

Pentewan Valley Parish Council

Annual and End of Council Report 2021

This council was elected on 4th May 2017 and will be re elected on 6th May 2021 after which a new council will be formed. Some or all of the current councillors may be replaced as a result of the election.

For over a year the council has been operating in an unusual way due to the impact of COVID-19. Face to face meetings were suspended and it was not possible to hold an AGM. Council meetings have continued on line using Zoom, all councillors have been able to take part in meetings in this way.

The council has had a very busy 4 years which much being achieved which I outline as follows.

Tregorrick Traffic Calming

A scheme has been implemented to slow traffic using the road through Tregorrick. This has long been an issue raised by residents and we are pleased to have worked with Cllr James Mustoe and Cornwall Council to fund and develop this scheme.

Pentewan Hill Traffic Regulation

Following a number of occasions where the hill was blocked by large vehicles culminating in the major blockage caused by a B and Q articulated lorry the Parish Council and Cllr James Mustoe CC worked to create a traffic regulation order prohibiting vehicles over 8 metres in length from using the road. This scheme was funded by B and Q as an apology for their error. Since the scheme has been implemented there have been no further serious blockages.

Pentewan Coastal Defences

The council was becoming increasingly concerned with the erosion of the sea defences at Pentewan Harbour. When the defences fail the small beach will erode exposing the harbour and 38 properties to inundation from the sea. The council requested the help of Steve Double MP, Cornwall Council, The EA and Pentewan Sands Ltd. Local efforts raised £30000 to fund a feasibility study and design. With the donation of stone to a value of £150000 from Pentewan Sands Ltd we are confident the scheme will be fully funded and constructed this winter. The scheme will protect the village from flooding from the sea for at least 50 years.

Pentewan Car Park

The council was notified by Cornwall Council that they wished to off load responsibility for the car park in West End, Pentewan. Half of the car park was owned by Cornwall Council with the remainder leased from Pentewan Sands Ltd. The Parish Council were concerned that the car park could be lost or transferred to private operation at commercial rates. Following public consultation the Parish Council undertook to manage the car park. We were able to negotiate an increase in the size of the park with Pentewan Sands Ltd making an additional 8 spaces. The car park has

recently been resurfaced and lined. We have been able to keep rates for residents and businesses affordable. Income from parking charges enable the council to keep the precept low and helps fund improvements and projects in the Parish.

Climate Change Action Plan

The Parish Council mindful of the impact of global warming has produced an action plan containing a mixture of short, medium and long term measures it can take or assist with to play our part in carbon reduction, environmental improvement and sustainable growth.

Council Changes

Since the last AGM we have lost Cllrs Sundercombe, Coop and Watkins. Cllr Street was elected to Tregorrick ward and Cllr Strawford was coopted to Pentewan ward. Our previous Chairman Cllr Yeo will be standing down at this election due to moving from the Parish. Our previous Clerk Julie Larter retired from her post and was replaced by our current clerk Anne Cruickshank.

Cornwall Council and Local Governance Reviews

The reduction in the number of Cornwall Councillors means that Divisions are much larger. In our case the Parish will be split between two divisions having to deal with two Cornwall Councillors. Our Parish boundaries have altered with Aglets way moving to St Austell, some land near Polgooth moving to St Mewan. Sawles Road will move into our parish from St Austell. An attempt to move new developments in Higher Trewiddle to St Austell were blocked by Cornwall Council following representations made by the Parish and Cllr Mustoe.

The Parish also reduced to 2 Wards with Pentewan Village having 2 councillors and Trewiddle and Tregorrick having 7 councillors.

Cycle Paths Improvement

The Parish is working closely with other town and parish councils to improve the quality and accessibility of our cycle paths and better join up our networks. The Pentewan/Heligan to Eden section is an early priority for action.

COVID-19 Response

In response to the initial lockdown in 2020 the Chair and Vice Chair created networks of support volunteers to support vulnerable people within the parish. Many people were assisted with medicine and food deliveries, practical help and advice. In addition to this the the Parish Council set up a hardship fund intended to provide rapid financial support to those in need. This work was recognised formally by the Lord Lieutenant.

Future Activity

It is not possible to outline future activity at this time. Candidates will stand for election in May with their own ideas about what the Parish should be doing to improve our community. Once the new council is formed it can then agree and publish plans for the future.

Some Thanks

I would like to thank our Clerk Anne Cruikshank for her hard work and support and congratulate her on achieving full qualification as a Parish Clerk.

I thank all current and previous councillors for the work they have done in trying to improve our community

I thank our previous chair Cllr Derek Yeo for his hard work over the years in the council and wish him well in his new life outside the parish.

I thank Cllr Avery for having to constantly reboot the troublesome car park ticket machine and train some of those who have trouble understanding how to work it.

I thank Cllr Vicky Cartwright for her support to me as Vice Chair.

Michael Ward
Chair - Pentewan Valley Parish Council