



A QUALITY COUNCIL

QUARTERLY WEB NEWSLETTER – JANUARY 2008

Chairman's Introduction - Your Parish Council Tax, 2008/09

Following the meeting of the Finance Committee and the Council meeting in December, your Council has raised the Parish Precept by 13.68% to £43,200. Rather than you seeing this for the first time on your Council Tax demand, I wanted to use this opportunity of explaining why.

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 of the increase is to cover the full purchase and landscaping 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, therefore, we have had to increase the budget allocation.

Parish Councillors are entitled to claim members' allowances. In the past members of this Council have not claimed such allowances 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. Increase in responsibilities and personal expenses are highly likely if this community wishes to take a more active role in its administration. 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.

Councillor Dr. Denis. W. Gartside.

Purchase of land for Graveyard Extension at Mawnan Church

The plans for the new graveyard are advancing smoothly. We anticipate that the compulsory purchase will be completed by March. We will then consult with the PCC 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 do 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 is adjacent to the existing graveyard at the Parish Church.

Public Rights of Way

The county-wide "Public Path Improvement Program" 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.

The Parish Council is currently tendering for the maintenance contract for both the inland paths, and parts of the South West Coastal Path, for 2 years commencing April 2008.

Junior Playing Field

The Junior Playing Field Trust received grants from the lottery to remove the old swings and replace them. 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 "Awards For All" for their grant which made this possible.

Carwinion Playing Field

A new sign is being erected at the entrance to the Playing Field. The Parish Council and the Trust wish to thank the Cornwall Rural Community Council (CRCC), which provided a Community Planning Grant to pay for the sign.

Future use of the Mawnan Community Association (MCA) Hall

During the past three months, there have been a number of meetings between the Carwinion Trust, the MCA Committee and other interested parties, concerning the future use of the MCA Hall. These 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.

Repairs to Bus Shelter & Public Toilets

These continue to be kept in a good state of repair, although there is work still required to the roof tiles. They will be given a further "lick of paint" shortly before Easter, so they are in good shape for 2008. A "No Ball Games" sign is on order, for the side of the toilets where some vandalism and antisocial behaviour has been reported by residents.

Street Naming

A number of residents of a small close off Penwarne Road / Nomansland, just inside the parish boundary, have approached the council with concerns about the fact that it has no name. The current postal address of Penwarne Road could mean that emergency services might not be able to find them, if called upon.

The Parish Council has asked the District Council to use its street naming powers to resolve this.

Local Government Reorganisation – “One Cornwall”

Residents will be aware that a unified council for the whole of Cornwall will replace the existing County Council and the six District Councils (Carrick, Kerrier, Restormel, Caradon, Penwith and North Cornwall), taking the best elements from each to create a streamlined and more efficient council.

It is proposed that the new authority will be served by 82 members in the first instance rising to approximately 100 members with enhanced arrangements at a local community level. A cornerstone of the proposal is the creation of 16 Community Networks areas, which will provide opportunities for local people and organisations to be part of local decisions and influence the delivery of services. County and District Councils are working together on the detailed programme to create the new council.

A Joint Committee or Implementation Executive of 12 county and 12 district councillors is leading the transition to the new structure, and will be making the key strategic decisions on the future design and direction of the new council. It will set the overall direction of the programme.

There is also a Joint Scrutiny Committee which will have authority to examine the activities of the Implementation Executive. Members of the Scrutiny Committee are drawn from the county and district councils.

A Joint Implementation Team made up of the Chief Executives and other senior staff of the county and district councils advises the Joint Committee and gives strategic direction to the Programme Development Team.

A Programme Development Team of county and district officers is carrying out the detailed programme of work that enable the transformation from seven councils into one unified council for Cornwall.

Many other organisations will be closely involved in this process, including Parish and Town Councils And representatives of your Council regularly attend consultation meetings.

The new council will be up and running on April 1st 2009, with services continuing to be integrated beyond this date, to ensure the smoothest possible transition to the new arrangements.

Street Lighting - Response to County Council consultation document

Parish and Town Councils have recently been consulted on possible changes to the street lighting policy. Whilst this does not specifically affect Mawnan, our views were requested on three possible alternatives :-

- Retention of the existing situation – Street Lighting on from dawn to dusk.
- Dimming of street lights in the middle of the night, except in areas such as town centres.
- Turning street lights off in the middle of the night, except in areas such as town centres.

The second and third option would allow for cost savings over the status quo. The Parish Council considered that the second option might be dangerous. Its preferred option was that street lights be turned off between 1.30am and 5.30am, at times when this occurred before dawn, and where its was appropriate on health and safety grounds.

Fire Brigade Annual Service Plan - Response to County Council consultation document

Parish and Town Councils have been sent a consultation questionnaire on the Fire Brigade's Annual Service Plan. As an additional response, Mawnan Parish Council has expressed its concern over the proposal to reduce the number of permanent fire staff in Falmouth, using retained fire fighters instead.

It has stressed the fact that Falmouth is a unique town in terms of risk analysis, with its docks, oil storage and bunkering, its active port with increasing numbers of passengers, hotels and other holiday accommodation, and its large number of students living in private accommodation and halls of residence.

The Parish Council has also stressed the fact that there are a high proportion of vulnerable older residents in Falmouth and the surrounding area who, in the event of any fire, might have their lives put at risk if the Fire Brigade's response time was compromised.

Therefore, the Parish Council has asked that the County Council review its proposed strategy on overnight fire cover.

Grove Hill – Speed Visor

The proposed speed visor is now at the "Design Stage" within County Highways, and the Parish Council has requested that further consultations be minimised, to ensure this project is completed as quickly as possible.

Mawnan Christmas Lights

On behalf of the residents of Mawnan, the council would like to thank the Christmas Lights Committee for the stunning display we enjoyed this year. It seems to get better every year, with more lights and more displays. Entering the village at night was like fairy land.

It is, therefore, with great sadness that we have to report that £300 worth of damage was inflicted on the displays. The police are aware of the crime, but more importantly, whoever perpetrated these wilful acts of vandalism should be aware that the community is disgusted and that there are no excuses.

Your Council voted to reimburse the Committee so that next year's display is not adversely affected.

It's Panto time

Finally, as we approach the Panto season, the Council wishes everybody involved the very best of luck and, of course, to show that Mylor lot how it should be done properly !
