

MEETING NO. 1184

Minutes of the FEOCK PARISH COUNCIL FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES MEETING held on Tuesday 15th October 2019 at the Parish Council Office, Devoran at 7.00pm

WARDS	CARNON DOWNS P Lightfoot R Brickell	DEVORAN S Parker	FEOCK K Hambly-Staite (in part)
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In attendance: Debra Roberts, Parish Clerk & Responsible Finance Officer

CHAIRMAN: Councillor Lightfoot

1. INTRODUCTION

The Clerk welcomed everyone to the meeting and advised that the first item on the agenda was to elect a new Chairman and Vice Chair for the Committee.

2. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN, VICE CHAIRMAN & NEW MEMBERS

RESOLUTION: CLLR LIGHTFOOT PROPOSED CLLR STEEL BE ELECTED TO THE FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE, SECONDED BY CLLR BRICKELL AND CARRIED BY THE MEETING.

RESOLUTION: CLLR BRICKELL PROPOSED CLLR LIGHTFOOT FOR THE POSITION OF CHAIRMAN, SECONDED BY CLLR PARKER AND CARRIED BY THE MEETING.

RESOLUTION: CLLR LIGHTFOOT PROPOSED CLLR PARKER FOR THE POSITION OF VICE CHAIRMAN, SECONDED BY CLLR BRICKELL AND CARRIED BY THE MEETING.

3. APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Cllr Andrew and Steel.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 29th OCTOBER 2018

RESOLUTION: CLLR LIGHTFOOT PROPOSED THAT THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 29TH OCTOBER 2018 AS CIRCULATED BY THE CLERK BE CONFIRMED AS A TRUE RECORD, AND SIGNED BY THE CHAIRMAN. THIS WAS SECONDED BY CLLR PARKER AND CARRIED BY THE MEETING.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

6. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no members of the public present.

It was agreed to bring forward Item 12 on the agenda to allow Cllr Hambly-Staite to speak on this item.

12. HAIRE EU FUNDING & FUTURE FUNDING OF COMMUNITY CONNECT PROJECT

A report from Cllr Hambly-Staite had been circulated regarding the current situation with the Community Connect project funding and HAIRE.

Cllr Hambly-Staite confirmed that the outcome of the HAIRE bid would not be known until the middle of November and that Brexit could also affect this. The NHS GP service is delivered in clusters, our area is the Coastal cluster and this does not include Truro which is in a different cluster, this makes the current situation of joint funding with Truro City Council unable to be sustained as the NHS would

not cross fund between different clusters. The draft budget presented included the HAIRE costs and an additional 6 hours funding for admin support for the transport scheme for the Parish Council Office.

It was suggested that HAIRE funds that have been allocated could be used to continue the Community Connect project if the HAIRE bid was not successful. The Clerk confirmed that this would need to go back to the full Parish Council as it was a different decision to allocating money to HAIRE.

RESOLUTION: CLLR LIGHTFOOT PROPOSED THAT IT BE RECOMMENDED TO FULL COUNCIL THAT THE MONEY ALLOCATED TO THE HAIRE PROJECT BE CONSIDERED FOR RE-ALLOCATION TO THE CONTINUATION OF THE COMMUNITY CONNECT PROJECT IF THE HAIRE BID WAS NOT SUCCESSFUL, SECONDED BY CLLR BRICKELL AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY THE MEETING.

There was a discussion regarding increasing the precept in stages over the next couple of years to enable additional administration support to be funded. It was felt there was sufficient money in reserves to fund any additional staff.

7. APPROVE DIRECT DEBIT LIST

The Clerk circulated a list of direct debit payees for authorisation.

RESOLUTION: CLLR PARKER PROPOSED THE CIRCULATED LIST BE APPROVED, SECONDED BY CLLR BRICKELL AND CARREID BY THE MEETING.

8. REVIEW OF FINANCIAL RISK ASSESSMENT & INTERNAL CONTROLS POLICY

The Clerk had circulated the financial Risk Assessment and also the Internal Controls Policy. There was a discussion regarding volunteers and the insurance cover the Council's policy afforded them. It was agreed that the Clerk should have sight of their insurance certificates to ensure that volunteer driving was noted on their insurance.

The Clerk would draw up a rota for monthly spot checking of the financial records and paperwork in accordance with the Internal Controls Policy.

RESOLUTION: CLLR PAKRER PROPOSED THE FINANCIAL RISK ASSESSMENT BE APPROVED WITH THE AMENDMENT MENTIONED, SECONDED BY CLLR BRICKELL AND CARRIED BY THE MEETING.

9. EXTERNAL AUDIT REPORT

The Clerk had previously circulated the audit report and this item was for information only. The Audit had now been completed with no major issues raised.

10. ETHICAL INVESTMENTS

The Clerk would investigate and put this on a future Full Parish Council agenda for discussion.

11. NEW ENERGY CONTRACTS

The Clerk had investigated 'green' energy and provided the Committee with options. It was agreed to investigate Bulb before making a decision.

13. DRAFT 3 YEAR BUDGET FOR 2020/2021, 2021/22, 2022/23

The Clerk had circulated to all present the draft 3 year budget, this included pay increments, additional costs for weed control and costs for the HAIRE project.

It was agreed to make the following amendments before this budget was recommended to Full Council in November.

Increase precept by 2% (inflation) each year for each of the next 3 years

Increase weed control budget for 2020/21 to £6000

Add £5000 for Climate Emergency projects for 2020/21

Remove Health & Wellbeing HAIRE contribution from this budget as this was being met from reserves and not the Precept

RESOLUTION: CLLR LIGHTFOOT RECOMMENDED THE BUDGET AS SET OUT AND WITH THE AMENDMENTS ABOVE BE RECOMMENDED TO FULL COUNCIL IN NOVEMBER, SECONDED BY CLLR PARKER AND CARRIED BY THE MEETING.

14. PRECEPT LEVEL FOR 2020/21

There was a discussion regarding the precept level for the year 2020/21. The Clerk advised she had included in the draft budget all additional costs she was aware of that we did not have in the current years budget, such as weed control and the HAIRE project. She was not aware of any Cornwall Council services that may be devolved to us. It was suggested, taking into account the money that the Council had in reserves, that a 2% increase to reflect inflation on the precept should be recommended to the Full Council. The Clerk advised that we should soon know the exact taxbase figure to be used in calculating the cost per household and that we had a further Parish Council meeting in December to agree the precept and budget as she did not need to advise Cornwall Council of the precept amount until the end of December.

RESOLUTION: CLLR BRICKELL PROPOSED A PRECEPT INCREASE OF 2% FOR THE YEAR 2020/21 BE RECOMMENDED TO FULL COUNCIL, SECONDED BY CLLR PARKER AND CARRIED BY THE MEETING.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.20pm.