

**MINUTES OF THE FEOCK PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 11TH DECEMBER 2023 AT
7PM IN FEOCK PARISH COUNCIL OFFICES, DEVORAN**

Councillors present:

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| CARNON DOWNS | DEVORAN | FEOCK |
| C Kemp | A Allen | R Brickell |
| J Allen | M Woolcock | R Bowers |
| P Allen | | K Hambly-Staite |
| M Griffiths | | B Johnson |

In attendance: Debra Roberts, Parish Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer
Cornwall Councillor Martyn Alvey

CHAIR: Cllr Richard Brickell

1. MEETING PROCEDURES & INTRODUCTION

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Cllr Steel.

**3. TO CONSIDER THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 6th
NOVEMBER 2023 AS A CORRECT RECORD OF THE MATERIAL DECISIONS MADE FOR A
SIGNATURE BY THE CHAIRMAN**

RESOLUTION: CLLR BOWERS PROPOSED THAT THE MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 6th NOVEMBER 2023 AS CIRCULATED BY THE CLERK, BE SIGNED BY THE CHAIRMAN AS A TRUE AND ACCURATE RECORD OF THE MEETING, SECONDED BY CLLR GRIFFITHS AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FROM COUNCILLORS ON ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

Cllr Woolcock declared an interest in item 9 as he had a family member who was a contractor.

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no public present.

6. CLERKS REPORT ON ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

The Clerks report on actions taken had been circulated with the agenda.

Cllr Alvey had written to Cornwall Council regarding the request for the A39 surface to be included in any additional funding that becomes available. The Clerk had circulated the response to Councillors which was that currently the surface did not require any works but when it was eventually resurfaced this would be with a noise reducing surface.

The quality issue with the surfacing of Forthnoweth, Cowling Road and Valley Lane had been raised with Cornwall Council who advised that this was a new method being tried. Cllr Griffiths said that he was still very disappointed at the quality of the work it looked like there were areas where they had simply run out of chippings. The residents were very upset about the quality of the work on the roads

outside their properties. The Clerk said that Highways had not given any indication that they intended to do anything about putting this issue right.

7. MATTERS FOR REPORT

Cllr Hambly-Staite attended a meeting at the University of Exeter which was the second meeting of the Civic Agreement regarding the delivery of the local plan between the Universities and Cornwall Council. The importance of play was also discussed and he felt that we should do more to promote our recreation and play areas, possibly through Parties in the Parks like we did to launch Pengelly Meadows Recreation Area.

Cllr P Allen said that in a private capacity he was a member of the Cornwall Countryside Access Forum and chairs the group which liaises with local Parish Councils, there is also a sub group on Wellbeing. He would be presenting to them again in May and it was hoped that the Countryside Access Forum would get the opportunity to present to the Community Area Partnership about this and also Active Feock.

8. CURRENT REPORTS

The Clerk advised the Police crime figures were still not available online.

Cllr Alvey said the planning enforcement action at Oak House had been appealed by the homeowner and requested this go to a public hearing and requested that the Parish Council be represented there. Some restructuring work was being carried out at Cornwall Council regarding enforcement including planning enforcement and we would have more information about this in the New Year and it was hoped this would make enforcement work more effectively.

Cllr Alvey said a new level 2 devolution deal had been announced. The Government had also agreed to do some work around recognition of Cornish hedges as these were not included in Hedgerow Legislation.

The planning application for Shortlands was going to Committee next week. The Trelissick planning application it did not look like would be going to Committee until at least January next year. Cllr Alvey had requested the Planning Committee members carry out a site visit before the Committee meeting.

There were also two consultations available online, one for the Police & Crime Commissioner and one on electric car charging points which were both available online for completion.

There was a discussion regarding Planning enforcement and the process followed by Cornwall Council to decide if action would be taken. Cllr Johnson asked if there was a definition of 'harm' in planning terms. Cllr Alvey said that unfortunately the definition of harm was 'subjective'. Cllr P Allen said that it seemed that Cornwall Council did not take into account the cumulative effect of development, especially in the AONB. Cllr Woolcock said that the lack of consistency with regards to enforcement action taken was very hard to understand.

The Council agreed to write to Cllr Alvey to express their disappointment about the lack of action on a recent enforcement case.

Cllr Hambly-Staite said that in the original Devolution Deal that was abandoned, what was happening with the offshore energy generation. Cllr Alvey said the flow commission remained in the level 2 deal with the details to be agreed.

Cllr P Allen said it was interesting to see the report on where Cornwall's waste goes. He also commented that the National Trust at their last AGM approved a motion to improve cycle access to all their sites which was very much along the lines of our comments on the Trelissick application.

Cllr Griffiths asked if there was any update on the Mid Cornwall Metro. Cllr Alvey said that it is still being worked on and there would be an update to Cornwall Council cabinet on Wednesday.

Cllr Bowers asked if he could attend the planning site visit at Trelissick. Cllr Alvey said that the site visit was only for the Cornwall Council Planning Committee members to familiarise themselves with the site and application.

Cllr Hambly-Staite said that the Parish Council had asked Trelissick to provide both a cycle way and a safe pedestrian access to the site which had been included.

9. FINANCIAL SUMMARY & ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

The Clerk circulated the invoice list by email, together with individual invoices and gave an overview of the Council's current financial position and payments this month, this included substantial repairs to Carnon Downs play park fence, 6 month interim internal audit and replacement of some lights in the kitchen area of the office with LED lighting.

RESOLUTION: CLLR P ALLEN PROPOSED THE CHAIRMAN SIGN THE INVOICES FOR PAYMENT LIST AUTHORISING THE PAYMENTS, SECONDED BY CLLR HAMBLY-STAITE AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Cllr P Allen said the Clerk had received a letter of thanks from a neighbour regarding the quick work to the fence and trees on the boundary and would like this noted.

10. BUDGET 2024/25

The Clerk had circulated the budget recommended by the Finance & General Purposes Committee to Full Council with the agenda and in hard copy. A majority of Councillors had requested the budget and precept decision made at the November 2023 Parish Council meeting be revisited due to information regarding salaries becoming available after the decision had been made and the impact of this on the budget and precept for 2024/25.

The Clerk explained that the NJC pay agreement with the Trade Unions for the current year had only just been published and this was more than had been budgeted for, the 2024/25 budget was based on the budgeted figure for the current year so the Finance & General Purposes Committee had met and looked again at the budget and precept and made a recommendation to approve the new budget (which reduced the paper copies of Connect newsletter from 3 per year to 1 which would be supplemented with electronic versions as well as copies distributed to points across the Parish) and a 3.58% increase on the precept for 2024/25.

RESOLUTION: CLLR J ALLEN PROPOSED THE NEW BUDGET AS CIRCULATED FOR 2024/25 AND RECOMMENDED BY FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE BE APPROVED BY FULL COUNCIL, SECONDED BY CLLR HAMBLY-STAITE AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Cllr A Allen commented that the Connect newsletter is a good method of communication but agreed that it is costly. She would like to see the annual edition being a round up of the year.

11. COUNCIL TAX PRECEPT 2024/25

Following the discussion under item 10 the following resolution was passed.

RESOLUTION: CLLR HAMBLY-STAITTE PROPOSED THE PRECEPT REQUEST FOR 2024/25 BE AMENDED TO £146,377, A 3.58% INCREASE ON THE CURRENT YEARS FIGURE, AS RECOMMENDED BY FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE AND BE APPROVED BY FULL COUNCIL, SECONDED BY CLLR BRICKELL AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

12. LOCAL WARD REPORTS

Feock

Cllr Hambly-Staite said that the roads in some areas of Feock has been swept at the Clerks request and it was hoped the rest would be swept shortly. Cllr Hambly-Staite asked that Tregye Road also be arranged to be swept (the road between Truro College and Fourturnings). The Clerk would request this.

Devoran

Cllr P Allen said the memorial bench at Carnon Mine has now been installed.

Carnon Downs

Cllr C Kemp wished to record the Councils thanks to the Community Association for the Christmas Lights Switch On event which was very well attended. The Clerk would pass this on to the Committee. Cllr J Allen asked that the Council write to the lady and crafters group who does the postbox toppers at the Spar and also the crochet trees and horse and thank them for their efforts in brightening up the village. The Clerk would arrange this.

13. PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT

The Clerk ran through the Planning Statistics report the Assistant Clerk had put together and would circulate this to Council. Since 1st April this year a total of 77 planning applications had been received.

Cllr P Allen requested a meeting with Cllr Alvey regarding TPO issues in the parish and the out of date TPO orders and the issues this causes to the Parish Council when looking at planning applications.

Cllr Hambly-Staite asked if there was any information regarding the pre-app for the redevelopment of the walled garden at Trelissick. The Clerk would ask the Assistant Clerk if she had any information about this.

14. ACCESS & AMENITIES COMMITTEE REPORT

The Clerk had circulated the draft minutes as part of the agenda pack and Cllr Hambly-Staite asked if anyone had any questions on the minutes.

Cllr Bowers asked what the timescale was for the Feasibility Study for Active Feock. Cllr Hambly-Staite said that it was planned for the study to start mid February and this would last 8 weeks.

Cllr Hambly-Staite said that the Committee were recommending the Council become an annual member of the Open Spaces Society at a cost of £45 as they could give us bespoke information regarding Common Land, Village Green and footpaths.

RESOLUTION: CLLR HAMBLY-STAIITE PROPOSED THAT THE COUNCIL JOIN THE OPEN SPACES SOCIETY AT AN ANNUAL COST OF £45, SECONDED BY CLLR BOWERS AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

15. FEOCK ECO GROUP REPORT

Cllr Bowers gave the following report.

The group were working with Tregye College on setting up a volunteer group to help with a kitchen garden, DBS checks needed. The group would like to meet with Cllr Hambly-Staite as Chair of Access & Amenities to pass on information about the encroachment at Penpol Pond. The Clerk said she would set up a meeting for early in the New Year. The group were looking at purchasing water testing kits for the West Country Citizen Science project to test fresh water in the Parish, the kits cost £30 and Cllr Bowers was establishing if these were one use kits or did more than one test. The group were looking for funding to buy these. Cllr Alvey said he would be happy to fund these but would not have any funding until next May as all his Community Chest money was already allocated. Cllr Bowers said he would find out more present more information about the project at the January Parish Council meeting. It was suggested it may be good to include Devoran School in the water testing project. The groups views on the Tram Road cutting had previously been reported.

The Clerk suggested that the Feock Eco group write to her with their request for funding so the Parish Council could consider this.

Cllr P Allen said he sat on the SAC group for the Fal and Helford and he understood the EA were drawing up a management plan for these rivers and would report back any information he was able to find out.

Cllr Bowers said that it was hoped that the Cornwall Wildlife Trust report on the Tram Road would be received by Christmas.

16. HIGHWAYS

The Clerk had reported the pothole on the Carnon Downs sliproad off the bypass that had re-opened again. One bollard had been erected to warn of a high upstand around a drain/manhole in the verge on Bissoe Road but another was needed to warn of another manhole in the same verge. The Clerk would contact Highways to request this was done. Cllr Griffiths reported there was a large pothole on Grenna Lane, he would provide details of where this was so that the Clerk could report it. Cllr Hambly-Staite said there was a large pothole just the Playing Place side of Penelewey. The Clerk would report this. Cllr Alvey said that anyone coming across a pothole could report these online to Cornwall Council.

17. APPLICATION FOR MODIFICATION OF DEFINITIVE MAP AND STATEMENT OF RIGHTS OF WAY

The Clerk explained that an application had been received to modify the route of a footpath near to Killaganoon in Carnon Downs and were a statutory consultee on these applications as part of the information gathering process. The deadline for a response was 11th January 2024.

RESOLUTION: CLLR BRICKELL PROPOSED THAT THE CLERK BE DELEGATED TO WORK WITH CLLR P ALLEN TO COMPILE THE INFORMATION REQUESTED AND RESPOND TO THE CONSULTATION, SECONDED BY CLLR HAMBLY-STAIITE AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

18. COUNCIL TO CONSIDER REQUEST BY RESIDENT TO PUBLISH DRAFT MINUTES WITHIN A WEEK OF THE LAST PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

The Clerk explained that a resident had requested that the draft minutes of the Parish Council and Committee meetings are published on the website within a week of the meeting being held.

The Clerk explained that currently the agreed process is that the draft minutes are published as part of the agenda pack for the next meeting, so they are issued within a month of the previous meeting. The Clerk said this was common practice and there was no legal requirement to publish draft minutes within a week. The Clerk advised that some draft minutes such as the Access & Amenities Committee were issued as part of the Parish Council agenda so often these were available before the next Committee meeting.

The Council discussed the process and felt they were happy with the current process and that it was reasonable for the Clerk to manage taking into account the number of meetings and gave flexibility for working patterns and holiday, but still provided information to the public in a timely manner.

The meeting moved into closed session.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.08 pm.