

ST SAMPSON PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman's Annual Report May 2018.

This is my second annual report as chair of your Parish Council and firstly I would like to thank your councillors, David Jenkinson, David Johns, Steve Phillis, Debbie Pugh-Jones and Andrew van den Broek for the work they have put in on your behalf over the past 12 months. I am a supporter of the "mending broken windows theory" - which means fix things as soon as you can before one breakage leads to more gradual deterioration and the whole place inexorably falls into disrepair. Far from being a mere talking shop, your council has some very able hands-on people who have fixed or brought to attention all manner of things - action which cumulatively helps keep this parish a great place to live and visit. Many of the deeds that need "doing" are actually the responsibility of other agencies but in a climate of continued cost cutting pressure across most organisations, in a parish as small as ours if we do not tackle minor jobs as best we can or at least promptly raise the concern then it could be a long wait before others get around to sorting our problems. We have our outstanding clerk, Mrs Sue Blaxley, to call on and she not only keeps us up to speed on what we can and should be doing but helps us task Cornwall Council and all the other service providers to ensure that our small parish is kept on the priority lists.

Parish council duties and responsibilities are increasing all the time – central and higher level local government are fully aware of how onerous public administration has become for unpaid volunteer councillors but practical solutions to the burden are few and far between. I would therefore ask again that everyone should consider doing a turn on the Parish Council – we have one current vacancy and no doubt some of us will want a rest before long. Worthwhile and rewarding work for the public good - what is there not to like? When we meet on 22 May 2018 we will choose a chair and vice chair for the coming year, Sue Blaxley will remain in office.

In reviewing the past year I have been delighted with the effort which all our local groups and organisations have put in to make this such a great place. The calendar of events has been full of wonderful activities, entertainments and examples of generous giving of time and talent for all to enjoy. Your councillors have been pleased to help with some funding under our focus of investing in our assets and people and promoting that great sense of community. I would also like to highlight the fantastic work which Mike and Gillie Harris put in to capture so much of our village like in their brilliant production of the **Golant Pill** Newsletter. If you have missed a hard copy, editions are on line at <http://golant.net/golant-pill>

The Parish has funds of around £14,000 in hand. This represents a gradual drawing down from the very high balances held in previous years as we spend money on local requests. We have nonetheless been able to keep our local taxation precept at an unchanged level and our balances will improve again as the precept instalment (some £3700) comes in and car park ticket machine revenue continues. It is a very sound financial position and our full accounts will be submitted for audit shortly.

We are still waiting for our own Traffic Management Order to be drawn up for car park enforcement and we look forward to transfer of ownership of the car park and public toilet to the Parish as a soon as practicable.

Our first draft **Neighbourhood Development Plan** is now available and I would greatly welcome your comments.

Minutes of meetings, reports, documents and policies are on our Parish Council website <http://www.stsampsonparishcouncil.org.uk/>

Our Parish Clerk Sue Blaxley can be contacted on stsampsonpc@gmail.com for any further information or to raise issues of concern.

Robin Anderson, Chair.

Next meeting - Tuesday 26 June 2018 at 7.15 pm in Golant village hall. All are welcome.