



Probus Parish Council

Annual Report 2022-2023

LEE HO, ASHDOWN CLOSE, STICKER, PL26 7EU

MAY 2023

Members of council 2022-23

Chairman:

Cllr. Nicholas Gillard 01726 883926

Vice- Chairman:

Cllr. Bill Sutherland 01726 884007

Cllr Rachel Tofts 07432 566055

Cllr. James Faull 07494 756249

Cllr. Neil Glasson 07709 286850

Cllr. Ross Goldsworthy 07967 125526

Cllr. Malcolm Maskill 01726 884368

Cllr. Chris Dutton 07689 451207

Cllr. Paul Quinlan 07498 304044

Cornwall Cllr Karen Glasson

07980 975527 or

cllr.karen.glasson@cornwall.gov.uk

Clerk: Maria Roper 07749 626021

clerk@probusparishcouncil.gov.uk

www.probusparishcouncil.gov.uk



Finance Report & How the Precept was spent 2022-23

Account Balance - as at the **1st April 2023** of the Treasurers Account stands at **£75,158**.

Explanations:

*The **precept** is the council tax that the billing authority (in this case, Cornwall Council) collects on behalf of a parish council. The precept is calculated as part of the parish council's budget; it fills the gap between the parish council's planned expenditure and its estimated income.

The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL**) is a charge that local authorities can set on new development in order to raise funds to help fund the infrastructure, facilities and services - such as schools or transport improvements - needed to support new homes and businesses.

*** This sum includes the cost of Locum Clerk Services, totalling £4,824.79.

INCOME: The main income of Parish and Town Councils is provided by local residents via the Parish Precept, an element of your Council Tax. The following information relates solely to the Parish Council's 'Treasurers Account'.

Source	£
Parish Council Precept	£53672.88
Bank Interest	£23.89
CIL Monies	£24,911.62
Cemetery Fees	£2548
Car Park Income	£925.83
Cornwall Council SLA/LMP	£2223.28
Other Income	£1553.08
	£85,834.69

Income streams

It can be noted from the above that the greatest proportion of the Parish Council's income (62.53%) is derived from the Parish Precept. *

Community infrastructure levy (CIL) monies account for 29% of income **

Additional income of £7250.19 accounts for 8.4% of the total, comprising of SLA/LMP – 2.6%, Car Parking Charges - 1.1%, Cemetery Fees - 2.9% and other income (contributions towards machinery) – 1.8%.

EXPENDITURE: Total expenditure for the municipal year 2022-23 amounted to £76,672.72 (gross).

Staff Salaries/ HMRC& Pension ***	£25,603.76
Staff Expenses	£ 562.14
Hall Rent	£ 551.02
Equipment	£ 695.09
Insurance	£1946.56
Subscriptions	£1069.09
Website	£671.20
Audit Charges	£ 625.00
Grants	£ 1,985.13
Village Hall	£ 1,107.01
Defibrillator	£ 772.88
Open spaces & Verges Maint.	£ 6,788.3
Play Area/ Muga Maintenance	£ 5,138.73
Capital and community projects	£ 10,788.10
Waste Removal	£1,086.50
Public Toilets (Excl. Cleaning)	£ 690.85
Jubilee Gardens	£ 5,019.89
Jubilee Celebrations	£ 1,834.49
Clock Repair	£ 971.67
VAT	£5,819.42
Other	£2,945.89
	£76,672.72

Probus Parish Council Chairman's Report 2022-

Change is nature's delight and loss is nothing else but change. This proved to be a year of change on many fronts. The Parish Council's longstanding and much respected Clerk stepped away and we entered the year with the support of Mrs Jenny Hoskin in the temporary role of Clerk. This became an appointment to the role which lasted through to September 2022. In October the Parish Council appointed Mrs Maria Roper to the position of Clerk. The Parish Council extends its thanks to both Jenny and Maria for enabling the council to successfully navigate through the year whilst managing to meet its obligations and cope with the pace of change. From the beginning of the financial year the council has contracted with Algaard Renshaw Business Solutions for additional support and expertise to ensure its statutory duties have been met in this period of change and the introduction of new employees to the role of Clerk.

Three Councillors stood down during the year and so we thank Mr Larry Saunders-Fern, Mr Steve Dalton, and Liza Deards. The Parish Council valued their contributions over the years and acknowledges their dedication to what is a voluntary role in the community.

Grants were awarded in the year to the Village Hall Committee, Playing Field Committee and to Probus News in support of its dedicated work in keeping the village informed and entertained with news and stories on a monthly basis. Additional support was provided to the Playing Field Committee to purchase a much-needed new mower to maintain the playing field. Additional support was also provided to the Village Hall committee to ensure it could comply with H&S and Fire safety regulations.

Residents of Probus came forward to declare their interest in parish council vacancies and to be co-opted as full members of the council. We welcomed Cllr Chris Dutton and Cllr Paul Quinlan, both of whom have settled into their role.

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations were supported by the Parish Council and a group of residents along with village hall committee members and many volunteers ensured that a range of activities, from rock painting to a family disco to a tea dance in the village hall, took place over a three day period. The celebrations culminated with the lighting of a beacon and firework display. Our thanks go to all the residents/volunteers involved in making this a success, including the use of the field off Tregony Rd for the Beacon & fireworks. It was a memorable and timely celebration given events later in the year.

The Parish Council also re-tendered its grass cutting, verges & footpath maintenance contract. A new contractor started work from the beginning of July. Parish council facilities and general upkeep have again been delivered and we give thanks to Glen and Vic who continued to perform throughout the year.

Probus Environment Action Team (PEAT) has continued its role across the village. The Parish Council has supported this and expects to do so in future years. This also combines with the successful “litter picking” initiative which has grown its support network with many volunteers and is directly supported by our elected divisional member Cllr Karen Glasson. Cllr Karen Glasson also attends our Parish Council meetings, and we benefit from her involvement and continued support in her second year as the elected member.

A new safety inspection contractor has been appointed to provide monthly reports on any issues and maintenance works required. Drainage issues with the MUGA have been addressed without the need for costly works which means funds can be reserved for the replacement of kickboards and any fence repairs required in the coming year. Works to be carried out in the Play Area were agreed, including repairs to the wire mesh fence on the north boundary and sound insulation measures to the skate ramp. During the summer months there were incidences of antisocial behaviour. These were reported to the police and where relevant they were followed up. The need to report this sort of incidents is important and the Parish Council continued to publicise how to go about doing this.

The Parish Council’s portacabin which had been on loan to Probus surgery was relocated to the car park at the rear of the village hall. It is now on loan to the village hall committee and will be available as a HUB/meeting facility in time for 2022/23

Sadly, the Jubilee Lamp Post which sits at the heart of the village was badly damaged in the early hours of August 27th as the result of a collision with a delivery vehicle. Plans for its repair were put in place but are not expected to be concluded until sometime time into next year. The timing of this incident proved to be portentous insofar as we learned on the afternoon of 8th September of the passing of Queen Elizabeth II. There followed an official period of mourning and arrangements were made for the screening of the state funeral at the Village Hall for any residents that wished to pay their respects. As Chairman, I was honoured to represent the Parish carrying out the required civic duties and attending the memorial service at Probus & St Grace Church, and then again at the proclamation of King Charles III on 10th September.

Regular Parish Council business continued including improvements and upgrades to the CCTV system at the MUGA/Playing Field/Play Area. This also necessitated a review and update of the CCTV policy. Other policies were also reviewed, and a Finance Committee was formed to alleviate the work of the main council and take on the role of monitoring the budget and preparing the council’s annual submission for the Precept.

The planning committee has continued its role in receiving and reviewing planning applications in order to submit the council’s response as a statutory consultee. Councillors have continued to fulfil their representative roles on various committees and in liaising with other local bodies & groups.

The parish Council supported the initiative for a Christmas tree to be erected on the Church cobbles. This added a welcome element to the festive period and looks set to become a regular arrangement. Thanks to all the residents involved for organising this.

The development of 55 houses at Tower Parc is well underway and expected to be completed by March/April 2023. The Parish Council was very disappointed to learn that Cornwall Council had decided it was not possible to fulfil its original declaration to take ownership of the completed development as part of making a significant step in providing affordable housing. Despite several meetings and representations from the Parish Council and our elected divisional member the completed development will now provide only the proportion of affordable housing which is in line with planning policy. There was some positive news towards the end of the year with Cornwall Council confirming it would go forward with purchasing 2-3 of the completed units, and thereby increase the proportion of affordable housing within the development.

Progress with Tower Parc and the occupation of completed units brought an increase in the number of residents at both Tregony View & Tower Parc. The Parish Council, along with Cllr Karen Glasson has supported the formation of a formal residents group. The newly formed entity is Tregony View Residents Group (TVRG), which will have the controlling interest in managing the contract with the Estates management company appointed to manage and maintain the open space and associated facilities on both housing developments. The TVRG is expected to take up this responsibility in the year ahead.

The planned improvements, using S106 funds, for the village square had been delayed by more than a year due to Covid-19. It was very frustrating to experience even further delays due problems experienced by Cormac in the supply of materials. Nevertheless, final agreement was reached in February 2023 and the work is expected to be underway as this municipal year comes to an end. Details of the project and work involved have been well publicised.

As the end of the municipal year is upon us, the Parish Council is pleased to be supporting a group of residents with planning for the celebration of the coronation of King Charles III. It will be for next year's report to reflect on what we hope will be a successful community event over a few days, including a street party, the likes of which has not been seen in Probus for many years.

It has been a year of change, with a mixture of sadness and celebrations, whilst continuing with the work in hand. Thank you to all the staff & Cllrs (past & present) for their time, effort, and commitment throughout the year.

Cllr N Gillard
Chairman
Probus Parish Council