



Budock Parish Council

Annual Report 2008/09

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April 2009

Budock Parish Council

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Members of the Council :

Cllr John Bastin Chair)
Cllr Peter Fairbank (Vice Chair)
Cllr Robert Gibson
Cllr Peter Gifford
Cllr Nigel Hennell
Cllr Tim McCabe
Cllr Trevor McCabe
Cllr Miss Revena Pengelly

Cornwall County Councillor :

Cllr Neil Hatton

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

2008/09 has been a year of constant change and uncertainty. I mentioned in last year's report that Cornwall had elected to move away from county and district councils and to amalgamate these into a Unitary Authority for Cornwall from 1st April 2009. This is a strategic move which could transform local government in Cornwall, with all services now being delivered by the single authority. Should you experience any problems, please contact the Parish Council, and we will try to resolve these.

This process has proved to be not as seamless as may have been hoped, and the role of Parish Councils within this new order as the second tier of local government still has to be defined. There is, however, a great opportunity for local input to influence the future of our local community; I hope this is what will happen in reality.

Elections for the Council will take place on June 4th, with 123 electoral divisions, Budock, Constantine and Mawnan making up a ward. Budock is in the Falmouth & Penryn Community Network Area, and our "One Stop Shops" for advice and services are in the old Carrick Council building in Falmouth, and within the Town Council offices in Penryn.

With the above issue in mind and to help us crystallise our thinking the Parish Council has included a questionnaire with this report and would value your feedback and what you as members of Budock Parish feel are areas to be focused on over the next five years.

Falmouth Town Council has recently been successful in obtaining planning permission for a new cemetery next to Budock Church. This emphasises how Budock is intermeshing with Falmouth, and demonstrates the need for us to be clear on how far we are prepared to allow our boundaries to coalesce.

Since last year David Brown has ceased to be a councillor due to work commitments. I thank him for his interest and enthusiasm. Nigel Hennell has rejoined the Parish Council, again giving Treverva a direct voice. The role of a parish councillor has changed substantially over the years with more responsibility, accountability and time commitment, but it can be very interesting and rewarding. We currently have vacancies for two members. It is particularly important to have councillors with a history of local knowledge, and also representation from the younger sector of the community. If you would like to know more about what would be involved please speak to me or the Parish Clerk.

Local community spirit has shone this year, with many activities taking place. In particular the Christmas lights and Carols gave an opportunity for people to get together. Another success story has been Budock Playing Field, where young children can let off steam and interact safely. I thank the Playing Field and Village Hall Committees for their enthusiasm and commitment. As with the Parish Council, they rely on volunteers and are always keen to find new members.

Crime and disorder is still relatively low within the Parish but this should not lead to complacency. We also have a continuing issue of vehicle speed within both Budock and Treverva, and for some time the Parish Council has been looking at the placing of a device to alert motorists to their speed as they enter the village. This enterprise was finally stopped in its tracks following the intervention of a senior County Highways Official whose view was to ignore a Parish petition and the positive recommendation of our County Councillor, and say our request was "not good value for money". I have great concerns here, that the needs and requests of local people are often overridden by Officers who in reality we employ to make things happen, not stop them.

Finally I would like to place on record my thanks to all past and present members of this council and also to our County Councillor for his loyalty and hard work in supporting the Parish and its community.

John Bastin - Chairman

HOW THE PARISH PRECEPT WAS SPENT IN 2008/09

By Cllr P Fairbank - Vice Chairman

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

During 2008/09, Budock Parish Council secured additional income, in the form of a grant, to pay for the new Bus Shelter opposite Budock Stores. Additionally, the Playing Field Committee, through donations, was able to purchase some further items of play equipment, with all of the above at no cost in terms of Council Tax.

Necessary expenditure included the day to day operation of the Parish Council (Clerk, office accommodation and administration), along with maintenance of public footpaths, and grass cutting at Budock Playing Field.

In addition, the Street Lighting Loan still has a schedule of repayments for quite a few more years, and continues to cost well over £3,000 per annum

One extraordinary item of expenditure this year has been the underpinning of the roots of a number of trees in the stream bed, alongside the footpath between Trevoney and the car park at the rear of Budock Village Hall, plus the "topping" of the largest tree. These trees had been seriously under-cut.

Grants assistance was offered to both Budock and Treverva Village Halls, with further small contributions to Budock Playing Field. The provision of safe places to play is an important aspect of community life.

In addition to this, a number of other local organisations received Parish Council grant assistance, which is often vital to their continuing existence.

ACCOUNTS SUMMARY, 2008/09

Balances Carried Forward

Bank Balance	£9,365
(excluding Reserved Funds)	
Reserved Funds	£5,651
	<u>£15,016</u>

Plus Income

Precept	£15,000
Donations / Grants	£5,573
Bank Interest	£343
Other Income	£823
VAT Reclaim	£898
	<u>£22,637</u>

Less Expenditure

Salaries & Training	£5,694
Council Office / Equipment	£1,092
Administration	£2,461
Footpaths & Open Spaces	£3,521
Village Halls	£3,478
Budock Playing Field	£1,050
Other Donations &	£788
Subscriptions	
Street Lighting Loan	£3,763
Repayment	
VAT Charges	£898
	<u>(£22,745)</u>
	£14,908

Less Reserves

Future Election Expenses	(£375)
Clerk's Pension Fund	(£343)
	<u>£14,190</u>

Closing Balance (Excluding Reserves)

PARISH PRECEPT, 2009/10

The Budock Parish Precept has been increased from £15,000 in 2008/09 to £16,125 for 2009/10, which is a 7.5% increase. Although a large percentage increase, this only represents approximately £2 per annum per household, which equates to just four pence each week.

It should be remembered that the Parish Precept consists of only one fortieth of the average Council Tax.

This increase is necessary for the Parish Council to continue to provide the same services as it has in the past, while at the same time maintaining the level of free reserves which are mandated by Local Government Audit.

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 try to be professional in our approach, and organisations seeking such assistance are urged to respond quickly to the reminders sent out by the Clerk each Autumn.

We have to budget 18 months ahead, so the budgeted sum for 2010/11 will need to be agreed between October and November 2009.

ATTENDANCE AT COUNCIL MEETINGS, 2008/09

Cllr Bastin	12 meetings	Cllr Gifford	4 meetings	Cllr Miss Pengelly	10 meetings
Cllr Brown #	5 meetings	Cllr Hennell *	7 meetings		
Cllr Fairbank	12 meetings	Cllr Tim McCabe	8 meetings		
Cllr Gibson	10 meetings	Cllr Trevor McCabe	12 meetings		
# Resigned March 2009		* Co-opted September 2008			

PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

The county-wide "Public Path Improvement Program" (PIIP) came to Budock Parish in 2008, and has resulted in new sign and way marking, replacement stiles and gates and other upgrading work. The Parish Council wishes to thank the County Council for its investment and hard work.

Following completion of PIIP in Budock, the Parish Council has recently tendered for the maintenance contract for Public Rights Of Way, for 2 years commencing April 2009. The successful tenderer was M Rashleigh & Son of Falmouth.

Cllr P Fairbank - Rights of Way Representative

PLANNING REPORT

During 2008/09, the council was consulted on 29 planning applications within the parish. Although there were no applications concerning major developments, 3 were for the building of new or replacement dwellings, and each application had the potential to pose important questions about development in the area.

Budock Parish Council takes great care to consider each application on its merits, demonstrated by the fact that the council held a site visit for approximately one in five of all applications, to allow it to understand the nature of that specific proposal and its potential effects on the surrounding area.

A summary of Applications considered during 2008/09 is :-

- Development 27
- Work on Trees in Protected Areas 2
- Site Meetings held 6

Following the transition to a single, unitary council covering the whole of Cornwall, there will be changes in the way that planning services are delivered. These will be on a geographic area basis, rather than the old districts, Budock being part of the Cornwall West delivery area.

It is planned that other changes will also be introduced. The Cornwall Council Planning Committee will only consider larger planning applications, with decisions on householder applications being 100% devolved to planning officers. This, in turn, will increase the importance of sound consultation responses from Parish and Town Councils, hence Budock Parish Council continuing to be actively involved with all planning applications in the area.

John Harrop - Clerk to the Council

COUNCIL MEETING DATES, 2009/10

The Parish Council normally meets at 7.30pm on the final Monday of each month, unless this is a Bank Holiday. Meetings usually take place in the Lower Hall of Budock Village Hall, except for May and October, when they are held at Treverva Village Hall.

There are no meetings held in the months of August or December.

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 Boards in the Jubilee Garden and the Church Car Park, Budock Water,

and outside Treverva Village Hall.

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

Meeting dates for 2009/10 are as follows :-

27 Apr 09	26 Oct 09
18 May 09	30 Nov 09
29 Jun 09	(no December Meeting)
27 Jul 09	25 Jan 10
(no August Meeting)	12 Feb 10
28 Sep 09	29 Mar 10

FALMOUTH & PENRYN COMMUNITY PLAN

Our neighbouring communities of Falmouth and Penryn are working together to set out their 15-year vision of the community, including a more immediate 5-year action plan, based upon community consultation.

Work is being undertaken by 10 Topic Groups, each dealing with a particular aspect of community life. The groups are: Housing; Leisure, Culture and Tourism; Transport and Access; Health and Well-Being; Students; Maritime; Young People; Crime and Safety; Business and Economics; Over-50's. Their proposals will form the basis for widespread public consultation in April/May.

Input is invited from the surrounding parishes, a summary of whose Parish Plans will be included in the Community Plan as appendices. Please watch the local press for how you can assist by sending in your own ideas and input.

CONSULTATION QUESTIONNAIRE - STATEMENT OF NEEDS OF BUDOCK PARISH

With the formation of Community Network Areas (CNA's) within the new Cornwall Council, it is important that every community documents how it sees itself developing over the coming years. Such plans will be collated in each CNA to create an overall plan for that local area, within Cornwall Council's overall strategy for the county. Falmouth & Penryn have recognised that they need their own Community Plan, which is likely to be completed by September 2009 (see above). As the central towns within the CNA, it is likely that their plan will form the basis for the CNA Plan, albeit influenced and amended by the plans of the surrounding rural parishes.

Budock does not have a Parish Plan. There is a danger that the aspirations of this community may not be taken into account. To assist in drawing up a short statement of the needs of the parish, we would be grateful if you could complete the questionnaire alongside.

For convenience, these may be returned to Budock Water Stores, via the box in Treverva Village Hall, or to any councillor or the Clerk to the Council. Alternatively, you can also e-mail your answers to: clerk@budockparish.net. Just put Y, N, or NV beside the question number.

Many thanks for your assistance in this matter.

BUDOCK PARISH QUESTIONNAIRE	YES	NO	NO VIEW
1. Do we need more affordable housing in the Parish ?			
2. Is maintaining the existing size of villages in the Parish important ?			
3. Is there sufficient local transport ?			
4. Are local roads safe ?			
5. Is litter a problem in your area ?			
6. Are recycling facilities adequate ?			
7. Is a recycling/waste facility required in or close to the Parish ?			
8. Are you concerned about crime in the Parish ?			
9. Do you use the footpaths in the Parish ?			
10. Are footpaths passable and well maintained ?			
11. Do we need more footpaths ?			
12. Is parking a problem in your area ?			
13. Should more off road parking be available ?			
14. Should all new buildings have provision for adequate off road parking ?			
15. Are there shops and amenities sufficiently close to you ?			
16. Do you read the Parish Council Minutes, either on the notice boards or the website ?			
17. Are you aware of what the Parish Council does ?			
18. Please state, briefly, your one main concern that you feel the Parish Council should deal with.			