

**MEETING No.**

**Minutes of the Access & Amenities Committee Meeting of Feock Parish Council held on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> October 2024 at 6pm at the Parish Council Office, Market Street, Devoran, TR3 6QA at 6pm**

Members present:      CARNON DOWNS                      DEVORAN                      FEOCK  
                                 P Allen                                      A Allen                                      C Dyke  
                                    R Brickell  
                                    R Bowers  
                                    K Hambly-Staite

In attendance:              Debra Roberts, Parish Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer  
                                 Debbie Earle, resident  
                                 Julian Newman, resident

Chair:                              Cllr A Allen

**1. INTRODUCTION**

The Chairman welcomes those present and reminded attendees of the Civility and Respect Pledge.

**2. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs Johnson and J Allen.

**3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS ACCESS & AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEETING**

**RESOLUTION: CLLR BRICKELL PROPOSED THE MINUTES OF THE ACCESS & AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 23<sup>RD</sup> SEPTEMBER 2024 AS CIRCULATED BY THE CLERK WITH THE AMENDMENTS MADE ABOVE, BE SIGNED BY THE CHAIR AS A TRUE AND ACCURATE RECORD OF THE MEETING, SECONDED BY CLLR DYKE AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were received.

**5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Debbie Earle spoke about the problems with the Carnon Downs phonebox which was used to house the defibrillator and a bookswap where often lots of books were just dumped in there on the floor leading to problems accessing the defibrillator and also ruining the books as they got wet. She was happy to monitor the tidiness of the phonebox and keep it clean and tidy, swap books with other bookswaps and charities and to keep the stock fresh and interesting. Debbie had seen all the comments on social media and wanted to help keep the facility going as she felt it was only a few that were spoiling it for those who did use it properly and it would be a shame to lose the facility.

The Chair proposed that Item 13 Carnon Downs Defibrillator Phonebox and Bookswap as brought forward on the agenda.

A resident said that Dyson's Field was a lovely facility and he used it often, he wondered if there would be a bin installed there as there seemed to be a dumpy bag being used as a makeshift bin.

It was agreed to bring forward item 9 Dyson's Field on the agenda.

### 13. CARNON DOWNS DEFIBRILLATOR PHONEBOX AND BOOKSWAP

Cllr Dyke suggested the defibrillator be moved out of the phonebox so it doesn't get swamped by the books. It needed to be outside somewhere and easily accessible. Cllr Bowers supported keeping it where it was. It was felt if we could keep the bookswap under control as had been suggested then there was no need to move it. If this doesn't work and the facility continues to be abused then the Committee should look at the co-hosting of the defibrillator and bookswap in Carnon Downs again.

**RESOLUTION: CLLR BRICKELL PROPOSED KEEPING THE FACILITY AS IT IS WITH THE DEFIBRILLATOR AND BOOKSWAP HOUSED TOGETHER WITH A MUCH CLOSER EYE BEING KEPT ON MONITORING THE FACILITY WHICH A RESIDENT AND COUNCILLOR AVARD HAD OFFERED TO DO, THE SITUATION WOULD BE MONITORED AND REVIEWED IN JANUARY 2025, SECONDED BY CLLR BOWERS AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

### 9. DYSON'S FIELD

There were problems with cars parking in the entrance to the field and hindering access. It was agreed for the Clerk to get prices for a collapsable bollard to go in the entranceway. A bin had been considered previously but had not been installed due to cost but this may need reviewing and costs included in budget. Cllr Hambly-Staite said it was very important that users of the field picked up dog waste and we should have a notice on the bin explaining the dangers to health of not doing so.

It was noted that dogs were to be kept on a lead so as not to disturb wildlife. A temporary sign had been made to put up on the gate to encourage people to use the field as it was hard to see the entrance signs from certain angles.

Cllr Hambly-Staite said that at the Active Feock Working Group meeting it was felt that a second sign the same as the one already there should be installed so it was visible in the other direction.

It was agreed to move the 'do's and don'ts' sign and Welcome sign to the gate. There needed to be another Welcome sign the same on the left hand side as you look up the field.

Cllr Bowers felt the cycle rack that had been installed should be moved to a bus stop as it would be more useful. It was agreed to leave it where it was as it was part of the agreement of the donation of the field to have this for cyclists.

**RESOLUTION: CLLR P ALLEN PROPOSED THAT EXTRA SIGNS BE PUT UP TO ENCOURAGE PEOPLE INTO THE FIELD, THE COST OF A COLLAPSABLE BOLLARD TO BE BROUGHT TO THE NEXT MEETING, SECONDED BY CLLR HAMBLY-STAITTE AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The contractor has been instructed to cut the hedge on the roadside of the hedge of Dyson's Field and trim the top of the hedge so don't lose the view to the creek.

Cllr Hambly-Staite would like the condition of the hedges of the field to be reviewed with Edwin who was monitoring the condition of the field for us and for it to be a 'model example' of a roadside

hedge and hedge management for the benefit of wildlife. Cllr Hambly-Staite would contact Edwin to check if the bracken needed any work and how the hedges could be improved.

Cllr P Allen said that our hedges along the Tram Road were only cut back 1' and we did not clear the hedges for sight lines. Where we have viewing points of the creek we will not be extending these to make them wider.

#### **6. CLERKS REPORT**

The Clerk read out her report which had been circulated. Information had been received about Point Orchard being an historical site and she would forward this on to Councillors.

#### **7. MYFEOCK INFORMATION & WELLBEING ADVISER MONTHLY REPORT**

The report had been circulated prior to the meeting. There was a discussion regarding the unpleasant phonecalls staff sometimes have to deal with in the office and it was agreed that if callers were being abusive then the call should be terminated.

#### **8. SMALL GRANTS APPLICATIONS**

There were no small grants applications for consideration.

#### **10. CARNON DOWNS AND CARNON GATE ROUNDABOUT ANNUAL MAINTENANCE**

Cllr P Allen said it was good that the roundabouts have finally been tidied up, and thanks to the Clerk for managing to get this in place as there were lots of administration and boxes to be ticked to get agreement. It was noted that the roundabouts were only able to be done once a year due to a lane closure being required for health and safety of contractors. The Carnon Downs roundabout has a lot of bindweed which smothers the planting so this is a problem and a way needed to be found to keep on top of this.

It was agreed a sponsor for the top roundabout (Carnon Downs) could be sought but with the understanding that it can only be worked on once a year.

It was suggested re Carnon Gate roundabout that at next years maintenance reinforcing the planting could be considered.

**RESOLUTION: CLLR P ALLEN PROPOSED THAT CARNON DOWNS ROUNDABOUT BE CONSIDERED FOR ADOPTION AND SPONSORSHIP ONCE THE HIGHWAYS MANAGER HAD CLARIFIED ABOUT THE LANE CLOSURE AND HEALTH & SAFETY REQUIREMENTS, SECONDED BY CLLR BOWERS AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

It was agreed to take both the following agenda items together.

#### **11. DEVORAN RECREATION GROUND MAINTENANCE**

The Chair said that the play equipment is well maintained and inspected monthly by an external company, however residents have raised concerns about lack of maintenance to vegetation both inside and outside the park.

The Chair gave a quick overview of the issues. At Devoran there was bamboo growing across the entrance at the pub end, budlea growing wild, lots of vegetation and brambles growing through back

of benches making them uncomfortable to sit on. One half of the St John's Terrace gate is rotten and needs repair. Main entrance gate needs some repair as well and also a new sign for the bottom gate off the lane.

The Chair said that since visiting all the parks to review them, she and the Clerk have met with contractor and has done a really good job of making a start on tidying up Devoran but more still needed to be done.

Cllr P Allen felt that those who were responsible for the risk assessments for various pieces of our land should be also keeping an eye on these areas more regularly and reporting any maintenance issues. The Clerk advised that she thought what had happened was that because we were having the play equipment inspections carried out by an external company the vegetation and other maintenance of the parks had been overlooked.

The Clerk would remind everyone who was responsible for risk assessing the various assets and land.

Cllr Dyke suggested a maintenance checklist would be useful for Councillors. The Clerk would draft something for the next meeting.

The Clerk would find a copy of the tender document to see exactly what we were expecting of our contractors. The Clerk was endeavouring to find a carpenter to repair the gates to the park but was struggling to get anyone to come and look at the work.

## **12. MAINTENANCE OF PENGELLY MEADOWS RECREATION GROUND, RETALLACK PLAYING FIELD AND PARK AN GWARRY PLAY PARK**

Cllr Dyke was happy to monitor Park an Gwarry for maintenance and feedback any issues to the Clerk. Cllr Brickell would monitor Pengelly Meadows, it was noted that someone was dumping grass cuttings in the park and the Clerk would write to neighbouring properties to advise them that this was not acceptable.

With regards to Park an Gwarry, the outside wall/hedge needs a hedge trim and the tall brambles cut back, some shrubs are overgrown and a small branch needs to come off the Ash Tree. The gorse on the left as you go into the park needs to be cut back. The Clerk would ask our contractor to do this work.

Compost and weeds had been thrown into the park by a resident and this would be cleaned up by Cllr Brickell.

The perimeter path at Retallack Playing Field needs maintenance to clear it of weeds as the grass has almost overtaken it. There was a discussion regarding the surface that had been put down and how a lack of maintenance and reluctance to use chemical weed killers had now mean the path had become overgrown. Cllr Hambly-Staite said that he felt it should be kept clear as the whole point was for older people to be able to use it and young children be able to scooter or cycle on it. Cllr Bowers said he was opposed to using chemical weed killers on the path or in any of our parks.

Cllr Bowers said he would monitor Retallack Field for maintenance and keep an eye on the condition of the path. The outside of the hedge by the road side also needs cutting the when the contractor attends to cut the Tram Road.

After discussion it was agreed to cut the grass and weeds growing out of the surface of the path as close as possible with a lawnmower and then cut again in February and review if this was keeping the surface in an acceptable condition. The Clerk would ask our contractor to carry out this cutting.

**RESOLUTION: CLLR BOWERS PROPOSED THAT THE CONTRACTOR IS REQUESTED TO CUT THE SURFACE OF THE PATHWAY AT RETALLACK AND IN FEBRUARY 2025 AND THE WILDFLOWER AREA, REVIEW HOW EFFECTIVE THIS METHOD WAS AT KEEPING THE PATHWAY CLEAR IN MARCH 2025, SECONDED BY CLLR DYKE AND CARRIED WITH ONE VOTE AGAINST (CLLR HAMBLY-STAITTE).**

#### **14. RISK ASSESSMENTS**

##### **Carnon Yard**

The issues raised by Cllr Bowers in the Carnon Yard risk assessment were:

Footpath was slippery but noted that there is an alternative route. If the route is to be promoted as part of Active Feock then it needs improvement, but if not then no need to do any work to it.

The mineshaft will be monitored. The Clerk would ask our contractor to survey all our benches and advise the maintenance needed and costs.

There was a discussion re signage about risk of drowning. It was decided this was not needed as there was no deep water/drop off/risk of fall into deep water and no specific threats that swimmers would not be aware of ie. rip currents.

There was concern raised about campfires and BBQs on Parish Land and concern about access for fire engines and wildfires in Summer. It was noted this should be discussed at the Signage Meeting.

Cllr Hambly-Staite said that the Village Green Bus shelter's roof was overgrown with vegetation and the gutters need clearing. The Clerk would arrange for this to be cleared.

#### **15. ADDITIONAL GRASS VERGE CUTTING**

A resident had requested that the Council add to their verge cutting list the small verge at the top of The Forge where they had a grit bin, the previous resident who lived next to this was able to keep it cut but the new owner was unable to.

**RESOLUTION: CLLR HAMBLY-STAITTE PROPOSED THIS AREA BE ADDED TO THE VERGE CUTTING PLAN, SECONDED BY CLLR BOWERS AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

#### **16. ENHANCED LOCAL MAINTENANCE PARTNERSHIP PROJECT UPDATE**

A report had been received from our contractor with outstanding work from the project and costings.

1. 28/1 Tallacks Creek/Heron Creek. Works to hedge to make it more accessible/safer.
2. 28/1 Heron Creek. Installation of vertical posts to assist in access.
3. 30/1 Chychoose path enlargement to bridleway dimensions (from 1.5 m width to 2.5 m, 2 m to 3.5 m height) along full length. Some provision of "passing places" to allow horses to let walkers by.

4. 57 Entrance to Bissoe trail. Richard Brickell to drop 2 loads/buckets at the latter to improve surface of the trail.

**RESOLUTION: CLLR P ALLEN PROPOSED THAT THIS WORK IS COMPLETED AS PART OF THE ENHANCED LMP FUNDING AT A TOTAL OF £565, AND COSTS AND DETAILS FOR THE REMAINING WORK BE OBTAINED, SECONDED BY CLLR HAMBLY-STAITTE AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9pm.

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