

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2010

CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS

Welcome to all

1) CORNWALL COUNCIL

Was formed on 1 April 2009, abolishing NCDC and 5 other district councils.

Elections for 123 Cornwall councillors took place in June 2009 when Conservatives became the largest single party but without a majority, (sounds familiar). By forming a coalition with the Independents, they now have a working majority.

The transition from the former county council to a single (unitary) authority for Cornwall naturally meant a transitional period, exacerbated by control passing from the Liberal Democrats to the Conservatives.

Now that the transition period should be over it is to be expected that the Coalition administration will get to grips with running Cornwall and addressing its many problems.

2) LOCALISM

One of the tenets of the single authority is greater liaison and involvement between County and the Parishes.

To this end Community Networks have been created to establish a formal link to achieve this. St Teath is in the Network centred on Camelford, comprising 3 Cornwall Councillors, 18 Parishes and other service providers, e.g. police, fire.

One of the principles of Localism will be to build local aspirations into programmes for Cornwall. There is a possibility that some county functions may be devolved to local parishes. This will depend on councils demonstrating competence to take on more responsibilities. To attain a necessary level of competence St Teath Council will be striving to achieve Quality Council status. This will necessitate Parish Councillors and the Clerk undergoing quite extensive training and the Councillors undertaking greater involvement in the community.

We have started on this wider involvement with;

- Oil consortium now with over 200 members, being run by Jennifer Tidd, and her husband Dennis.
- Neighbourhood Watch being resurrected in St Teath by Jen Tidd, and in Delabole by Tricia Hicks.
- The Fun Club in St Teath (Grace Keat).
- Credit Union (Tricia Hicks)
- Greater communication with new notice boards, in Treligga and Treburgett, fuller parish council reports in Slate and Timepiece, and full coverage, including minutes, of council meetings on the villages' websites.

3) PLANNING

Planning is the single most important, and possibly controversial, topic discussed at council meetings. Whilst we are not planning experts, we are required to come to a conclusion, within specific parameters, on planning applications. In an endeavour to be more savvy all planning applications are first considered by a planning sub-committee which makes recommendations to the full council. Should a councillor declare an interest in a planning application, e.g. applicant a close friend, then that councillor cannot vote.

Controversy arises when the conclusion reached by the Council is contrary to the decision made by Cornwall Council Planning. Sometimes it seems to us an application should be refused but Cornwall Council approve it, and occasionally vice versa.

We do occasionally succeed in having a planning application refused, for example 2 houses among cottages in Water Lane. This demonstrated the value of contributions from residents who lodged objections to the application. We are always happy to work with residents positively, both to achieve an outcome or to oppose an application.

Another aspect of planning is Enforcement. Recently we have involved the enforcement officers in situations in both Delabole and St Teath. Enforcement invariably arises when conditions placed on a planning approval are not being adhered to, or work is being undertaken which we believe should have planning consent. Emerging from our recent contacts with the enforcement officers is the large workload they have, such that they are unable to make regular inspections of approved works. They now look upon parish councils of being their local eyes, thereby being problems to their attention.

4) YOUNG PEOPLE

One of the aspirations in our Parish Plan is the provision of more facilities for youngsters in the parish. There is very little if anything for the older children, say 10 – 16 y.o. To address this situation we would like to set up a youth forum in Delabole.

5) DELABOLE CEMETARY

The saga of attempting to buy more land continues to rumble on, even though the landowner agreed some years ago to sell the plot in question. We have made an offer and are waiting for a response.

We even referred this to the legal section of the old Cornwall County Council in March last year and are now pursuing with the new council. We are still waiting for a response.

6) HIGHWAYS

A perennial problem is speeding through both villages, even though the school children have carried out speed checks with PCSO Terry Groves. St Teath has a continuing problem with heavy lorries to the extent Dan Rogerson, MP, visited to see for himself.

7) ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Congratulations to John Lugg on being elected Cornwall Councillor for the St Teath Division.

Welcome to new parish councillors Gary Boardman and Graham Aston

Ian Henderson and Kym Reynolds left the Council for personal reasons.

Regrettably Cllr Bill Arnall died last year. In March this year Jayne Stark, clerk for more than 20 years, died.

My thanks to Terry Groves, our PCSO, for his advice and guidance.

My thanks to all councillors for their contributions without whom little would get done. My thanks to Sue, our clerk, without whom nothing would get done

Eddie Jones

19 May 2010