

# Lanteglos-by-Fowey Parish Council

## Chairman's Annual Report May 2015

- This report has been prepared to try to keep you informed about the work of the Council and of any significant issues affecting Lanteglos-by-Fowey in the last year. It will be distributed to all households in the parish via the Lanteglos Parish News and is also available on the Lanteglos-by-Fowey Parish Council website. Any appropriate feedback is welcomed, particularly suggestions for additional items for inclusion in the next Report.
- **The Council:** Membership of the Council has changed in the past year as Councillors have left us. In October Cllr Helen Doe resigned and Cllr Kevin Francis stood down in March. We wish both of them well in the future. They will be missed for the hard work and wisdom they brought to their roles on the Finance & General Purposes and Planning Committees, and Kevin particularly as Vice-Chairman. Your Council for 2015/16 is composed of
  - Cllr John Adams
  - Cllr Adrian Fisher
  - Cllr Andrew Kelly
  - Cllr Liz Joliff
  - Cllr Pat Moore
  - Cllr Isabel Pickering
  - Cllr Julian Shakerley
  - Cllr Vic Trueman
  - Cllr Toby Wakeham
  - Cllr Bernie Wilde

We have a vacancy to fill on the Council and will be looking to co-opt a Councillor at the June Meeting. Notices are on the boards and will be published in the Lanteglos Parish News. We look forward to welcoming a new Councillor.

I have stood down as Chairman after two years in post. It has been a privilege to serve the people of Lanteglos-by-Fowey and I wish my successor, Cllr Adams every success along with Cllr Wilde as Vice-Chairman.

- **Council Committees:** This time last year we had two committees to advise the Council, the Finance and General Purposes Committee and the Planning Committee. These enabled a group of Councillors to focus and be trained on particular topics, many of which can at times be quite complex. They could then make recommendations to the whole Council. Over the year it was felt by a growing number of Councillors that this was tending to duplicate work and we resolved at the February meeting to dismiss both committees. All matters are now discussed in full Council meetings where decisions are made by the whole Council. I should like to thank the Chairmen, Cllrs Wakeham and Francis, and members of both committees for their work over the year.
- **Toilets:** We knew when we took office in 2013 that the opening and upkeep of these was a priority for residents, and also for visitors. We set up a community project to reopen and refurbish the St Saviours Toilets and are pleased that the cleaning contract for these plus those at Polruan Quay and Frogmore, was awarded to a resident of Polruan. We will continue to work with other organisations to see that these facilities

remain open. I am pleased to report that we have reached agreement 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.

- **Roads:** The winter of 2013/14 was not kind and took a punishing toll on our roads and lanes and there are still potholes that remain to be repaired. A schedule of which roads are to be repaired has been posted. There will inevitably be some disruption when these works are carried out and our thanks are due to Cornwall Council for putting this work in hand. We have recovered from the inundation of February 14<sup>th</sup> 2014 when substantial storm and sea-surge damage was incurred in the harbour.
- **Training:** Several Councillors have attended the free Planning Training Seminar run by Cornwall Council. This was useful in clarifying the Parish Council's role and powers in planning matters. Other Councillors have attended the How to be a Better Councillor course.
- **Defibrillator:** Your Council has agreed in principle to purchase two defibrillators for the Parish, one to be sited in Bodinnick and the other on Polruan Quay. For the sum of £1.00 the Council bought the redundant red telephone box at the bottom of Bodinnick Hill. It is proposed that after renovation a defibrillator will be housed here. Cllr Joliff is in the process of investigating possible grant aid and models to be bought.
- **Governance:** As part of our duties we have reviewed all paperwork and a majority of policies were accepted and signed off at the May meeting. Cllrs Wakeham and Adams have worked on revising and updating the Assets Register. We have reviewed both our Banking and Insurance arrangements and in both instances recommended changes have been made. We have a new Communications Strategy and a new Social Media policy.
- **Parish Clerk:** In some ways this has not been a year without its difficulties but we believe we are in a stronger position now. I wish to record formally our thanks to Mr Iain Mylchreest who acted as our temporary Clerk and who has now left the Parish. We wish him well in the future. I should also wish to thank Mr Graham Liddicoat who served briefly as Clerk before Mrs Gillian Thompson returned as Locum Clerk. We welcomed Miss Lynette Philp from Polperro as Clerk in February of this year and she is settling well into the role.
- **Freedom of Information Requests:** In the March meeting and the April/May edition of the Lanteglos Parish News Cllr Francis reported on the outcome of two complaints to the FOI Commission, both from the same member of the public, neither of which was upheld by the FOI Commissioner. He also reported that a further request was received from the same member of public for him and another person to 'sit down with the Clerk and look at the accounts'. Three offers were made and the meeting finally took place on 15<sup>th</sup> May, chaired by the Clerk and attended by Cllrs Moore and Wakeham. This has been a time consuming and expensive business and it to be hoped that it is now concluded. The FOI Case Officer has advised us that this particular case is now closed.

- **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.

Meanwhile thank you for your support and please continue to come to our meetings as we value your input.

Dr Pat Moore, Retired Chairman