

MEETING NO. 1137

Minutes of the FEOCK PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL MEETING OF ELECTORS held on Monday 9th May 2016 at The Parish Council Office, Devoran at 7.00pm

Members Present:

WARDS	CARNON DOWNS	DEVORAN	FEOCK
	R Richards	No one present	C Shefford
	M Kemp		R Andrew
	C Kemp		C Blake
	P Allen		

In attendance: Debra Roberts, Parish Clerk & Responsible Finance Officer
Cornwall Councillor S Chamberlain
26 members of the public

CHAIRMAN: Councillor R Richards

1. INTRODUCTION

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Cllrs MacDonald, Gordon and Johnson.

3. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2015 - 2016

The Chairman ran through his report for the year and a copy is attached at Appendix 1. Copies were distributed to those present.

4. COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT FOR THE YEAR MAY 2015 – MAY 2016

Cllr Chamberlain commented that he was a member of the planning policy advisory committee and had been concentrating on the local plan and specifically the new housing numbers. He had also been working on a new more workable tree policy as well as spending a considerable amount of time on planning and housing bill working on getting a local connection for affordable housing included in this. He had championed the Stadium for Cornwall and had secured a contribution from a development towards Calenick's flooding problems. He also sat on the SW Regional Flood and Coastal Committee which was run by the Environment Agency. He was in the process of trying to secure new Council houses and this business case will be put in front of the cabinet in a few weeks time. He also spent some time with Highways to have road repairs carried out but unfortunately a lack of budget made this difficult but still some areas had been repaired.

5. DEVON & CORNWALL POLICE REPORT FOR THE YEAR: MAY 2015 TO MAY 2016

Unfortunately PCSO Tom Care was unable to attend the meeting and the Clerk read out the report which is attached at Appendix 2 and had been distributed to those attending.

6. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN PROJET REPORT FOR THE YEAR: MAY 2015 TO MAY 2016

Cllr Richards commented that the final public consultation period had now been successfully completed on our Neighbourhood Plan. We were still working on a few issues that had come up as part of the consultation, mainly with Cornwall Council and Natural England. He emphasized

that we want to get the plan right for the residents as Feock is in the area in which we all live and we want to preserve it as much as possible, it is not always possible to resist change but we would like to control any change as much as we can. A very good result had been to get the emergency TPO put in place in Pill Creek to protect the trees in the area. It was hoped in the next few weeks for the Cornwall Council consultation process to start.

7. PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT FOR THE YEAR: MAY 2015 TO MAY 2016

Cllr Richards ran through his report (attached at Appendix 3) and copies distributed to those attending. He commented that the Planning Committee liked to deal with applications in a thorough and appropriate manner and pointed out that residents are always able to comment on applications and that these can be both positive and negative comments.

8. FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE REPORT FOR THE YEAR: MAY 2015 TO MAY 2016

Cllr Kemp ran through his report (attached at Appendix 4) and copies were distributed to those attending.

9. ACCESS & AMENITIES COMMITTEE REPORT FOR THE YEAR: MAY 2015 TO MAY 2016

Cllr Kemp read out Cllr Johnson's report in her absence (attached at Appendix 5) and copies were distributed to those attending.

10. PARISHIONERS FORUM

There were no issues raised in this item.

11. "YOUR CHOICE" PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING SCHEME PRESENTATIONS

The groups who had applied for funding from the Parish Council gave presentations on what they would spend the money on if they were successful. The groups were:-

- Devoran Youth Group – for a new air hockey table and audio equipment
- Up The Creek Promotions – to put on a new theatre production
- Devoran Village Hall – for outside furniture
- St Feock PALS lunch club – for new cutlery and serving spoons
- Carnon Downs Village Magazine – to assist with production costs
- 1st Playing Place Scouts – for expedition kit
- Devoran Gig Club – for a new cover for "Fear Not"
- Devoran Church – to help set up a Messy Church
- Devoran Quay Preservation Society – for a PA system and generator for fireworks and regatta events
- Devoran Gardening Club – for a projector to assist speakers with talks
- Feock Home & Garden Society – for a pop up gazebo for their annual summer show

Copies of the presentations would be made available on the website.

Voting opened following the completion of the presentations and votes needed to be cast by 5pm on Monday 23rd May 2016.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.05pm

Feock Parish Council, Chairman's Report, May 2016

I took over the Chair of the Parish Council this time last year after two years of hard work by Cllr Mike Kemp to build a new and vibrant council following the elections of May 2013.

In the year since then, it has been my pleasure to see many projects and challenges which we set ourselves in those two years of learning and building, taken forward and progress made in a variety of aspects of our work.

I am very pleased to report that some projects have been completed and that the general enthusiasm of the council to take on yet more work has not diminished.

Of course, there are always times when an extra pair of hands or an extra push is needed and it is therefore with added pleasure that I am able to report that we have received a lot of outside help with some of our work.

The Neighbourhood Plan, for example which at times seems an endless process, would not have reached the stage it has without the dedicated help of a small band of Parishioners, always ready to help push it that little bit closer to its conclusion. That road has been a particularly long and bumpy one, with many unwanted and unforeseen delays and obstacles placed in our path but we have so far overcome even the steepest of unforeseen hurdles and we are now in sight of the home straight.

We have also had a huge amount of assistance from Parishioners with our Local Transport Scheme. Without the volunteer drivers, the scheme would simply not exist.

Our ongoing work to provide Defibrillators in the parish and associated first aid training has also been helped along by professional training and experience given freely by Parishioners. These and other schemes have benefited from outside help and we must be extremely grateful for that help as we cannot always do what we want to do without it.

Some of our work does seem at times to be endless. I have mentioned the Neighbourhood Plan but looking back at Mike Kemp's report last year, I note that he also mentions projects to tackle parking issues in Forth Coth, Carnon Downs, pedestrian safety in Greenbank Road, Devoran and work with the Environment Agency on securing a safe future for the Bissoe Valley. All of these have progressed in the past twelve months but are all examples to which the old adage "nothing is as simple as it seems" could be tagged.

I genuinely believe though that there is a finite limit to the amount of consultation, resources and even patience that we can ascribe to any project and whilst not wishing to see anything fail for want of an additional few hours work, I do believe that we need to be more decisive in some of our plans and may even get to the stage with one or two where we simply say, enough is enough, and we don't want to spend any more time and effort in flogging the proverbial dead horse. There are a hundred and one projects we could be

doing, so let us not waste our time, money and effort on things which are going nowhere or which are simply too expensive, impractical or unreasonable.

On the positive side, some projects in Mike's report to the last Annual Meeting have been very successfully completed. Improved play equipment in Devoran Park being just one. Other work we have done includes our new community library and we have begun a bold new project to enhance our footpaths and other public rights of way not only in terms of increased awareness and usage but also in understanding their significant part in the history of our parish. We have progressed our Parish Lengthsman Scheme and begun a lot of other work from the resurrection of our Twinning links with L'Hopital Camfrout in Brittany, through tidying up our creeksides to offering support to two of our three main community hall facilities.

Although, after a lot of work and input from ourselves and others, the residents in Feock village declined the opportunity of potentially greater assistance, their "go it alone" efforts are making progress and must be commended.

We were however able to help Devoran Village Hall in some small way by supporting their successful bid for a £250,000 grant from SITA Cornwall Trust, who are, dare I say, the "rubbish" arm of Cornwall Council. More recently we have been pleased to help them out financially with a grant towards the cost of new tables and chairs for the splendidly refurbished new hall. I am sure that every one of us would wish them success as they enter into phase two of the project which is to renovate and update the remaining rooms in the hall.

Our "Your Choice" small grants scheme continues to attract a lot of interesting bids and we try to help these wide ranging organisations as much as we can. We are still on a learning curve with this scheme and one thing we need to do in my opinion, before the next round of bidding, is to set out clearer guidance for applicants. I do not, for example personally believe that any organisation should be inclined or led to believe that they have a right to an annual dip into this small pool of money and we should also consider whether all the applications fall within our general remit of giving grants, as there are certain types of organisation which may not qualify under this scheme but who we may still be able to help in other ways. None of the work we do would have been possible without dedication and hard work and without listening to our parishioners and trying wherever possible to act upon their wishes and desires.

Some schemes and suggestions may not be possible, practical or financially viable and we must learn to simply say no, with of course an explanation of the reasons why.

None of the work we do would have been possible either without the dedication of the staff we have in the Parish Office. Debra, our Parish Clerk won the accolade of National Parish Clerk of the Year in 2015, a very well deserved award given her dedication to the work which she does.

Debbie, our Assistant Parish Clerk also deserves special mention. Not only does she take some of the tasks from Debra's shoulders but her dedication and hard work with the huge number of complex planning applications we receive in this parish is to be very highly

commended and goes well beyond anything which anyone has ever done before in this parish on that front.

As will be noted again in my planning committee report, Debbie has taken the new paperless planning initiative thrust upon us by Cornwall Council in her stride and can always be relied upon to keep us all up to date with every application we receive.

Into the coming year, I am positive that Feock Parish Council will continue to thrive and grow in stature amongst its peer group. We have caused a few ripples in the past three years, some have died away, some have built up into veritable storm surges, one or two are still raging on. Some might say that we are always complaining, I can't and never will accept that. When we do question decisions or attitudes it is always in the name of progress and a desire to understand and take matters forward in a positive way.

Most of this council was elected in May 2013 on the basis that the old regime was out of touch, that they were not listening and not caring about what was going on in the parish.

It is fair to say that we have taken huge strides to rectify that situation and I am confident that by the time we come to the next election in May 2017, that everyone who perhaps thinks about a wider picture than their own pet grievance, will appreciate that we have made a huge difference and that this has been done by listening to and engaging with our Parishioners and helping them to achieve some of the things they want and need from a good and active Parish Council.

We will never satisfy everyone all the time and there will always be those who, probably because they have unrealistic visions of what is important or what we can reasonably be expected to do, will not be happy with our performance and say that we have "not done much" but if we ourselves and the majority of parishioners can look at our record with a sense of achievement and pride and can honestly say that we have done our best, then we can all be satisfied in a job well done.

It will not be done without continuing hard work and dedication and of course we will all be faced in the coming year with the decision of whether we want to carry on into another term of office and perhaps aspire to even greater heights.

Personally, I am hopeful that all the present council will put themselves forward for election again in 2017 as I see everyone with a genuine part to play and I would be pleased for the opportunity to work with you.

I hope we will continue to thrive and that everyone here now will play their part in ensuring our continuing development and success.

Bob Richards

May 2016

Devon & Cornwall Police Report 1st April 2015 to 31st March 2016

There were 40 crimes recorded from within the parish between April 1st 2015 and March 31st 2016. One of these crimes was classified as a dwelling burglary and there were a couple of burglaries to sheds, aside from these crimes the majority were low level crimes predominantly low value thefts and criminal damage. This compares with 62 crimes recorded for the previous year within the parish, including 8 dwelling burglaries (all committed on the morning of January 27th & the offender was apprehended extremely quickly & is still in prison).

Apologies for the brevity of the report but in a nutshell Feock is a lovely place to live with little crime and very low levels of anti-social behaviour.

PCSO Thomas CARE 30277

Truro rural neighbourhood policing team.

Serving the parishes of Kea, Feock, Chacewater & Kenwyn.

Truro Police Station,

Castle House,

Pydar Street,

Truro,

Cornwall,

TR1 2UD

 **01872 227114**

 thomas.care@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk

Twitter: @PoliceTruro

Facebook: www.facebook.com/TruroPolice

Feock Parish Council Planning Committee Report, May 2016

Feock Parish has more planning applications per head of population than any other rural Parish in Cornwall. We did some research a while ago which showed us second only to St. Agnes Parish in total numbers of applications for what could be classed as rural parishes and given that the population of St. Agnes Parish is more than twice that of Feock Parish, applications looked at in terms of the number per head of population put us top of the list by some considerable margin.

Town Councils such as Truro and Falmouth were above us in pure numbers, but other towns such as Redruth, Bodmin, Hayle and St. Austell were well below us in the overall number of applications they receive.

We also seem to get more than our fair share of complex applications.

Seldom do we have planning meetings with a simple list of modest extensions or conservatories tagged onto the back of bungalows in Carnon Downs, for example.

We are much more likely to have applications for large replacement dwellings often much larger than that being replaced, new dwellings on often controversial sites such as within the AONB or Tree Preservation areas, new dwellings in sub-divided plots either in or out of the settlement boundaries which often come with major material planning concerns.

Also within the parish in the past few months, we have dealt with several applications for multi-dwelling proposals from 2 up to 60 new dwellings per site.

Add to this our free pre-application advice service, which is being encouraged more and more by Cornwall Council and therefore becoming increasingly popular, plus a growing number of site visit requests to see for ourselves, on the ground, rather than just on a paper plan the likely effect and impact of a new proposal, and it can hopefully be appreciated that the planning committee is a very busy place to be.

It is therefore a huge amount of thanks that I must offer to all our planning committee members for their hard work and dedication to the committee.

I must also offer a huge thank you to Debbie, our assistant parish clerk who keeps it all under control here in the office and keeps us all on our toes with the latest news, applications, updates and enforcement issues which are part of our routine business.

Seldom does a day go by when I do not receive in my inbox an e-mail of some sort about a planning application or other planning related matter.

On the down side however, it is also a fact, and quite disturbing, that we have not always received the proper or expected back up from Cornwall Council's planning department.

I could take a lot of time detailing all the woes which we have faced in the past year, but that would not be a very productive thing to do or one which is likely to solve any of the problems we have encountered. Suffice to say that myself and others are taking up some issues with some of the top officers within the county planning department and with the elected Cabinet Member with responsibility for planning matters.

The result will hopefully be a better understanding on both sides of the problems we all face. I also sincerely hope that a better understanding can lead to far more co-operation and far less frustration. If we are ignored or treated in an off-hand manner, we cannot help. If we understand each other's concerns and limitations, we can work together to actively improve relationships, understanding and results.

I must also add that, perhaps as a result of some of the work we have already done to improve relationships and understanding, that the recent service we have received from some quarters has been much improved and has, where necessary, seen urgent and satisfactory action taken.

I am referring here for example to one or two recent planning enforcement issues and the speedy review of the Pill Creek tree preservation order on which more work is needed and is ongoing.

I also believe that both ourselves as a Parish Council and indeed Cornwall Council come in for some unfair criticism on planning issues. It is no good, for example, complaining about a planning approval months after the decision is made. There is ample time for public comment on all planning applications and to raise issues of the height of a new build when the roof trusses are being fixed or fundamental issues of design and location when the building is almost complete, are not going to change the decision.

Enforcement action can be taken and will be taken if planning approvals and conditions are breached but here again, whilst we have had genuine problems and concerns over enforcement, we cannot expect to have our own designated parish enforcement officer, sitting in an office somewhere just waiting for our phone call, ready to jump in the car and solve the issue the same day. As with other aspects of the planning process, there are individual cases and genuine concerns which we are working on which I hope will lead to a better understanding and better partnership working in both directions.

This time last year when I was elected chairman of the council and chairman of the planning committee, I did say that I would be willing to combine the two roles but review that decision if the workload was too heavy. There have been times when the workload has been particularly taxing but it has been genuinely a pleasure to combine the roles, despite some of the moans and groans we have with Cornwall Council and despite the moans and groans we receive from short-sighted members of the public whose concerns, only for themselves and their own personal bit of paradise, tend to cloud their appreciation of the real material planning considerations upon which we base our decisions.

The combined role is one I am still happy at this time to continue with, if elected, but nothing is eternal and by this time next year, other considerations may well mean that my views will be different. Bob Richards, Chair of Parish Council and Planning Committee

Feock Parish Council

Finance & General Purposes Committee Report

May 2016

1. Profit & Loss Account 2015 – 2016

The Parish Council generated a financial surplus during the year.

Income: £136,773
Expenditure: £128,733
Surplus: £ 8,040

The Precept was held at £97,000 for the third consecutive year

The balance of £39,773 was derived from a mixture of rental income, bank interest and grants received.

2. Current Cash and Outstanding Liabilities

Current cash position: £191,868*
Current loan liabilities: £116,188**

*Includes 50% of the precept for the financial year 2016 – 2017

**Due to the Public Works Board and repayable over 21 years

3. Financial Budget for 2016 – 2017

The budget for the current year is expected to show a deficit of circa £45,000 as a result of additional capital expenditure on new Parish Projects during the year. This deficit will be funded out of existing cash reserves.

4. Projected Capital Gain 2016 - 2017

The Parish Council anticipates a windfall 6 figure capital gain during the year from the subsequent disposal of the Feock Reading Room after planning permission has been obtained for the site. This gain will be added to current cash reserves.

Access and Amenities Committee Annual Report, May 2016

The Access and Amenities Committee deals with management of Council property/assets and transport issues, such as footpaths and cycleways within the Parish, as well as acting as the Steering Group for the Our Place funded projects. Our meetings are open to the public and are held once a month in the parish office.

We have a very large remit and over the last 12 months have covered the following topics:

- Community Transport Scheme
- Potential parish council adoption of Carnon Gate and Carnon Downs Roundabouts
- Purchase and installation of defibrillators in the three villages
- Risk Assessments for all parish council land and property
- Local signage including restoration of finger posts
- Creation of a micro-library in the office foyer with support of the County Library
- Parking issues in Carnon Downs
- Speeding and safety issues in all three villages
- Possible purchase of land at Bissoe Valley from the Environment Agency
- Improvements to Devoran park
- Ongoing maintenance and repair to parish assets
- Community Garden on parish land in Market Street
- Revival of the Twinning Association
- Extension to the Micro Library (removal of partition wall)

From the above list the following projects have been completed this year:

Devoran Park Improvements

Work on the park was completed in September. This consists of extra seating, shelter in the form of new fruit trees and new play equipment which is proving to be extremely popular. The very wet winter has made it necessary for some extra matting to be put down around the equipment area, which has been put into this year's budget.

Community Transport Scheme

This is now up and running with 12 volunteer drivers and from this week we have a volunteer administrator Mr Ian Anear, who will liaise with the volunteer drivers to match them with requests for trips. The scheme has become so successful that it has threatened to take up too much office time so this will be a great help. The transport scheme is at present running at a small profit and we hope it continues to thrive as it appears to be making an important social difference to a small number of our parishioners. We will be looking into how this scheme fits into a future Living Well project which Cornwall Council are keen to promote.

Community defibrillators

The phonebox in Devoran has now been fitted with a defibrillator and is looking very smart with a new coat of paint. We are not aware that it has been used as yet but it is a valuable 'just in case' asset to the village. Mr Tim Ferris of Ferris garage has agreed to have a similar device outside his premises and the adoption of the phone box in Carnon Downs is underway. Many thanks to the voluntary organisations who have assisted with the purchase of cabinets to keep the machines dry.

Micro Library

Following the reduction of the mobile library service in the parish, we have now installed a County Council micro library in the parish office foyer. This has been open for just over a month and is already outdoing other similar micro libraries elsewhere in the county. Books can be borrowed direct or ordered via internet to be delivered once a month to the library in Devoran.

Grant for Parish Footpaths leaflets

Cllr Allen and the Parish Clerk have been successful in their bid to secure £10K from the Heritage Lottery Fund Sharing Heritage to produce history walk leaflets and landmark narratives linked to the Parish Council website.

Fingerposts

The finger post at the bottom of Carnon Hill has been repaired and reinstalled, also the damaged post at Porthgwidden.

The following projects are ongoing at the present time:

- A jointly funded project with the Restronguet Creek Society to place 'quiet lane' signs along the Tram Road to encourage safety for all users.
- A virtual pavement to be painted along Greenbank Road from the bottom of the old A39 road to the corner of Market Street.
- A hard standing footway running up the verge on the side of the old A39
- An extra rubbish/dog bin to be placed at the end of the cycle route as it comes into Devoran.
- Investigations into road safety between Four Turnings and Trelissick
- Repairs to the remaining fingerposts in the parish with the King Harry Ferry Company.

Many thanks to a very hard working committee.

Caroline Johnson

Chair