

Stithians Parish Council Annual Parish Meeting- Chair's Report

Every year the Parish Council hold the Annual Parish Meeting to reflect on what has happened in the last 12 months and what it hopes to achieve in the next 12 months. It's also an opportunity to focus on issues that the community cares about and would like to see tackled.

In the last 12 months:

- we continued our regular liaison meetings with Cormac,
- maintained our attendance/ membership of the MVRG and Network Area groups,
- supported SEG and reinvigorated our climate emergency plan,
- maintained the playing field and rugby field, Wellness Hut and public WC, and carried out the cutting of the church yards, verges and footpaths.

Specific achievements were:

- Reinstatement of BMX track
- New slide, swing and trampoline in playing field
- Initiated a feasibility study to improve the road around the Spar shop
- Continued to lobby for a crossing point at Longdowns
- Supported the "20 is plenty" campaign
- Helped to organise the Scarecrow Festival with the Show
- Launched the play equipment fund
- Formed a subcommittee to look at renewing the Pavilion
- Liaised with Stithians Football Club regarding a move to the "Rugby" field
- Planted daffodil bulbs with the school
- Planted a new hedge around the car park
- Organised the King's Coronation events
- Joined the Ponsanooth road safety group
- Continued to maintain the speed sign
- Joined a cluster of parishes looking at footpaths
- Attended Feast service and Remembrance Sunday

This was all achieved by 11 volunteer councillors, our Clerk Jane, and the Environmental Management Contractor, Tyrone. Huge thanks must be given to everyone of them for playing their part in making the Parish "tick". Special thanks go to Jane for carrying out her role so efficiently and supporting me in my role as Chair. I would also like to thank Councillor Phil Blease for setting such a good example as the previous Chair for me to follow, and his continued support.

After such an eventful year our enthusiasm and dedication are not depleted, and in the next 12 months we have the following aspirations:

- following a playground safety audit we will unfortunately have to remove the see saw and old roundabout in the playing field. The mechanisms are reaching end of life and no longer comply with modern safety standards
- the 20mph speed limit will be rolled out in Stithians

- a new refuge crossing point will be installed at Longdowns
- we have secured over £100,000 to initiate a feasibility study, design and construction of an improved road junction at the Spar/Crellow Hill/New Road/Crellow Lane junction
- we also plan to resurface the tennis court to improve the playing surface and make it suitable in the future for other sports, and
- hope to reopen the access to Kennall Vale from the Stithians end.

Our biggest challenge ahead is replacing the old pavilion. During the last 12 months we commissioned a surveyor's report on the building and it has so much wrong with it, it needs to be removed. However, we want to create:

- Changing facilities for the football club, and future sports uses
- Provide a public WC for playing field users without crossing the road
- Provide a dedicated space for youth use
- Storage space for the maintenance contractor so the container unit can be removed.

We currently have a funding application being considered which would provide us with enough money to get up to planning permission stage. We are then hoping to attract FA, and other funding to fund the build stage.

In summary, we've had a fantastic, productive year and have lots of projects to look forward to in the next.

Councillor H Downing

Chair of Stithians Parish Council

23 April 2024