

## **Chairman's Annual Report 2022/2023**

Faces on Ludgvan Parish Council have changed over the past year, with the resignations of Simon Elliott and Andrew Branchett (with thanks given by the council for all of their work during their terms of office) and welcoming a new parish councillor, Cllr Jan Savill to the council.

This has been the first full year in which local planning policy as set out in the Ludgvan Neighbourhood Plan, has been in operation as a fully adopted policy. The parish council and Cornwall Council's planning officers have been making reference to the Ludgvan NDP when considering planning applications and so this has been a significant step for the parish in helping to shape the built environment and protect important areas of the natural environment.

The council's allotments are running at a 100% occupancy rate for most of the year. There is a short waiting list and parish residents in particular are encouraged to put their name down for an allotment if they would wish to take one up. Feedback from allotment tenants is very positive and the benefits of working an allotment are huge. Each year when the annual inspections are carried out we see an improvement in the overall standard of the majority of the allotment plots – a tribute to the hard work put into them!

The auditors have again approved the parish council accounts and processes and all is in good order. The council receives monthly finance reports at each of its meetings, where Cllrs are able to raise questions and assure themselves that everything that needs to be done to ensure that the council acts prudently, is done. Council policies and governance procedures are kept under review with a view to bringing in improvements when possible. The council has signed up to a national initiative, the Civility and Respect Project, and has made its Civility and Respect Pledge.

The parish council is consulted on planning applications within the parish, and often members of the public attend to speak during the public participation period at the start of council meetings, and to hear the councillors debate and make decisions. During the year, the council has considered 68 planning applications.

The parish council has been a consultee on traffic and highways matters in the parish, and this year has seen the completion of the 30mph scheme in Crowlas. Feasibility work has continued on potential improvements to highways in Long Rock, Ludgvan Churchtown and Ludgvan Lower Quarters. The council continues to be a member of the A30 Action Group. A new parish sign was installed at the parish border with Madron parish, and further parish signs are to be installed.

Grants to local organisations have been paid, including to the Community Centre (play equipment) and the Long Rock Playing Field Association

The public rights of way network (footpaths and bridleways) has been maintained under an agency agreement with Cornwall Council.

The parish council is working on improving facilities for the benefit of the local parish:

At the last meeting of electors, the council spoke of its efforts to take on the public toilets at Long Rock, with the aim of bringing them back into use. It did not prove viable or prudent for this work to be carried out by the parish council and so that plan did not go ahead.

In Long Rock, the parish council is the Trustee of the charity responsible for the Long Rock Memorial Institute and in that capacity has taken steps to secure the dilapidated building for safety reasons, and has cleared the years of overgrowth from the outdoor area at the hall.

At Crowlas Cemetery, the chapel building (built over 100 years ago) is viewed as part of the heritage of the cemetery and has the potential for future use ancillary to the cemetery. The parish council applied to the Good Growth SPF fund, seeking funding for the repair of the chapel building and a project to research and share the history of those buried in the cemetery. The funding bid was unsuccessful, however the council will aim to learn from the experience when seeking future grant funds. A section of the Crowlas cemetery wall had become unsafe, and so a local builder was brought in to take down the dangerous section and make it good again. With high quality workmanship, this new section looks good and should last for many years.

Funding from Cormac, from their operations at the Castle an Dinas quarry was this year put towards replacing the old play equipment in the childrens' play area at the Ludgvan Community Centre.

Parish councillors are also leading on initiatives which are underway, including setting up a Speedwatch scheme for the parish, plans for a community woodland, and setting up a Ludgvan Community Land Trust with the aim of providing affordable housing in the parish. The parish council has responded to consultations and has lobbied for improvements, on matters such as the noise and nuisance caused by the Penzance helicopter flights, and sewage pollution at Long Rock beach.

The parish council continues to work closely with the three Cornwall Council ward members who each cover a section of the parish, Cllrs Linda Taylor, Andrew George, and the recently elected John Martin who has already attended meetings and helped us with various issues, including the calls to re-open a railway station at Marazion, and discussions with the developers at the Long Rock housing development.

The parish council also works closely with neighbouring parishes, whether on joint initiatives (such as with Marazion Town Council and Madron Parish Council), or information sharing and liaison to keep up with latest opportunities and matters of note.

My thanks to the following:

- the contractors who work for the parish council, keeping the rights of way and cemeteries well maintained
- our Cornwall Councillors for their support and advice
- members of the council old and new, I must give particular thanks to, for their support and expertise in many different aspects
- and finally thanks to our clerk for holding everything together and advising us on all aspects of council work, thank you Louise.

**Cllr Roy Mann, Chairman, Ludgvan Parish Council**

**May 2023**