

## **Clerks Report on actions from the last Access & Amenities Committee (September 2024)**

**Dyson's Field** - Daffodil bulbs ordered and now planted.

**Carnon Gate roundabout** – tidying works completed and sponsorship signs erected. This item is on the agenda for discussion.

**Repair Café** – Written to Penny Brickell to thank her for assisting at the Repair Café when we were short staffed.

**Small Grants** – Devoran Village Hall and Carnon Downs Village Hall advised of success of applications and funds transferred.

**Point Orchard Septic Tank** – discussed further at Full Council in October.

**Hedge cutting on Council land** – contractor appointed and will be cut by the end of the week.

**Risk Assessments** – contractor requested to carry out repairs to Porthgwidden and Fourturnings bus shelters. Problem with slippery stile near to Ferris Garage (PROW 305/42/2) reported to Countryside Access team, awaiting response.

**Registration of Common Land** – recommendation to register with Land Registry Common Land at Restronguet Point will be on November Parish Council. Evidence of maintenance to start being compiled in the meantime.

**Cornwall Wildlife Trust Report** – this has been circulated to all.

**Enhanced Local Maintenance Partnership Project** – an update on outstanding work has now been received and this is on the agenda for further discussion.

**Active Feock** – first working group meeting arranged for Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> October at 10am.

**Celebrating Working Class Histories funding** – funding application submitted by the deadline, awaiting outcome.

## **Supporting Information on items on the agenda (October 2024)**

### **Item 7 - Information & Wellbeing Adviser's Report**

#### **Keeping Active Event:**

The Hub Carnon Community Methodist Church held a 'Keeping Active' Community Breakfast event on Tuesday 15th October. Feock Parish Council was represented by the Wellbeing & Information Adviser, Walks & Talks Leader, Mary Weston, and Cllr Rick Bowers. The event was to promote groups and opportunities in the parish who offer 'something for everyone' to encourage taking up activities that get people out of the house and socially and physically active. Presentations were given by the Loe Beach Sea Swimming group highlighting spiritual, physical, and mental benefits of cold-water immersion; also, running a Book Club as a mental and social conversational activity encouraging lively discussions and sharing a common interest.

Mary provided a humorous and thorough account of how beneficial walking and talking is when discovering historical facts of local landscape and features. Mary celebrated her 90th birthday last week and was proud to proclaim her good health being a result of social and physical activities. This session provided an perfect opportunity to promote the Feock Strolls element of Walks & Talks stating Tuesday 22nd October from Carnon Gate carpark into Devoran. Handouts of short walks maps were eagerly requested following my promotion of Feock Parish Council's Active Feock project, the outdoor gym equipment and the offer to do face-to-face demonstrations as preparations to start or return to walking and /or swimming.

#### **Face to Face with the FPC:**

I opened my presentation by referring to the FPC banner description of services, bullet point number one, responsibility for supporting and promoting wellbeing opportunities within the Parish. At the end of the event, I was approached by several residents for maps and other information. It also became an opportunity for a few residents to vent their frustration over certain matters and issues.

Having councillors visible and present at public events like this can be a very useful means of demonstrating the human face of the council as approachable personnel who represent the local ward. The issues raised had not been phoned in or emailed in previously, but this opportunity provided the ideal environment to speak their mind.

It is very reassuring to have councillors present at events to assist with multiple enquiries and observe the common issues office staff on the 'front line' are dealing with, as well as being a back-up when things become more heated.

#### **Repair Café – 25th Session Celebration:**

Our 25th Repair Café is due to be held on 25th February 2025 and Ann Street, our main contact at The Hub Carnon Community Methodist Church, is keen to have a mini celebration during the event. It is worth celebrating the massive impact the Repair Café has had on

residents to meet up and have treasured household items returned to good use or gratitude to know they are best for recycling not repurposing.

All Councillors are welcome to attend this milestone as we are just about to mark our second anniversary in November. Cllr Corine Dyke has kindly said she will attend the Repair Café on the 29<sup>th</sup> October and Cllr Keith Hambly-Staite is attending on the 26<sup>th</sup> November.

Councillors are needed for the rota for the Repair Cafes on the 28<sup>th</sup> January and 25<sup>th</sup> February 2025.

Cathy Whitmore – MyFeock Wellbeing & Information Adviser

### **Item 8 – Small Grants Applications**

No applications have been received at the time of issuing the agenda.

### **Item 9 – Dyson’s Field**

Councillors to decide on maintenance needed to inside field hedges following advice from Edwin Lanyon *"All that is needed to manage the hedges is to continue to cut the grass up to the existing line as already planned. The hedge plants cannot tolerate being mown. Some targeted cutting of brambles would also be useful to stop them expanding, both in the sward and in the edges. This should be done outside of bird nesting season. Other than that, it would be best to allow the natural process of regeneration and plant succession to happen."*

### **Item 10 – Carnon Gate and Carnon Downs Roundabout maintenance**

Due to health and safety, both roundabouts are only able to be maintained under a lane closure and active traffic management. Cormac currently maintain the Carnon Downs roundabout following a ‘mishap’ with the planting several years ago, however unsure how long this will continue. The Parish Council have taken responsibility for Carnon Gate roundabout and agreed sponsorship for an annual tidy up (for one year initially) of the vegetation on the roundabout with local business, Top Gear Cycles, this tidying work was completed at the end of September.

### **Item 11 – Devoran Recreation Ground maintenance**

Referred from Full Parish Council in October.

Following complaints from residents about the vegetation growing both on the outside (highway side) of the wall on St John’s Terrace and brambles and budlea growing inside the park some tidying works are being carried out by our contractor and Cllrs A Allen and Brickell have visited all our parks to survey any further maintenance works that need carrying out and these need discussion and agreeing by Councillors (see report below).

### **Item 12 – Maintenance of Pengelly Meadows Recreation Ground, Park an Gwarry Play Park and Retallack Playing Field**

**See report below from Cllrs A Allen and R Brickell on maintenance works needed.**

## **Note: Grass in our parks is cut between April and September**

### **Park an Gwarry, Carnon Downs**

- Outside wall/hedge needs a hedge trim and the tall brambles cut back.
- Cut back over grown shrubs and a small branch off the ash tree.
- As you go in to the park, on the left, gorse needs cutting back.
- Clean up the compost and weeds around the tractor slide, disposed of in park by a resident.
- All the hedges around need a trim to cut back the brambles growing into the park also the Buddlia.

### **Pengelly Meadows Recreation Area, Carnon Downs**

- All the hedges need to be trimmed, both inside and outside
- Outside hedge particularly bad opposite the Doctors Surgery
- Branches on the grass area brought down in high winds moved from pitch to edge of park
- The football field needs some attention as it is quite boggy at the top end.

### **Retallack Field, Feock**

- All the hedges need to be cut back.
- Pathway is overgrown and needs clearing of weeds and grass
- Verge beside pathway needs cutting at same time as grass
- The wild flower area needs to be cut back.

### **Devoran Recreation Ground**

- Hedge along the outside of the wall needs to be cut back and buddlia removed.
- The bamboo needs to be cut back to allow access through the small gate at the Pub end of the park and steps down need clearing.
- The moss needs to be cleared from the pathway.
- The brambles at the bottom of the park need to be cut back
- Trim back the overhanging brambles around the bottom gate entrance.
- Cut back some low hanging tree branches hanging over the benches in the bottom corner.
- Cut back the shrubs growing through the benches near the gate at the top.
- The gate at the bottom needs a Parish Council sign.
- The middle gate on St John's Terrace needs to be kept locked for safety reasons. One half is quite rotten and needs replacing.
- Repairs needed to other large gate in the corner off St John's Terrace.

### Item 13 – Carnon Downs Defibrillator and Bookswap

There have been numerous complaints, mainly on social media about the abuse of the bookswap facility and how this hinders access to the defibrillator. Despite numerous signs, newsletter articles and social media posts and Councillors and other volunteers clearing out the bookswap regularly to try to keep it tidy the abuse of this facility continues. The issues raised and solutions suggested are:

#### Problems:

- Poor quality of books being left, too many books being left when bookswap is full
- Books being dumped on the floor, getting ruined by water, getting in the way of those trying to use the bookswap or accessing the defibrillator
- Books being piled up around the defib cabinet meaning it is difficult to open in an emergency
- Other items being dumped in the bookswap (jigsaws, breast pumps, DVDs, children's toys)
- Problems with Devoran bookswap are less than Carnon Downs but there are still occasions when it is overloaded with books and we have to go and remove them to the office.

#### Some suggested solutions:

- Find another location for bookswap where it is more visible or not accessible 24 hours a day or get rid of it totally and keep defib where it is in phonebox
- Move defibrillator to another location (it is already in a waterproof cabinet so can go outside) and keep bookswap in phonebox
- Very regular rota needed for Councillors/volunteers to manage the bookswap if it remains
- Resident has volunteered to manage and rotate the books around the different bookswaps to ensure they are kept interesting and weed out any poor quality books
- Previously we have had D of E students managing them as part of their volunteering module and this worked well.
- Very regular checks on phonebox to ensure defib is accessible
- Clearer signage, 'hazard' markings on the floor to say 'no books'

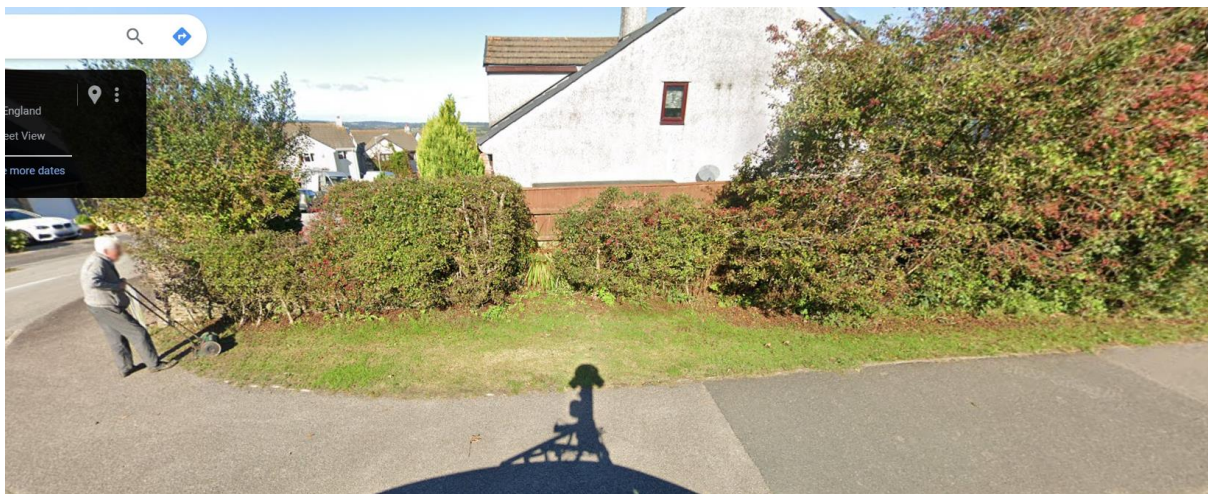


## Item 14 – Risk Assessments

Cllr Bowers has completed a risk assessment for Carnon Yard and recommended actions need discussing (see separate document)

## Item 15 – Request for additional grass verge cutting

A resident has asked that the Parish Council add to their grass cutting work the small grass verge at the top of The Forge in Carnon Downs, below is a photo showing the verge (2021) before we put new grit bin there, as the new resident in the house bordering it is unable to cut it, whereas the previous resident did.



## Item 16 – Enhanced Local Maintenance Partnership Update

Below is a list of outstanding jobs from this project.

Funding remaining is £1,687.15.

1. PROW 28/1 Tallacks Creek/Heron Creek. Works to hedge to make it more accessible/safer.
2. PROW 28/1 Heron Creek. Installation of vertical posts to assist in access.
3. PROW 30/1 Chycoose 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. PROW 57 Entrance to Bissoe trail. Richard Brickell to drop 2 loads/buckets at the latter to improve surface of the trail.
5. PROW 27/1, steps up onto the stile and a hand rail.
6. PROW Footpath 42/2, handrail across the stile.

Plus a days work plus materials for reinstating 4 waymarker posts along footpaths 27, 28 and 31.

Many people commented on the poor condition of the surface of roughly 50% of the footpaths this year (ie the mud).

Many of the finger posts that weren't repaired in phase 1 are not going to last much longer so it would be good to have a dozen or so to replace those that will go this winter.

PROW = public right of way.

All the PROWs in the parish can be viewed online [Cornwall Council Interactive Map](#)

All paths have a number, so above PROW 28/1, is path number 28, spur one. 305 is our Parish number so the full number is 305/28/1. The numbers can be viewed by hovering over the paths on the map.



Brown = byways

Pink = footpaths

Green = bridleways

Orange = parish boundary