

**MEETING No.1347**  
**Minutes of the full Parish Council Meeting of Feock Parish Council held on Monday**  
**10<sup>th</sup> June 2024 at 6pm**  
**at the Parish Council Office, Market Street, Devoran, TR3 6QA at 6pm**

Members present: Cllr Richard Brickell, Chair, Feock Ward  
Cllr Mike Steel, Vice Chair, Devoran Ward  
Cllr Anne Allen, Devoran Ward  
Cllr Cathy Kemp, Carnon Downs Ward  
Cllr Phil Allen, Carnon Downs Ward  
Cllr Brian Yates, Carnon Downs Ward  
Cllr Rick Bowers, Feock Ward  
Cllr Beverly Johnson, Feock Ward  
Cllr Corine Dyke, Feock Ward  
Cllr Keith Hambly-Staite, Feock Ward

In attendance: Cornwall Cllr Martyn Alvey  
Debbie Searle, Assistant Parish Clerk

Public present: 6 members of the public  
Ross Atkinson-Beaumont  
Richard Johnson, Feock Eco Group

**1. INTRODUCTION BY THE CHAIR**

The Chairman welcomed those present and reminded everyone present of the Council's commitment to the Civility & Respect Pledge which applies to Councillors, staff, and members of the public. Members introduced themselves to the members of the public present.

**2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr J Allen.

**3. TO CONSIDER THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 13<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2024 AS A CORRECT RECORD OF THE MATERIAL DECISIONS MADE FOR SIGNATURE BY THE CHAIRMAN**

**RESOLUTION:** Cllr A Allen proposed that the minutes of the annual meeting of the Parish Council held on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2024 as previously circulated, be signed by the chairman as a true and accurate record of the meeting. This was seconded by Cllr Kemp and carried by the meeting.

**4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FOR ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

No declarations of interest were received.

**5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION & ANY QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC SUBMITTED BEFOREHAND**

3 members of the public spoke to state that they were present to listen to the discussion on agenda item no.7 but did not wish to speak.

Richard Johnson, representing Feock Eco Group, spoke to state that the Eco Group consider that the salt marsh area of the common land at Penpol Pond is of vital ecological importance and the common land boundary should be acknowledged, respected and protected.

## 6. MATTERS FOR REPORT

Cllr Hambly-Staite advised that he and Cllr P Allen had met with Viv Bidgood (VB) of Cornwall Highways, the meeting was primarily to look at Active Feock and seating by footpaths. The regulations had been explained and he felt there would be an effort for Cormac to help the Parish Council in due course. He had highlighted issues regarding verges and was advised of the grant available from Cormac for cutting verges which had recently been increased by .36pence per sqm. VB advised that verges adjacent to pavements belong to the highway may be privately owned but still needed to be kept to Highways' standards. He gave details of an issue in Feock where a wall had been built adjacent to the highway. Cllr A Allen stated that she had received reports about the wall and questioned if a further enquiry should be made, Cllr Hambly-Staite stated that as it had been reported to VB then it would be best to wait to see if he came back with any information.

Cllr P Allen added that it had been an active discussion about verges used for walking and also verges used for pedestrian refuge from the road. He stated that whilst they had not carried out a survey and mapped all the paths in the Parish, they had picked out some individually but felt that it did now need to be looked at in a more comprehensive way. He concurred that there was a grant scheme available and the payment is 5.58p per sqm. He gave a cost example of an area of verge and felt that if it were to be taken on a mechanised approach would be needed. He felt this was an issue that needed to be addressed in the fullness of time. Cllr Dyke asked if maps were available to view. Cllr P Allen advised that the maps were still to be drawn up. Cllr Dyke felt that there was a fine balance to be had between public access and nature. Cllr P Allen advised that VB had stated that whilst some verges, despite being next to the highway, are on private land, however the verges next to the highway and footpaths still needed to be maintained to highway/pedestrian standards.

Cllr Hambly-Staite advised that he had also attended a meeting with Cllr A Allen which had been arranged by Cllr Martyn Alvey, regarding promotion of parish bus travel. He was disappointed that there was no enthusiasm to tackle the issues raised. Discussion had included their suggestion of a diversion of a bus route that would open up the bus service to 300-400 people however this was declined as being inappropriate due to time tabling, drivers' regulations and the school run at the beginning and end of the day. They had reiterated issues raised 18 months ago at a previous meeting had not been progressed and felt there was no imagination and willingness to look at their concerns and work with local community representatives to promote the bus service. He expressed concern at the size of the bus timetable and was advised that it was national standard and could not be changed. Cllr A Allen agreed that the meeting had been disappointing. Cllr Dyke questioned if larger timetables could be laminated and put on posts to make it clearer for people. Cllr Hambly-Staite advised that they had raised this, and it was a possibility.

Cllr Yates instigated discussion on the ownership and management of Point Quay and Cllr A Allen clarified that it was owned by the Parish Council but managed and maintained by the Point Quay Association. It was confirmed that Cllr P Allen was the Parish Council's representative of the Point Quay Association.

**ACTION:** To contact VB regarding the issue of the wall in Feock if information had not provided within the next week.

## 7. COMMON LAND

Cllr Bowers provided members and the public present with background information regarding possible encroachment onto the common land at Penpol Pond.

Standing orders were suspended, proposed by Cllr A Allen, seconded by Cllr Bowers and carried by the meeting, to allow members of the public to speak.

The owners of Wadham Cottage stated that they wished to listen to the discussion and would be happy to have a site meeting with a Councillor at a later date. They did not think that the plan was completely accurate. A member of the public spoke to state that the original boundaries were set in 1967 and he feels there has been confusion ever since, the boundaries aren't accurate and felt that a site meeting was necessary. He felt that all parties would benefit from a site meeting. The owners of Wadham Cottage stated that they are all keen to have the pond as common land and have it protected. Cllr P Allen stated that the map the Parish Council had relied on

is that which is shown on the CC interactive mapping system which is different from the current map received recently. The Parish Council has relied on that map and was surprised to see it changed in such a dramatic way. He has walked the area since a child and the area and use of the land has changed over that time. He stated that the area that we are most concerned with protecting is the wildlife zone of the salt marsh and felt that the issue can be resolved through further dialogue. The Chairman summarised that all parties were happy for a site meeting to be arranged at a later date and the issue could be resolved amicably.

6 members of the public and Richard Johnson left the meeting.

Standing orders were resumed.

Discussion followed in which a quotation for legal services to register the land was considered and alternatives suggested. It was agreed that a site meeting would be arranged with residents, and Martin Wright (Commons and Greens Registration Officer, Cornwall Council) would also be invited. Cllr Steel advised that there was a figure of £4,000 allocated for legal costs to cover the registering of the common land which would be looked at during the discussion on agenda item no.13.

**RESOLUTION:** Cllr P Allen proposed to ask the Parish Clerk to go forward with the registration of the common land at Penpol Pond, the funding to come from the allocation already made up to a maximum of £4,000. This was seconded by Cllr Johnson and unanimously carried.

Cllr Johnson raised that on the footpath that goes to the boatyard an area had been cordoned off and planted with grass seed with a sign asking people not to walk on it. Cllr A Allen felt this was just re-seeding and it remained a footpath and wasn't a concern.

#### **8. CORNWALL COUNCIL COMMUNITY CHEST 2024/25**

Cllr Alvey advised that he would be willing to allocate £500 of his community chest fund towards the purchase of benches for the community field which had been donated to the Parish Council. He stated that the Parish Council would need to apply for the grant.

**RESOLUTION:** Cllr Hambly-Staite proposed the Council apply to Cornwall Cllr Alvey's Community Chest Fund for the sum of £500 to put towards the cost of benches at Dyson's field. This was seconded by Cllr Brickell and carried unanimously.

#### **9. DYSON'S FIELD**

Cllr A Allen stated that she felt it wasn't appropriate to choose a date for an opening event without an agreement from the Dyson family and as it is a field given by, and for local people it should be kept as a quiet local opening and therefore parking arrangements were not necessary as she would expect people attending to be on foot or cycling. Cllr Hambly-Staite stated that he didn't disagree with Cllr A Allen's view, this had been discussed at the last meeting and subsequently the Clerk had advised him that there was a Carnon Downs event planned during the third weekend in July and following discussion he is minded to write a letter to Devoran School and the Pre-School to tell them about Dyson's field and invite them to come to an opening. He wanted the field to be open for the summer holidays and felt that a date should be decided that was suitable locally and we should contact the Dyson family to agree a date for them to attend the opening. He would strongly suggest that John Lanyon from the National Trust is invited and also Cllr Martyn Alvey as Portfolio holder of the Environment and our Divisional Councillor as the provision of trees through Forest for Cornwall have enabled the wishes of the Dyson family to be met. He agreed that it was a local event and wanted local people to be aware of it so he felt the best approach was for publicity and stories created about the field, its trees and its biodiversity. Cllr Brickell questioned if refreshments were going to be provided. Cllr Kemp stated that unless it was an RSVP event this wouldn't be possible. She felt that it would be appropriate to advise parents before the end of term of the field and suggest that it could be a place they cycled to for a picnic and hopefully discourage the use of cars. She also reminded members that there were no facilities provided at the field.

Cllr Dyke raised the issues of dogs, stating that she had spoken to Edwin Lanyon on site, and he had stated that he would prefer not to have dogs on the site for the first year. Cllr A Allen considered this may be an issue and wished to find out from Edwin why this would be a problem. She felt that most people walking along there would have dogs. Cllr Kemp stated that allowing dogs in the field could create conflict with young families and Cllr Dyke confirmed that this was one of Edwin's concerns.

Cllr Hambly-Staite advised that Cllr Dyke had agreed to investigate the issue of ticks. The plan is that parts of the field will be treated as a hay meadow (a clearly defined area) and may need to be cut shorter than initially anticipated due to the tick issue. Cllr A Allen advised that Devoran Quay had a sign stating that you needed to be aware of ticks. Cllr Dyke questioned the signs and Cllr Hambly-Staite advised that there would be two signs in the field, one detailing the gift of the field and one stating Do's and Don'ts. Cllr P Allen stated that the first sign was part of the agreement to complete on the transfer of the field and the second sign could be delayed as it wasn't a condition of the transfer. Cllr P Allen wished to clarify the funding situation for the benches and Cllr Hambly-Staite referred to the draft minutes of the Access & Amenities committee meeting which had just been circulated to members.

Discussion followed regarding the funding of, and the type of benches, that needed to be provided. Cllr A Allen reported that the Clerk had advised that it would not be appropriate to use the Small Grants Scheme money and also that picnic benches shouldn't be moved from other locations. Cllr Steel questioned the cost of the seating and Cllr Dyke expressed concern that park style seating would be used in the countryside and suggested alternatives. Cllr A Allen advised that the benches would be for elderly people and would need to be something that they can easily rise from and although they have looked at alternatives, they would not be suitable as they have no armrest to aid in people rising from the seat. Cllr P Allen wished to clarify that the specification was for 1 bench seat, 2 picnic tables and Cllr Hambly-Staite clarified that originally it was 2 picnic tables and 2 benches. Cllr Hambly-Staite stated that a maintenance budget would need to be agreed if they were wood and discussion followed in which Cllr P Allen felt that certainly for the Active Feock project that he would recommend recycled plastic benches but for Dyson's field which is such a rural parkland aspect recycled plastic is possibly not appropriate. He felt the Council needed to be mindful that if they are installing wooden benches they needed to be maintained. Cllr A Allen suggested that the type of seating could be looked at again by the Access & Amenities Committee.

**RESOLUTION:** Cllr A Allen proposed that the benches and bike rack be purchased and installed by 12th July 2024 and that the funding of the benches would be provided by the SWW funding applied for, a £500 grant from Cornwall Cllr Alvey's Community Chest Fund and the rest taken from reserves up to a maximum of £2,000. This was seconded by Cllr P Allen.

Cllr Hambly-Staite suggested that letters could be sent to the School and Pre-school prior to the opening of the field so that parents and grandparents would be aware and could use the field at their leisure. He questioned Cllr Kemp on the possibility of the Pre-School holding an event at the field, Cllr Kemp advised that their calendar is full, but it may be possible to arrange an event in the Autumn.

Cllr Bowers wished for clarification, and it was agreed that it would be a soft opening, Cllr Hambly-Staite felt it could be almost a 'civic party' style event to open the field and a press release issued. Cllr Bowers wished it to be clear that it was not a place for people to drive to and park at and wanted the opening to emphasise that and make it clear that it was a place for people to walk or cycle to.

## 10. CURRENT REPORTS

Cllr Alvey provided an update on the issue of the barge at Point and the prosecution of the barge's owner by the Marine Management Organisation. He concluded that the hearing had been adjourned until October. He further advised that Cornwall Council's enforcement case is awaiting consideration by the Planning Inspector, and Falmouth Coastguards had been approached regarding the issue of the suspended gangway and the public right of navigation. Cllr A Allen questioned if Trinity House had been involved as the channel is being blocked. Cllr Alvey advised that it had nothing to do with Trinity House, it is the maritime coastguard agency who are the enforcement power. He further confirmed that notification had been received that the appeal hearing on the

enforcement action at Oak House was taking place on the 2<sup>nd</sup> July and that it was a public virtual hearing. He also noted that there had been a significant fire in Devoran at Devoran Joinery and a good response had been received from Fire and Rescue with 6 pumps attending including the aerial ladder. He believed the damage is fairly limited and there is an ongoing investigation.

It was reported that the appeal against the refusal of the planning application to convert a shed into a dwelling at Land adjacent to Cherry Orchard at Feock had been allowed.

#### **11. FINANCIAL SUMMARY AND ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

The Assistant Clerk provided members with a financial report and the accounts for payment list, together with a budget against actual costs to date report.

**RESOLUTION:** Cllr P Allen proposed the Council approve the list of accounts for payment as circulated. This was seconded by Cllr Hambly-Staite and carried unanimously.

#### **12. INSURANCE COVER RENEWAL**

The Assistant Clerk confirmed that, as previously agreed between members via email, the Council had confirmed to the Insurance broker that the premium paid was for a 3-year deal.

**RESOLUTION:** Cllr Steel proposed that the Council accepted the Insurance arrangements as a 3-year deal. This was seconded by Cllr P Allen and carried by the meeting.

#### **13. REVIEW OF COUNCIL RESERVES**

The Assistant Clerk provided a spreadsheet showing the already agreed reserves allocation alongside the proposed re-allocations/additions made by the F&GP committee and advised that a further figure of £620 may need to be added for works to Restronguet Point. Discussion followed in which members reviewed the estimate received for the works required at Restronguet Point and discuss the proposed promotional banner. Cllr Steel, as Chair of the Finance & General Purposes Committee, stated that he would not wish to see the unallocated reserves sum drop below £50,000.

**RESOLUTION:** Cllr Steel proposed the Council agree the reallocations as recommended by the Finance & General Purposes Committee, with the additional adjustment that a further sum of £250 be taken from the sum reserved for 'Contested Elections' reducing this to £3,250, to allow an additional sum of £620 be allocated for works to Restronguet Point which maintained the sum of unallocated reserves to just above £50,000. This was seconded by Cllr A Allen and carried by the meeting.

**ACTION:** The Clerk to accept the quotation and instruct the works required at Restronguet Point and to proceed with ordering the promotional banner.

#### **14. LOCAL WARD REPORTS**

##### Devoran Ward

Cllr A Allen reported that she and Cllr Bowers had met with a resident, Brian Ashdown, regarding his concerns about the verge at the bottom of Trolver Hill in that there is no safe space to step off the road to avoid vehicles coming up and down the hill. She advised that the row of saplings had been removed, however the verge has grown quite high. Whilst discussing the suggestion of having several areas to step off onto it became apparent that there were hidden stumps, and the areas would need to be carefully selected. Cllr A Allen suggested that this should be looked at by a future A & A meeting. The resident had also advised that there was a lump of stone which stuck out at the bottom of the hill which could cause issues for vehicles and Cllr A Allen felt that this could be referred to Highways for investigation.

Cllr Bowers stated that the sign was missing from the parking area and Cllr A Allen replied that the sign did need to be reinstated confirming that it was Parish Council land and there should be no overnight parking.

Cllr A Allen also reported that Point Orchard has an issue with sewerage leaking from a cesspit (sited within the orchard) of one of the cottages. The cottage owner has been informed and is contacting a waste disposal company and the area has been taped off.

#### Feock Ward

Cllr Hambly-Staite raised that due to the patching work that had taken place a third of the double yellow lines installed, which had been at the Parish Council's expense, had been removed. He advised that he had raised this with Viv Bidgood at the meeting last week. He stated that no action had yet been taken therefore this should be chased up if in another week the lines have not been repainted.

Cllr Bowers advised that he had put signs on the boats at Carnon Yard asking people to take their boats away if they are not using them. He had also labelled one of the abandoned boats and hopefully some people may take their boats away if they are not using them.

### **15. ACCESS & AMENITIES COMMITTEE**

Cllr A Allen stated that the draft minutes of the A & A committee meeting had been circulated to all members for information and that most matters had either already been discussed or were about to be discussed in the current meeting.

### **16. MOBILE SPEED SENSOR EQUIPMENT**

Cllr Hambly-Staite stated that he had been advised by Viv Bidgood that part 12d of the Chapter 8 training for working by the highway would allow the Parish Council's contractors to move and install the mobile speed sensor equipment. Discussion followed regarding the cost of the training.

**RESOLUTION:** Cllr Hambly-Staite proposed the Council use the mobile speed sensor equipment and rotate it to other locations within the parish. To proceed with arrangements with CORMAC's Notter Bridge training centre to hold Chapter 8 training for the Parish Council's contractors to enable them to work by the highway and relocate the equipment as necessary, and if possible, find other attendees in order to reduce the Parish Council's costs for arranging the training session. This was seconded by Cllr P Allen and carried by the meeting.

### **17. TRAM ROAD REPORT**

Cllr Bower advised that on 15<sup>th</sup> April they had a walk along the Tram Road, led by Professor French-Constant (University of Exeter), and looked at issues raised from the Cornwall Wildlife Trust's report. He had provided a summary report of what was discussed on the walk, and that his report had previously been discussed at the Access & Amenities committee meeting. The Assistant Clerk read out the resolution from that committee meeting *'...that it be recommended to the full Parish Council that the Council working with Cornwall Wildlife Trust, Devoran Quay Preservation Society, Feock Eco Group, the University of Exeter and other interested parties launch an initiative to explain to electors, particularly those living around the Creek and Tram Road, the recommendations of the report and try to adopt common practice by all.'* The letter sent to Tram Road residents in 2019 was viewed and Cllr P Allen informed members that it had set out for residents how the Parish Council was intending to manage the Tram Road cut and how we would manage our common land. The map included with the letter showed the foreshore. Cllr P Allen stated that the letter should be updated but believed the substance of the letter was still appropriate. He felt that the registration of the foreshore should be pursued and Cllr Hambly-Staite agreed and discussion followed regarding this.

**ACTION:** Cllr P Allen to update and re-draft the letter and take to the next A&A committee meeting.

**ACTION:** The Access & Amenities committee to discuss the registering of foreshore at Restronguet Point, Carnon Mine and Chycoose.

**RESOLUTION:** Cllr Bowers proposed that the Council accept his recommendations stated in red on the report he provided following the walk along the Tram Road on 15<sup>th</sup> April 2024 with Professor French-Constant. This was seconded by Cllr P Allen and carried by the meeting.

#### **18. WILDLIFE TRUST REPORT**

Cllr Bower advised members that the Cornwall Wildlife Trust had been provided by Laura Snell and reviewed at a previous Access & Amenities committee meeting however members at that time felt they had not had enough time to fully read and absorb the report and its findings. He felt that the recommendations it contained were appropriate and there was no huge cost implication and he would like to recommend acceptance of the report.

**RESOLUTION:** Cllr Bowers proposed that the Council adopt the Cornwall Wildlife Trusts report. This was seconded by Cllr Hambly-Staite and carried by the meeting.

#### **19. CO-OPTION TO THE ACCESS & AMENITIES COMMITTEE VACANCIES**

**RESOLUTION:** Cllr A Allen proposed that Cllr Yates join the Access & Amenities Committee. This was seconded by Cllr Brickell and carried by the meeting.

**RESOLUTION:** Cllr A Allen proposed that Cllr Dyke join the Access & Amenities Committee. This was seconded by Cllr Johnson and carried by the meeting.

#### **20. CO-OPTION TO THE FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE VACANCY**

**RESOLUTION:** Cllr Steel proposed that Cllr Yates join the Finance & General Purposes Committee. This was seconded by Cllr A Allen and carried by the meeting.

#### **21. ANY URGENT HIGHWAYS ISSUES**

Cllr A Allen reported that she had received reports that residents are concerned about the lack of vision for motorists caused by the overgrown hedge/verge on the old A39 as you enter Devoran.

**ACTION:** The Assistant Clerk to report the overgrown hedge/verge to Cornwall Highways.

#### **22. BISSOE WOODLAND**

Cllr P Allen reported that he had cut out the woodland partially and the trees were doing well, he stated that trail bikes had found the site and it would appear they enter through the mining trail and unfortunately they have destroyed about 10 sapling trees, He has installed barriers and there has been no activity over the last weekend but signs may be necessary which he will raise with the sub-committee. He had spoken with the local representative of the Forestry Commission and hoped to meet with him on site soon. Cllr Alvey stated that he would ask Forest for Cornwall if it may be possible to obtain some funding.

#### **23. DATE OF THE NEXT FULL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

The date of the next meeting was agreed as Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2024 at 6pm.

There being no further the business the meeting closed at 8.45pm.

*R Brickell*

**Signed by the Chairman 22/07/24**