

Wendron Parish Council

Parish Meeting 13th May 2024

Chairman's Report

This meeting marks the end of my first year as Chairman of Wendron Parish Council.

Although Shelia Moyle stepped down as chair at this time last year, she kindly agreed to remain a member of the council and has taken the lead on matters relating to planning – undoubtedly the most contentious area in which we are involved. Concern has been expressed by a number of local residents about the way in which planning decisions are reached by Cornwall Council's planning officers, and Shelia – ably assisted at times by our Cornwall Councillor, Loveday Jenkin, has helped us to steer a path through some complex issues.

In order to give some guidance to the shape of future developments in the parish, a sub-committee under Cllr Borman and Cllr Ferris has undertaken work to create a Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) for Wendron. This has proved to be considerably more work intensive than was originally foreseen, but our consultant – Steve Besford-Foster – is guiding us through the process and we will shortly be in a position to take the draft plan out to public consultation.

Almost as contentious as planning is the maintenance of our Public Rights of Way network. Wendron is a very rural parish, blessed with many miles of footpaths and bridleways. Maintaining these is not without its challenges and the Parish Council has worked hard with its contractor and Cornwall Council to protect this valuable amenity in very challenging circumstances.

The pace at which change happens can lead to frustration, but we now have agreement from Cornwall Council for cutting back the verges on the causeway across Stithians Lake to improve safety for walkers and riders. Work is also ongoing to introduce a lower speed limit in Penmarth and consideration is being given to the introduction of 20mph speed limits in some villages. Traffic speeds in the parish continue to cause concern – a situation made worse by frequent road closures, and by the vandalism to the average speed camera in Trewennack.

Concern has been expressed by Councillors over the paring back of services by Cornwall Council and others, in particular the Heartlands site in Pool, the Council Offices in Camborne and night time services at West Cornwall Hospital. On each occasion the Parish Council has made its feelings known.

Our meeting in September 2023 did not have a quorum and was therefore only able to take the form of a general discussion. Many appeals have been made for members of the community to volunteer for service on the Parish Council and we are delighted to welcome Cllr Sue Jenkin and Cllr Peter Thorne in recent months. Sadly, Cllr Law had to stand down for reasons of his work and Cllr Looker will soon be leaving the area. Both have made a valuable contribution to the Council and I would like to thank them both.

In my role as chairman of the Parish Council I recently attended a meeting at Helston Guildhall to discuss the future of the Wendron leats – the man-made watercourses that feed the Helston Kennels. I also attended the Remembrance Day service at the church of St Wendrona, laying a wreath and reading the names of the fallen. On this note, I am delighted to announce that the church bells

are now restored to their former glory, partly as the result of a donation from Wendron Parish Council.

In closing I would like to thank all our current Parish Councillors, our Cornwall Councillor and also our relatively new Parish Clerk, Jane Richards, for their hard work and support. And as a final thought, I would like to ask residents of the parish of Wendron to consider stepping up and volunteering to serve on their Parish Council.

Ross Durkin

Chairman – Wendron Parish Council

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