



Mawnan Parish Council

Annual Report 2006/07

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April 2007

Mawnan Parish Council

The Parish Office
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Members of the Council :

Cllr Denis Gartside (Chair)
Cllr Malcolm Dearnley
(Vice Chair)
Cllr Mrs Marjorie Briars
Cllr Nigel Gilmore
Cllr Chris Hibbert
Cllr Phillip Moyle
Cllr David Odell
Cllr Rex Sadler
Cllr Richard South
Cllr Charles Stimson

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

2006/07 has been an interesting and constructive year for the Council. Finance for traffic calming measures in place, agreement to compulsory purchase land to extend the Parish grave yard, commended in the Best Kept Village Competition and taking legal ownership of the public toilets and bus shelter. Under the auspices of Veronica Donohue, Mawnan Parish Plan was successfully completed and now being acted upon, and of course the DVD Mawnan at War proved to be very popular.

2007 is also interesting because it sees the end of the current Parish Council with elections on May 3rd. May I ask you to register your votes for the Parish, District and County elections – democracy is a fundamental right in this Country, unlike in many others, and your vote really does count.

There are three Parish Councillors who regrettably are not seeking re election. Their specialised skills and competences have been invaluable to the operation of this Council. Richard South's business acumen and relentless pursuit of safety on our roads, Charles Stimson's infectious passion for the Best Kept Village Competition and Chris Hibbert's expertise in environmental issues and co producing the DVD Mawnan At War.

There is another Councillor who will not be gracing the next Parish Council. Marjorie Briars has decided to retire after 35 years. The statistics are impressive – almost 500 Parish Council meetings, that's around 70 full working days or 14 full working weeks dedicated to the community and that does not take into the account the many hours Marjorie spent walking and checking our public footpaths.

Finally I would like to place on the public record my thanks to the whole Council for their loyalty, hard work and conscientious dedication to the Parish and community. The role of a Parish Councillor has substantially changed over the last few years, with more responsibility, accountability, paperwork and time commitment, all of which are likely to increase further.

As Cornwall moves towards the likely dissolution of the District Councils and a Unitary Authority based on the County Council, there is little doubt that Parish Councils will be expected to administer increasing powers and responsibilities as the second tier within local government.

Cllr D Gartside – Chairman

PARISH PLAN PROGRESS

Following the consultation process and the successful production of the Parish Plan, Councillor portfolios and responsibilities have been realigned with the major threads identified. Affordable housing, youth activities and traffic calming were prioritised. The Council has pressed forward on these issues wherever possible. We now hope to reap benefits by applying for grants to enhance amenities within the village.

Cllr D Gartside – Parish Plan Representative

"MAWNAN AT WAR" DVD

Financed by Home Front Recall, the DVD really proved to be very popular. It was previewed at Trebah before Christmas, and amongst the ninety guests were Julia Goldsworthy, MP for Camborne and Falmouth, and Barry Manning, Chief Executive of Kerrier District Council. The DVD traces the role the village played during World War Two, and has rekindled many memories. Copies are available from the office, and there are plans for a part two, grants permitting !

Cllr D Gartside – Chairman

HOW THE PARISH PRECEPT WAS SPENT IN 2006/07

By Cllr M Dearnley - Vice Chairman

The income of every Parish and Town Council is provided by local residents via the Parish Precept, an element of your Council Tax. During 2006/07, Mawnan Parish Council was able to secure some additional grant income, which along with carried forward grants from the previous year, allowed a number of projects to be completed.

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

Grants were provided towards the maintenance of both the Junior Playing Field and Carwinion Playing Fields, which are owned by charitable trusts which rely upon grant support. Safe places to play are important aspects of village life, as is the encouragement of sport for all age groups. 16 local organisations also received Parish Council grant assistance, which is often vital to their continuing existence.

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 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 sent out by the Clerk each year. We have to budget 18 months ahead, so the budgeted sum for 2008/09 needs to be agreed between October and November 2007.

Contacts for Footpaths Maintenance, Grass Cutting & Public Toilet Cleaning & Maintenance

Contracts have recently been awarded closed tenders having been considered at the March meeting of the Parish Council. These were awarded as follows :-

- Footpaths maintenance – Mr A. Lugg, Tresooth Cottage, Penwarne, Mawnan Smith.
- Grass Cutting – Di-Mar Ground Maintenance, West End Industrial Estate, Penryn.
- Toilet Cleaning & Maintenance – Mr KC Payne, Alverton, Treverva Turning, Penryn.

Accounts Summary – 2006/07

Income

Balances Brought Forward	£5,759
Precept	£31,000
Other Income	£2,419
Bank Interest	£148
VAT Reclaim	£4,175

£43,501

Expenditure

Salaries & Training	£5,300
Parish Council Office	£1,518
Administration	£2,798
Footpaths, Grass Cutting & Weed Killing	£2,332
Public Toilets - Cleaning & Maintenance	£2,454
Playing Field Trusts	£6,000
Other Donations & Subscriptions	£4,148
Project - Parish Plan	£4,614
Project - Home Front Recall DVD	£250
Project - Best Kept Village	£430
Project - Village Improvements	£2,180
Project - Reprint Footpaths Booklet	£600
VAT Charges	£2,220

£34,844

Balances Carried Forward

£8,657

Parish Precept 2007/08

Two extraordinary items have caused the Mawnan Precept to rise for this coming year :-

- The decision to compulsorily purchase additional land for the graveyard extension at Mawnan Old Church – there are only a few spaces left.
- The provision of the first of two or three speed visors to reduce speed through our village. This was identified in the Parish Plan as a high priority need.

ATTENDANCE AT PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS, 2006/07

Cllr D Gartside	12 meetings	Cllr C Hibbert	9 meetings	Cllr R Sadler	10 meetings
Cllr Mrs M Briars	12 meetings	Cllr P Moyle	8 meetings	Cllr R South	8 meetings
Cllr M Dearnley	9 meetings	Cllr D Odell	8 meetings	Cllr C Stimson	9 meetings
Cllr N Gilmore	11 meetings				

CARWINION PLAYING FIELD TRUST

During the year some tidying up of the playing field was carried out with the help of some of the “users”. New planters were positioned and are now being looked after by the Playgroup, spurred on by the entry into the Best Kept Village competition. One local resident has carried out some bulb planting at the main entrance, which produced a lovely display this spring. The two wrought iron seats, which for the last few years have lain in the hedge, have now been refurbished and will shortly be installed. Thanks to Budock Vean Golf Club for their donation and to local craftsman John Paget for his help and guidance.

A new entrance sign will shortly be erected, thanks to the Fun Run donation and a local authority grant, and there are ongoing discussions about expanding the facilities at this superb venue, and in particular the possibility of a new building for the Playgroup.

CLlr M Dearnley – Carwinion Playing Field Representative

JUNIOR PLAYING FIELD TRUST

Village children have continued to utilise the excellent play equipment provided in the Junior Playing Field. The new roundabout, “Ronnie Rabbit” and the tyre climber have proved to be very popular. The aerial runway has seen heavy usage since it was first constructed.

Regrettably some damage has been incurred forcing it to be closed off for a number of weeks pending the replacement of support legs. The Trustees also received an adverse Health and Safety report on the old wooden baby/child swing in January, forcing its removal.

The trustees have applied to “Awards For All” for sufficient funding to purchase completely new swings. We are hopeful, it is a good bid, but the Olympic Games seem to be swallowing up so much money depriving smaller charities. We await the outcome.

CLlr D Gartside – JPF Representative

TECHNOLOGY UPDATE

Website

The Mawnan’s website, www.mawnansmith.org.uk, continues to act as a focal point for local businesses, contractors, organisations and residents, providing up to date information for the benefit of both local residents and visitors to Mawnan. The site is sponsored by the Parish Council, is updated 3 or 4 times every week, and there is NO CHARGE for advertising.

Broadband / Emails

The Parish Council office now has access to broadband internet. Although only open on Thursday and Friday mornings, emails sent to clerk@mawnan.org.uk are picked up by the Parish Clerk several times each week.

CLlr M Dearnley – Vice Chairman

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 54 planning applications within the parish. Although there were no applications concerning major developments, 8 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 third 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	48
Work on Trees in Protected Areas	6
Site Meetings held	14

CLlr N Gilmore – Planning Representative

FOOTPATHS REPORT

The council has again been a member of the County Council's Local Maintenance Project, acting as its agent, to trim and maintain paths around the parish. The Public Path Improvement program (PIIP), a new county wide survey of paths, including the upgrading and re-signing of "Gold Paths", will mean changes for the maintenance of paths from next year, but we are confident that we will be able to maintain our high standards.

Because of the high standard of our footpaths, we have been invited to take on the maintenance of some parts of the South West Coastal Path for the next three years, work that will be 100% funded by the County Council.

I am pleased to report that the resurfacing of Footpath 16 (Grove Hill to Carwinion Road, via the Junior Playing Field) was finally carried out in March 2007. The difficult Footpath 11 (to Maenporth) has also been upgraded, in November 2006.

Finally, an updated version of the popular Footpaths & Visitor Guide was produced in time for Summer 2006. There is a stock in the parish council office, and in shops and hotels around the parish if you do not yet have a copy. This leaflet not only gives details of walks around the village, but also short snippets of history at focal points around the walk.

CLlr Mrs M Briars – Footpaths Representative

BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION

Following last year's decision to enter the County and Calor Gas nationally sponsored 'Best Kept Village' competition, a groundswell of enthusiasm immediately affected the appearance of the Village, with a much talked about pride in our surroundings. Despite the title, the competition is not only about our 'tidiness', but includes our community activity and care for all inhabitants.

I am proud to say that more than twenty invited clubs and organisations active throughout this village provided an excellent presentation to the visiting panel of judges, firmly illustrating what a highly successful community we enjoy. I would not wish to single out any particular effort, as so much was achieved by all. However, both comment and much pleasure was expressed by many over the delightful floral display that our Post Office and Spar shop created. I am sure this stimulated many to support the project and hopefully continuing support for our local traders.

Once again, MANY THANKS TO ALL WHO PARTICIPATED, and nearly producing the much deserved top prize. We attained a COMMENDATION AND SECOND PLACE, narrowly losing to our neighbour, Constantine. We must keep up momentum and try again in 2007.

I am sure the additional improvements of a completed Smithy restoration and new Craft workshops during mid summer, following tremendous local support, added to the proposed Tourist Information Sign and village 'Welcome' signs will contribute towards a 2007 first result and ensure a continuing pride in our village.

CLlr C Stimson – Project Organiser

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING DATES, 2007/08

The Parish Council meets at Mawnan Memorial Hall on the third Thursday of each month, at 7.30pm. Meetings start 10 minutes for public comment on items on the Agenda, and end with any other comments from the public.

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.

The Parish Council Meeting Dates 2007/08 are :-

19 Apr 07 (after Annual Parish Meeting, 7.00pm)	
17 May 07	15 Nov 07
21 Jun 07	20 Dec 07
19 Jul 07	17 Jan 08
(no August Meeting)	21 Feb 08
20 Sep 07	20 Mar 08
18 Oct 07	