formal review is required and will be funded by Cornwall Council & Highways. Therefore, the Parish Council amended its proposals to include a new fixed VAR on the St Austell Rd in order to slow traffic prior to the roundabout junction with Carne View Rd and to renew the rumble strips on the entry roads to the village at St Austell Rd and Truck Hill.

The Parish Council is also able to access S106 funds for "sustainable transport" schemes. These funds are available as a result of the S106 contributions made as part of the Wain Homes development at Tregony View (phase 1). The available funding amounts to just over £184k and

must be spent on developments or improvements related to buses, trains, cycling, walking, footpaths etc and the works need to be in the vicinity of the land (that was used for the housing development) and be able to show a justifiable link in terms of benefits to residents of the new development.

The Parish Council met with representatives from Cornwall Council Highways in order to agree a review of the current arrangements and to develop a specification for a scheme to develop a dual-purpose trail (cycling/footpath) between Probus & Tresillian. Cornwall Council Highways carried out an extensive site visit in Probus at the end of last year. The outcome of this will be considered by the Parish Council and a list of proposed works will be prepared. Unfortunately, progress on this important area of work has been delayed due to Covid-19 and will be the focus of our work as we begin resuming full council meetings from June 2020.

The Village Hall remains at the beating heart of the village and we thank all those involved in running and maintaining the Village Hall. We were very disappointed at the end of the calendar year to hear that the local NISA store owners had given notice to the Post Office of their decision to cease offering a Post Office service. Interim arrangements were made in conjunction with the village Hall committee to provide a temporary service based in the Village hall on a Tuesday and Friday each week. At the time of writing this service continues and I am pleased to note that the owners of Probus School Filling Station have been successful in applying to offer a Post Office service from their store. I feel sure that all the residents of Probus will be looking forward to its official opening.

As part of the “environmental growth’ agenda Parish Councillors agreed to implement a planting programme to be undertaken by Bee Eco Gardens (based in Probus). This involved identifying all the green open space and verge areas owned by the Parish Council and setting out a programme for them to be renovated and planted out rather than being left as patches of weed and dumping grounds for rubbish. The programme of work has been delayed due to Covid-19 and may need to be resumed from October this year.

“Probus News” continues to play an important role in keeping residents informed of what is happening on a month by month basis. This year, they also took a lead role in planting out thousands of daffodil bulbs as part of the programme of improving green areas in the village. “Probus News’ also played a vital role towards the end of the year as part of a response to Covid-19. Team members organised, co-ordinated and published information about a list of local volunteers who were able to carry out many good deeds in helping the more vulnerable members of the parish during the extended period of lockdown. We were pleased to provide the “Parish News” with a grant to support their role in the parish and we look forward to seeing them at Parish Council meetings.

In 2013 the Parish Council began work on producing a “Neighbourhood Development Plan” (NDP) and completed the first step in this process which was to set the boundary area to which the plan would apply. However, the process of developing an NDP was stalled and eventually discontinued in 2014.

In 2019 the Cornwall Council led “Community Governance Review” was implemented and involved a review of the Parish Council boundaries across Cornwall. The review is needed due to the changes in housing development and population across the county in the last 20 yrs. Implications for the parish of Probus were limited to proposed boundary changes with our neighbouring parishes of St Clement and Grampound with Creed. Both of these proposals involved a change in boundary which amounted to very few dwellings located in less than 1 square mile of land being reallocated to each Parish Council. As part of the consultation, Probus Parish Council resolved to agree with the proposed boundary change in favour of Grampound

with Creed Parish Council and to object to the proposed change in favour of St Clement. The consultation responses have been approved and, after a final round of consultation, the resulting final changes are likely to be implemented in 2021-22.

In 2019-20, Probus Parish Council re-visited the proposal to go ahead with producing a Neighbourhood Development Plan. At its meeting in February this year councillors approved the proposal to work on developing an NDP which will shape and influence the long-term development policy for the parish and establish policies for action in a number of policy areas ranging from community open spaces – to housing development – to business commerce and employment. We will be able to move forward without having to repeat the work done in 2013 in agreeing the designated area to which the plan will apply. Producing a Neighbourhood Development Plan is an “open” process which engages with residents in order to set out the policies and action for the future. A steering group (open to residents to join) will be set up to take the work forward in 2020-21

Thank you for your support, it has been an honour to serve the village of Probus in this year as Chairman

Nicholas M Gillard  
Chairman.