

ST BREOCK PARISH COUNCIL - CHAIRMANS REPORT

This year has been something of a game of two halves. We started the year still being challenged by lockdown constraints and lack of face-to-face meetings; however, as restrictions were lifted, we were able to begin a return to normality albeit something of a new normal. It has been a privilege to lead the Council and must say a huge thank you to the whole team of councillors and our clerk for the way they have persevered with extra effort and continued to operate and support the parish in a business as usual manner. For that and all the support you have given me over the year I am most grateful. I would also like to thank Cornwall Councillor Robin Moorcroft for his regular updates and support.

Whilst we have been able to return to face-to-face meetings, which we now hold in the Pavilion Centre at the Royal Cornwall Showground, normally on the second Wednesday of each month, the lengthy period of virtual activity caused us to review certain aspects and to look at how we needed to change. With the assistance of funds from St Breock Wind Farm Community Fund, we have established a new website www.stbreockparishcouncil.gov.uk more fitting to current times and now providing far more Parish information and links to other useful sites. The website was built by Seadog, a locally based IT company who have ensured that we are now compliant with all the latest access standards. Thanks must go to Councillor Morris and our Clerk for the design of the website, and to the Clerk for the regular updates. In addition, we brought ourselves in line with Government regulations by setting up a compliant email server for the council where all members have dedicated email addresses @stbreockparishcouncil.gov.uk. Finally, a number of our councillors have undergone training in IT, Planning Regulations and Code of Conduct.

As lock down eased, there were fewer requests for community support; consequently, we were able to direct our own funds and some from the St Breock Wind Farm Community Fund into local projects to benefit the Parish. The Masonry Hut at Edmonton Crossroads underwent a full refurbishment and now provides a welcome stop off point for walkers. Additional dog waste bins have been installed in Edmonton and Whitecross (thank you to Cllrs Nicholls and Weller) who also installed way-markers on Trevanson Farm and Edmonton footpaths. A new defibrillator was purchased and installed at Whitecross, a second has been purchased and planned to be installed in St Breock village and a third is planned for Trevanson as part of our rolling programme. We have secured defibrillator and CPR training for parishioners and hope to roll out this free training in the coming months. Four new notice boards have been installed at locations throughout the parish and improvements have been made to the Burlawn Play Area. Sadly, some of the funds for improvement have had to be used to remediate damage caused by vandalism in the Play Area – this is a new phenomenon and we hope it is one that we can quickly stamp out. We hope to make further improvements and upgrades to the Play Area in the coming months as part of a staged upgrade programme as funds become available.

Looking ahead, we are still awaiting the outcome of the Governance Review. We believe we have made a strong case for the maintenance of the status quo in terms of parish boundary but await Cornwall Council deliberations. We also need to take decisions on how we might proceed with a Neighbourhood Plan in light of potential decisions made by Egloshayle Parish Council and Wadebridge Town Council, both part of the tri-partite draft plan.

St Breock Parish Council is wholly committed to providing the best possible service and representation to all of its parishioners. We have had a successful year, despite many challenges and our next key challenge is attracting new members to the council such that we can continue our work with a robust membership. Any parishioner wishing to give a little something back to the community in which they live would be most welcome.

Councillor R. Jarratt (Chairman to St Breock Parish Council)