

MEETING NO.

Minutes of the FEOCK PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held on Monday 8th February 2022 at 7pm at Carnon Downs Methodist Hall, Bissoe Road, Carnon Downs

Present: **WARDS** **CARNON DOWNS** **DEVORAN** **FEOCK**
 C Kemp B Thomas L Fitt
 K Gason S Cooper C Blake
 K Hambly-Staite
 B Robson (in part)
 R Brickell

In attendance: Cllr Martyn Alvey, Cornwall Council
 Richard Brickell (in part – member of the public)
 Debra Roberts, Parish Clerk & Responsible Finance Officer

CHAIRMAN: Councillor Thomas

1. **INTRODUCTION BY CHAIRMAN**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. The Chairman said how sad he was to recently have heard of the passing of Sally Austin Brown who previously lived in Devoran and took an active role in our Climate Emergency Group, Sally was one of the original Greenpeace Rainbow Warriors. The Clerk had written to her husband to express our condolences and thanks for the work she did when she lived in the Parish.

2. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies had been received from Cllrs J, P and A Allen, Lightfoot and Steel.

3. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 10TH JANUARY 2022**

RESOLUTION: CLLR COOPER PROPOSED THAT THE MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 10th JANUARY 2022 AS CIRCULATED BY THE CLERK, BE SIGNED BY THE CHAIRMAN AS A TRUE AND ACCURATE RECORD OF THE MEETING, THIS WAS SECONDED BY CLLR FITT AND WAS CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY THE MEETING.

Cllr Kemp said she wished to make a statement regarding an email she had received since the last meeting.

“An email from Mr A Bains, dated 18 January and addressed to the Parish Clerk and copied to the Planning Officer, contained the direct insinuation that I might be divulging information to Burrington Estates about his own planning proposal, which they could then potentially adopt for development on their existing Ash Tree site. He stated that any such action on my part would be a conflict of interest and could consequently have the effect of "nulling" his own proposal on the basis of creating a "duplication of services". I refute this completely unfounded allegation and wrote to Mr Bains on 24 January asking him to make a formal retraction of this defamatory allegation, which could potentially undermine both my personal integrity and credibility as a Parish Councillor. Mr Bains responded to me by email on 30 January stating that he did not feel that he needed to retract his comments and that he was entitled to express his view on this matter.

For the record I want this unfounded allegation, and his refusal to retract it formally, recorded in the Minutes of today's Parish Council Meeting"

The Chairman accepted Cllr Kemp's statement and asked that this be included in the minutes of this meeting.

The Clerk would also send Cllr Kemp's statement together with the approved minutes of the last meeting to the Planning Officer who had been copied in on the email from an applicant referred to.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

5. CO-OPTION TO FEOCK WARD VACANCY

The Chairman said that there were two candidates (Mr A Shafi and Mr R Brickell) who had expressed an interest in being co-opted to the Feock ward vacancy and both had applied in writing, copies of their applications had been sent to the Parish Councillors prior to the meeting, although only Mr Brickell was in attendance this evening.

Cllr Cooper said it was a shame that one of the applicants was not at the meeting this evening as she had a question she would have liked to put to both candidates before placing her vote.

Cllr Cooper asked Mr Brickell what he felt the best thing was about the parish and what did he think was the greatest threat to the Parish.

Mr Brickell felt that government decisions with regards to planning was one of the greatest threats and he felt the best thing about the Parish was how the Council came together for meetings and did its best to provide good guidance.

Cllr Kemp wished to ask both candidates about any community work they had or were currently involved with as the Parish Council role was very community based.

Mr Brickell said he was a volunteer at Carnon Downs Village Hall and also with the Computer Club.

Cllr Gason wished to ask if the candidates had considered how becoming a Parish Councillor would impact on their lives and how they would deal with this, she felt that a lot of people didn't realise the commitment attached to being a Councillor and how this could impact on their private lives.

The Chairman asked all Councillors to vote for their preferred candidate on the paper slip and return these to the Clerk.

The Clerk counted up the paper votes and announced that Richard Brickell had been successful in being co-opted to the Feock Ward Vacancy. Richard Brickell signed the Acceptance of Office form and returned this to the Clerk and took his seat on the Council.

It was agreed for the Clerk to write to the unsuccessful applicant as he had shown an interest in becoming involved in the Parish Council and advise him of the opportunities to become involved with Parish Council working parties which residents were welcome at and did not require members to be a Parish Councillor.

Cllr Robson left the meeting as she had a prior engagement.

6. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no members of the public present.

7. CLERKS REPORT AND UPDATE

The Clerk reported on actions from the previous meeting as follows:

- Hedge on Harris Hill and tree branch reported to Cornwall Council
- The damaged grass area by the goal in Devoran Park has been fenced off and will be re-turfed and the goal net replaced.
- Signage for Retallack Park has been checked by our Insurers and suggestions made, signs for both Pengelly and Retallack recreation areas now agreed.
- Application made to Community Network Panel highways fund for physical yellow lines work near to Loe Beach and moving priority sign at top of Old Carnon Hill.

8. MATTERS FOR REPORT FROM ATTENDANCE AT OUTSIDE MEETINGS

Cllr Cooper, Fitt and P Allen had attended the Tree Day run by Cllr Alan Rowe at the Princess Pavilion.

Cllr Hambly-Staite asked if there is a shift in approach to designating TPOs, in the past the process has not been very easy. Cllr Cooper felt that we would not know until we try and it seemed that the team were short staffed. Cllr Fitt suggested that in the next Feock News we include a piece about the new Tree Wardens, their role and how they can be contacted. The Clerk said if Cllr Fitt could write a piece she would ensure it was included.

Cllr Hambly-Staite said he had concerns about raising residents expectations if a tree was identified as at risk and a TPO requested submitted but then due to the team being short staffed this did not happen or there was a delay it would mean that residents would be disappointed that action had not been taken sooner. Cllr Alvey said the problem at Cornwall Council was that there was a shortage of Tree Officers and they struggled to recruit them.

9. CURRENT REPORTS

Cornwall Council

Cllr Alvey said that we have a new Community Link Officer, Helen Nicholson who had taken over from Mark O'Brien who had left.

With regards to the Barge that had recently appeared on the fundus down at Penpol just up from Point Quay. The owner applied to the MMO for a license to moor it on spud legs, this was refused and appealed and the appeal failed. Back in November, Cllr Alvey was notified by the Harbourmaster that a request from a towage company had been received to tow it and the tow was unable to be refused on the grounds of safety but it had been back in the Summer due to the number of vessels on the water. Cllr Alvey had notified the MMO at the time to advise them of the imminent movement of the barge and asked them to ensure this did not happen and had now asked them to take urgent enforcement action and he was waiting to hear back from them.

There was a currently a restructure being carried out at Cornwall Council which was managed by the Chief Executive as head of paid services. One of the issues that has ben recognised was that Planning Enforcement was receiving severe criticism, it was expected that all enforcement functions in the Council would come under one team.

Cllr Alvey was aware of the strength of feeling from residents against a planning application in Pill Creek.

At the last Community Network meeting there was a presentation by the new Police Inspector and also Hidden Help which was a charity based in Bissoe but had been founded by a resident in Feock. If Councillors become aware of any young families moving in who were in need of furniture they should get in touch with Hidden Help who might be able to supply donated furniture.

Cllr Kemp said that due to timescales it was sometimes difficult for the Planning Committee to make a comment when they did not have the comments in from the other consultees such as the Tree Officer.

Cllr Alvey said that there was a laid down timescale for the Planning team to follow, however if following consultation there was additional information needed then the Planning Officer would go to the applicant and ask if they agree to an extension to allow the additional information to be provided. He said that if the Parish Council didn't feel they had enough information from other consultees to fully comment they could caveat their comment that they reserved the right to add to their comment when other information received. This should not be used though to change the principle of the comment (ie. Change from an objection to supporting) within 6 months as this would be against the Standing Orders.

Cllr Brickell asked how long it took to make decision on an application as some applications seemed to take a very long time to be determined and there seemed to be no reason given for this or details on the application page on the website, he understood that there had still not been a determination on the Nancassick Barns applications but in the meantime the business was expanding.

The Clerk said there had been no report from the Police but a Police Parish Liaison Meeting had been held today and she would circulate the minutes.

10. LOCAL WARD REPORTS

Feock ward

Cllr Blake reported that he had had a lot of complaints about the new parking arrangements at Loe Beach, people have received fines for not paying for parking, this has had a knock on effect to parking now being in the village. There had also been a lot of complaints about noise and the large number of constant lorry movements both linked to a development on Pill Lane.

Cllr Hambly-Staite said that the road has been damaged by the lorries and one resident has had to shore up their property.

Cllr Hambly-Staite said that the road at Trevilla had been on the maintenance list for resurfacing in 2018/19 and asked that the Clerk asked Highways when this work was going to be done and that we were concerned that the road was breaking up badly and it needed resurfacing.

It was disappointing that the landmark Oak Tree provided by Cornwall Council which we had planted in Retallack Park was a poor specimen and not very big. Cllr Alvey said he would look into this as the team who provided this came under his portfolio and he would be disappointed if what had been provided was not what had been promised.

Devoran ward

Cllr Thomas said there was a trading license application which had been submitted for the EA land over on the slip road, this had now been withdrawn as the EA had refused permission for their land to be used.

Cllr Hambly-Staite said he was passing Point Quay he saw two Kingfishers.

Carnon Downs ward

Cllr Thomas said that one of the benches from the bus shelter in Carnon Downs had gone missing which was very disappointing.

11. FINANCIAL REPORT

The Clerk circulated the invoice list by email and gave an overview of the Council's current financial position.

RESOLUTION: CLLR K HAMBLY-STAITTE PROPOSED THE CHAIRMAN SIGN THE INVOICES FOR PAYMENT LIST, SECONDED BY CLLR KEMP AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Cllr Brickell asked the Clerk if Cormac went over budget for the works to Old Carnon Hill. The Clerk said the works had cost slightly more than originally quoted but this was a result of an additional street light being needed which was recommended as a safety measure.

Cllr Hambly-Staite said had we looked yet at the significant increase in energy costs and how this would impact on the Parish Council and also our village halls. The Clerk would look into the contract the Parish Council were on. Cllr Kemp said that there was match funding grants available to make public spaces more energy efficient, Cllr Kemp would get the information.

12. WELLBEING & HAIRE PROJECT REPORT

Cllr Hambly-Staite reported as follows. There were a number of activities, one being the continuation of the support phone line, the team are working on a directory of activities and also a Community Information website. This is in response to feedback from the Guided Conversations where feedback was that people struggled to find out what was going on locally and who to contact about them. Our Admin Assistant, Cathy would be responsible for keeping the website and listing up to date. Events to celebrate the opening of the refurbished Retallack Playing Field and also Pengelly Meadows Recreation Area were being organised by the HAIRE team.

A new crochet group has been started up in Carnon Downs and will be making decorations for the villages for the Jubilee.

13. ACCESS & AMENITIES COMMITTEE REPORT

Cllr Gason said the sponsored benches had been discussed, a variety of designs agreed and also where we would like to see these located around the parish, prices were currently being sought and then these details would be sent to those who expressed an interest in sponsoring a bench.

Cllr Gason said there was a large clump of Gunerra on the verge near to Dozmere and this was meaning pedestrians had to walk out in the road and also it was pushing vehicles out in the road and causing damage to the verge opposite as well.

It was hoped the works to improve the surface of the footpath that led to Loe Beach as part of the Enhanced LMP footpath project would be able to be done in April. The Church had agreed that we could put chippings temporarily on the roadside by the war memorial before moving them to the path.

Cllr Hambly-Staite said he agreed we should get Retallack Recreation Area and park open as soon as we can but would need to barrier off the car park to ensure pedestrians/cars stayed off it and allow the grass time to become established. The Clerk would investigate fencing options.

Cllr Blake said he felt the existing gate at the Loe Beach footpath should stay as he understood that the existing gate may possibly be removed but he felt this should stay as otherwise people would be encouraged to park there.

Cllr Kemp asked who would be responsible for locking and unlocking the park gate to ensure there was no overnight parking. The Clerk would contact the Gwennap Clerk to find out how they manage their park car park as they also locked it overnight.

14. PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT

Cllr Blake said it was a very, very busy month with Planning. 10 applications ranging from small porches to big extensions, a number of tree works applications, 3 new builds, the football club application in Carnon Downs. There have been two appeal decisions from the Planning Inspector, one was dismissed and one allowed. Cllr Blake read out an extract from the appeal decision for the application that had been allowed at Appeal in regards to the impact on the Feock AONB, it was very disappointing that harm to the AONB that was viewed as 'localised' was not deemed sufficient to refuse a planning application.

Cllr Blake said he would like it recorded how supportive and excellent Debbie Searle, the Assistant Parish Clerk was in supporting the Planning Committee.

Cllr Blake thanked Cllr Cooper for going to Central Planning to speak on two applications, the rest of the Planning Committee for their support and Cllr Alvey for his ongoing support.

Cllr Hambly-Staite said that the issue of inconsistent decisions by Appeal Inspectors was brought up with our MP at the time, Sarah Newton, around 5 years ago who took this up with the Inspectorate in Bristol and he felt that it was time to again raise this issue with our current MP as the AONB especially at Restronguet Point and Pill Creek and was being eroded by the cumulative effect of multiple applications being approved.

Cllr Cooper said that it should be taken into account where the AONB is being enjoyed from and that it should not just be the impact on those that live locally but those that go to enjoy the AONB.

Cllr Alvey said that the final action from the Glover Review should be published shortly, the Government has been deciding how they will apply the recommendations that have come from this. Cllr Alvey suggested that we wait for this report and also the AONB Management plan which was also due to be published soon.

It was agreed that the Council would wait for the publication of the reports before contacting our MP so that their contact could be taken into account. Cllr Hambly-Staite he agreed and felt that it was sensible to wait for the report but that the real issue here was that different Planning Inspectors had differing views on what he thought were common policies such as the impact on AONB. It was agreed for this item to be placed on the next agenda. It was agreed to hold a brainstorming session to agree the points we want to make when the reports have been received.

Cllr Alvey said there was no redress to the Planning Inspectorate, the only thing we could challenge was if they said something inaccurate.

15. HIGHWAYS ISSUES

Cllr Cooper said she felt there was still a speeding problem at Carnon Mine although the report showed mainly good compliance, some delivery drivers drove above the speed limit and these type of drivers made pedestrians feel unsafe on the road.

Cllr Hambly-Staite said that he would be interested to know the criteria for setting speed limits as the limits in Feock were not sensible at all and certainly did not encourage people to walk and cycle on our roads. The Clerk would find out more information about how the speed limits were set.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.05pm.

DRAFT