

Annual Report from the Parish Council Chair 2019-2021

St Keyne Parish Council
Cllr Sally Lewis

Welcome & Thank You

Firstly, and most importantly, thank you everyone for all your help and work over the past years, and a special note of gratitude to the Councillors, especially to those who are leaving us at election time.

New Boundary

The Boundary Review has now been completed and the new combined St Keyne and Trewidland Council is in place with four new Councillors, Lindsey Ellis, Sarah Whiting and Angela Woodman for Trewidland and Peter Higgs for the St Keyne Wards. I'd like to show my appreciation to the Dobwalls and Trewidland Councillors, John Dunn, Hugh Francis and Mhairi Mackie who have given so much of their time and experience to help with this huge change. Also, I must welcome back Fran Lewis, Kevin Shovelton and Richard Dorling. I am looking forward to serving with you all.

Impact of Covid-19

Up until March 2020 we had a busy and active year, but the Covid 19 pandemic has changed things since then. However, we continue our work diligently although sadly we have not been able to get together in person, our meetings have still taken place regularly using the phone instead.

When the pandemic started early last year, our Emergency Plan Team Kevin Shovelton, Fran Lewis and Min Sabulis got together and worked hard to find ways to help the Parish during the first lockdown by finding 20 volunteers to help with doing essential shopping and, perhaps more importantly, and in collaboration with the two Liskeard Surgeries, arranging to collect and deliver prescriptions. We were also helped so much by Carol Beaver who made hundreds of cotton masks for anyone who needed them and to Jim who refurbished all the road and street signs in the Village. They also put together a series of newsletters telling us all about where to find help if it was needed. The Parish Council made donations to the food bank in Liskeard and various other charities who were offering support in this area.

Our new defibrillator

The defibrillator at the Village Hall was installed in 2018 and we have held two training sessions on its use. They were both well attended, very informative and interesting. Hopefully, when the Covid restrictions are fully lifted we will organise another. The defibrillator has only once been taken out of the cabinet so far but happily did not need to be used during that incident.

Jubilee Park

The survey about Jubilee Park in 2019 was useful and informative – the responses were very important to us and you will have seen the summary of the results on our website.

In the park itself, the play equipment and the fencing around the play area has been completed and the area is well used and enjoyed by all. I know that the opportunity to walk dogs in the park has been well received and taken advantage of. I'd like to say a special thank you to the conscientious people who have often picked up dog mess left by those who really don't seem to care about the health of our children or the enjoyment of everyone else. We continue to have annual inspections of the play equipment and this helps to inform our maintenance of the Park.

The St Keyne Lawn Cemetery

The Memorial Garden in the Lawn Cemetery has now been completed. The three Silver Birch seem to be happy within the Cornish Stone wall and to date we have three plaques in place to remember loved ones. We have installed two new benches, planted shrubs and a parishioner has added bulbs and plants as well in the area. We have now purchased markers for the reserved plots and hope to get some more signage in place soon. Sadly the Cemetery seems to have been need a lot over the past two years and we mourn the loss of so many local people.

Your safety in our open spaces

Jane Page has diligently checked the open areas of our Village every week and picked up more rubbish than we could dream of each time. She inspects the equipment and the state of Jubilee Park, the Lawn Cemetery and Longlands Recreation Ground, and reports back to the Council each month to make sure that all is in order and safe.

Parish Finances

We reduced our precept (the local parish tax that funds our work) for the 2019 financial year from £16,000 to £12,000 and continue to keep it as low as possible. In spite of that, we continue to support the Village Hall with an annual grant of £1,000 and payment of the broadband and WiFi fees for the Hall, together with the offer to help with other project costs as and when needed.

We have made £50 grants to Cornwall Air Ambulance and to CRUSE and would like to remind everyone that grants are available for local groups and charities as well – more details are on our website. We have been busy and productive in spite of Covid 19. The next years will be very different and hopefully we will bring more ideas and actions to the fore across our new and much larger Parish area.

Thank you

Our Clerk, John Hesketh, has kept us all in line and has sorted out the website, the paperwork for the Lawn Cemetery, made sure we were compliant with GDPR from the first day, sourced training opportunities for us and provided training himself on our new planning process. He also helped us to the LCAS Award – what an asset to us he is – Thank You, John.

Goodbye Longlands

Longlands recreation area has now closed to the public after the end of the Parish Council's twelve-year lease of the field. Peter and Sharon Clemens granted us the

lease and the grounds were used for numerous activities including the Carnival and other outdoor events as well as providing us with football nets and a basketball hoop. Inevitably times change and the land is now required for agricultural use again.

And goodbye also to...

Charles Boney has been representing us regularly at the Cornwall Council Community Network Meetings and is such a useful contact for us with Council matters, with Trewidland School and St Keyne Church. Min Toms has been our Vice Chair and is such a support for me, especially, and has been involved with her neighbours in considering and consulting on the planned housing development in the fields adjacent to their homes. Jane Page has been tireless in her work to keep everyone who uses our open spaces safe; she will always be missed. They have all given great service to the residents of the parish, and I wish them well in the future.

I would also like to take this opportunity to say a special thank you to our Cornwall Councillor, Phil Seeva, who has attended many of our monthly meetings and has been an incredible source of information and help throughout the years – it is all very much appreciated.

And new hellos

We can now look forward to welcoming our new Parish Council and working with them all to make sure we do the best we can for the whole of St Keyne and Trewidland. I'm sure there will be interesting and exciting times ahead.

With best wishes

Cllr Sally Lewis
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