

## **Lanteglos-by-Fowey Parish Council**

### **Report 2013 - 2017**

**The Council:** As the final year of the Council's tenure draws to an end I would like to take the opportunity of thanking all of our Councillors and Clerks both past and present for their input and hard work in ensuring the work of the Parish Council has been carried out to the utmost of our abilities.

For myself having never been a councillor before or Chairman of the council it has been a steep learning curve both in bureaucracy and diplomacy, an education to say the least.

Finally I would wish to thank all of the residents of the parish for their support in advice and assistance given which greatly aids the smooth running of the business of our Parish Council.

#### **Councillors presently serving**

**Chairman** John Adams

**Vice Chairman** Adrian Fisher

Victor Truman

Pat Moore

Toby Wakeham

Teresa Libby

Valerie Libby

Roger Talking

Julian Shakerley

Andrew Kelly

**Clerk to the Council** Gillian Thompson

We were saddened by the loss of Cllr Isabel Pickering at the end of 2016; she had been a staunch member of the Council for many years and will be much missed. We extend our thanks to Liz Joliff, Helen Doe, Bernie Wilde and Kevin Francis who have left the Council.

**Council Meetings:** The Council has met each month both in Polruan and at Whitecross and at the December 2016 we resolved that all future meetings would be held at Whitecross Village Hall on the last Tuesday of each month, with the exception of August, and any additional meetings which will be held in the Polruan WI Hall. We are pleased to see so many members of the public at these meetings. We value your comments and questions so please keep attending, and make any point that concerns you during the time allowed for public participation

**Council Committees:** When we came into office in 2013 we recognised that we had a growing number of matters to consider and organised two committees to advise the Council, the Finance and General Purposes Committee and the Planning Committee. This enabled a group of Councillors to focus, and get training, on particular topics, many of which can at times be quite complex. In 2014 we decided that this was tending to duplicate work and we resolved to dismiss both committees. All matters are now discussed in full Council meetings where decisions are made by the whole Council.

**War Memorial:** A Working party was set up under the Chairmanship of Gavin Shakerley and a Condition Survey was commissioned. The memorial, which lists the names of the men of Lanteglos by Fowey who died in the two world wars, was funded by public subscription and belongs to the whole parish. We wish to involve as many organisations and individuals as possible in raising funds to refurbish the memorial and to seek ways to commemorate the sacrifices made by the men and the families of this parish. A survey of residents was carried out results of which showed that people were aware of it and believed that it should remain in the churchyard and be improved in situ. Discussions on refurbishment of the memorial are still taking place. A final meeting to decide the repairs took place on February 17th 2017.

**Toilets:** We knew when we took office in 2013 that the opening and upkeep of these facilities was a priority for residents, and also for visitors. We set up a community project to reopen and refurbish the St Saviours Toilets. Agreement was reached both with the Polruan Town Trust and the National Trust on the drawing up of new leases. The Council has made consistent and strenuous efforts to ensure these facilities remain open. There is a cost element involved in this which is reflected in our precept. In this regard we wish to extend our thanks to the Town Trust for their generous offer of a grant towards the costs of taking over the running of Polruan Quay facilities in 2016. Over the past four years the Council has successfully maintained, cleaned and kept in good condition the three toilet blocks and our thanks go to our contractors, Fran and Michelle. Ongoing projects are the purchase of the St Saviours Toilet Block and refurbishment of Frogmore Toilet Block.

**Highways (Drains, Footpaths and Potholes, etc.):** Owing to funding arrangements, the maintenance and frequency of repair of potholes and drain cleaning, the Council faces an uphill battle with the Local Authority, to deal with what appear to be simple problems. The Council is exploring ways with other parishes to reinstate a lengthsman (roadman) scheme whose task would be to deal with these using such basic tools as a sickle, shovel and iron bar plus that extremely old fashioned term 'Elbow Grease'. We are wary of being saddled with bureaucracy and expensive hydraulic equipment.

**Traffic Enforcement:** At present the old signage is being replaced; unfortunately several property owners do not wish these signs attached to their buildings and alternative sites have to be found. Until the Restricted Parking Zone Signage is fully installed Parking Enforcement Officers will not carry out their allotted tasks. The Council therefore asks all residents of the parish for due care and consideration in their parking habits, combined with ensuring any employees/contractors who are being employed in work in the Parish to be of the same mind-set and that YOU could be in need of that Emergency Vehicle that has been obstructed attempting to reach the accident.

**Code of Conduct Training:** Councillors have attended the free training run by Cornwall Council Legal Services which is a requirement of holding office. Other Councillors have attended Planning Training and 'How to be a Better Councillor seminars.

**Lanteglos Neighbourhood Plan:** In 2016 we set up a Steering Group for developing our Neighbourhood Plan in. The group has met regularly and as a result of carrying out an initial survey, a Housing Needs Survey conducted by Cornwall, setting up a 'street stall' at the Whitecross Produce Market, and attending meetings with local residents we know that people are keen to have their ideas heard. Many of these will be incorporated into a more detailed

survey that we will commission from Cornwall Rural Communities Charity. We have copies of the Fowey Estuary Management Plan and the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Policies for the South East Coast which includes Lanteglos. Both of these documents will have a bearing on any plan that is developed. It may also be necessary to commission a Landscape Characteristic Assessment. We can apply for grant funding up to £9000 to support development of the plan and have already been granted £2500. Once the plan is written it then has to be agreed through a local referendum. If the vote is in favour the Neighbourhood Plan is 'made' and cannot be ignored when planning applications are decided.

**Governance:** As part of our duties we have reviewed all paperwork and a majority of policies have been revised as necessary, accepted and signed off. Cllrs Wakeham and Adams have worked on revising and updating the Assets Register with the deletion of old benches and the addition of replacement photographs, toilets and noticeboards, etc. We have reviewed both our Banking and Insurance arrangements and in both instances have recommended changes to be made. We have a new Communications Policy. Our former Internal Auditor, Mr Brian White, retired and we thank him for his services to the Council. We welcomed Mr Ken Abraham but he has also now retired due to health problems and we have appointed Hudson Accounting Ltd in his place.

In October 2016 the Council introduced the Openness and Filming Guide as we felt the use of edited and unauthorised video recordings of our meetings was intimidating to members of the public who actively objected to being filmed and recorded and the results then being published on Social Media.

**Defibrillator:** Two defibrillators have been purchased for the Parish, the first on Polruan Quay purchased by the Town Trust and the other bought by the Council. For the sum of £1.00 the Council bought the redundant red telephone box at the bottom of Bodinnick Hill. At one time the Bodinnick defibrillator was intended to go there but is now on the wall of the Old Ferry Inn with the permission of the proprietor. The telephone box itself has now been converted into the Bod Box, a lending library, by an enthusiastic resident; this is proving popular and is stocked by donations from residents.

**Partnership:** We have endeavoured where ever possible to work closely with other organisations in the Parish and look forward to continuing to work with them for the good of the whole community. The Parish Council along with Cornwall Councillors is up for election in May. At present the Council is short of one Councillor and we need a strong Council to represent the Parish and all its interests.

Meanwhile thank you for your support and please continue to come to our meetings as we value your input and again, thank you everybody for all of your assistance during the past four years.

Cllr John Adams  
Chairman  
Lanteglos by Fowey Parish Council

Cllr Dr Pat Moore, Retired Chairman  
Chairman Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group