

Delabole Annual Meeting, Chairman's Report 2023

Our second year (how time flies) as a parish council has provided a few more challenges; more brickbats than bouquets. Namely, the slow progress of the traffic calming scheme, the anti-social behaviour during the winter months when we encouraged the public to report these incidents to the police and the escalation of vandalism in the public toilets and playing field.

On the administration side of parish affairs, the land registry transfers from the previous St Teath P.C. of three plots of land and cemetery management have taken up much of the Clerks time. Despite the best efforts on our part to plan for the establishment of Delabole PC as a separate entity from St Teath, there are still some issues outstanding. For all this activity, we thank the Clerk for her determination and dedication to get this sorted for the village and we have established a good working relationship with the new St Teath PC to resolve these issues.

The parish council has commented on 14 planning applications.

In a year of celebrations and commiserations the village celebrated the Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth 2nd in June followed shortly in September by the Queen's death and the execution of Operation London Bridge to mark this sad occasion. As I write this report, our nation is preparing for the coronation of King Charles III. On the occasions of the jubilee and coronation, the parish council gifted souvenirs to the children of the village. Our thanks to the Delabole Slate Company for their generous donations of commemorative plaques for the clock tower to mark these two events.

The parish council continues to support local initiatives including the skatepark project, the youth club, the litter Wombles, the Christmas lights and Tintagel Brownies where our local children attend. An additional defibrillator was installed in the porch of the Methodist Church to service another area of the village, together with a training session provided by Duchy Defibrillators.

There have been frustrations with engaging local tradesmen to undertake small jobs and improvements around the village. This is because they are all busy not because they don't want to. Consequently, we advertised for a local handyman and this position has recently been filled.

The parish council has been represented throughout the year at the Camelford Community Network, one of 19 groups of parish councils working together to address issues like the provision of public transport, traffic congestion, the lack of NHS dentists and other common issues. These groups are now being reduced to 12 Community Area Partnerships with Delabole and St Teath joining Wadebridge and Bodmin Community Area Partnership, and St Breward, Boscastle, Tintagel, Forrabury & Minster and others from the Camelford group joining the Bude Community Area Partnership. There is much reservation from the now disbanded Camelford partnership as to how the smaller parishes will be represented in much larger groups. We shall have to see what the year ahead with this new arrangement has in store for our community.

Finally, I thank all the councillors for their commitment to ensuring that, to the best of our ability and as volunteers, we continue to serve this village and its residents.