

Sarah Ross, Stoke Climsland Parish Council Chair

Welcome everyone to the 2026 Annual Parish Meeting. Another year has flown past during which it has been my pleasure and honour to Chair the Parish Council.

I am again ably assisted by Vice Chairman Richard Davies, and would like to thank him for all his hard work. Especially the Carbon Zero project, Retrofit guide and video which goes from strength to strength and is being used by other parish councils and environmental organisations all around the South West.

I would also like to thank the other councillors for their work over the past year. I then started thinking about all the volunteers we have working with us on our various projects and decided I couldn't possibly name everyone, and if I forgot someone that would be awful, so I am just going to thank the groups as a whole... starting with the Carbon Zero committee volunteers.

We have several projects in the pipeline. Last July volunteers joined forces with councillors Langsford and Crawley to create a footpath group. They invited comments from the public and as a result work has begun on some improvements to the paths with signs and stiles. A really good start - thank you. The main paths continue to be cut and maintained on a contract.

SCARPER is now under the Parish council. Still ably assisted by volunteers, with Councillors Lightfoot and Howlett. Thank you all.

We have councillors regularly checking and looking at improvements to our play areas. Thank you Councillors Calzaly, Selwood and Langsford. We are constantly looking at litter and dog poo bins in an effort to ensure they are in the right places. Also the grit bins around the parish. We regularly meet with the college and school. We continue with maintenance of defibrillators in Stoke Climsland, Downgate, Lockett and Bray Shop. We support the maintenance of the Churchyard and burial grounds in the parish. We rent land for the allotments at Venterdon and Lockett. We pay a contractor to mow the grass on the Village Green, Downgate Play Area and Lockett Car Park.

All these things together with necessary insurances, wages, audit and other professional fees and memberships, and minor expenses. We have just set up a new website and will be going over to gov.uk email addresses to professionalise us as a council and for security. The Neighbourhood Development Plan has been submitted and is waiting for Cornwall Council to finish the process. These are some examples of how we spend your money.

I'm sure the next year will be even busier with what lies ahead especially Sue and David Watts retiring. I would like to thank them for all they have done for the village over the past 20 years. You will be sadly missed.