



PENZANCE Town Council



Annual Report
2018/2019

Penzance Town Council 2018-19

Highlights of the Year

by Cllr Dick Cliffe (Mayor of Penzance)

Community Safety

The Town Council places great importance on protecting public spaces and making residents feel safe. By supporting the police and working closely with our partners, we are committed to helping reduce the enduring issue of anti-social crime within the parish. The challenge has been the delivery of a strategy without additional resources. The recently created Community Safety Officer post and new Town Hub will be the physical embodiment of the efforts - bringing together, in one location, the Community Safety Officer, Cornwall Council's Community Safety team (West Cornwall) and the Penzance BID Manager. It will also offer much tighter coordination with police

beat officers, who will be able to use the offices as a place to liaise with the Community Safety Team and collect intelligence. The hub will also



encourage close working with third sector

organisations such as Addaction, Breadline and Street Pastors. Due to open in the spring, details will be released on how residents can use the Hub to report crime and related issues. In addition, the Town Council has installed and maintains 17 high definition CCTV cameras – with the Police and Crime Commissioner recently giving an £8,000 grant towards installing the latest 4 cameras.

Economic Regeneration

The Penzance Regeneration Partnership is supported by the Town Council and has been at the forefront of an initiative to offer free evening parking in Penzance – as well as a 'pay on exit' upgrade at the Harbour Car Park. Also negotiated, and due to be in place from April 2019, is a 50p charge for first hour of parking in long stay car parks in the parish.

St Petros

The Council has been working with St Petros to tackle the issue of rough sleeping within the town. Central government funding was put in place to support a night shelter in Breadline offering overnight accommodation - an initiative which has benefited an average of 6 to 7 people per night. Additional support has been given by the Streetfood Project, which helps feed and clothe homeless people.

Newlyn Harbour

The regeneration of the Harbour has understandably created a passionate response from the community. Although the bid for ERDF funding has delayed the project, the Council is confident a bid will go in support of investment in 2019- 2020.

Heliport

The Town Council was in full support of the application for the new heliport to be sited in Penzance and are reassured by the news that a £1.87 million ERDF grant is now in place, with flights set to go ahead in April 2020.

Tour of Britain

Cornwall Council is looking to support the Tour of Britain passing through Cornwall in 2020 – with Penzance likely to be the starting point of the race. Not only would this bring national focus to the town, it would also offer the added benefit of requiring the resurfacing of part of the promenade.

Neighbourhood Plan

Public Consultation on the Neighbourhood Plan is underway, with residents being given the chance to help shape the future of the parish and put forward their views on how they would like to see the town invigorated. Don't miss the chance to put your views forward. For further details see: <http://www.pznp.co.uk/>

How the Council Works

Penzance Town Council operates at the most local level of government with 20 councillors elected for a term of four years. These councillors work for the town and the surrounding areas in a voluntary capacity and are supported by a small team of paid officers headed by the Town Clerk. As well as Penzance, the Town Council also represents the distinct communities of Newlyn, Eastern Green, Mousehole, Heamoor and Gulval.

The Council meets at least six times a year to take major decisions and oversee activities of the Town Council. The Council appoints four committees from its membership – Finance and General Purposes, Leisure and Amenities, Penlee House and Planning. The first three of these meet on an eight weekly cycle. The Planning Committee meets approximately every three weeks to fulfill the Council's role as a statutory consultee. On all planning applications. Agendas are issued 6 days before meetings and are posted on our public noticeboard and on the Council's website.



These committees are supported by specialised sub-committees and working groups. Councillors are also appointed to represent the Council on local outside organisations.

The press and public are welcome to attend committee and full Council meetings and have the opportunity to put questions, or comment, on agenda items at the beginning of the proceedings. The minutes for committee and Council meetings are published once they have been approved

and can be viewed on the Town Council website at www.penzancetowncouncil.co.uk.

The Calendar of Meetings for the Year is also on the Town Council's website and notice board. Please contact Hester Hunt, Town Clerk for any information regarding Town Council meetings by emailing: hester@penzancetowncouncil.co.uk.

What Our Committees Do

Finance and General Purposes Committee

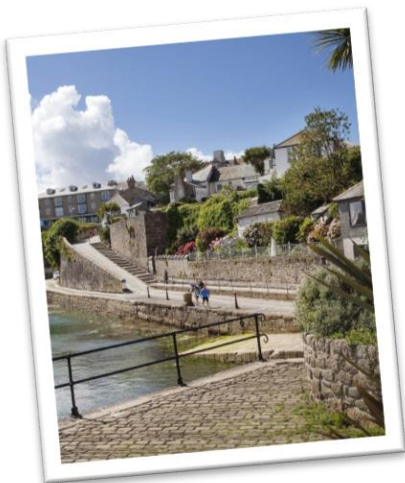
The Committee has responsibility for overseeing the financial affairs of the Town Council which includes making a recommendation to Full Council for a 3-year budget to enable the delivery of Town Council services, dealing with staffing matters and to oversee all aspects of Corporate Governance. The Committee also considers grant applications for community groups; this year, a total of £5,165 was granted to 14 organisations. During 2018/19 additional budgets were approved; a Social Issues budget to facilitate us working with partner agencies in respect of issues identified in the Parish and a budget to create a Town Centre Hub to enable the public to access information and report incidents in relation to public safety and promote closer working between the Safer Penzance partners.

Planning Committee

Penzance Town Council is a consultee for all Penzance Parish planning applications and the Planning Committee meets at regular 3-weekly intervals.

Over the past year the Committee has commented on over 300 planning applications, including strategic developments such as the Premier Inn in Branwells Mill and the re-development of the St Clare site which includes the new Medical Hub.

The development of the new heliport is progressing rapidly – a project that was supported by the Town Council and that will bring economic benefits to the Parish.



Leisure and Amenities Committee

The Leisure and Amenities Committee is responsible for the maintenance and management of a number of Town Council assets. These assets range from open space and public amenity sites to buildings owned or managed by the Town Council and the delivery of key public services across the Parish. Whilst the work of the committee is varied and challenging, the Leisure and Amenities Committee has a direct ability to positively influence and affect a number of the “public facing” responsibilities of the Town Council.

Penlee House Committee

The Penlee House Committee deals with all matters relating to the control and management of the Art Gallery and Museum within Penlee House. The Committee establishes service policies, approves programmes of work, monitors performance and takes decisions in respect of those matters detailed in the approved budget and provides reports on the implementation of service policies. The Committee also makes recommendations to the Finance and General Purposes Committee regarding staffing requirements.



Devolution



With local government budgets shrinking and assets and services being devolved to town councils, what does devolution mean for Penzance?

Cornwall Council officers are already working with local communities to deliver devolution, with the primary purpose being to help sustain locally-led service delivery.

Penzance Town Council has already successfully taken over the management of public toilets in the town and subsidised the Jubilee Pool. As such, the Council is now well placed to take on additional assets and improve them for the local community.

Phase 2 of services agreed to be devolved to Penzance Town Council include the management of Morrab Gardens, Alexandra Play Park and the adjacent tennis courts – as

well as the Princess May Recreation Ground and Foxes Lane Play Park in Mousehole. Past experience has shown that green spaces such as these can benefit from being managed locally and positively impact a large section of the community.

With its extensive tropical and Mediterranean planting, Morrab Gardens has long been nationally esteemed for its extensive horticultural collection. Despite excellent work by the Friends of Morrab, under investment has seen the Gardens unable to reach the potential once enjoyed. With this in mind, Penzance Town Council is committed to working with its partners to restore the gardens to their former glory.

The Princes May Recreation Ground presents a multi-use space for families. It has a modern skate-bowl, playground, games court, trim trail and large open green space for a range of recreational activities. Already a winner of the coveted Green Flag Award, a mark of excellence, the park is considered one of the best of its kind in the South West.

Alexandra Play Park, with its popular setting close to the promenade and sea front, is another popular space for families. Despite recent additions to the park’s playground equipment, it requires additional investment with a request that the adjacent tennis courts also be passed to Penzance Town Council to manage.

Demonstrating that devolution is being looked at Parish wide, Mousehole’s recently

refurbished Play Park at Foxes Lane will also come under Town Council management.

Devolution is a wonderful opportunity for partnership working, enabling the community to have more control and investment in the town and its assets.

Penzance Town Council has already taken steps to put funding in place, so work can commence once the handover has taken place. There will be much to be done, but we relish the opportunity and hope the community will support the Town Council in this exciting new chapter.



Our Services



Allotments

The Town Council manages approximately 200 allotment sites across the parish. Improvements in site management have led to a significant reduction in the number of people on the waiting lists across many of the sites and an increase in standards across all areas. Whilst waiting lists still exist across all sites under the management of the Town Council, this demand serves to demonstrate the importance and value that allotment tenancy holds for many residents within the parish. In addition, a new policy and lease arrangements have been put in place.

Penlee Car Park

Penlee Car Park continues to be one of the most well used car parks within the parish. The competitive pricing introduced by the Town Council affords many people who work in Penzance the opportunity to park near the town centre. The pricing structure continues to offer good value all day parking to support shops and businesses within Penzance. In addition, the car park also serves Penlee Park, Penlee House Gallery, the Town Council offices and Penzance Tennis Club. A robust maintenance plan for 2017 has led to significant improvements in the drainage across the car park and an ongoing maintenance programme is in place to address issues and facilitate improvements within the car park.

Penzance Christmas Lights

Penzance Town Council is responsible for the hire, installation and maintenance of the suspended Christmas lights throughout Penzance and the provision and lighting of the Christmas tree adjacent to Market House. The Christmas light delivery requires the development of strong working relationships with residents, businesses and

contractors within the Parish. Grants are also provided to other areas within the parish to support their Christmas light displays with financial contributions being made to Mousehole, Newlyn, Heamoor and Gulval.

Grants

The Town Council agreed to renew its annual commitment to offer grant support to Pengarth Day Centre, Welcome West Cornwall Centre, Penzance Street Pastors, Penzance Community Flora Group, several twinning organisations and a range of annual festivals held in Mousehole, Newlyn and Penzance. It also provided one off funding for community groups to support the delivery of local projects. In total, the Town Council awarded £90,340.

Penlee House Gallery & Museum

Penlee House Gallery & Museum is a unique cultural venue, welcoming over 26,000 visitors in 2018/19. The five exhibitions this year have brought art of international significance to the gallery, as well as celebrating our unique cultural heritage. Penlee has once again increased its community outreach sessions, including memory and reminiscence sessions with older people, a programme of free Under 5's sessions and an Arts & Health programme as well as enhanced volunteering opportunities.

Penlee Park

Penzance Town Council's Leisure and Amenities Team are based in Penlee Park which is well-used by a number of different user groups. Penlee Park contains a wide and diverse number of elements, including an open air theatre, a well-used play park, formal planting, wild planting, open spaces tennis courts and a memorial garden. Significant work has been carried out across 2018/19 to update and improve a number of the planting areas within the park and we look forward to developing these even further in the future.

Public Toilets

Following devolution of this public service by Cornwall Council, and to ensure their continued operation, Penzance Town Council now operates six public toilets throughout the Parish. Whilst delivery of this frontline public service is particularly challenging, a number of improvements to the service have

been implemented over the last twelve months. More robust cleaning and inspection regimes have been implemented and these have been supported by both Penzance Town Council staff and local contractors committed to achieving an improved service delivery to both residents and visitors to the area. Also, a maintenance programme has been introduced to carry out a number of physical improvements across the facilities.

Community Toilet Scheme

The Town Council took the decision to enhance the delivery of their Public Toilet programme by being one of the first Town Councils to implement a "Community Toilet Scheme". The scheme involves incentivising local businesses to open their doors and facilities to members of the public. The scheme aims to provide safe, clean facilities to residents and visitors to the area and have received very positive feedback. The scheme continues to grow in size and ten local businesses across Penzance and Newlyn have expressed interest in participating in the scheme throughout 2019 /20. See: www.penzancetowncouncil.co.uk/council-services/community-toilet-scheme

Wherrytown Skatepark

Working closely with Kerbs Skateboard Association, the Council manages and maintains the Wherrytown Skatepark. The skatepark is very well used by residents and visitors carrying out a number of "skate inspired" sports. The cleanliness and upkeep of the facility is credit to the Kerbs Association who promote ownership and responsibility amongst the park users to ensure that the facility remains in good condition. A joint project between Penzance Town Council and Kerbs in 2018 /19 has led to the installation of new, upgraded waste & recycling bins at the skatepark.

CCTV

The Council owns and maintains seventeen CCTV cameras throughout Penzance Town as part of a partnership programme with 9 other local town councils. The Town Council contributes to the centralised monitoring of this system from the control centre in Tolvaddon which helps to link and support the emergency services in the resolution of issues. The installation of the CCTV cameras aims to support Devon and Cornwall Police in their policing of crime and anti-social behavior throughout the Parish.

Projects we support

The Town Council gives financial support to community organisations through both a small grants fund and a strategic grant partnership programme for larger projects. Here's a brief snapshot of some of the strategic partners we support.



St Piran In Penwith

A voluntary, non-profit making group, the St Piran in Penwith Committee was set up 14 years ago with the aim of encouraging young people to have an interest in Cornish culture – through song, music and dance. The grant from the council has allowed the group to continue its St Piran Celebrations - including the annual St Piran Concert and Furry Procession.

Gulval, Newlyn, Heamoor and Mousehole Harbour Lights

As well as organising Penzance's Christmas lights, the Town Council also helps fund the voluntary groups that organise the Christmas lights in Newlyn, Heamoor, Gulval and Mousehole. The community groups carry out various fundraising events throughout the year to raise money. However, the expense of repairs, insurance and moving towards more sustainable and eco-friendly lighting has a significant cost implication.

National Trust Welcome Centre

The Welcome Centre is the only dedicated provider of visitor information in Penzance. Open 7 days a week throughout the summer and closed on Sundays during the winter, the centre offers visitors impartial advice on things to see and do in Penzance and the

surrounding areas, as well as information on public transport, accommodation and booking local events. The Centre also provides window space to local organisations and community led initiatives. The only grant given is from Penzance Town Council, with the remaining income coming from shop sales and commissions from bookings.

Penzance Street Pastors

The Pastors are part of a national team that trains volunteers from local churches to engage with people where they are - usually in a town or city centre late at night on Fridays and Saturdays. A Street Pastor is a Church member with a concern for society – in particular young people who feel themselves to be excluded and marginalised. The Street Pastor groups work in partnership with the police, local council and other statutory agencies and usually on patrol from 10 p.m. to 4 a.m. on a Friday or Saturday night to care for, listen to and help people who are out on the streets.

Penlee Park Open Air Theatre

Operated by Cornwall Youth Theatre, the venue has been in operation since 1947 and is a unique outdoor theatre space in the heart of Penzance. The Theatre has celebrated Cornish, national and international performers and offers a wide range of performances throughout the summer, has parking nearby and seats around 300 people. This year's programme includes Talks, Musicals, bands and plays ranging from An Audience with Ann Widcombe to Miracle Theatre, and Children's workshops to 'Cinema in the Park'. The Town Council grant helps covers operational costs as well as the cost of producing the theatre's annual brochure.

Pengarth Day Centre

Pengarth supports local people in their late fifties and onwards and aims to reduce loneliness and isolation which can lead to depression, giving peace of mind to their families and carers who may be living far away. The centre provides a warm, safe environment with professional day care to ensure people live safely, enabling people to come home sooner from hospital, acting as a liaison between district nurses and doctors, delivering meals when required and promoting good nutrition - encouraging independence and dignity in older age.

Penzance Community Flora Group

Set up in 2011, Penzance Community Flora Group, comprises entirely of volunteers and looks after many of the town's hanging baskets, planters and flower beds.

With financial support from the Town Council and its help with watering, the Penzance Community Flora Group now grows plants and helps look after weeding, tidying and planting in various locations around the town. The volunteers also plant up the tiered planters on Causewayhead and hanging baskets for other retail outlets around the town. Throughout the past year, the group has been busy improving additional areas of the town – including the flowerbeds around St John's Hall, Abbey Basin and St Anthony's Gardens. The group is also looking to once again enter Penzance in the prestigious Britain in Bloom competition.



Jubilee Pool

This jewel in Penzance's crown is operated by Jubilee Pool Penzance Ltd, a Community Benefit Society trading as Friends of Jubilee Pool. The CBS are supported by Penzance Town Council and Cornwall Council. The grant, awarded by the Town Council to support Jubilee Pool, contributes towards the operational costs of opening the pool to the public and ensures reduced cost incentives are provided for residents in the Parish.



Photo: John Steadman

Golowan

Organised and delivered by Golowan Festival CIC, Golowan is a community arts festival celebrating midsummer and the Feast of St John. Now a major fixture in the summer calendar for Penzance and the community of Cornwall, the festival also attracts residents and tourists from across the UK and from overseas. The Festival offers a programme of music, theatre, procession, fireworks and street events. It brings in over £1m to the local economy, but costs over £85,000 to organise. This year's Golowan Festival 2019 will run from Friday 21st June to Sunday 30th June with the St John's Eve Torchlit Parade on Sunday 23rd June and the magical mayhem of Maze Day taking place on Saturday 29th June.



Montol

Montol is run by The Cornish Culture Association, a registered charity whose purpose is to promote Cornish Culture for the benefit of the community. The Montol Festival is a six day arts and community festival celebrating the midwinter solstice.

In 2018, the charity received £2,100 a year from the Town Council towards the operation costs of our largest event, Montol. Over the last 10 years, the Montol festival has become an important contributor to the town's winter economy and it's cultural life. At its peak around 5,000 people visit the

town to view the spectacular costumes associated with the tradition of "guise dancing". The Charity also operates the largest online resource for information on Cornish Culture www.cornishculture.co.uk which has now attracted over a million visitors since its launch.

Sea Salts & Sail Festival

The biennial Sea, Salts & Sail Festival celebrates Mousehole's Maritime history with a weekend packed full of activities for local families and visitors. Grants from the Town Council have enabled the group to provide a range of creative opportunities for children including craft and flag making workshops and the 'Story Boat' – where children get to sit in a punt and create their own personal sea songs and poems and then perform them.

As well as supporting the above activities, the grant awarded by the Town Council also enabled the group to facilitate a heritage exhibition in Mousehole Sunday School. The exhibition displayed a large range of archived photographs and other historical information relating to Mousehole and the surrounding areas.

Many of the boats that attend the Festival are the last in a handful of authentic examples of their kind – including Cornish luggers which help recreate an atmosphere of how Mousehole and Mounts Bay would have looked in days gone by.



NEWS IN BRIEF



Social Action Fund

In 2018 the Town Council created a Social Action Fund to mitigate the social issues affecting the Parish – including anti-social behaviour, rough sleeping, street drinking and drug abuse. Statutory responsibility for these issues typically rests with Cornwall Council or the Police, but the Town Council set up the fund to help take a more active supporting role. The Town Council has set aside £25,000 per annum and recent grants include awarding £2918.40 to the Street Food Project.

Services for young people

Penzance Town Council has set up a Youth Strategy Group in partnership with Cornwall Council and Your Way Partnership. The aim of the group is to improve Youth Provision services for those under 25 yrs of age within the Parish. Future plans include hosting a Youth Expo which would allow young people to come along and help set the agenda for a youth strategy within the parish.

PTC Strategic Plan

Always striving to do the best for its residents, Penzance Town Council has been working on a Strategic Plan to ensure optimisation of its services by establishing key values and outcomes. The new plan can be viewed on the Town Council's website at: <https://www.penzancetowncouncil.co.uk/town-council/strategic-plan-20182021>.

Solomon Brown Memorial Hall

Penzance Town Council has awarded a grant for £8,400 to cover the Hall's running costs for 6 months. This community space is run by a charitable association of the same name which is aiming to increase the range of activities provided at the Hall - specifically those that help promote physical and mental wellbeing of local residents and visitors, reduce feeling of loneliness and isolation within the community and maintain and promote the heritage of Mousehole.

Your Councillors



Promenade Ward

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Gulval Ward

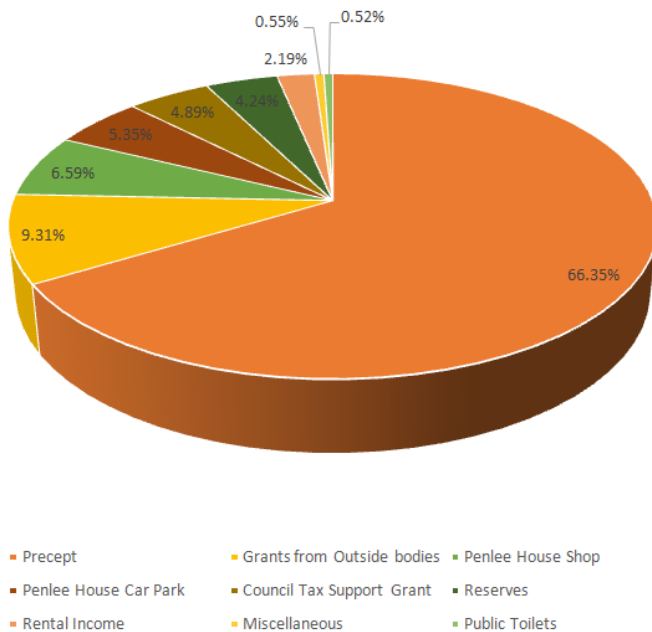
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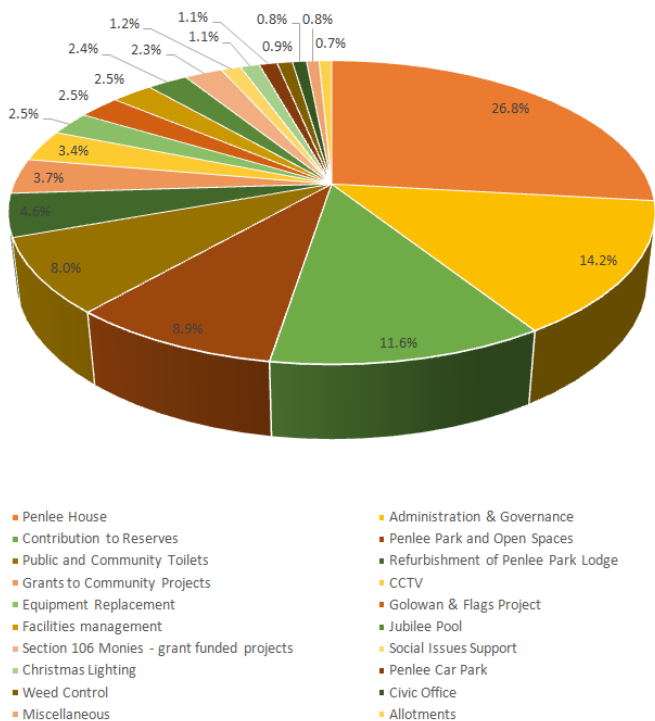
Money Matters

The bulk of the Town Council’s income comes from the Precept, which is a levy within your council tax. The rest of our revenue is made up from a range of sources including grants and income-generating activities. Here’s a snapshot of where it comes from and how we will be spending it this year.

Where the money came from this year



...and how the money will be spent



Your Council Staff



- Town Clerk:** Hester Hunt
- Support Services Manager/RFO:** Paula Smith
- Senior Administration Officer:** Teresa Fogarty
- Finance & Administration Officer:** Melanie Doig
- Administration & Mayor’s Secretary:** Jackie Stone
- Leisure & Amenities Manager:** Ben Brosgall
- Operations Manager:** Amy Simons
- Enforcement Officer:** Mike Arnold
- Head Gardener:** Tristan Trenwith
- Gardener / Groundsman:** Jonathan Spencer
- Assistant Gardener:** Sean Shepherd
- Maintenance Officer:** Andy Gregory
- Director, Penlee House:** Anna Renton
- Assistant Director/Curator:** Katie Herbert
- Education & Outreach Officer:** Zoe Burkett
- Technical Officer:** Richard Nesham
- Visitor Services/ Security Officer:** David Trevivan
- Administration Officer:** Sandra Paternotte
- Retail Manager (Acting temporary):** Jo Inch
- Retail Assistant (Maternity):** Dorothy Best
- Temporary Retail Assistant:** Ewan Wilson
- Communications Officer:** tba

Penzance Town Council

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