



ANNUAL
REPORT
March 2021

Ludgvan
Parish
Council

Ludgvan Parish Council

Chairman's Annual Report

Note: this report covers the period from 8 May 2019 (the date of the last Parish Meeting, to 24 March 2021.

Council and Councillors

At the annual meeting of the council in May 2019, Cllr Mann was elected as Chairman and Cllr Parker was elected as Vice-Chairman of the Council. There are 12 seats on the parish council and these are currently held by Cllrs R Mann (Chairman), M Parker (Vice-Chairman), N Badcock, A Branchett, S Elliott, S Miucci, J Munday, N Osborne, C Price-Jones, M Squire, M Taylor and L Trudgeon.

There have been changes to the staffing and membership of the council. The former clerk retired and Louise Dowe took up the post of Clerk/RFO from February 2020.

Former councillor C Cartwright left the council in early 2020. Three vacancies on the council were filled by co-option, the council welcomed new councillors Neil Badcock, Andy Branchett and Nicola Osborne in August 2020.

The council meets on a monthly basis, considering planning applications, finance and administration matters, and other issues and projects that arise during the course of the year. The council has benefitted from regular detailed updates from the Cornwall Council ward member for the area, C.Cllr Elliott.

Planning

The local planning authority (Cornwall Council) consults with parish councils before making decisions on planning applications. In 2019 the parish council sent responses to 82 planning applications, and in 2020 there were 71 applications considered.

Finance

The precept for 2020/2021 was £43,288 (£35.04 per band D property).

Year end balances for 2019/2020 were 68,270.42 including earmarked reserves of £34,312.40. The year end balances for 2020/2021 will form part of the year end accounts reports to be compiled in readiness for the year end audit process. Total income in 2019/2020 was £61,271 and the total expenditure was £59,315.



A huge thank you to everyone in Ludgvan for pulling together in 2020 and showing great community spirit!



Council Chairman,
Councillor Roy Mann

Neighbourhood Plan

Work continued on the Ludgvan Neighbourhood Plan – a significant effort from volunteers in the community has led to the consultation draft of the Neighbourhood Plan, ready to be put to the vote by a parish referendum, currently delayed due to Covid-19 restrictions, but expected to be held in the early summer.

The Neighbourhood Plan is a local planning policy which is already a point of reference to planning officers and applicants, for planning applications in the parish. If adopted at referendum, this local policy will carry more weight. Local residents are encouraged to place their vote at the referendum when the opportunity arises – it's a chance for you to help shape development in your local community.

The Ludgvan Parish Design Statement has been completed and adopted, and so is now informing the design principles for planning applications and development in the parish.



Council response to Covid-19

2020 saw some disruption to the regularity of meetings of the council, due to the impacts of the covid-19 pandemic and measures taken nationally to control the spread of the virus. The council voted on a scheme of delegation to enable decisions to continue to be made in the period when the council could not meet. Then, when it became legal, on a temporary basis, for meetings to be held remotely, the council brought in changes to enable meetings via Zoom. One of the measures to enable these remote meetings, and better information sharing for councillors, was the investment in provision of technology for parish councillors, helping meetings to be effective, efficient and secure.

The council has moved to online banking, enabling payments to continue to be made in a timely way to the council's suppliers and contractors, and still maintaining safeguards by requiring all online payments to be signed off by two councillors, as is the case for cheque payments.

Steps have been taken over the past year to keep working practices under review, to help protect the community against the spread of the virus (eg stopping in-person council meetings, guidance to allotment tenants, changes to funeral arrangements in the cemeteries). The council has also been proactive in signposting sources of help and support, through information and links on the website, and by local councillors advising community groups. Efforts of the local community were recognized by the parish council, with certificates of appreciation sent to local organisations and individuals.

Traffic

Traffic through the village has continued to be an issue which is a concern of residents and parish councillors alike. There have been discussions with Cornwall Council on the steps that can be taken to better control traffic through the area, and continuing discussions with the quarry at Castle An Dinas, to work with them on lorry movements and how these can be mitigated. The council is carrying out a traffic survey which will help inform calls from the parish for improvements.

Communications

A new website was created to replace the former website for the parish council. Work continues now to keep the website up to date and relevant, and towards compliance with accessibility regulations. The new website is much clearer and easier to navigate, and has also resulted in a cost-saving to the council. The council has a new logo, the winning design after students at Ludgvan School were asked to put forward their ideas.

Public toilets

The marked increase in local visitors in 2020 raised the issue of public toilets on the Longrock to Marazion section of the coast path. These toilets have been closed and so the parish council is working with Cornwall Council to find a way to reopen them, bringing back a valued facility for local residents and visitors alike.

Parish Boundaries

A Community Governance Review was carried out by Cornwall Council, and the parish council participated in the consultation stages. From the elections in May 2021, new parish boundaries will be applied. For the Ludgvan parish: there will be no change to the parish boundary with Marazion; some land to be transferred from the St Erth Parish to Ludgvan Parish at Canon's Town; land to be transferred from Ludgvan Parish to St Erth Parish at Rose-an-Grouse, and some land to be transferred from Ludgvan Parish to Towednack Parish.

Amenities

Works were carried out in the garden at the square in Ludgvan. A valued but dead sycamore tree was removed, and there has been renewed maintenance and planting carried out, ably supported by local volunteers. Maintenance is also carried out at the British Legion area on Church Hill, and the Amenity Garden in Ludgvan. At Tolverth Field, Longrock, the gate post, gravel and fencing have been repaired. Local amenities have been actively maintained, including refurbished benches at Whitecross and Canonstown.

Affordable Housing

The parish council has links with the Cornwall Community Land Trust, working to encourage the development of affordable housing in the area.

Footpaths

The parish council continues to maintain the local path network, under the Local Maintenance Partnership arrangement with Cornwall Council. Parish Councillors are actively involved in reviewing the paths in the area to help keep the path network clear and ready for walkers to use.



Climate Change

In recognition of the climate emergency, the parish council has purchased a thermal imaging camera to help residents to identify heat leakage from their homes, the first step to improving home insulation and saving energy. The council has also signed up to support the Dark Skies Project.

Allotments

Active management of the allotment sites has aimed to ensure that plots are well worked and productive, and that when plots become vacant, they are re-allocated promptly. Some significant clearance costs were incurred for plots left in a particularly poor state.

The parish council have since improved its inspection regime, and a deposit is now payable by all new tenants, refunded at the end of tenancies when plots are returned in decent condition.

There is currently a short waiting list for both allotment sites – at Church Hill, Ludgvan and at Longrock

The council has an allotments working group, with parish councillors and representatives of allotment tenants, and this working group helps steer the day to day decision making regarding the allotments.

The boundary wall between the Longrock allotments and the neighbouring former chapel was rebuilt, and steps are now underway to increase its height with fencing, to help keep out deer and trespassers.

Cemeteries

In addition to the usual maintenance of the cemeteries, the council has commissioned a survey of the boundary walls and the chapel walls at Crowlas Cemetery. Funds have been allocated for repairs which will be carried out in the near future.

Grants – were awarded to:
PK Muay Thai (Martial Arts Club - £100
Cornwall Air Ambulance Trust - £100
Childrens Hospice SouthWest - £200

Community Halls

As part of the new housing development proposed for Longrock, the development will include the building of a new community hall, which will be transferred into the ownership and management of the parish council, for the benefit of the local community.

The now derelict Longrock Memorial Hall is also in the process of being transferred to the parish council as a community asset that can also benefit the wider community, although it is not intended for it to continue to run as a community hall. Options for the best use of the site will be considered by the council.

Joint Working

Ludgvan Parish Council has been holding joint meetings with Marazion Town Council, working together to resolve issues of shared concern, such as flooding of the Red River, parking enforcement, improvements to the coast path and cycle ways. One initiative currently being worked on is the potential to re-open a railway station for Marazion. The project is in very early stages at the moment, with an application for funding for a feasibility study having been put in. A feasibility study would be fundamental in helping the project proceed.

THANK YOU

On behalf of the parish council, I'd like to thank the clerk for carrying out the admin and accounts duties that support the work of the council. Thanks too, to Henry Rich and Simon Rhodes for their excellent maintenance work. And of course I would like to thank all fellow councillors for their input into the work of the council and the work they do more widely across the parish. Being a parish councillor is a voluntary role and takes up a good deal of time and effort each month. The last year has been difficult for so many people, and has presented its own challenges to the parish council, and still much has been achieved.

Cllr Roy Mann
Chairman, Ludgvan Parish Council