



A QUALITY COUNCIL

QUARTERLY WEB NEWSLETTER – OCTOBER 2008

Quality Council – Application for Re-Accreditation

Mawnan Parish Council was one of the first in Cornwall to be successfully certified under the Quality Parish & Town Council scheme, back in November 2004. This accreditation process was a government initiative aimed at ensuring that local councils acted in as professional manner as possible in their dealings with their electorate, principal councils and other bodies.

Accreditations were for a period of four years. At its September meeting, the parish council agreed to apply for re-accreditation for a further four years, through to 2012.

Grants to local organisations, 2009/10

Each year, the Parish Council is permitted to make small grants to organisations that benefit the local population in some way or another. This is permissible under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972. There is a low ceiling on such grants, based upon the number of electors, and the monies are funded directly from the Council Tax, via the Parish Precept, so this is your money that we are talking about. There is no other external source of funding other than your Council Tax.

The council is aware of its duty to spend public money carefully, to achieve the maximum benefit to the residents of Mawnan, and is therefore keen to ensure that this money is targeted at the organisations most in need. For the financial year beginning April 2009, the Parish Council will once again give priority to groups and organisations which benefit the parish and its residents.

If you are a member or an organisation which would like to seek a grant from the Parish Council for a particular project or activity, could you please contact the Clerk before the end of November 2008.

A "project" may be a one-off purchase of equipment (e.g. insurance premium, special equipment used by your group, books etc), the cost of providing a service (e.g. lunch for village pensioners), or the cost of a section of your running costs (e.g. the cost of room hire for the year). After the 2009/10 year-end, we may seek verification that any donation has been used correctly. It may not be possible for the Council to cover the total cost of each project – a contribution towards the total may be made.

Speed Visor update

We are pleased to report that the promised Variable Message Sign (Speed Visor) will shortly be installed on Grove Hill, close to the Shute Hill junction. Let's hope that it deters the few irresponsible motorists from speeding in close proximity to the school.

Graveyard CPO – Progress report

The Chairman and Clerk recently had a very successful meeting with Mike Kirby from the National Trust. We are now reasonably confident that the Compulsory Purchase Order for the new graveyard will be completed by Christmas or early in the New Year. The Council is working closely with the PCC. Once in our possession we will convene a working group comprising a member of the PCC, our contractors, a designer and English Nature. One idea put forward by the National Trust would be to lay the new grave yard down to wild native flowers in the areas where there are no graves. This would provide easy maintenance whilst ensuring constant colour.

Allotments update

Life can be very frustrating as a Parish Councillor Lots of ideas, but always dependant on others higher up in the chain of local government to actually bring them to fruition. We had been in discussions with County Farms to lease a few acres at Meudon farm for our allotments but unfortunately that fell through. However, we are now in negotiation with another party, who must remain confidential so as to not prejudice any decision, and we are cautiously optimistic.

Battery Recycling

A recycling tube should be available by the end of October. This will be sited within the Hammer'n'Hoe, in The Square, Mawnan Smith.

Folding wheelchair to be available in Parish Office

The Rendelsham Trust has donated the wheelchair used to take residents to hospital to the Parish Council. There is often a shortage of wheelchairs for day patients at Treliske so taking "your own" makes sense. It is available free from the council offices in Goldmartin Square.

Community grant from CCC for more chairs for Memorial Hall

The council is pleased to report that a Community Grant from Cornwall County Council has doubled the contribution made by Mawnan Parish Council, towards new chairs for the Memorial Hall. The chairs have already been ordered and delivered, and should be of great benefit to everyone using the hall.

Mawnan Heritage Trust – Progress Report

Plans to purchase Chy an Scol are proceeding but are very much dependant on being successful with a Heritage Lottery Grant. The trustees submitted a pre-application to gauge HLF's response. As a result of this, we have been invited to a workshop in Exeter where plans can be considered in more detail and advice given on the best way to present the formal application.

Date of Carwinion & Junior Playing Field Trust AGM's

These will be held immediately before the November Parish Council meeting, at 7-00pm, on Thursday, 20th November 2008, at the Memorial Hall.

Fly Tipping – Problems at Carwinion Playing Field

It really is with great regret that we have to report that some irresponsible people or person have been fly tipping on the car park. Wood, old bathroom suites and, unfortunately, asbestos have been dumped where our children play.

We have a duty of care for people using this facility and the Trustees have decided, therefore, to put a lock on the vehicle entrance, to prohibit entry when the centre is not in use. Regular users like the MCA, Cricket and Football teams and the Playgroup will be given keys, and it will be their responsibility for locking the gate as they leave. Unfortunately this also means that anybody parking a car runs the risk of having it locked in. A notice will be placed on the gate, advising people that it is not a public car park and that if they do use it they may get locked in. It is a great shame that such draconian measures need to be taken. We are a small community and all facilities should be open to everybody. However, clearing asbestos could run into hundreds of pounds and even normal waste, fifty or sixty pounds a time, and it is all of us who have to foot the bill through our Council tax, which is not the best use of everyone's hard earned money.

We very much hope that by doing this we will break the fly tipping cycle and that it will only be a temporary measure.

Mawnan Fun Run – Report / Result

This took place on the morning of Sunday, 5th October 2008, with around 200 entrants, including members of Helford Gig Club, who pulled a gig around the entire course. The weather was kinder than last year (only light, intermittent rain) and over £2,000 was raised for charity, to be split between the Bishop's Forum and the Helford Gig Club.

New Footpaths Guide – Progress Report

Following a number of production problems, the latest version should be available by mid-November.

Planning Considerations in the AONB

There have recently been a number of Planning Applications to create very large residential properties around the Helford River, which have been refused by Kerrier District Council, and taken to appeal by applicants. In the past quite a few appeals were successful, but there has been a recent pattern of appeals being rejected, as such properties were often out of keeping with the nature of the Area of Outstanding Beauty. The Parish Council welcomes this change of policy on behalf of the Planning Inspectorate, and the fact that much more significance is being given to the protection of the character of the AONB.

Public Conveniences – Survey on Use

The public toilets at the end of Parc An Manns costs you a lot of money, in terms of utility charges, maintenance and cleaning. It is very difficult to gauge their usage but, as with all public expenditure, it needs to be justified in terms of the benefits accruing from it.

If you have any comment on the benefits or otherwise of these toilets, please send these in to the Clerk to the Council.

Remembrance Service

The Parish Council will be holding its customary Remembrance Day service at the cross on November 11th. The service commences at 1050 and lasts around fifteen minutes.

Christmas arrangements

Finally advance notice of one of the village highlights, switching on the Christmas lights. Every year the Christmas Lights Committee surpass themselves and we are sure this year will be no exception. Switch on 7-00pm, on Friday December 5th. with customary festivities in the square.

It's a bit early I know but on behalf on the Parish Council may we wish you Nadelik lowen ha blydhen nowydh da.
