

Minutes of the FEOCK PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held on Monday 3rd October 2022 at 7pm at the Parish Council Offices, Market Street, Devoran

Present:

WARDS	CARNON DOWNS	DEVORAN	FEOCK
	C Kemp	A Allen	L Fitt
	P Allen		R Brickell
	J Allen		

In attendance: Councillor Martyn Alvey, Cornwall Councillor
2 members of the public
Debra Roberts, Parish Clerk & Responsible Finance Officer

Chairman: A Allen

1. INTRODUCTION

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Cllrs Hambly-Staite, Lightfoot, Steel, Cooper, Woolcock, Gason.

3. TO CONSIDER THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 11TH JULY 2022 AS A TRUE AND ACCURATE RECORD

RESOLUTION: CLLR J KEMP PROPOSED THAT THE MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 11TH JULY 2022 AS CIRCULATED BY THE CLERK WITH AN AMENDMENT ON PAGE 2, ITEM 5 TO CORRECT "MORE THAN 75 YEARS" TO "OVER 60 YEARS", BE SIGNED BY THE CHAIRMAN AS A TRUE AND ACCURATE RECORD OF THE MEETING, THIS WAS SECONDED BY CLLR BRICKELL AND WAS CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY THE MEETING.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Woolcock (who had given apologies and was not in attendance) had declared an interest in Item 11 Planning. Cllrs J and P Allen declared an interest in Item 20 Amenity Land which was on the closed session.

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A member of the public spoke on behalf of residents of the lower part of Old Carnon Hill, she explained they had concerns about the speed of traffic and looking at the more recently carried out Radarclass speed survey it showed that 18% of vehicles were exceeding the speed limit. She asked if it was likely that a 20mph limit would be put in place in Carnon Downs soon as she felt that despite the welcome traffic calming it was still needed to bring speeds down. The residents would also like to see the flashing speed signs that display how fast people are going as she felt these were also effective.

Cllr Alvey advised that Cornwall Council are currently running a pilot of 20s Plenty in Falmouth/Penryn and Camelford and would then be considering rolling this out across village centres across the county. The first area to be looked at once the pilot had been completed would be the Truro & Roseland Network Area which Feock parish was part of.

Cllr P Allen commented that he had led on the Getting Around section of the Neighbourhood Development Plan. A comprehensive residents survey was carried out when the plan was being formed back in 2014 which showed that residents did not want further traffic calming or speed reduction measures at that time, however this had been carried out some time ago and views may have changed in the meantime. Cllr P Allen was very keen to see improved cycling around the parish and had put forward a proposal to make improved cycle routes which included making some roads 20mph. Cllr J Allen expressed concerns about speed restrictions/traffic calming slowing down business traffic, taxis etc. She said she had not seen data regarding accidents or fatalities that would suggest further calming/restrictions was necessary.

Another resident who attended said that the mid point give way section was confusing as it was quite long and hard to see cars coming down that you should be giving way too.

The Chair thanked the members of the public for taking the time to attend.

6. **CLERKS REPORT**

The Clerk had circulated her update on actions from the last meeting to all Councillors.

7. **MATTERS FOR REPORT**

Cllr Kemp said that herself and Cllrs P Allen and Cooper had met with the Affordable Housing Officers regarding affordable housing in the parish which was very useful and an informative meeting. It was noted that S106 money relating to affordable housing provision could be used to improve existing affordable housing stock and could include things like making them more energy efficient.

8. **CURRENT REPORTS**

Cornwall Council

Cllr Alvey said he understood there was some upset that he didn't call in the planning application for the property named "Appensleigh" in Feock, he explained his reasons for this and he felt there was no realistic chance of the Central Planning Committee refusing the application as a precedent had been set by another property in the vicinity. This would also make a very strong case for overturning a refusal at Appeal. Cllr Alvey assured the Parish Council that he did work very hard to represent the Parish Council in relation to planning.

Cllr Alvey commented that he had received an assurance from Highways that when the bypass was resurfaced this would be done with a quieter noise reducing surface. He had also persuaded Highways to mark the lanes at the Carnon Downs roundabout (going towards Truro), with the left hand lane being marked straight on for the A39 and the right hand lane being marked 'Point'.

Cllr Alvey advised that the Speed Compliance Action Review Forum (SCARF) will be reviewing the speed along the Bissoe Valley as the last Radar Class survey had shown 88% of vehicles were exceeding the national speed limit along there.

Devon & Cornwall Police

The Clerk had circulated the latest crime figures for the Parish for July which were as follows:

Point x 1 – Other theft

Feock x 2 – criminal damage/arson, 1 x other theft

Carnon Downs x 8 – 2 x criminal damage/arson, 2 x violence/sexual offences, 1 x burglary, 1 x other theft, 2 x anti social behaviour.

9. FINANCIAL SUMMARY & ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

The Clerk had circulated the invoice list for July, August and September 2022 due for payment and gave an overview of the Council's current financial position.

RESOLUTION: CLLR P ALLEN PROPOSED THE CHAIRMAN SIGN THE INVOICES FOR PAYMENT LIST, SECONDED BY CLLR FITT AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

10. LOCAL WARD REPORTS

Feock Ward

Cllr P Allen said he has removed 2 unservicable wrecked boats from Restranguet Point common land which he had now stored for 3 months in case owners came forward. He asked the Council to confirm they are happy for him to now dispose of them which was agreed.

Devoran Ward

The Chairman said she had noticed a footpath signpost kept disappearing from the Tram Road, it was established that the post didn't point in the correct direction and was guiding people up the wrong driveway so needed to be re-sited.

The Chairman said that she had spoken to the owner of the barge at Point who was building a bridge out to it, he advised that he had permission from the MCA to construct this. The photographs of the bridge had been sent the MP and the MMO who were investigating.

The Chairman said the road from Point up to Carnon Downs has verges but these have got very overgrown. The Chairman felt that as well as the hedges being cut back the verges should be cut back as well as they were a safe refuge for pedestrians. Cllr J Allen agreed that verges should be cut as soon as possible to provide space for pedestrians. The Clerk would contact Highways as Cllr Alvey advised that Highways were responsible verges whereas landowners were responsible for the hedges.

Carnon Downs Ward

There was nothing to report for Carnon Downs.

11. PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT

The Planning Committee statistic report had been circulated to all, since April 2022 it was noted that the Parish has had 83 planning applications.

Request for pre-application meeting regarding potential new development on Point Road, Carnon Downs

The Council agreed that it would be interesting to hear what the developers were proposing and it was agreed that the Parish Council would met with the developers to gain an insight into their plans.

Council to agree statement and action regarding recent planning decisions

The Chairman said it was very sad that Cllr Blake had resigned due to the recent planning decisions and the strength of feeling in the local area about these. He was a very experienced Councillor and a great loss to the Parish Council. A draft letter had been circulated to all for comment to be sent to

Cllr Olly Monk who was the Portfolio Holder for Planning explaining our concerns about the AONB not being respected and our NDP not being taken into account when decisions are made.

Cllr Alvey suggested the letter be addressed to Louise Wood, Head of Planning and copied to the Portfolio Holder.

Cllr P Allen said it was the system that was causing us frustration and this was not aimed at individual Councillors or staff as he understood the great pressures they were under.

Cllr Kemp said she wished to highlight the decisions also made in Carnon Downs as well as the lack of consistency in decision making.

RESOLUTION: CLLR BRICKELL PROPOSED THE LETTER BE SENT AS CIRCULATED, SECONDED BY CLLR KEMP AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

12. ACCESS & AMENITIES COMMITTEE REPORT

Cllr Gason had given her apologies. The next meeting was on Thursday 6th October 2022.

Tree Officer's advice on trees in Devoran Park

The Clerk had circulated the advice from Cornwall Council's Tree Officer about works to the trees.

The Chair said that the Tree Officer had made it clear that he did not support pollarding of the trees and as they grew they would provide the shade that they had been put in to provide.

Cllr P Allen said he felt the trees were the wrong type of tree to be planted in the park and that this needed further discussion.

It was agreed to place this on a future Access & Amenities Committee for discussion around management of trees in a Conservation Area.

13. HAIRE & WELLBEING PROJECT

Cllr Hambly-Staite's report about provision of Warm Spaces had been circulated and the Clerk had spoken to the various community groups to see if they had already thought about these issues and a couple had responded to say that they were considering how they could provide warm spaces over the coming winter to help those who may struggle to heat their homes. The Clerk said how many sessions could be run would depend on the number of volunteers able to help at the sessions.

Cllr J Allen felt that a rota for people to visit friends/others houses would be better as more friendly than sitting in a village hall with people they didn't know.

It was felt that more information was needed on what financial support the groups may need to be able to offer warm spaces and the HAIRE team would contact them to get more details and this item would be discussed again at the November meeting.

RESOLUTION: CLLR FITT PROPOSED THAT THE PARISH COUNCIL SUPPORT THE LOCAL GROUPS/ORGANISATIONS TO PROVIDE WARM SPACES BUT ESTABLISH THE LEVEL OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT THEY NEED TO PROVIDE THIS TOGETHER WITH FREQUENCY OF PROVISION AND FOR FURTHER DETAILS TO BE BROUGHT BACK TO THE COUNCIL IN NOVEMBER FOR DISCUSSION, SECONDED BY CLLR P ALLEN AND CARRIED WITH THE MAJORITY IN FAVOUR.

14. FEOCK ECO REPORT

The Feock Eco Report had been circulated to everyone prior to the meeting. It was agreed to put items for research for the Feock Eco Group on the on November Access & Amenities Committee agenda. The Chair wished to record her thanks to Cllrs S Cooper for arranging the hand tools training which had been very well attended and enjoyed.

15. HIGHWAYS ISSUES

Community Network Highways Scheme Bid

The Chair advised that one scheme had been suggested by Councillors which was the removal of the flower bed/build out on Forth Coth in Carnon Downs by the old Carpenters Shed to widen the footway there and provide safer pedestrian access. Cormac have previously quoted £7K for the works. It was suggested that we could bid for money under the Highways funding for money to remove this build out but stressed that Cormac would be need to be the contractor if this was funded by the Community Network Panel and an external contractor could only be used if the Parish Council fully funded the work.

RESOLUTION: CLLR KEMP PROPOSED THAT THE FORTH COTH SCHEME AS DISCUSSED BE SUBMITTED FOR FUNDING UNDER THE COMMUNITY NETWORK PANEL HIGHWAYS FUNDING SCHEME, SECONDED BY CLLR BRICKELL AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Bissoe residents letter forwarded from Kea Parish Council

The Council agree that there is a problem with the speed of the traffic locally in both Feock and Kea parishes. The Council support the residents with their aims to have speeds brought down. Feock Parish Council however feel that the Bissoe route is a route that requires improvement to carry the volume of traffic it has. It was felt that it needs a comprehensive highways plan to look at this issue as it was a big problem to solve.

Cllr Brickell mentioned that the two passing places on the road to Bissoe from the Carnon Gate roundabout were getting overgrown and needed cutting out.

Council to agree actions to be taken from Highways Meeting held in August

The items that had been raised in the Highways Meeting with our Highways Manager were discussed briefly and it was agreed they should be discussed in more detail at the November Access & Amenities Committee.

Safer cycling at the A39 – the Chair felt that we should link with other parishes as this is not in our parish and was a big issue to try to resolve.

There were issues across the parish with obstruction/parking opposite junctions which should be reported to the Police.

The Chair asked Cllr Alvey to consider our village centres and the B3289 Feock road as part of the 20's plenty when the Truro & Roseland Community Network was being looked at for 20mph limits.

16. COMMUNITY LEVELLING UP PROGRAMME 2022/23, GOOD GROWTH SHARED PROSPERITY FUND

The Clerk had circulated Cllr P Allen's draft prospectus relating to Active Travel, walking and cycling and wellbeing for consideration as an expression of interest for the Good Growth Shared Prosperity Funding.

He had also contacted the EA as this involved their land on the Carnon Valley and the Cornwall Council Team responsible for improvements to cycle access. He is awaiting a response from both. The Clerk said she had some concerns about managing cash flow as although this was 100% funded project with no match funding requirement the Parish Council would need to pay out for work before claiming back the funding. Cllr P Allen confirmed that he would envisage a large part of the project would need to be managed by Cormac and therefore the money would not come from the Parish Council's funds, there would only be a small element of the project that the Parish Council would manage and carry out. It was hoped to make the project happen that we could partner with other groups such as the Carnon Valley Woodland group, other local Parish Councils, the EA, Cornwall Council and Cormac.

RESOLUTION: CLLR P ALLEN PROPOSED THAT THE PROSPECTUS BE PUT FORWARD AS AN EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR THIS FUNDING BY THE CLERK, SECONDED BY CLLR FITT AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

17. AGE FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES

It was agreed as Cllr Hambly-Staite had given his apologies that this item would be deferred to the November meeting.

18. POLICY UPDATES

The Clerk had circulated two amended policies for comment (Lone Working Policy and Co-option Policy). It was agreed to amend the Lone Working Policy to say 'organised meetings' where it referred to Councillors not meeting with members of the public on their own.

RESOLUTION: CLLR KEMP PROPOSED BOTH AMENDED POLICIES BE ADOPTED, WITH THE ONE CHANGE TO THE LONE WORKING POLICY, SECONDED BY CLLR BRICKELL AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

RESOLUTION: CLLR KEMP PROPOSED THAT THE COUNCIL ADOPT THE NALC CIVILITY & RESPECT PLEDGE DETAILS OF WHICH HAD BEEN CIRCULATED, SECONDED BY CLLR BRICKELL AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

19. LETTER OF CONDOLENCE TO KING CHARLES III

The Council agreed for the Chair to write a letter of condolence on behalf of the Parish Council.

The meeting moved into the closed session and members of the public and Cllr Alvey left the meeting.