

**MINUTES OF THE FEOCK PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 6<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2023 AT  
7PM IN FEOCK PARISH COUNCIL OFFICES, DEVORAN**

Councillors present:            CARNON DOWNS            DEVORAN            FEOCK  
   C Kemp                    A Allen            R Brickell  
   J Allen                    M Steel            R Bowers  
   P Allen                    S Cooper           K Hambly-Staite  
   M Griffiths

In attendance:                    Debra Roberts, Parish Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer  
   1 member of the public

CHAIR:                                Cllr Richard Brickell

**1. MEETING PROCEDURES & INTRODUCTION**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained how the meeting would run. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and advised that Item 19 would be deferred pending advice from Cornwall Association of Local Councils. Cllr Cooper said she wished to explain her reasons for resigning from the Access & Amenities Committee under this item. The Chairman said he would prefer it if she did not do this as it crossed over into Item 19 which we were deferring and waiting for advice on.

**2. APOLOGIES**

Apologies had been received from Cllrs Woolcock and Cornwall Councillor Alvey

**3. TO CONSIDER THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 9<sup>th</sup>  
OCTOBER 2023 AS A CORRECT RECORD OF THE MATERIAL DECISIONS MADE FOR A  
SIGNATURE BY THE CHAIRMAN**

Cllr Bowers requested an amendment to the wording of the item relating to the planning application item.

**RESOLUTION: CLLR BOWERS PROPOSED THAT THE MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 9<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2023 AS CIRCULATED BY THE CLERK WITH THE AMENDMENT HE HAD REQUESTED, BE SIGNED BY THE CHAIRMAN AS A TRUE AND ACCURATE RECORD OF THE MEETING, SECONDED BY CLLR HAMBLY-STAITTE AND CARRIED BY A MAJORITY WITH ONE ABSTENTION DUE TO NOT BEING AT THE LAST MEETING.**

**4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FROM COUNCILLORS ON ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

There were no declarations of interest.

**5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Beverly Johnson was attending the meeting and had applied to be co-opted to one of the Feock ward vacancies on the Parish Council and this would be dealt with later on the agenda.

## **6. CLERKS REPORT ON ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**

The Clerks report on actions taken had been circulated with the agenda.

## **7. MATTERS FOR REPORT**

Cllr P Allen sits on the Cornwall Local Access Forum but is not acting on behalf of the Parish Councillor, attending as a private individual. He is Chair of the Parish Council Liaison Working Group and this group is looking at how Parish Councils can promote access to the Countryside with the view of improving community wellbeing. He would like to use the example of Active Feock to show the sort of things that Parish Councils could do in order to improve health and wellbeing in their communities.

Cllr S Cooper and Cllr Bowers attended the Chacewater Energy Event which was excellent. One interesting point made was if you have a condensing boiler and steam is coming out of the flue then it is not working properly. There is an adjustment that can be made by a Plumber to resolve this and make it work more efficiently.

Cllr Hambly-Staite said that several Parish Councillors attended the Community Area Partnership meeting. Cllr Hambly-Staite had raised a continuation of the debate for the feasibility study funding bid that we had made, it is looking positive for our bid. The other issue was that we have had funding for the flashing speed warning sign that is moved around the Parish and would there be any funding for the relocation of poles to make them work in 20mph as we may not have poles in the correct places to match the new speed limits when these come in.

## **8. CURRENT REPORTS**

The Clerk advised the Police crime figures were still not available online. Cllr Alvey had given his apologies.

## **9. FINANCIAL SUMMARY & ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

The Clerk circulated the invoice list by email, together with individual invoices and gave an overview of the Council's current financial position and payments this month. The Clerk clarified on the budget that Eeers were Employees contributions and Ers Employers contributions in relation to pensions.

**RESOLUTION: CLLR J ALLEN PROPOSED THE CHAIRMAN SIGN THE INVOICES FOR PAYMENT LIST AUTHORISING THE PAYMENTS, SECONDED BY CLLR STEEL AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The Clerk advised there was a vacancy on the Finance & General Purposes Committee and if there were any nominations for a new Councillor to sit on this committee.

**RESOLUTION: CLLR A ALLEN PROPOSED CLLR J ALLEN BE ELECTED TO THE FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE, SECONDED BY CLLR KEMP AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

## **10. BUDGET 2024/25**

The Clerk had circulated the budget recommended by the Finance & General Purposes Committee to Full Council with the agenda pack and in hard copy.

Cllr Steel, Chair of Finance & General Purposes Committee said that the Committee were mindful of the cost of living crisis but hoped they had drafted a budget that still delivered the services we currently offer and would stand up to scrutiny and provide fairness for the Council tax payer.

**RESOLUTION: CLLR STEEL PROPOSED THE BUDGET AS CIRCULATED FOR 2024/25 AND RECOMMENDED BY FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE BE APPROVED BY FULL COUNCIL, SECONDED BY CLLR A ALLEN AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

#### **11. COUNCIL TAX PRECEPT 2024/25**

The Clerk had circulated the Finance & General Purposes Committee's recommend of a 3% precept rise bringing the proposal precept request for 2024/25 to £145,548.

The Clerk would find out up to date figures for the number of households in each Council tax band.

Cllr Hambly-Staite said he felt the Council needed to do more to explain to residents what we spent our precept on and the services they received in return for this.

**RESOLUTION: CLLR STEEL PROPOSED THE PRECEPT REQUEST FOR 2024/25 BE £145,548, A 3% INCREASE ON LAST YEARS FIGURE, AS RECOMMENDED BY FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE AND BE APPROVED BY FULL COUNCIL, SECONDED BY CLLR GRIFFITHS AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The Chairman thanked the Clerk, Assistant Clerk and Finance Committee for their work on the draft budget.

#### **12. LOCAL WARD REPORTS**

**Feock** - Cllr Hambly-Staite said that at Harcourt there is a pinch point on the road caused by a verge encroaching onto the road, could this be cut back to its original depth.

The roads were very slippery in Feock due to fallen leaves.

**Devoran** – Cllr A Allen said that the Tram Road hedges have now been cut but the W of SLOW in one place was hidden by cuttings and needed sweeping. There was a piece of land just past Trevallion Park which had been left as a wild area and a notice up to explain this. Someond had been clearing this. The Clerk would try to find out who owned this piece of land. On the footpath up past Narabo, where you take the right hand turn down through the field and kissing gates where the wall has to be climbed, there is a broken tree branch. On the Common Land at Penpol Pond, there was a split branch that needed looking at.

The Clerk would ask the bus company about the suggested trial of the route amendment down to Penpol as this was not currently in place.

**Carnon Downs** – it was noted that someone was sleeping rough in the concrete bus shelter. The Clerk would make a referral to Streetlink. Cllr Griffiths said that there were problems with the chipping surface recently laid along Forthnoweth, Valley Lane and other roads leading off these, the quality of the work was very poor. This had been raised with Highways and would be discussed again at the Highways meeting.

### **13. PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT**

The Planning Statistics report had been circulated with the agenda. Cllr Kemp said she had been looking at properties for sale in her ward of Carnon Downs and was surprised to see 3 properties still for sale in Treheath Meadows as we understood that the whole development had been sold as they were popular hence the application for a similar development at Tresithick.

### **14. ACCESS & AMENITIES COMMITTEE REPORT**

Cllr Hambly-Staite ran through the draft minutes which had not yet been circulated due to time pressures. The next meeting of the Committee was planned for the 21<sup>st</sup> November.

Cllr Cooper said she had a statement to read out as she was resigning from Access & Amenities Committee and would like to explain why. Cllr Cooper said that she had found behaviours of some Members uncomfortable but stressed it was the behaviours themselves not individuals, she had been on the Council for 2 years and appreciated that she had been elected unopposed due to lack of numbers standing.

In Spring 2019 the Parish Council declared a Climate Emergency and she had been part of the FACT group since 2019, she felt this gave her an opportunity to represent the public and residents in this group. She felt that the Parish Councils view of the FACT group was patronising, expressing anything about climate change is barely tolerated, meetings are held with other organisations and not all Councillors who may have an interest are invited. Cllr Cooper did not feel her views were listened to or understood and she felt this was because she was female. Cllr Cooper said she had some examples to read out where she had been disrespected. The Chairman felt that we all needed to compromise and that the Council would not always agree. The Chairman asked Cllr Cooper to not go through her examples as this was not the time or place and that we were waiting for advice from CALC and would deal with this at a future meeting once advice had been received.

Cllr Cooper left the meeting 8.24pm.

The Clerk said there was not a set out process on how to deal with a grievance rather than a formal complaint that would be dealt with by Cornwall Council. The Clerk would seek advice from CALC on how to deal with the issues raised.

### **15. FEOCK ECO GROUP REPORT**

Cllr Bowers gave the following report. The group had been discussing local issues including preservation of the Pink Ballerina fungi on the tumulus near to the Carnon Downs Spar as well as local water quality issues. The group have been working with Tregye College to form a volunteer group to create their kitchen garden, witing on DBS requirements. The Penpol common land project is ongoing, the footpath application now officially logged so the group would like to meet with Cllr Hambly-Staite to discuss next steps.

Water testing kits have been applied for from West Country Citizens Science Investigations scheme. This will require minimum of £30 funding. Feock Eco representative input from Tramway survey in Tramway cutting has been previously communicated.

Cllr P Allen asked for clarification on the status relating to the Parish Council of the Feock Eco group. The Clerk advised her understanding was that it was not a Working Group of the Parish Council when set up in 2019 but felt it best for it to be discussed at a future meeting where members of the group could also attend and speak on the item. The Clerk would put this on the January 2024 agenda.

**16. HIGHWAYS**

The Parish Council had put together a list of issues to raise with our Highways Manager at the forthcoming meeting including pot holes, road noise surface from the bypass and speed limits.

**17. CIVILITY & RESPECT DIGNITY AT WORK POLICY**

The Clerk had circulated a Civility & Respect Dignity at Work draft policy based on the model NALC version, this was part of the requirements of the Civility & Respect Pledge that the Council had signed up to. It was agreed that not all parts of this document may be relevant and Councillors would look at it further and for the Clerk to put this back on the January 2024 agenda.

**18. CO-OPTION TO CASUAL VACANCIES**

The Clerk advised that one application had been received for a Feock ward vacancy from Beverly Johnson which she had circulated to all Councillors. Beverly gave a short summary of her background and reasons for wishing to join the Parish Council.

**RESOLUTION: CLLR J ALLEN PROPOSED BEVERLY JOHNSON BE CO-OPTED TO THE FEOCK WARD VACANCY, SECONDED BY CLLR BOWERS AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Cllr Johnson signed the Acceptance of Office form witnessed by the Clerk.

The confidential session agenda item was deferred.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.30pm .