



# Probus Parish Council

Annual Report 2020-2021

FOXLEIGH, TREVIGLAS LANE, PROBUS, TRURO TR2 4LH

APRIL 2021



## **PROBUS PARISH COUNCIL**

### **Chairman's Report 2020-21**

This year's report must pick up where 2019-20 left off with the first period of national lockdown which began at the end of March 2020. Many residents of the Parish and their families will have been directly affected by Covid-19. The Parish Council extends its sympathy and thoughts to all concerned.

The local response to managing and living with Covid-19 throughout the year has been tremendous. Many thanks to all those local residents who have volunteered their help and assistance to the more vulnerable residents of the Parish

We must acknowledge the hard work of our Parish Council Clerk, Mrs Amanda Kendall for her support and guidance throughout this difficult year. It has been important to keep up to date with all the guidance and policy advice issued to councils in respect of Covid-19

The Parish Council, after some uncertainty and confusion at a higher level, was entitled to the small business grant given out to organisations to assist in supporting with Covid-19. These funds have enabled us to continue with essential services and the upkeep of Parish Council facilities throughout the year, which have been carried out by Glen & Vic, albeit through difficult circumstances for our staff and we thank them for their continuing commitment.

Parish Council business and council meetings had to be carried by a small group of Councillors with delegated responsibilities for a couple of months until full council meetings could be resumed, virtually using "Zoom" in June and then through the rest of the year

Progress with the plan of work for the year was slowed and hampered due to Covid-19. Key casualties in terms of delay were:

- Refurbishment of the Holy Well at Truck Hill
- Preparation of a Neighbourhood Development Plan
- Wildflowers planting plan

Plans for the VE day celebrations in May were curtailed although many residents managed to take part in some way with events like having tea & cakes outside their front doors and dressed in relevant period costume.

In the period from May to July the Council drafted and approved its policy for co-option to the Parish Council, which supports the process of being able to fill any vacancies which exist on the Parish Council. There are 11 places for councillors. Whilst we have benefited from a full complement for a couple of years there are now vacancies.

We pressed on with preparations for employing an Enforcement Officer who would be able to issue fixed penalty notices to dog owners who are clearly not following the rules around not clearing up after their pet/s & for littering.

Repairs were carried out to the Parish Council's portacabin which is on loan to Probus Surgery

In July we approved our Communication Policy and went ahead with an upgrade and update of the Parish Council website.

The car park area at the village hall was repainted and improved.

The CCTV system covering the MUGA, Play Area and Pavilion were replaced with an up-to-date system

In August we were alerted to the fact that the much used and valued skate ramp amenity had become damaged through wear & tear. Following a thorough assessment and engagement process it was agreed to go ahead with a full repair and restoration of the facility in situ. This required the skate ramp to remain closed for an extended period whilst the work was carried out

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. The pavilion building is outdated, and the internal infrastructure is in a poor state. There is a standing agreement to try and redevelop the building and plans had been drawn up some years ago. These plans were retrieved from the architect with a view to being reviewed and seeking planning consent for redevelopment. Prior to going ahead with this the local football clubs were keen to see if there is an alternative site within the village for recreation and sports, where a new pavilion could be established. Work continues on trying to identify such a site but there are no workable options at this time.

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 a reserved matters application for the development of 55 houses as phase 2 of Tregony View. This application has raised the issue of the use of the "open space" identified and provided as part of the phase 1 Tregony View development. Specifically, it has been agreed that the Parish Council approach the developer and the current estate management company responsible for the 'open space; to establish if there are favourable terms for the land being transferred to and henceforth managed by the Parish Council. These discussions are ongoing.

Through our membership of the Truro and Roseland Community Network Panel we have been able to access funding for a further fixed radar speed sign which is to be located on the St Austell Rd entrance to the village. Funding has been approved and the scheme is expected to go ahead this Spring (2021)

We also secured support, in conjunction with the Parish Council Sustainable Transport Working Group for a safety review of the junctions on the A390 Probus bypass. The safety review has been published. Whilst it is inconclusive the Parish Council continues to pursue better safety measures.

Plans for the use of S106 funds for "sustainable transport" schemes and work on proposals were delegated to the Parish Council's "sustainable transport working group". Options being considered included:

- Installation of pedestrian crossing refuges on the A390 at the junction of Tregony Road and/or Parkengear Lane, to facilitate access to bridleway walking routes parallel to the Probus Bypass.
- Footpath linking the bridleway near the St Austell Road roundabout on the A390 with the entrance to Trewithan House, to connect existing footpaths and give safe off-road access to Grampound.
- Old style finger post in ‘The Square’ in Probus, encouraging the use of local amenities by signposting facilities such as Sports Field & Park, Village Hall, Toilets, School and Doctors Surgery.
- Replacement of damaged Perspex sheets on St Austell Road bus shelters near the junction with Carne View Road.
- Commission of a tourist/marketing company to produce an infographic showing Probus village and its amenities, walking routes, sports facilities and places of historical interest. This could then be displayed in the centre of the village.

The working group continues to take these options forward.

Due to Covid-19 The Village Hall has had to remain closed to all of its main users except for the Post Office Service and the Blood Donation service. The Post Office service has now been taken on and is provided from Probus Old School Filling Station and many residents are very happy that the service remains in the village.

The planting programme commissioned by the Parish Council to be undertaken by Bee Eco Gardens was unable to proceed and the company had to make the sad decision not to continue business due to covid-19. The agreed plan of planting was offered out to other companies and the programme of planting is now underway by Growing Landscapes.

“Probus News” continued to play an important role in keeping residents informed of what is happening on a month-by-month basis. Its role in assisting people in responding to the covid-19 crisis was invaluable

In 2020 the Cornwall Council led “Community Governance Review” was concluded and minor adjustments are being made to the Parish Council boundary. Specifically, those related to Grampound with Creed.

Lastly, and on behalf of the residents of the Parish we express our deepest condolences to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II following the death of HRH Prince Phillip, The Duke of Edinburgh on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> April.

Ex- Chairman Nicholas Gillard

Probus Parish Council