



Mawnan Parish Council

Annual Report 2007/08

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April 2008

Mawnan Parish Council

The Parish Office
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Members of the Council :

Cllr Denis Gartside (Chair)
Cllr Malcolm Dearnley
(Vice Chair)

Cllr Martin Barlow
Cllr David Gibbons
Cllr Nigel Gilmore
Cllr Mrs Beth Lawry
Cllr Mrs Audrey Loomes
Cllr Phillip Moyle
Cllr David Odell
Cllr Rex Sadler

Kerrier District Councillors :

Cllr Neil Hatton
Cllr Rex Sadler

Cornwall County Councillor :

Cllr Neil Hatton

The Parish Council Office is open to the public on Thursday and Friday mornings, 10.00am to 12.00 Noon, and at other times by appointment.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Well, the election came on May 3rd 2007 and, unlike many Parish Councils, Mawnan elected the full complement of ten Councillors. Martin Barlow, Audrey Loomes, Anne Harris and Beth Lawry very quickly found their feet and undertook portfolio holder duties with dedicated responsibilities to the Council. Regrettably, Anne Harris resigned at Christmas for personal reasons, and David Gibbons was duly co-opted as her replacement.

The Council wishes to thank Anne for her dedication as portfolio holder for police, highways and traffic calming.

As Cornwall moves towards April 1st 2009 and the new Unitary Authority, your Council is actively considering what extra powers and responsibilities it feels able to administer. There is little doubt that Parish Councils will be expected to do more and will be seen as the second tier within local government.

Being a Councillor can be frustrating, one step forward and two steps back. Whilst many of the proposals that have been precepted for are moving ahead, it often seems a painfully slow process to get what we want and what we need. However, unless your Council is fighting for traffic calming measures, footpaths in Grove Hill and the graveyard extension, this community will be left wanting and without local representation. With this very much in mind, I would like to thank our District and County Councillor Neil Hatton for his staunch support. Councillor Hatton religiously attends our Council meetings, and articulates our concerns and thoughts to the higher levels of local government.

Finally, I would like to place on the public record my thanks to the whole Council and our Parish Clerk for their loyalty, hard work and conscientious dedication to the Parish and our community.

Cllr D Gartside - Chairman

PARISH COUNCIL GRANTS

The Parish Council is empowered to make limited grants to local organisations, to help with special events or purchases.

None of this is "free money". It comes out of YOUR pocket (via the Precept / Council Tax), so we have to carefully consider the merits of each and every application. We do try to be fair and professional in our approach, and organisations seeking such assistance are urged to respond quickly to the reminders which are sent out by the Clerk each Autumn.

We have to budget 18 months ahead, so the budgeted sum for 2009/10 will need to be agreed between October and November 2008.

Cllr M Dearnley - Vice Chairman

OPENING OF MAWNAN ANVIL TRUST

Work on restoring the village smithy at Mawnan Smith and the building of three new craft workshops has been completed.

All of the units are now occupied by local trades people. The complex, which was a step back in time when discovered, and had been closed for many years gathering dust, was officially opened in late Summer 2007.

A new village blacksmith, Richard Hingley, has been appointed and is working alongside a spinner and a weaver.

The project has taken almost five years to complete and the Trust raised almost £400,000 to purchase the site and carry out the restoration work.

Cllr R Sadler - Anvil Trust Representative

HOW THE PARISH PRECEPT WAS SPENT IN 2007/08

By Cllr M Dearnley - Vice Chairman

The main income of Parish and Town Councils is provided by local residents via the Parish Precept, which is an element of Council Tax. During 2007/08, Mawnan Parish Council was able to secure some additional grant income, to allow a number of projects to be undertaken with no cost in terms of Council Tax.

Other necessary expenditure included the day to day operation of the council (Clerk, office accommodation and administration), plus the maintenance of public footpaths, grass verges & weed killing, and the cleaning and maintenance of the public toilets and bus shelter.

Significant grants were made to the charitable trusts which own the Junior Playing Field and Carwinion Playing Fields to assist with their maintenance. Safe places to play are important aspects of village life, as is the encouragement of sport for all age groups. In addition to this, 18 local organisations received Parish Council grant assistance, which is often vital to their continuing existence.

The projects for the speed visor (traffic calming on Grove Hill) and the extension of the graveyard at the Parish Church will continue into 2008/09, hence the reserves being carried forward. The council is also continuing to build some reserves for future maintenance projects for the public toilets & bus shelter, and the Memorial Hall.

PARISH PRECEPT, 2008/09

The Precept has been raised by 13.68% to £43,200, and the council wanted to explain this.

Every penny of the increase, other than projected inflation on current services, will be spent on increasing or enhancing the services we offer. The majority is to cover the completion of the new graveyard, undergoing compulsory purchase from the National Trust.

Our two sports and leisure facilities, Carwinion and Junior Playing Fields, cost the community a large percentage of the precept. As more equipment has been provided, insurance and maintenance costs have increased and we have had to increase the budget allocation.

ACCOUNTS SUMMARY, 2007/08

Balances Carried Forward

Bank Balance	£7,957
(excluding Reserved Funds)	
Reserved Funds	£700
	<u>£8,657</u>

Plus Income

Precept	£38,000
Grants	£7,606
Bank Interest	£656
Other Income	£3,744
VAT Reclaim	£2,261
	<u>£52,267</u>

Less Expenditure

Salaries & Training	£8,256
Parish Council Office	£1,200
Administration	£2,452
Public Footpaths,	£2,920
Grass Cutting & Weed Killing	
Public Toilets - Cleaning	£3,855
& Maintenance	
Playing Field Trusts	£7,875
Other Donations	£3,750
& Subscriptions	
Project - Replace JPF Swings	£6,423
Projects - Community Planning	£1,008
Project - Graveyard CPO	£570
Project - Best Kept Village	£103
VAT Charges	£2,261
	<u>(£40,673)</u>
	£20,251

Less Reserves

Speed Visor	(£4,000)
Graveyard CPO	(£4,430)
Public Toilets	(£1,000)
Memorial Hall	(£500)
Clerk's Pension Fund	(£500)
	<u>£9,821</u>

Closing Balance (Excluding Reserves)

£9,821

Parish Councillors are entitled to claim members' allowances. In the past, members of this Council have not claimed these and they have, therefore, not been budgeted for in the precept. With the changes in local government in Cornwall, we do not know how this will impact on the Parish Council. Increases in responsibilities and personal expenses are highly likely if this community wishes to take a more active role in its operation. The Council felt it prudent, therefore, to budget for this.

It was also considered prudent to budget for Parish Council elections. As these are normally held every four years, the precept includes 25% of the estimated cost of holding an election.

JUNIOR PLAYING FIELD TRUST

The Junior Playing Field Trust has this year received a grant of £6,500 from the National Lottery, to allow the removal and replacement of the old swings which had been in place for almost 30 years. At the same time as the new swings were erected, new safety surfaces were installed. The zip wire has proved extremely popular and showed signs of deterioration. It was necessary to have new support legs fitted and the wire tightened. A replacement football net has also been installed.

The Parish Council and the Trust wish to thank the Lottery's "Awards For All" scheme for their grant, which made all of this possible. The Trust requires a subsidy of almost £4,000 for maintenance and grass cutting which is provided by an annual grant from the Parish Council.

CLlr D Gartside – JPF Representative

CARWINION PLAYING FIELD TRUST

The Trust relies mainly on the Parish Council for its income, but this year also received donations of £500 from Budock Vean Golf Club, £200 from Mawnan Fun Run and £50 from Carwinion Gardens. There was expenditure incurred on the rebuild of two cast iron ended seats, but none on the maintenance of the playing surfaces or boundaries, other than their regular cutting.

The Trust receives an annual grant from the Parish Council, to pay for the regular cutting and grounds maintenance activity required to keep the playing field in good condition. For 2008/09 this grant will be £6,500.

It has been identified that more long-term work may be required on the building and playing area. It is also hoped to improve the "composting" of the grass cuttings and make a "child-proof" storage area for machinery. The Trust is actively seeking external grant and other funding for these items.

A small Community Planning Grant has enabled a new sign to be erected at the entrance to Carwinion Playing Field. The Parish Council and the Trust wish to thank the Cornwall Rural Community Council (CRCC) for this.

CLlr M Dearnley – Carwinion Playing Field Representative

FUTURE USE OF MCA HALL

A working group has been set up to examine the current operation of the MCA Hall, up at Carwinion, and make proposals for expansions to its future use. This group consists of members of the existing management committee, some trustees of the Carwinion Trust and current and potential future users.

There have been a number of meetings concerning the future use of the MCA Hall, which have resulted in a strengthening of the links between the MCA Committee and other local groups, and a positive commitment to the future of the MCA. It is hoped that a "blueprint" for the future use of a valuable local asset can be agreed over the coming months.

CLlr M Barlow – MCA Representative

PLANNING REPORT

Within the planning process, the Parish Council acts as an important consultee to the District Council's Planning Department. During 2007/08, the council was consulted on 48 planning applications within the parish. Although there were no applications concerning major developments, 7 were for the building of new or replacement dwellings, and each application had the potential to pose important questions about development in the area.

Mawnan Parish Council takes great care to consider each application on its merits, demonstrated by the fact that the council held a site visit for approximately one in five of all applications, to allow it to understand the nature of that specific proposal and its potential effects on the surrounding area.

Summary of Applications considered :-

Development	41
Work on Trees in Protected Areas	7
Site Meetings held	9

CLlr N Gilmore – Planning Representative

ATTENDANCE AT COUNCIL MEETINGS, 2007/08

Cllr D Gartside	13 meetings	Cllr N Gilmore	10 meetings	Cllr P Moyle	4 meetings
Cllr M Barlow	* 9 meetings	Mrs A Harris	* # 8 meetings	Cllr D Odell	9 meetings
Cllr M Dearnley	10 meetings	Cllr Mrs B Lawry	* 7 meetings	Cllr R Sadler	7 meetings
Cllr D Gibbons	+ 3 meetings	Cllr Mrs A Loomes	* 11 meetings		
* Elected May 2007		+ Co-opted February 2008		# Resigned January 2008	

PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY REPORT

The county-wide "Public Path Improvement Program" (PIIP) came to Mawnan Parish in 2007, and has resulted in new sign and way marking, replacement stiles and gates and other upgrading work. The Parish Council wishes to thank the County Council for its investment and hard work.

Following completion of PIIP in Mawnan, the Parish Council has recently tendered for the maintenance contract for both the inland paths, and parts of the South West Coastal Path, for 2 years commencing April 2008. The successful tenderer was M Rashleigh & Son of Falmouth.

Stocks of the second edition of the popular Footpaths & Visitor Guide are now running low, and it is the council's intention to produce a third edition in time for Summer 2008. Once again the guide will give details of walks around Mawnan Smith village, and also snippets of history at focal points.

Cllr Mrs A Loomes – Footpaths Representative

MAWNAN FUN RUN 2007

The Fun Run enjoyed its best year yet with a record turnout despite the poor weather on the day. More than 225 men, women and children ran, hopped, walked and skipped their way around the 5k course, raising in excess of £2,000 for the Mawnan Playgroup's proposed new building.

A crowd of well-wishers braved the rain to cheer the runners home. Amongst those taking part was a team of 30 children and teachers from Mawnan School and even a couple of fancy-dress racers, including Buzz Lightyear.

Thanks from the organisers to all who took part, or helped in any other way to make the event so successful.

COUNCIL MEETING DATES, 2008/09

The Parish Council meets at Mawnan Memorial Hall on the third Thursday of each month, at 7.30pm.

The Planning Committee meets as and when required, to consider any planning applications for which observations are required in advance of the next full council meeting.

All meetings are notified on the Parish Notice Board outside the Doctors' surgery.

Residents are welcome to come along to any meeting, take part in the public participation, and listen to the proceedings.

LAND FOR GRAVEYARD EXTENSION

The plans for the compulsory purchase of land from the National Trust, to extend the graveyard at Mawnan Church, are progressing, after which the PCC will be consulted on the design and layout of the new facility. It is highly likely that the graveyard will be owned and administered by the Parish Council, although the Council does favour consecration.

Your Council fully appreciates that residents of Mawnan want a final resting place within the village and not within any other facility administered by Kerrier Council. With the current graveyard rapidly becoming full, it was necessary to react as quickly as possible to ensure a continuity of burials in the village. The new graveyard will be adjacent to the existing graveyard at the Parish Church.

SPEED VISOR FOR GROVE HILL

A temporary visor was recently installed near the Shute Hill junction, and has now been removed after a month's monitoring of traffic and speeds. County Highways are to make a proposal to the Parish Council concerning the final siting of the visor, which should be in place some time in the next few months.

COMMUNITY PLANNING GRANTS, 2007

The Parish Council was successful in obtaining grants from Cornwall Rural Community Council in respect of the following :-

- Goal posts and nets for Saturday Morning Children's Football Practice – Grant of £500.
- A new sign for Carwinion Playing Field – Grant of £410.

Every little helps !!

Meeting dates for 2008/09 are as follows :-

17 Apr 08 (after Annual Parish Meeting, 7.00pm)	
15 May 08	
19 Jun 08	20 Nov 08
17 Jul 08	18 Dec 08
(no August Meeting)	15 Jan 09
18 Sep 08	19 Feb 09
16 Oct 08	19 Mar 09