

MEETING No.1341
Minutes of the meeting of Feock Parish Council's Access & Amenities Committee held on
Tuesday 23rd April 2024 at 6pm
at the Parish Council Office, Market Street, Devoran TR3 6QA

Members present: Cllr Keith Hambly-Staite, Feock Ward, Chair
Cllr Rick Bowers, Feock Ward
Cllr Beverly Johnson, Feock Ward
Cllr Richard Brickell, Feock Downs Ward
Cllr Phil Allen, Carnon Downs Ward
Cllr Jan Allen, Carnon Downs Ward
Cllr Mark Griffiths, Carnon Downs Ward

In attendance: Debbie Searle, Assistant Parish Clerk

Public present: Peter Williams
Cathy Whitmore

1. INTRODUCTION BY CHAIRMAN

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

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Anne Allen.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLUTION: Cllr Brickell proposed the minutes of the Access & Amenities Committee meeting held on 21st March 2024 as a true record of the meeting. This was seconded by Cllr Bowers and carried by the meeting.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations were received.

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Peter Williams spoke to say that he has interested in sponsoring the Carnon Gate roundabout as he lives nearby and has a business in Penryn and is looking for advertising opportunities. He is aware that the main stumbling block would be the need to have lane closures for access and that to redesign the whole roundabout would be very costly. He would be willing to put his signs on the roundabout (in its current state) pay a monthly fee and also pay for a contractor to clear up the roundabout, and add some additional planting, during the next scheduled lane closure when it could be accessed.

6. CARNON GATE ROUNDABOUT

Cllr P Allen proposed suspended standing orders to allow discussion with Peter Williams, seconded by Cllr J Allen, and unanimously carried.

Cllr P Allen gave the history of previous proposals for the roundabout and why these have not progressed. He stated that the planting on the roundabout is appropriate for the area. Peter Williams (PW) stated that he had spoken with a contractor who was also interested in sponsoring the roundabout and would be willing to work with him to progress the idea. Cllr Griffiths questioned the size of the signs proposed. PW suggested that CC would dictate the size but there would be 4 signs opposite each entrance/exit. Cllr Bowers indicated that he would like to see native species planted and PW confirmed that he would be in favour of this. Cllr Hambly-Staite questioned how long he would propose sponsoring the roundabout for and PW confirmed that he would initially

be agreeable to a 2-year contract. Cllr Hambly-Staite informed the meeting that an offer of a piece of granite for the roundabout had previously been received and that Cormac had been supportive of the suggestion and that this could be looked at again.

ACTION: A working group to be formed to discuss further and report back to the A&A committee at the June meeting.

7. HEALTH & WELLBEING

Cathy Whitmore (CW), MyFeock Health & Wellbeing Advisor, presented the following report:

Active Feock

Three themed focus groups have taken place for Cycle Links, Environment, and Health & Wellbeing the outcomes of these will form the feasibility report being provided by Mark O'Brien, Inner Circle Consulting.

A questionnaire has been prepared and issued to selected those unable to attend the focus groups with expertise/professional connection to the three main topics (Cycle Links, Environment, and Health & Wellbeing) to complete who were unable to attend the focus groups. Public participation will be sought on the findings of the feasibility report once it is available.

Small Grants Scheme

Supporting our local clubs and societies: The following groups have contacted the FPC regarding Small Grants which commenced on 1st April 2024: Devoran Explorer Scouts, Carnon Downs Bowling Club, Devoran Messy Church, Sunbeams Stay and Play Toddler Group and Feock Eco Group (£30 has already been allocated).

The Parish Council's Small Grants Scheme 2024/25 is open to community organisations based in or working in Feock Parish. The budget for grants is £2000 and is managed by the full Council. Criteria and Guidance notes are issued with each application form.

Repair Café Research Project

*The University of Exeter is involved in academic research focussed on the **transformative potential of Repair Cafes towards sustainability in Cornwall**. I was approached, via Truro Repair Café, to participate as we had become such a successful event and was interviewed by video link on 8th April with Livia Regina Batista-Pritchard Ph.D. AFHEA, Lecturer in Sustainable Management.*

The interview was recorded, transcribed, and anonymised as part of the analysis of responses for two academic papers. Topics occurring focused on the positive effect to wellbeing and social interaction the Repair Café in Carnon Downs provides, and the number of electrical/electronic devices that are saved from being 'sent to the tip'. Sustainability in our Repair Café is measured through a connection to family history. Publication date to be confirmed.

Cllr Jan Allen asked about the Small Grants criteria. CW confirmed that a copy of the terms had been posted to the MyFeock facebook page.

Cllr Bowers questioned the comment under 'Repair Café Research Project' that sustainability in the Repair Café is measured through a connection to family history. Cathy Whitmore explained that often items are brought in for repair that have an emotional connection to family members.

Cllr Hambly-Staite asked how busy the telephone contact had been. CW confirmed it was still active and she was hoping to recruit an additional volunteer driver for the transport scheme. Cllr Hambly-Staite questioned resident contact further and CW advised that people regularly came into the micro library and made use of the library facilities.

8. PROMOTION OF COUNCIL FACILITIES AND SERVICES

The Chair invited Cllr Griffiths to give his views. Cllr Griffiths stated that he had attended online courses (Communicating with your community/Social Media) and confirmed that he proposed to meet with the Parish Clerk to discuss his proposals. He expressed concern that to get local information you had to go from one website to another and wished to have a portal system in a similar vain to Cornwall Council's which would include a link to ask questions for Councillors to answer. He would like electorate engagement and suggested an open public meeting to explain to people what the Parish Council does. He reiterated that he would spend time with the Clerk to go through his ideas. Cllr Brickell stated that he would like further opportunities to engage with the community and would like some promotional materials. Cllr P Allen commented that the Parish Council had a monthly meeting, and members of the public are able to attend and speak to Councillors in the public participation part. He advised that there had been 16 Connect Newsletters delivered to every resident to date. Cllr J Allen felt that facebook was a good and useful form of media. Discussion continued regarding promotional materials and public accessibility.

ACTION: Cllr Griffiths will meet with the Parish Clerk to discuss his proposals for promotion of the Parish Council.

RESOLUTION: Cllr Brickel proposed, seconded by Cllr Griffiths, that a banner is costed as promotional material, this was carried by the meeting.

9. MOBILE SPEED SENSOR EQUIPMENT

The Chair gave details of the sensor equipment and discussion took place regarding the need (in light of the new 20mph signage and restrictions) and financial cost of rotating the sensor equipment around the parish (to existing posts).

RESOLUTION: Cllr Hambly-Staite proposed, seconded by Cllr Bowers, that the Committee recommend to the full Parish Council that we continue to use the mobile speed sensor and rotate it throughout the parish. This was carried by the meeting with 2 abstentions (Cllr Johnson and Cllr Griffiths) and 1 objection (Cllr J Allen).

ACTION: The Assistant Clerk to establish which Parish Contractors have the Chapter 8 certificate for working next to the highway.

10. PARISH TRAVEL PROMOTION

The Chair suggested that Devoran and Carnon Downs were well served by the bus service. He felt that the bus service in Feock would be lost if it isn't used. He gave details of the bus service promotion already in place and questioned if there were any further ideas for its promotion. Cllr P Allen gave details of CORLINK a previous scheme that operated in the area and advised that when it ceased the Parish Council set up the volunteer car transport scheme. He questioned that if people don't have a bus service close to their home should Council consider it appropriate to subsidise another type of transport service. Discussion followed regarding the use of the Feock community bus and possibilities for encouraging its use if the service was more regular and possibility of providing a driver. Cllr Brickell commented about the use of double decker buses in the locality and discussion in this regard followed. Cllr Griffiths questioned what research and usage numbers had been carried out and suggested a survey was needed. Cllr Bower suggested that the people who need this type of service are the people who are unlikely to respond to surveys. Cllr Griffiths suggested a small flyer to be put up on noticeboards to encourage public engagement and survey the need for a service.

ACTION: It was agreed that the Parish Council approach Cllr Martyn Alvey to see if he would set up a meeting with Cornwall Council to discuss bus use and travel in the Parish. We would also make enquires with the Feock community bus organisers to see if they were able to assist. Cllr Griffiths to draft a flyer for consideration.

11. TRAM WALK

Cllr Bowers presented the following report on the walk carried out on the Tram Road with Professor Richard French-Constant.

Notes on a Tram Road walk 15 April 2024

The walk reviewed the findings of two surveys:

- The County Wildlife Site Survey Report by Laura Snell (date December 2023)
- Feock Eco Group Tram Road Survey

Participants

Richard ffrench-Constant, Professor of molecular natural history at Exeter University, guided us on the walk. Edwin Lanyon guided us around the Tram Road Field and updated us on progress.

Cllr Anne Allen

Cllr Beverly Johnson

Cllr Mark Griffiths

Cllr Philip Allen

Cllr Richard Bowers

Summary of the main points discussed (actions in red)

1) We are very lucky to have such a beautiful road bordering the Restronguet Creek County Wildlife Site. More information about the status of County Wildlife Sites is available at

<https://www.cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk/what-we-do/our-conservation-work/on-land/county-wildlife-sites>

Tallack's Creek is a particularly important habitat for waders such as curlews, redshank and dunlin. This area of saltmarsh, together with the saltmarsh and wet woodland at Penpol, are Priority Habitats. This means they are particularly important for biodiversity and are under threat.

These beautiful habitats are fragile: we must take care to appreciate what we have, and to minimise the harm done by humans and invasive species.

2) Opportunity to enhance the grassland on Devoran quay by leaving strips along the boundary to grow, flower and set seed in spring and summer, before cutting in August. For discussion with **Devoran Quay Preservation Society**.

3) Invasive species, in particular

- Japanese Knotweed, Rhododendron and bamboo at Devoran Quay: **this will need discussion with Devoran Quay Preservation Society.**
- Rhododendron on the north-eastern bank of Tallack's Creek: **to discuss with neighbouring landowner and set up volunteer group to tackle the rhododendron, supervised by Richard ffrench-Constant.**
- Three-cornered leek (*Allium ursinum*), Monbretia, Winter Heliotrope and other Butterbur. In places along the tram road, these plants are replacing native species. **Discussion with the Feock Eco Group about the pros and cons of trying to tackle this problem. Possible research subject for Exeter University students.**
- Bamboo at various sites along the tram road: probably impossible to remove but **should be regularly cut back.**
- Hybrid Bluebell. This is hybridising with our native bluebell. It is not possible to remove completely but **removal at margins with native bluebell may reduce hybridisation.**

4) Hut (? Bird Hide) by Tallack's Creek. This is too close to the waders' feeding site and is likely to cause disturbance. **For discussion at the access and amenities committee.**

5) Verge maintenance: **ongoing discussion needed at the Parish Council and with landowners neighbouring the tram road.**

Note that Laura Snell recommended "The good verge guide" which is available at:
https://www.plantlife.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Good_verge_guide_2021.pdf

There is a balance to be made between the needs of pedestrians, cyclists and motorists, weighed against the fragility of natural habitats and enabling nature recovery.

Examples of the discussions include:

- Verge maintenance for safety and allowing pedestrians to step out of the way of cars. However, it was also argued that cars should wait at suitable passing places for pedestrians. Slowing traffic might make the road safer and encourage walking and cycling instead of driving.*
- Self-seeded young trees (especially oaks and elms) growing near the edge of the road. Here, there are two opposing views: one is to cut back, the other is to protect them, perhaps with posts or labelling.*
- Grassy verges or allowing scrub including brambles to grow? It was pointed out how cutting the verge has in one place allowed a wonderful area of orchids. It was also noted that birds such as warblers and chaffinch flourish in areas of scrub dominated by brambles. Once again, balance is needed, allowing a variety of habitats and this is good for biodiversity.*
- In one area of verge, the neighbouring landowner appears to be using weedkiller. If possible, s/he should be encouraged to stop doing so.*

*6) The severe pruning of trees by neighbouring landowners. This is an ongoing issue that will not have an easy solution. It is to be hoped that increasing awareness of the environment, and how we depend on biodiversity for our survival, may gradually change attitudes. **To review the Parish Council's strategy on Tree Preservation Orders. Also, to consider prosecution in flagrant cases of damage to trees.***

*7) The dumping of garden waste on the banks of the creek. This is a longstanding problem and is one of the factors contributing to the spread of invasive species. **Further discussion is needed about how to discourage this.***

8) The Tram Road Field. There is good progress. All of the trees planted are growing well. Edwin will be organising a bioblitz (a rapid survey of species). Volunteers will also be needed for ongoing work on the field.

9) There was a discussion about how to encourage public awareness of some of the issues described above. One opportunity may be through Exeter University students carrying out projects on the area and then having public presentations about their findings.

10) Cornwall Osprey Project. This crowdfunder project can be seen at <https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/cornwall-osprey-project/comments#start>

I would be great if Ospreys could return to breeding in Restronguet Creek. However, if this project is successful, great care must be taken to avoid damage to the habitat around the tram road caused by people wanting to observe the Ospreys.

*11) Increasingly, people who own land adjacent to the creek, have registered ownership of the creek's fundus. **Parish council to review fundus ownership adjacent to parish land.***

RESOLUTION: Councillor Griffiths proposed 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. This was seconded by Cllr Johnson and carried by the meeting.

RESOLUTION: Cllr Bowers proposed a recommendation to the full Parish Council that it adopts Cornwall Wildlife Trusts report, authored by Laura Snell. This was seconded by Cllr Johnson and carried by the meeting.

ACTIONS: Cllr Bowers will set up a volunteer group to tackle invasive species and members agreed to read the verge guide before the next meeting. The Assistant Clerk to chase up Cornwall Council regarding the progress of the TPO for the Tram Road.

Cllr P Allen raised the issue of the brambles growing in the centre of the Tram field and offered to mow them. Cllr Hambly-Staite advised that Edwin Lanyon is mandated to look after the field and he had written to him regarding this.

12. ACTIVE FEOCK PROJECT

The Chair advised that a feasibility study was currently being undertaken and progress is being made, a questionnaire has been sent out and responses have been received from Education and Health. Their responses will be used in the final report which should aid any funding application.

13. CLERKS REPORT

The Assistant Clerk reported that:

The Parish Council's contractor had carried out the request to cutback the Elm seedlings growing on the verge at the bottom of Trolver Hill.

A further contact request had been made to the Insurance company regarding volunteers to help with drainage works at Pengelly Meadows but to date had received no reply.

Received confirmation from the Parish Council's contractor that they had not carried out any cutting back of hedges/brambles at footpath no.46. A site visit for Cllrs is still to be arranged.

Contacted (via Cornwall Cllr Martyn Alvey who has enquired via the Casework Assist system) Cornwall Council's policy/regulations on mineshafts.

Requested dates for a meeting with the contractor to ascertain how much of the Enhanced LMP funding remains and works required.

Noted to arrange a working group meeting (May/June) to discuss signage/tidying of boat park.

Noted to add 'Common Land' to the agenda of the June full Parish Council meeting for the Council to define boundaries and the management of the land.

A resident had asked if the Council could pave over the section of soft ground at the end of the footpath by the roundabout at the end of Devoran Lane and an enquiry had been made to Cornwall Highways. The Highways Manager has passed the enquiry to colleagues in Cornwall Council Transportation to establish if they support and could fund a small improvement scheme in this location. He noted constraints regarding the illuminated sign/post in this location.

A resident of Staggy Lane had requested the filling of potholes in the lane. Following reports to Cornwall Council they have confirmed that they had inspected the lane and they are putting together a minor maintenance package to address the potholes.

Two emails had been received from residents asking if the footpath/bridleway surfaces in the parish could be upgraded.

A Carnon Downs resident had emailed asking for traffic calming improvements to be made to Quenchwell Road.

Cllr P Allen advised that he had spoken with the resident and established the number of heavy lorries that are going along Quenchwell Road to the recycling centre at Wheal Jane.

ACTION: Cllr P Allen to establish who the contractor is at the regeneration centre and compose a letter to alert them to residents' concern over the speed of vehicles.

14. HIGHWAY

Cllr Griffiths expressed concern that at the top of Manse Road inconsiderate parking had created a blind corner which he considered dangerous. He also gave details of a cement slurry going into the road drain caused by a resident, in Manse Road, having a cement mixer at their property while carrying out building works.

ACTION: The Assistant Clerk to report the road issue and the cement slurry to Cornwall Highways.

15. PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

No issues were discussed.

16. LAND & PLAYING FIELDS

Cllr Bowers advised that boats at Carnon Yards are being moved and signage is needed to make people aware that it is parish land.

RESOLUTION: Cllr J Allen proposed that Cllr Bowers and Cllr P Allen provide wording for signage to recommend to full Council. This was seconded by Cllr Hambly-Staite and carried by the meeting.

17. RISK ASSESSMENTS

Cllr Bowers expressed concern that the risk assessment sheet being used is not adequate due to its risk rating system and should be redesigned, he suggested a revised template. In relation to Carnon Mine he also advised the Cllr Alvey was looking into the policy situation regarding mineshafts.

ACTION: The revised risk assessment sheet to be considered at the next meeting.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.10pm