

Minutes of the FEOCK PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held on Monday 4th April 2016 at the Parish Council Office, Devoran at 7.15pm

WARDS	CARNON DOWNS	DEVORAN	FEOCK
	R Richards	B Shankland	R Andrew
	C Kemp		C Blake
	M Kemp		C Johnson
	P Allen		K Hambly-Staite
	I MacDonald		

In attendance: Debra Roberts, Parish Clerk & Responsible Finance Officer
Cornwall Councillor Chamberlain
1 member of the public

CHAIRMAN: Councillor Richards

1. INTRODUCTION

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Cllrs Lightfoot and Shefford. Cllr Shankland advised that he had to leave the meeting early.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 1st MARCH 2016

RESOLUTION: CLLR C KEMP PROPOSED THAT THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 1st MARCH 2016 AS CIRCULATED BY THE CLERK BE CONFIRMED AS A TRUE RECORD, AND SIGNED BY THE CHAIRMAN. THIS WAS SECONDED BY CLLR ANDREW AND WAS CARRIED BY THE MEETING.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Blake declared an interest in the Your Choice funding item as he was a committee member of one of the groups who had applied, The Feock Home & Garden Society.

Cllr Andrew had declared an interest in Item 12 Planning Committee and would leave the meeting for this item and the item in the Clerks report relating to the Cornwall Council Devolution Fund. Cllr Andrew also gave the following statement:-

"I (Cllr Andrew) declare an interest in planning matters related either directly or in proximity to my land and property in Feock. For the public record, I am an employee of Cornwall Council working on the Localism Agenda. I have been advised by the Monitoring Officer that as a Parish Councillor I have no personal interest in the Neighbourhood Planning Agenda and related issues. However, if during the course of discussions issues are discussed of which I have a personal involvement it may be appropriate to leave the meeting and take no further part in the debate and for it to be recorded in the minutes"

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was one member of the public present, Dirk Kennedy.

Mr Kennedy said he had now finished the verge tidying work on Greenbank Road and pedestrians could now hop out of the road to get out of the way of vehicles. Mr Kennedy had spoken to the landowner who had said he was not happy with the suggestion of a woodland path further in on his land so he would do no further work on this. The Chairman thanked Mr Kennedy on behalf of the Parish Council for all the voluntary work he had done for them on the tidying of the verge, and said

that he had done an excellent job which was very much appreciated by the Parish Council. The Chairman updated the meeting with progress on other highways projects in the Parish. The problem with the suggested pathway on the grass verge was that because the path was going to be close to the road it was still technically classed as highway (although it was privately owned) and the Parish Council were not allowed by Highways to lay a path so close to the edge of the verge and the road. There had been money allocated for 2016/17 to improve pedestrian access on Greenbank Road and this was likely to be by way of a virtual pavement (a strip of coloured tarmac).

6. CLERKS REPORT ON MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

The Clerk read out her report which is attached at Appendix 1.

It was noted that Cllr Andrew did not take part in the discussion regarding the Cornwall Council Devolution Fund as he had declared an interest in this. Cllr Kemp would complete the application for the Star Council awards for the Council of the Year nomination.

7. MATTERS FOR REPORT

Cllr MacDonald had attended the meeting regarding boundary changes at Cornwall Council, there was not a lot to report but there are two strands to the process, one is to do with the way the Council manages its business and the other to address the anomalies in ward boundaries and number of electors. The timescale is that it will be reported on in 2018 and then a consultation will be carried out, there is nothing for us to be concerned about at the present time.

Cllr Blake commented that several members of the Council attended the Public Meeting at Pill Creek in St Feock Church Hall where 70 members of the public attended. A representative of Cornwall AONB and one of the Cornwall Council Tree Officer's attended, it was an informative meeting and a 60 signature petition has resulted from the meeting regarding a current planning application.

The Chairman commented that the Tree Officer had agreed to carry out an urgent review of the Tree Preservation Order (TPO) around Pill Creek and we would then look to have reviews carried out on other TPO areas in the Parish. It was hoped the Pill Creek review could be carried out by Cornwall Council at no charge to the Parish Council.

8. CURRENT REPORTS

Cornwall Council

Cllr Chamberlain commented that the Tree Officer had said that as long as it was not a huge job and we focus on areas that are under immediate planning threat then they could do this TPO review at no cost to the Parish Council. Cllr Chamberlain has asked the Tree Officer to review a very specific area at Pill Creek. We need to consider areas that are well wooded and can be covered within a day if possible, to keep the cost to a minimum. The Tree Officers also have to persuade the Planning Officers to agree to the TPO area before it can be adopted.

Cllr Chamberlain is on the Boundary Commission Panel and it would appear they are trying to push Cornwall into producing a Council that is a 100 or less in terms of Councillors and he did not agree with this as reductions had already been made in the past to numbers. He felt the lowering of numbers was a political push. At the end of April 2017 the number of Cornwall Councillors will be published and these will then need to be fitted to the parishes and be in place for the 2021 elections.

The Library in Truro is under a question mark as to whether Truro City Council want to take it on at all and they are currently considering writing a business case to take with regards to taking it over or not, they may wish to apply for money from the devolution fund to fund this project. Cllr

Chamberlain didn't feel that extending the Devoran Community library would give the broad range of services that keeping Truro City Council library would provide.

Devon & Cornwall Police

The Clerk read out the Police report which is attached at Appendix 2.

9. FINANCIAL SUMMARY & ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

The Clerk gave the following financial summary.

Total outgoings/accounts to be paid since the last meeting **£10,236.67**

Includes £2400 to Devoran Village Hall.

CALC subscription £861.82

Churchyard grants of £840

Total income since last meeting in March **£1,270.33**

£75 from NALC towards London trip

£139 from Lions Club towards cost of defibrillator cabinet

Current account bank balance and reconciliation - £197,183.26 as at 04/04/16 (includes £150K bond and £5K interest from this bond)

£192,167.59 is the true balance taking into account uncashed cheques (£4915.67 – Our Place funding repayment and Trolver Croft residents association) Includes £150K bond

Cambridge Easy Access Saver (Reserve a/c) - **£72,451.32** (includes £50K bond)

Profit & Loss report to date

Shows to date for the year 2015/16 for general/working account:-

Income £136,773

Expenditure £128,733

Balance **+£8,040**

Shows to date for the year 2016/17 for general/working account:-

Income £1,238

Expenditure £2,773

Balance **-£1,535**

The precept payment from Cornwall Council was due at any time. The External Audit was due on Friday 24th June so will need to be authorised at June Parish Council meeting. Steve Hudson (Internal Auditor) is coming in on 24th May to carry out the internal audit.

10. LOCAL WARD REPORTS

Feock – Cllr Johnson

The car park by Fourturnings is full of rubbish and looks very unsightly. The Clerk advised that this was owned by Cornwall Council. The council would like to have the fingerpost on the road to Trelissick refurbished. The new one at Porthgidden needs some painting. Cllr Johnson would contact the Milestone Society regarding this one and the one by the Methodist Chapel where a large lump of granite has been dumped by the milestone.

Cllr Hambly-Staite said the road going to Trelissick is very busy and the traffic is very fast. It has been suggested that a footpath be installed on the otherside of the wall for people to walk on to stop

people having to walk in the road when they are walking to Trelissick. Cllr Blake would find out who owns the land as it was not the National Trust and it was agreed for this item to be discussed further at the next Access & Amenities Committee meeting.

The Council had previously discussed having a leaflet campaign on the King Harry Ferry to raise awareness of speeding on the road to the ferry. It was agreed to resurrect the leaflet campaign and Cllr Johnson would contact Tim Light to ask for permission to do this and find out an appropriate number of leaflets to be printed. Cllr C Kemp suggested a poster/banner be displayed on the ferry.

Devoran – Cllr Shankland

Cllr Johnson said it was very sad that there had been what was thought by the Police at the present time to be an arson attack on a vehicle parked in Devoran Lane.

Carnon Downs – Cllr MacDonald

The Spar has been refurbished and the Post Office will be moving into the Spar on 14th April, this will be open from 7am to 9pm every day.

The speed survey on Point Road has been completed and relates to the planning application off Point Road, the vast majority of traffic was within the 30 mph limit but there were questions whether the new wider entrance to the development would cause an increase traffic speed increase.

The Quenchwell Road development is due to be decided by 7th April, the applicants have reduced the number of houses from 60 to 15 and there were discussions regarding whether this change could be accepted as an amendment under planning case law but due to it being a large change in numbers Cornwall Council Planning had said it had to be submitted as a new application. The outcome of the discussions regarding this between Cornwall Council and the agent were unknown.

11. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN REPORT

The Chairman said there was a Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group meeting arranged for 7pm on Thursday 7th April in the Parish Council Office which all Councillors were welcome to attend. The consultation comments would be circulated prior to the meeting. The meeting would look at whether any of the consultee comments would require any amendments to our policies and if so the form these should take.

12. PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT

Cllr Andrew left the meeting as he had declared an interest in this item.

Election of new member for the Planning Committee

The Chairman advised that Cllr Hambly-Staite had asked if he could join the Planning Committee and this needed to be formally agreed.

RESOLUTION: CLLR JOHNSON PROPOSED CLLR HAMBLY-STAITTE BE ELECTED TO THE PLANNING COMMITTEE, SECONDED BY CLLR BLAKE AND CARRIED BY THE MEETING.

Complaint to Cornwall Council regarding processing of Feock Reading Room application

Cllr Kemp advised that Cornwall Council had now agreed that they had made mistakes with the handling of the Reading Room application. A meeting of Cllr M Kemp and the Chairman had been arranged with Phil Mason and Cllr Edwina Hannaford for the 20th April.

The bat surveys required for the Reading Room has been booked in for May. Cornwall Council have said that as soon as these surveys have been completed they will process our application as quickly as they can.

Planning & Enforcement issues

Cllr Richards said that the Council have some issues with the way some planning enforcement issues have been dealt with over the last few months. Devoran Metals have had enforcement action taken against them where the storage containers are temporarily more than 2.2m high, however on the same site the Gig shed had been given permission for a building which is 3.5m high. There had also been action taken against the installation of a shed roof with solar panels which if it was a foot lower would be covered by permitted development rights and not required planning permission at all. Pellows were meant to put a planning application in by the end of October for the work they had carried out on the land at the Carnon Valley but to date no application had been submitted and it appeared that Cornwall Council were not pushing for them to submit an application.

A similar application to our Reading Room application to convert the Mawnan Smith Reading Room had been passed without the need for a bat survey which was very difficult to understand when we were required to provide a survey for an almost identical application.

A meeting had recently been held with Nigel Doyle, Planning and Enterprise Manager from Cornwall Council. The questions regarding the inconsistencies between how planning enforcement issues had been dealt with had been raised with him and we were waiting for feedback on our questions.

It was noted that we did have very good relationships with the Planning Case Officers and the Assistant Clerk was able to get advice from them on a day to day basis and they were helpful.

Local Development Order process

We were waiting for the up to date information on this process from Cornwall Council. This would enable the Carnon Downs local development order to be resurrected but would also take in other areas of the Parish.

Cllr Andrew rejoined the meeting.

13. FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE REPORT

Cllr M Kemp said at the previous meeting the Council had agreed that the Council would pay off up to £170K of the public works loan and this was on the understanding that there was no early redemption penalty, however we had now been advised that there would be a penalty for making an early payment.

Cllr M Kemp said he felt the Council should be looking to repay either £110K or £120K of the capital but on top of this would be the interest and penalty for partial redemption.

If we repaid £110K this would cost us £21K in early redemption fees, however if we don't repay a £110K the interest we would pay for the remainder of the loan would be £73,700, by paying the redemption penalty the Council would save £52K.

If we paid off £120K we would save £57k over the term of the loan.

The Chairman said the Council needed to discuss if they wish to make an early repayment and pay the redemption penalty.

If we repay £145K in total (£120K off the capital) we would still have £129K cash in the bank before we receive this years precept or the proceeds from the sale of the Reading Room.

Cllr Allen was concerned what would happen if interest rates go up and we could have reinvested the £200K bond money and the interest would be off setting the interest we are paying on the loan and then the £20K would be a net cost, however no one knew what would happen to interest rates but Cllr Allen said he would feel more comfortable delaying the decision to make a repayment.

The Chairman asked if anyone else had any comments to make on this item.

PROPOSAL: CLLR ALLEN PROPOSED THAT WE DELAY ANY REPAYMENT FOR 6 MONTHS. THERE WAS NO SECONDER FOR THIS PROPOSAL.

RESOLUTION: CLLR M KEMP PROPOSED THAT WE REPAY £110k PRINCIPLE AND APPROX £130K IN TOTAL TO INCLUDE THE EARLY REDEMPTION PENALTY AND INTEREST AND LOOK AGAIN AT THE REMAINING OUTSTANDING LOAN WHEN WE SELL THE READING ROOM, THE REPAYMENT OF £133K TO BE MADE ASAP. CLLR HAMBLY-STAITTE SECONDED. A VOTE WAS HELD ON THE PROPOSAL THAT WE PAY OFF THE CAPITAL SUM OF £110K PLUS THE INTEREST AND THE REDEMPTION PENALTY TOTTALLING APPROXIMATELY £133K. ALL EXCEPT ONE MEMBER WERE IN FAVOUR OF THE PROPOSAL AND THE MOTION WAS CARRIED.

There were no other proposals or amendments.

14. ACCESS & AMENITIES COMMITTEE REPORT

Cllr Johnson had circulated her report, there had been no meeting held in March. Cllr Allen and the Parish Clerk had been successful in their bid to secure £10K from the Heritage Lottery Fund to produce history walk leaflets and landmark narratives linked to the Parish Council website. The Clerk had put all the draft walks and the narratives on a Dropbox account and had sent out links to the Councillors for everyone to look at and comment on.

It was hoped that the local history groups, such as the Devoran Quay Preservation Society and Restronguet Creek Society would help with putting together the information. We would also be putting together a reference library in the Community Library and holding a launch day.

Cllr Allen asked that everyone have a look at the narratives he had written and if anyone else wished to write some please let him know and he would like as many people as possible to be involved.

Cllr Hambly-Staite wondered if we could include some information about the wildlife in the leaflets and he would also like to be involved.

The library had a very successful opening a few Saturdays ago, the lady from the library service was very pleased with how many people had been using the library already.

Regarding Greenbank Road and the footway on the verge, Cllr Shankland said he had looked into the costs to move a streetlight and this would cost in the region of £500.

Cllr Shankland left the meeting at 9.30pm.

15. POINT QUAY ASSOCIATION

Cllr Allen said that a working party had got together a couple of Saturdays ago to pressure wash the slipway as it had been getting a bit slippery and the association would be doing this regularly.

16. REQUESTS FOR PAYMENT OF CHURCHYARD MAINTENANCE GRANTS

The Chairman read out the requests from St Feock Church and Devoran Church requesting £420 each to assist with their churchyard maintenance.

RESOLUTION: THE CHAIRMAN PROPOSED THAT THE TWO PAYMENTS BE MADE FOR THE YEAR 2015/16, SECONDED BY CLLR ALLEN AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The Clerk would advise the Churches that they needed to apply for funding each year if they needed it as it would not be provided automatically.

17. REQUEST TO USE DEVORAN RECREATION GROUND ON SUNDAY 12TH JUNE

The Devoran Community Association had requested permission to use Devoran Recreation Ground for a Queens Birthday celebration on Sunday 12th June.

RESOLUTION: CLLR RICHARDS PROPOSED THAT PERMISSION BE GRANTED, SUBJECT TO THE NECESSARY INSURANCES BEING IN PLACE, SECONDED BY CLLR MACDONALD AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

18. "YOUR CHOICE" FUNDING APPLICATIONS

Cllr Blake did not take part in this discussion as he was a Committee member of the Feock Home & Garden Society who had applied for a grant. The Clerk advised that there were 12 applications for this years round of funding. There were two applications that the Clerk needed to check if they met the funding criteria.

PROPOSAL: CLLR M KEMP PROPOSED THAT THOSE THAT DEFINITELY MET THE CRITERIA GO THROUGH TO THE VOTING STAGE AND BE INVITED TO THE PUBLIC MEETING. CLLR RICHARDS SECONDED, THIS WAS CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The Clerk to seek clarification regarding the two groups that she was unsure if they met the criteria.

19. RHODA MARY PROJECT

The Chairman commented that the Rhoda Mary was currently a wreck up in Kent, this vessel was featured on the Parish Council shield. Around £300K was needed to move it and start refurbishment, but the project would also involve community groups and youngsters in the restoration. There was an article in the Restronguet Creek Society newsletter this month regarding this project.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.00pm.

Appendix 1

Clerks report on matters arising from previous meeting

Clerks report on matters arising from the last meeting – 1st March 2016

Funding Assistance for Devoran Village Hall

A bank transfer of £2400 has been made to the Village Hall by BACS.

Cornwall Council Devolution Fund

An application has been submitted to Cornwall Council to expand our library area. The panel meeting is on the 12th April. We have applied for £3500 for the project. The Truro & Roseland Community Network area has a total allocation of £47,000.

Local Transport Scheme

I have had one person come forward interested in volunteering to do the admin work for the scheme, he is coming to see me tomorrow morning. He is retired and lives in Devoran.

Star Council Awards

The awards are now open again with a closing date for nominations of 30th June 2016. More information can be found here <http://www.nalc.gov.uk/news?view=entry&id=526>

Defibrillator cabinet for Feock – Ferris Garage

This has been ordered by the Lions Club and we have today had the cheque from the Lions Club part of the funding for £139 so the cost to us is £260. The Lions Club have given us slightly more funding (£39) than agreed as they felt that the location would require a slightly more robust cabinet and have met this cost themselves. The cabinet should arrive within the next 7 days.

Carnon Downs defibrillator

The Carnon Downs Film Club have said they will donate £100 towards a defibrillator. Applications for BHF funded defibrillator (£400 donation) should open soon so I will keep an eye out for this. Devoran School have also mentioned that they might be able to hold a donations day to go towards the cost of the defibrillator. I have the agreement from BT to adopt Carnon Downs phonebox to house the defibrillator, a cheque needs to be signed for £1 and sent off with the contract.

Appendix 2

Devon & Cornwall Police Report

There were three crimes recorded in March 2016, one drink driver, one theft of heating oil from the village of Feock and one theft from a garage at Trolver Hill (please see our facebook page for the details & photographs of the stolen bicycles). I am sure you are aware of a burnt out vehicle at Market Street, on Friday 1st April, at this time police are still investigating this crime.

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

Devon & Cornwall Police