

July 2014 Report

I would like to start this month's report by thanking my fellow Councillors for their confidence in electing me as Chair of our Council for a second year. I am pleased and proud of all that has been achieved over the last 14 months, including:

We have a new website provider, who has produced a design which has been praised for its improved simplicity and user-friendly layout. Our new contractors and handyman have been appointed and compliments have been received by both myself and the Clerk for the high standards being achieved by them in their work throughout the parish. We have acquired the funding to enable us to provide a new custom-built Youth Club building which is almost complete and should be open for business very soon. Work is well underway with provision of a BMX area in the corner of the Recreation Ground.

The above are some of the major highlights, but behind the scenes I have been pleased with the way we have coped with having to take on some of the tasks formerly carried out by Cornwall Council, which due to budgetary constraints they have either stopped providing or reduced funding, such as the spraying of weeds on the pavements, and maintenance of footpaths – which are now being cut twice a year instead of once. They may not seem that important, but details like these contribute significantly to the general appearance of the parish. A modest increase to our Parish Precept was necessary to achieve them, but I am sure you will agree it is money well spent.

I would not like people to think that all these improvements are solely due to my efforts. We have a wealth of talent and experience on our Council, ably supported by one of the hardest working Cornwall Councillors around and a very efficient and conscientious Clerk. All our Councillors contribute to our decision making, with site visits for planning applications, sub-committees managing finance, general maintenance of our play and leisure spaces and the provision of the Youth Club to name just a few. It was therefore particularly disappointing that the Planning Meeting of July 8th had to be rescheduled due to a lack of Councillors able to attend on that date. By the time you read this I hope the rescheduled meeting will have taken place and the business on the agenda dealt with. Rest assured, we are reviewing our working practices and standing orders in an effort to ensure this does not reoccur in the future. Please accept my personal apology for any inconvenience caused by this.

Looking forwards to the rest of this civic year I am sure as a Council we will continue to represent you to the best of our ability and make progress with some of the longer term projects that are on our agenda. These include; the establishment of a neighbourhood plan, the stewardship of the Kelliars and emergency planning to name but three.

Michael Hopkins

Chairman