

Mabe Parish Council

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2023 TO 2024

Report:

1. This is the final year before both Cornwall Council, and Town and Parish Council elections next May. After 4 years of hard work by a dedicated team of volunteers, the Mabe Neighbourhood Development Plan passed its referendum on 10th August 2023 with 97% of respondents voting yes, at which point it gained full weight in planning decisions. It became a made and adopted plan on 25th October 2023, when approved by the full Council at Cornwall Council. It now forms part of the overall planning policy for Cornwall. Our thanks go to them all for their efforts. Sadly, during the year, two long serving previous members of the Parish Council passed away. Mark Kessel and George Kingston were both long standing members of the Parish Council and the Community, and their contributions to Mabe must always be remembered.

2. Membership:

There were 12 monthly meetings, the Annual Parish Meeting and an EGM. These figures are for the period following the last AGM held on 11th May 2023 and include the Council meeting, also held on 11th May 2023.

The following table shows Members' attendance throughout that period.

<u>Councillor</u>	<u>No of Possible Meetings to Attend</u>	<u>No of Meetings Attended</u>	<u>Attendance Record</u>
Cole, Chris	14	8	57%
Galke, Bea	14	14	100%
Simmons, Paul	14	11	78%
Phillips, Roger	14	9	64%
Thomas, Andrew	14	4	28%
Tindle, Terry	14	13	93%
Tisdale, Peter	14	14	100%
West, Keith	14	9	64%
Wills, Amanda	14	8	57%
Wilkinson, Michelle	14	12	86%

The Vice Chair, Councillor Keith West, has attended several Community Area Partnership meetings, where he was elected to serve on the Highways and Levelling Up funding sub committees. Several funding bids were submitted to the CAP where suggestions as to whether funding should be offered, were put forward. On the

Levelling Up funding, we submitted two initial expressions of interest, which were positively received.

The first being funding for improvements to the WI, which the Parish Council decided not to pursue.

The second was for the Concept, Design and Development for the Land on Antron Hill, together with an agreement from the Cornwall Council Devolution team, that the land would be devolved to the Parish Council. We are still waiting for Cornwall Council to make the decision to devolve the land to the Parish.

Councillor Paul Simmons meets with the University teams, to establish links with the various departments, and also attends the on-line CAP meetings. He continues to be our footpath co-ordinator and looks after matters involving the footpaths, meeting with other Parishes which border our own. He has also attended Mabe Climate Action Group meetings, and continues as the co-ordinator for Mabe Matters, , attending meetings, interviewing, liaising with Booths and distributors of magazine and obtaining articles.

Another of our Councillors, Bea Galke, has also attended CAP meetings. She is also currently reviewing Council Policies to bring them up to date to take to full Council.

On a personal note, I have been selected to sit on the Community Infrastructure Levy Grant panel, which distributes funding to various causes from the monies gathered from developments throughout the County. I am also a member of the Cornwall Planning Partnership, consisting of 16 members from Town and Parish Councils from across Cornwall and Cornwall Council Planning Officers. which and was re-elected as a Director of the CALC (Cornwall Association of Local Councils) Board, both these positions are a great asset to the Parish.

Committees as of 16 April 2024

Planning sites	P Tisdale, K West, T Tindle, M Wilkinson
Planning Committee	P Tisdale, K West, T Tindle, C Cole, B Gaulke
Staffing	P Tisdale, K West, T Tindle, B Gaulke
Finance	P Tisdale, K West, R Phillips

Working Groups

Footpaths	C Cole, A Wills, P Tisdale, A Thomas, M Wilkinson
Health & Safety	T Tindle, A Thomas, K West

Outside Reps

Community Area Partnership	K West (Voting), B Gaulke (Substitute), P Simmons
University link	A Wills, P Simmons
Climate Change Group	P Simmons
MYCP Reps	C Cole, K West, A Thomas
Defibrillator Checks	C Cole, K West, T Tindle
Internal Audit Checks	P Tisdale, R Phillips

Members of the Parish Council recently had a meeting with Mr Alan Mason, Head of Enforcement at Cornwall Council.

Both myself and Councillor Galke, have attended the Home Office briefing of Martyn's Law, which has resulted from the Manchester Arena bombings.

In November, our clerk Louise Dowe resigned, as she had secured a new position with a larger Council. I would like to take this opportunity to thank her for all her hard work during her time with us. Following a recruitment drive over Christmas and New Year, we secured a new Clerk in mid-January. He is Andrew Bishop MBE, and is settling in very well, and rapidly becoming a great asset to the Parish Council.

3. Planning:

Earlier this year, response times for planning applications were shortened, resulting in the Parish Council having to introduce extra meetings to meet these new deadlines. The Planning committee therefore has meetings between our normal monthly meetings, as and when required, which we then report back to the full Council.

<u>Councillor</u>	<u>No of Possible Meetings to Attend</u>	<u>No of Meetings Attended</u>	<u>Attendance Record</u>
Cole, Chris	3	3	100%
Galke, Bea	3	3	100%
Tindle, Terry	3	2	66%
Tisdale, Peter	3	3	100%
West, Keith	3	3	100%

During the year, 25 planning applications were dealt with by the Parish Council. Of these, 11 were supported by the Parish Council, 10 of which were approved by Cornwall Council.

12 applications were not supported, of which 4 were approved, 3 were refused, 2 were withdrawn, 1 of which was not accepted as an amendment as noted by the PC, and 3 are still pending.

There was 1 application on which the Parish Council was unable to comment on.

In total, 16 applications were granted with a range of conditions attached, which were requested by the Parish Council.

There were also 3 Planning Appeals, 2 of which were allowed and 1 which was dismissed. Recent planning decisions have referred to the Mabe NDP, but in some appeals the Inspector appears to have disregarded it or overruled it.

4. Allowances:

No Parish Councillor's have received any expenses for their commitments or travelling while carrying out their duties.

5. Footpaths, Highways and Environment:

Unfortunately, our bi-monthly meetings with Mr V Bidgood, Cornwall Council's Cormac Area Manager, stopped during Covid, and have not resumed. Hopefully, we will be able to resume these in the next few months, as they were extremely useful to both the Parish and Cornwall Council as we were able to report maintenance issues directly and get them prioritised for action.

Work is due to commence shortly to make the crossing from Kingston Way across the A39 to the University safer for pedestrians. Although it is not what the Parish Council had hoped for, it should help towards making it a little safer. We shall see.

Cllr Simmons works closely with Mr Ronnie George, a representative of the local Ramblers Association to do maintain our footpaths and continues to erect new signage and has introduced a more relevant cutting/upkeep scheme for the footpaths. We continue to have some footpaths that require working with Cornwall Council's enforcement team, but we hope landowners will work with the Parish to revitalise this important asset that benefits the wellbeing of all residents and visitors.

The community of Halvasso still has concerns about speeding through their hamlet, which is still an on-going problem for the Parish Council. Flooding has also become an issue, which hopefully can finally be solved due to the joint agreement between a very generous resident and Cormac.

The local Speedwatch team is out and about monitoring speeds throughout the village. Contrary to 'popular misconceptions' this is not a money making scheme for Devon and Cornwall Police, but part of a county wide road safety exercise to cut the number of deaths and serious injury to pedestrians and other road users. Mabe does not have many pavements around the crossroads and shop. Speeding around this area poses a serious threat to pedestrians, especially our younger ones. If you would like to help slow the traffic through our village and make it safer for pedestrians, please contact me to for information on joining the group.

6. Remembrance Garden and War Memorial:

Last November, the Parish came together once again, to remember those who gave the ultimate sacrifice for the freedom we have today. It is good to see that every year since the memorial was opened, numbers continue to grow at the ceremony despite the weather. I must also thank the members of the Women's Institute for once again laying on tea and biscuits afterwards, which is very much appreciated. Wreaths were laid on behalf of the Royal British Legion, the residents of Mabe Parish, Brownies, Mabe Community Hub, WI, Falmouth and Exeter Students Union and Cornwall Council. Special thanks to the Brownies, the FXU choir and our Bugler. I hope that this will continue to be an annual event for the village, and we will be holding the Remembrance Service and Parade again this year.

7. Play Park:

The Play Park continues to be well used by the local young people. It is lovely to see so many young people enjoying themselves there, and with the new seats, parents can sit and watch them play.

8. Finally:

I would like to give my personal thanks to all our Members and our Clerk for their support and hard work during the year, and for those who hold offices which raise the profile of our Parish – without all these people Mabe would not be the place it is today!

This has been another successful year for the Council, and I hope that next year will be even better.

**Cllr Peter Tisdale
Chairman**

May 1st 2024