

## MEETING No.

**Minutes of the Full Parish Council Meeting of Feock Parish Council held on Monday  
9<sup>th</sup> December 2024 at 6pm at the Parish Council Office, Market Street, Devoran, TR3 6QA at 6pm**

Members present:	CARNON DOWNS	DEVORAN	FEOCK
	C Kemp	B Yates	R Brickell
	P Allen	R Bowers	K Hambly-Staite
	J Allen	M Steel	J Newman
	A Avard		C Dyke

In attendance: Debra Roberts, Parish Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer

Chair: Cllr Richard Brickell

### 1. INTRODUCTION

The Chairman welcomes those present and reminded attendees of the Civility and Respect Pledge the Council have signed up to and that only items on the agenda could be discussed. If any other items came up that were not on the agenda they would be placed on a future agenda.

### 2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs A Allen and Cornwall Councillor Alvey.

### 3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS FULL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

**RESOLUTION: CLLR DYKE PROPOSED THE MINUTES OF THE FULL PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 18<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2024 AS CIRCULATED BY THE CLERK, BE SIGNED BY THE CHAIR AS A TRUE AND ACCURATE RECORD OF THE MEETING, SECONDED BY CLLR P ALLEN AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

### 4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Steel declared an interest in Item 13 Point Orchard.

### 5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no public present.

### 6. CLERKS REPORT

The Clerks report had been circulated and the Clerk ran through this briefly.

### 7. MATTERS FOR REPORT FROM ATTENDANCE AT OUTSIDE BODIES

Cllr P Allen had written the year end report for the Bissoe Woodland project and circulated this to Councillors and those on the working group from Kea Parish Council.

### 8. LOCAL WARD REPORTS

#### Carnon Downs ward

The Parish Council wished to thank Carnon Downs Community Association for the Christmas Lights and the Switch On event which was very well attended and also Carnon Downs crafters for the crochet Christmas trees.

It was noted that several large trees had fallen in Carnon Downs during the storm.

### **Devoran ward**

The hedges on Parish Council land along the Tram Road have been cut today, together with the hedges of Retallack Playing Field and Pengelly Meadows Recreation Area. There was some tidying that may be needed after the flailing, the Clerk would contact our contractor about this when it had been established if this was necessary.

Cllr Kemp said that a Christmas tree had appeared in Devoran Park which was really lovely to see however the Parish Council hadn't been notified which needed to be done to ensure insurance was in place, the Clerk had contacted our insurance company to make sure we were covered and would contact the residents who had put it up just to check the lights had been electrically tested for safety so this could be passed on to the insurance company.

### **Feock ward**

The bus shelters in Feock have now been repaired although clarification was needed if this was both that required work or just one. Cllr Hambly-Staite said that the roads in Feock needed sweeping of leaves and the Clerk has asked Biffa to come and sweep the roads, in front of the two bus shelters have been cleared. It was mentioned that several years ago, the sides of Tregye Road had got so choked up with leaves and mulch that they had to be ploughed out and we wanted to avoid this and for college students to be able to walk safely to Tregye campus.

The Clerk would chase up the sweeping of the roads in Feock.

Cllr Hambly-Staite said that quite a lot of hedges in Feock have been flailed and cut back recently which it was assumed had been done by the landowners.

Cllr Newman said that at Carnon Mine there was some discarded items, including a beer keg, rotting boats and a large RSJ and asked what the Parish Council could do about this. It was agreed to put this on the Access & Amenities agenda for further discussion but there has been a method in the past for asking owners of boats to remove any wrecks.

Clerk to circulate list of which Councillors were allocated to all our land/assets to monitor and carry out risk assessments.

Cllr Bowers thanked the Clerk for the work she had done getting information out on our social media over the weekend during the storm, this was useful to have for the upcoming Community Emergency Plan working group meeting.

## **9. CORNWALL COUNCIL REPORT**

Cllr Alvey had given his apologies for tonight's meeting.

## **10. DEVON & CORNWALL POLICY PARISH LIAISON REPORT**

Cllr J Allen said that she would shortly be seeing Alison Hernandez and could ask any questions the Council had.

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

The Clerk advised that our contractor had carried out some more work that we could claim back under the Enhanced LMP funding.

It was suggested that the improvements we had made under this funding should be outlined in Connect. Cllr P Allen said he was happy to write an article for Connect with photos showing before and after but this wouldn't be until Easter as he was away but before and after photographs were available so if anyone else wished to write an article they could.

Cllr Hambly-Staite asked about current spinal points and salary bands for staff, the Clerk would circulate this information to all Councillors.

The Clerk gave the Financial Report which summarised the current bank balances, income since the last meeting and bank reconciliations. The Clerk advised that we had received additional funding for Active Feock from the Good Growth Fund to purchase new bench seats to go around the Parish.

**RESOLUTION: CLLR HAMBLY-STAITTE PROPOSED THE ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT LIST FOR THE LAST MONTH BE APPROVED FOR PAYMENT AND SIGNED BY THE CHAIRMAN, SECONDED BY CLLR STEEL AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

#### 12. **GAS AND ELECTRICITY CONTRACTS**

The Clerk had circulated quotes provided via Utility Aid for gas and electricity for the Parish Council building, the current contract expired at the start of January 2025. Cllr Newman had concerns about the percentage paid to Utility Aid and felt this should be shown separately on our budget under Professional Fees, he was also concerned about entering into a long term contract as he felt energy costs would come down over the next 36 months.

There was a discussion regarding the Parish Councils obligation to go with a 'green' energy provider as they had declared a Climate Emergency. Some Councillors felt that cost needed to be considered as well as how green the energy supplier was as this was taxpayers money and the Parish Council had an obligation to provide best value. The Clerk advised that if the Council wished to reconsider their Climate Emergency declaration this needed to go on a future agenda. Several Councillors were very concerned that reversing this declaration was being suggested.

**RESOLUTION: CLLR BRICKELL PROPOSED THAT THE CLERK BE TAKSED TO FIND OUT FROM UTILITY AID HOW 'GREEN' THE COMPANIES WHOSE QUOTES HAD BEEN PROVIDED WERE, WERE SHORTER TERM CONTRACTS AN OPTION, IF WE FELL OUT OF CONTRACT THE RATES WE WOULD BE PAYING AND IF WE CEASED USING ONE OF THE UTILITIES IN THE 3 YEAR PERIOD WOULD WE HAVE TO PAY ANY PENALTIES, THE CLERK TO CIRCULATE THE INFORMATION AND A DECISION TO BE MADE BY EMAIL BY MAJORITY TO ENABLE THE CONTRACTS TO BE RENEWED BEFORE FALLING OUT OF CONTRACT, SECONDED BY CLLR J ALLEN AND CARRIED BY A MAJORITY.**

#### 13. **POINT ORCHARD SEPTIC TANK ISSUE**

The Clerk advised that she had arranged a meeting for Councillors with the homeowner to try to find a way forward. Advice has been received from Environmental Health at Cornwall Council following them being contacted by residents and the Clerk had circulated this to Councillors.

It was felt that we needed legal advice about accrued rights of having the septic tank on our land and more details of when the tank was installed.

**14. VACANCY ON ACCESS & AMENITIES COMMITTEE**

There was a vacancy on the Access & Amenities Committee, Cllr Newman had expressed an interest in joining, the Chairman asked if anyone else wished to put themselves forward.

**RESOLUTION: CLLR J ALLEN PROPOSED THAT CLLR NEWMAN BE ELECTED TO SIT ON THE ACCESS & AMENITIES COMMITTEE, SECONDED BY THE CHAIRMAN AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**15. PENSIONS DISCRETIONS POLICY**

The Clerk advised that the Parish Council were required to have a Pensions Discretion Policy for the Local Government Pension Scheme that staff were members of. There were concerns raised about the last point of the policy 'Power of employing authority to grant additional pension'. Councillors felt this was too open ended. The Clerk would try to find a 'tighter' policy with a limit that could be used.

**RESOLUTION: CLLR KEMP PROPOSED THE CLERK BRING THE DRAFT POLICY BACK TO THE JANUARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING WITH EXAMPLES OF TIGHTER GRANTING ADDITIONAL PENSION WORDING, SECONDED BY CLLR NEWMAN AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**16. ENERGY SURVEY COSTS**

Cllr Bowers outlined that as agreed at the last meeting he had sought costs to have an Energy Survey carried out on the office and pre-school building as having this survey would mean we may be able to apply for decarbonisation grants to help replace the gas boilers which were coming to the end of their lives. A quote had been sought from Community Energy Plus who are Cornish charity who give advice about energy. The quote for an energy survey of the Parish Council office and Pre-school hall would cost £499. As well as providing a report they would also advise on immediate steps we could take to reduce our energy costs.

**RESOLUTION: CLLR DYKE PROPOSED THAT THE QUOTE FROM COMMUNITY ENERGY PLUS WAS ACCEPTED AND THE SURVEY WAS ARRANGED, SECONDED BY CLLR BOWERS AND CARRIED.**

**17. DISPOSAL OF CORNWALL COUNCIL LAND AT KILLACOURT, CARNON DOWNS**

The Clerk had circulated details to Councillors of a piece of land at Killacourt in Carnon Downs that Cornwall Council wished to dispose of and they had approached the Parish Council to see if they had any interest in taking on the land.

**RESOLUTION: CLLR P ALLEN PROPOSED THAT THE COUNCIL RESPONSE BE THAT THEY HAD NO INTEREST IN THIS PIECE OF LAND, SECONDED BY CLLR KEMP AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**18. BOULDERS TO EXTEND AREA CLEARED AT CARNON YARD TO ALLOW LAND TO REGENERATE**

The Clerk advised that it had been suggested that we put boulders on this area of land that had been cleared without authorisation to create a parking space, placing boulders on it would protect it and allow it to grow back.

**RESOLUTION: CLLR BOWERS PROPOSED THAT £150 BE ALLOCATED FROM RESERVES TO PURCHASE 3 BOULDERS FROM A QUARRY, SECONDED BY CLLR DYKE AND CARRIED.**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.30pm