

May 2018 St Hilary Parish Council's Chairman's Report.

My first year as chairman for St Hilary Parish has been, interesting. As I have only lived in the parish for 15 years and in Cornwall for 5 years longer, I am well aware that I do not qualify as a "local" nor will do for possibly another 30 years if I'm lucky. As such I am extremely grateful for the support I have received from all councillors, particularly the locals and especially Roger Calfe, the Parish Clerk.

The Local Plan

We are still negotiating the "paper heavy" and multi hooped process of the local plan which will be a foundation document with regard to local planning within the parish up to the year 2030, at which point we can only assume that it will either remain in place or we will need to re-do the whole thing again at further considerable cost to the public purse, only time will tell. However, after several years of discussion, meetings and consultations, we now hope that the end is in sight and hopeful the completed document will be published by the end of this year.

It is vital that we enable local people to be able to live and work within the parish if they wish to, and simultaneously welcome the use of new technology, within the building industry to reduce carbon footprints and maximise the potential for energy saving and off grid heating and energy capture. Affordable homes in our parish are vital to sustaining a thriving community and we must broaden our horizons in considering dwellings, and small commercial units which may not conform to traditional styles or structure. I recall the words of a very competent company financial director who once said at an AGM of the international company I worked for, I Quote; "We live in a rapidly changing world and in able to survive we must also change, so like the dinosaurs', the options are; change or die". Which brings to mind the recent demise of an international retail dinosaur the Toy'R'us. Whilst this is not literally the case for the parish, we must embrace the future rather than resist it.

Police reports.

Over the past year we have seen further indications of how our police force is under continued strain as the attendance of a local officer at the council meetings has been terminated and we now have been asked to nominate a Police Liaison councillor to attend regular meetings for updates on any issues and put forward any concerns. This task has been taken up by Councillor Reed, one of our newer councillors, and we appreciate him donating his time and effort in this.

Christmas Lights.

Year on year the Christmas Lights seem to get better and brighter. Councillor Rule as chairman of the Christmas Lights now has an enthusiastic committee working with him who organise various fund raising events in the community and assist with the physical aspect of putting all the lights up and taking them down again. I'm sure the parish will support me in

thanking them all for their time and hard work. This is an annual event which brings people out of their homes, to a social gathering where, unusually in this age of hectic lifestyles, people enjoy an old activity of chatting to their neighbours and as such is valued community service.

Parish web site.

Our current website has been running for several years now and it has served its purpose but now it is in need of an update and the council are currently looking at a new website which will hopefully reflect the attributes of the parish and not only keep the locals informed of events in the parish but promote it worldwide by publicising its local businesses and many assets to visitors and potential customers.

Other matters.

We have renewed two of the council notice boards, one at the memorial hall and one at Relubbus, thanks again to councillor rule for erecting the new boards.

Extensive dialogue has been had with the boot sale committee at Rosudgeon regarding traffic issues during the boot sales and we believe, subsequent to a public meeting attended by all concerned parties and the police, a good compromise was achieved, whereby the boot sale committee are improving signage to promote the free parking available, and the council have agreed to put a single yellow line at the top of Prussia Road, the restriction is effective only on Wednesdays when the boot sale is scheduled, to prevent parking which inhibits heavy transport using the road.

Also on a parking issue, Cornwall Council will be putting yellow lines on Relubbus Lane at the top of Chynoweth Lane to prevent parking during school pick up and drop off times causing an obstruction at the T junction.

Lastly I am pleased to say that the council's finances are in a very healthy state and unlike many other councils we were able to meet all our financial demands without increasing the Parish precept this year.

Brian Baker

Chairman St Hilary parish Council.