

PARISH OF FEOCK

Notice of Meeting of the Access & Amenities Committee

You are summoned to attend the Access & Amenities Committee meeting of Feock Parish Council which will be held on **Thursday 21st March 2024 at 7pm** at the Parish Council Office, Market Street, Devoran



Clerk to the Council
14th March 2024

Members of the public may attend this meeting under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 as amended by S100 of the Local Government Act 1972. With the Chairman's permission, Local Government Electors for the Parish may make representations to the Council on any item on the Agenda.

The Parish Council recommend that any questions for Members should be submitted in writing to the Parish Clerk 24 hours before the Meeting. Questions may not be answered on the night but an answer will be provided in writing after the meeting. Information is available from the Parish Office on any item on the agenda unless it is declared as exempt under the Freedom of Information Act or S100(A) of the Local Government Act 1972.

This meeting has been advertised as a public meeting and as such could be filmed or recorded by broadcasters, the media or members of the public. Please be aware that whilst every effort is taken to ensure that members of the public are not filmed, we cannot guarantee this, especially if you are speaking or taking an active role.

AGENDA

1. Introduction by Chairman
2. Apologies
3. Minutes of previous meeting
To consider the Access & Amenities Committee minutes of 27th February 2024 as a correct record of the material decisions made for signature by the Chairman
4. Declarations of Interest
5. Public Participation
6. To receive the Cornwall Wildlife Trust and Feock Eco reports on the Tram Road and make appropriate recommendations to Full Council
7. MyFeock Wellbeing Report from Information & Wellbeing Adviser
8. Clerks report on actions arising from previous meeting
9. Highways updates including any urgent issues that cannot wait until next meeting

9. **Public Rights of Way Issues including urgent issues that cannot wait until next meeting**
Committee to consider correspondence received from a resident regarding public right of way no. 46 at Harcourt regarding vehicle access and maintenance
10. **Land & Playing Fields Update**
Councillors to consider accessibility improvements required to entrance of Tram Road field
11. **Risk Assessments**
Councillors to report any issues raised in completed risk assessments
12. **Active Feock Project Update**
Cllr Hambly-Staite to report
13. **Volunteer driver scheme and issues with capacity**
Councillors to consider capacity issues and demands on current scheme

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY 23RD APRIL 2024, 7PM, PARISH COUNCIL OFFICE

DRAFT

REPORT OF ACCESS & AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 27TH FEBRUARY 2024 AT 7PM IN THE PARISH COUNCIL OFFICE, MARKET STREET, DEVORAN

Councillors present: CARNON DOWNS DEVORAN FEOCK
 P Allen A Allen K Hambly-Staite
 M Griffiths R Bowers
 B Johnson
 R Brickell

In attendance: Cathy Whitmore, MyFeock Wellbeing Report from Information & Wellbeing Adviser
 Debra Roberts, Parish Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer

CHAIRMAN: Cllr Hambly-Staite

1. INTRODUCTION BY CHAIRMAN

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. The Chairman reminded everyone present of the Council's commitment to the Civility & Respect Pledge which applies to Councillors, staff and members of the public.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Cllr J Allen and Cllr Woolcock.

3. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES HELD ON 23RD JANUARY 2024

RESOLUTION: CLLR A ALLEN PROPOSED THAT THE MINUTES OF THE ACCESS & AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEEING HELD ON 23RD JANUARY 2024 AS CIRCULATED BY THE CLERK, BE SIGNED BY THE CHAIRMAN AS A TRUE AND ACCURATE RECORD OF THE MEETING, THIS WAS SECONDED BY CLLR JOHNSON AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY THE MEETING.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no public present. It was noted that there had been contact from two members of the public regarding the implementation of the 20mph scheme and how this will be monitored and also the higher speed limit at Penelewey in relation with the 20mph limits that have been put in place in other areas of the Parish.

6. MYFEOCK WELLBEING REPORT FROM INFORMATION & WELLBEING ADVISER

Cathy Whitmore ran through her report which had been circulated with the agenda. There was a discussion regarding the lack of transport to Wellbeing events being set up across the county and how when these were being set up it should be considered where the residents lived that would benefit from attending and how would they get there, rather than this being dictated by where the building was. We have been asked to provide transport for residents to get to Perranporth but this was difficult to accommodate due to distance and a limited number of volunteers and availability.

It was agreed for this issue to be requested to be included in a future CAP meeting and on the next Access & Amenities Committee agenda.

The Council had approved the allocation of funding from reserves to enable local groups to apply for grants, the Clerk is finalising the criteria and application form for this so the scheme can be launched at the start of the new financial year and would take this to Council for final sign off. The Clerk advised that funding should be approved by Council or a Committee.

7. CLERKS REPORT ON ACTIONS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

The Clerks report had been circulated with the agenda.

The homeowner at Restronguet Point who needed to lay a pipe on the Common Land at Restronguet Point which had been agreed by Full Council had been advised this was approved on the condition that the land was made good.

8. HIGHWAYS ISSUES THAT CANNOT WAIT UNTIL THE NEXT MEETING

The Chairman said there had been a lot of discussion on Facebook about the condition of the A39 between Carnon Downs and Playing Place, the Clerk had put on our website and Facebook the information we have had from Highways about when the works will be done. The Chairman said that the surface in some areas of the dual carriageway was also very poor and breaking up.

The Clerk had been advised by Highways that patching/resurfacing work would be prioritized and carried out as soon as possible in the new financial year.

9. PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY ISSUES

There was a discussion regarding accessible gates on footpaths for those in wheelchairs or with a child's buggy and the size that these needed to be.

The Clerk would check how much funding remained in the Enhanced LMP funding. It was hoped in the future that new waymarkers and maybe direction markers could be added to the public rights of way. The Clerk would set up a meeting of the footpath working group.

It was noted that some of the well used footpaths were currently very muddy and almost impassable, this was something that should be discussed at Active Feock, in some areas to improve the surface would need mud scraping up before any scalping or surfacing could be put down. Permission would be needed from the Countryside Access team for any works and also potentially the landowner depending on what was being proposed.

The Council had been contacted by a resident with concerns about a bridleway being blocked by a car using it as a parking place. This had been reported to the public rights of way team who advised that public rights of way were in effect highways and as long as the car was parked to one side and not blocking the path then this wasn't too much of an issue.

10. LAND & PLAYING FIELDS UPDATE

The Clerk said that the monthly safety inspection report for Retallack Playing Field had highlighted some works needed to wooden equipment which she had asked our contractor to carry out.

Cllrs P Allen and Brickell had looked at the condition of the football pitch area at Pengelly Meadows Recreation Area, there was an issue with drainage where water was running off the pathways and flooding the pitch around the area of the goal nearest to the estate. It was anticipated that works would cost in the region of £600 to improve draining here. The Clerk would check with our insurance company regarding any implications of volunteers helping with this work.

RESOLUTION: CLLR BRICKELL PROPOSED THAT IT BE RECOMMENDED TO FULL COUNCIL THAT BUDGET BE ALLOCATED FROM RESERVES OF £700 FOR THESE DRAINAGE WORKS AT PENGELLY MEADOWS, SECONDED BY CLLR A ALLEN AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

It was noted that the water point at Point Quay was not working and it appeared that this has been caused by frost damage. The water supply had been turned off and the resident who made the apparatus would repair it.

It was noted that it was sometimes difficult to access Pengelly Meadows to cut the grass as the car parking spaces were in front of the gates needed for access. The Clerk would arrange for a notice to put up to ask residents not to park there on the day when the grass was planned to be cut.

Cllr A Allen said she had received a request for a memorial bench on the end of the Common Land at Penpol Pond by the road. It was agreed to ask Cornwall Wildlife Trust about this when they attended the next meeting as this was a County Wildlife site.

The Clerk would apply for community funding available from SWW for bench seats in the new community woodland.

11. RISK ASSESSMENTS

Cllr A Allen had completed the risk assessment on Penpol Pond and Penpol car park. It was noted that there was a warning sign at the far end of the Pond but suggested that another one at the other end may also be needed. The 'No overnight parking' sign at Penpol car park had disappeared. The Signage working group could look at both these suggestions. The fencing here also needed repairing and the Clerk would arrange our contractor to do this.

Cllr Bowers had taken on responsibility for carrying out the Risk Assessment for Carnon Yard, the Clerk would send a copy of the previous assessment. The Clerk would circulate again the new Risk Assessment form to all. The works that have been carried out at Carnon Yard would be looked at as part of the Land Working Group.

12. ACTIVE FEOCK

The Clerk would circulate the Focus Group dates to all Councillors when these had been agreed. Councillors to let the Clerk know which sessions they wished to attend.

The Chairman was concerned that part of Active Feock was looking at getting people out and about yet our pavements and footpaths were often overgrown from neighbouring land making them difficult to use and asked how we could encourage residents to keep their hedges cut back.

The Clerk had circulated a leaflet from Highways which spelled out the responsibilities for landowners/residents who had hedges bordering a pavement or highway.

The Clerk advised that currently when she received a report of an overgrown hedge she sent the Cormac standard notice to the resident to ask them to cut back their hedge and it was agreed in future that she would also include a copy of the Highways leaflet which gave more detail on exactly how much room was required.

Keith would like to see Council agree a policy on how we will deal with overgrown hedges and to provide safe access that we will keep the pavements clear.

RESOLUTION: THE CHAIRMAN PROPOSED THAT TO SECURE THE SAFETY OF ALL USERS OF THE PAVEMENTS IN OUR PARISH, A POLICY OF ENFORCEMENT THROUGH CORNWALL COUNCIL/CORMAC WOULD BE

INTRODUCED WHERE NECESSARY TO CUT BACK HEDGES TO PROPERTY BOUNDARIES, SECONDED BY CLLR GRIFFITHS AND CARRIED.

It was agreed for this policy to be reviewed in 6 months time, it was noted that bird nesting season was now starting so this needed to be taken into account.

The Councillor who had reported the overgrown hedge would check if action had been taken and report back to the Clerk, if no action had been taken within the specified timescale the Clerk would escalate the issue to Cormac/Cornwall Council.

Cllr Bowers would raise the issue regarding action taken on overgrown hedges at the CAP meeting.

13. WORKING GROUPS UPDATE

The Clerk confirmed that working groups had been held for Parish Land and Signage. The Clerk had attached the action notes with the Committee agenda. The Clerk needed to set up further meetings once she had completed the work she had been asked to do from these groups.

14. 20MPH SPEED LIMITS

It was noted that the new 20mph signs are now in place but there were some places where old repeater 30mph signs still remain, there had been some complaints about the positioning of some of the new signs. It was understood that Devon & Cornwall Police would be enforcing the 20mph limits as well as Community Speedwatch groups being used to monitor speeds and effectiveness of the new limits.

The Chairman felt we should support the enforcement of these new limits and promote the consequences of speeding.

If anyone saw any signs incorrectly positioned (ie. 30mph in new 20mph limit) they should let the Clerk know who would report this to Highways, or if signs were hidden by vegetation this would also be reported. There also seemed to be some inconsistency in spacing which also needed to be reported to Cormac.

There was a long discussion regarding the pros and cons of the various methods of enforcement/community policing and the impact on drivers and pedestrians of exceeding the speed limit and methods that could be used to encourage positive change in behaviours.

We had been asked by the local Community Speedwatch Co-ordinator if we could help promote the scheme to get more volunteers to work across the Feock parish. The Committee were happy to promote the Speed Watch Scheme and promote the need for more volunteers and the Clerk would write back to the co-ordinator.

RESOLUTION: CLLR GRIFFITHS PROPOSED THAT THE COUNCIL APPRECIATES THE WORK THAT SPEEDWATCH GROUP DO IN MONITORING THE SPEED OF TRAFFIC THROUGHOUT THE PARISH AND WOULD ENCOURAGE THEM TO CONTINUE TO HELP IDENTIFY HOTSPOTS AND WAYS IN WHICH ROAD SAFETY AND SIGNAGE CAN BE IMPROVED BUT ALSO BELIEVES THERE WHERE THERE ARE SUCH RADICAL CHANGES IN SPEED LIMITS DRIVERS SHOULD BE GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO ADJUST THEIR BEHAVIOUR ACCORDINGLY BEFORE AGGRESSIVE ENFORCEMENT ACTION IS TAKEN, SECONDED BY CLLR P ALLEN AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.50pm

The next meeting of the Access & Amenities Committee would be held at 7pm on Thursday 21st March 2024.

Clerks report to Access & Amenities Committee on Thursday 21st March 2024

Actions from previous meeting

Clerk has contacted Cornwall Area Partnership and requested the issue re transport to wellbeing hubs is put on a future agenda. Wellbeing is on the April agenda so this may be able to raise under this item.

Full Council has approved local groups funding with a maximum of £200 per grant except in exceptional circumstances and applications will be brought to Access & Amenities Committee for approval each month until the funding is exhausted.

A39 has been temporarily patched with resurfacing planned for the 29th April.

Clerk to set up a meeting with contractor and Councillors regarding Enhanced LMP project and ascertain how much funding remains.

Awaiting response from Insurance company regarding volunteers helping with any drainage works at Pengelly Meadows, Full Council have approved funding from reserves for this work.

Notice provided to Cllr Brickell for display on Pengelly Meadows recreation area when gates need to be kept clear for grass cutting access.

Community funding applied for from SWW for benches for the Tram Road field.

Details of Focus Groups for Active Feock circulated to Councillors.

Speedwatch Co-ordinator advised of Committees comments and has provided an article for a future issue of Connect.

Item 9 - Public Right of Way 41 – Correspondence from a resident

There have been a number of incidents very recently where road vehicles have driven in to Harcourt (Bridleway) and then tried to continue all the way through to Trolver (footpath)! I have personally had to tow one out, after a delivery driver got stuck and most recently the land owner has had to use a tractor to extract a car which had become firmly wedged in the narrow, footpath, part of the lane! The beautiful primroses and bluebells in the hedgerow have been sadly destroyed. Both today's driver and the delivery driver of a few days ago claimed to have been following their satnavs!!

The landowner is extremely diligent in ensuring the safety of the footpath, trimming trees and overhanging hedge areas and he is acutely aware of his H & S responsibilities in this area, however he is keen to discourage vehicular access, which despite being illegal, continues to occur. He proposes to permit the undergrowth to grow out either side of the footpath whilst ensuring that it remains safe and clear for pedestrian access. This would make it even more obvious to vehicle drivers that it is not a road. Could "Parish" please inform your contractor who periodically strims and clears footpaths, that the path should only be cleared as necessary and not widened.

Google Streetview has recently managed to film all the way in to Harcourt to the very end of the Bridleway and when casually following a Google map one could easily be lulled in to a false sense of security. Quite how a car driver could possibly imagine that the footpath lane is suitable for a car is beyond me however. The lane is not a public vehicular track, Google should be advised and their Streetview should be amended so that it stops at the (Harcourt) bus terminus. I will look in to this, but it would be helpful if Parish could reinforce the point.

Widening/improving this footpath will inevitably lead to pressure to force a vehicular (by-way) thoroughfare to Trolver. These recent incidents add weight to concerns. I am also passionate about stemming the tide of suburbanisation, having lived here all my life. I do not welcome the increase in road signage, but it may be that a sign (except for access?) becomes necessary at the bus terminus where the Public Bridleway sign is not clear. Harcourt and the muddy footpath are very popular (dog) walking paths which should be retained as such.

Whilst the recent signage (no cycles) erected neatly and discretely on the stile half way through the footpath is welcome, it should arguably have been erected at the start and finish of the footpath, as by the time cyclist get to the stile it is too late.

