

**Minutes of the FEOCK PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2022 at 7pm at  
the Parish Council Offices, Market Street, Devoran**

Present:

| <b>WARDS</b> | <b>CARNON DOWNS</b> | <b>DEVORAN</b> | <b>FEOCK</b>    |
|--------------|---------------------|----------------|-----------------|
|              | C Kemp              | A Allen        | R Brickell      |
|              | P Allen             | S Cooper       | K Hambly-Staite |
|              | J Allen             | M Steel        |                 |

In attendance: Councillor Martyn Alvey, Cornwall Councillor  
6 members of the public  
Debra Roberts, Parish Clerk & Responsible Finance Officer

Chairman: A Allen

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. The Chair wished to reflect on Cllr Kate Gason's very sudden death last month and read the following tribute that would be published in the local press and in the next issue of Connect. Cllrs Cooper, A Allen, Hambly-Staite and Brickell would represent the Parish Council at Kate's funeral on Thursday.

Kate was a valuable member of the Parish Council who always made herself available to attend planning site meetings, ready with plans in hand. Her shrewd analysis of design and finish will be missed by the planning committee, she was especially keen to ensure that historical architecture and features in the parish were retained.

Kate was Chair of the Access and Amenities Committee and her expertise in public rights of way matters was invaluable. She led on our programme of improvements aimed at making footpaths more accessible to a wider range of residents and users and council members have been indebted to her for the leadership and commitment she gave in taking this forward.

Her interests in the countryside, her passion for improving the parish and her professional background ensured debates in Council were informed and her views robust. She was always willing to give practical help in the field when she was needed: moving equipment, pruning hedges and clearing fields for example.

Kate was a councillor who worked tirelessly and diligently with good humour, she was incredibly generous with her time and went out of her way to look into local matters and listen to local views. She was a genuine hospitable person who put her community first. She will be greatly missed by all her colleagues on the Council and the community she served.

### **2. APOLOGIES**

Apologies had been received from Cllrs Lightfoot and Woolcock.

### **3. TO CONSIDER THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 3<sup>rd</sup> OCTOBER 2022 AS A TRUE AND ACCURATE RECORD**

**RESOLUTION: CLLR KEMP PROPOSED THAT THE MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 3<sup>rd</sup> OCTOBER 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 BRICKELL AND WAS CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY THE MEETING.**

**4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Two residents attended regarding the large volume of leaves and acorns falling from the Oak tree on the back hedge of Devoran Park, the size of the tree and overhanging branches. Another resident who was not at the meeting had also complained previously about the Oak Tree. There had also been incidents with the children pulling stones from the hedge of the hedge of the park and damaging neighbouring properties with them. There were hardly any stones left in the hedge now due to the children climbing up and down it.

A resident said that the Council are responsible for the hedge but don't maintain it. Another resident said the size of the tree concerns her and there are a lot of acorns that come off it and cause a safety hazard due to them being so slippery. They said it was a lovely tree but it was a hazard.

Cllr Cooper had visited one of the residents in the last week and cleared up the acorns and leaves. Cllr Cooper asked about the children throwing stones from the hedge and damaging property, was this when they were in the park? It was clarified that the children were in the lane and throwing stones from the lane side.

Craig Burnett the new Practice Manager for Well Dental had come along to give the Parish Council an update on the Dentist Practices plans for the future. They would like to get more involved with the community and this year have sponsored a Christmas Light as part of the village display. They were desperately trying to recruit new NHS dentists to be able to offer NHS treatment to local people.

Cllr Kemp said she was the manager of Devoran Pre-School and would be pleased to have someone come in and speak to the children about tooth health and she could also put them in touch with Devoran School.

Cllr P Allen said that we have put in the planters outside the Dentist because there had been parking problems previously but these have now much reduced. Cllr J Allen said that it would be good if the Dentist could visit Kea School as well.

Craig said they were looking at running Family Days in the holidays to try to help promote dental health at a very young age but were open to any ideas of how they could integrate more into the community.

**Transforming Trelissick**

Rick Offland the Project Manager for Transforming Trelissick gave a presentation on their plans.

It was clarified that the proposed road crossing point would be unmanned/lit and would be a pinch point, only wide enough for one car. It was hoped that users of the North part of the estate would use the new North car park and those visiting the house and gardens the main car park on the same side of the estate as the current car park. The National Trust were in discussions with the King Harry Ferry Company as they had ongoing concerns about the impact of a crossing point on their business and the National Trust were very conscious of this. A bridge had been considered but the geography did not allow for this. They did not feel that the peak times for pedestrians crossing would coincide with the peak times for the ferry traffic as much as the Ferry feared.

Cllr J Allen asked if the new toilet block would have a Changing Places toilet? Rick confirmed that the new toilet block in the North car park would have disabled toilets but a Changing Places toilet would be a separate project and not part of this scheme. He also confirmed that the café/restaurant offering would be expanded. Cllr J Allen asked if a natural playground for children had been considered. Rick confirmed this had been thought about and may follow near to the North car park but this would be dependant on the numbers using the new car park.

Cllr Hambly-Staite asked what highways views were and what the speed limit would be on the road. Rick advised that Cormac had made a couple of changes to the suggested design and were now happy with it. The speed limit would remain at 30mph but the start of this limit would be further up the road than it currently was. The surface of the new footpath would vary and some parts would be grass, some existing hard standing. Cllr J Allen asked why cycle tracks had not been included in this scheme. Rick said he would ask this question as he had only recently taken over the project.

The Clerk would circulate the presentation to all Councillors.

Rick suggested a separate meeting be held onsite at Trelissick to show Councillors on the ground more about the changes proposed. Alice Ealdmore introduced herself as the new Volunteering & Community Manager at Trelissick, she was keen to work with the Parish Council in the future.

The Chairman thanked Alice and Rick for attending the meeting.

## **6. CLERKS UPDATE**

The Clerk gave her update on actions from the previous meeting which had been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting.

## **7. MATTERS FOR REPORT**

The Chair explained this item was for Councillors to report where they had a meeting with residents or attended meetings.

Cllr Cooper had been to see a neighbour about the large Oak tree on the Devoranpark hedge, branches are growing into telephone lines and these have been cut in the past. Cllr Cooper said she could understand the issues with the leaves and acorns falling and the problems these cause in gardens. Cllr Cooper has looked at the hedge and there are now hardly any stones left and it is just an earth bank.

The Chairman suggested this be discussed further at the next Access & Amenities Committee to look at the tree inspection report we had carried out on the tree earlier this year, what can be done to discourage the children sliding down the bank and causing a problem with the stones and also the possibility of a better fence at the top of the bank to prevent the children climbing from the park side.

Cllrs Brickell and Hambly-Staite, together with the Clerk had attended the Cormac Workshop and from this a meeting had been arranged with Andy James of Cormac to discuss the Parish Councils specific concerns.

Cllr Cooper had attended the Conference at the University of Exeter around Neighbourhood Planning and working with the climate community and nature, around 30 Parish Councils were represented which was excellent.

Cllr Cooper has started the Involve climate training which has been funded by Cornwall Council on how to get public engagement on action on climate issues, the project being looked at for the purposes of the training is what is rewinding of Parish Council spaces.

The Chairman, Cllrs J Allen and Brickell had attended the Community Network Panel meeting where there was an interesting discussion about food banks and community larders. It was agreed that food poverty would be an issue for the Community Network Panel to focus on.

The Chairman also attended the Dealing with Difficult People and Conversations training, it was interesting as lots of Councillors and Clerks attended and aired the issues they come across such as negative social media posts and emails. The Chairman said that it was important that Councillors and staff did not get upset by emails as they were aimed at the Council as a whole and not them personally. We had already lost two Councillors due to negativity aimed at them and we did not wish to lose any more. If anyone felt upset by an email or correspondence they should raise this with herself as Chair or the Clerk.

Cllr P Allen was on Cornwall Countryside Access forum (not as a representative of the Parish Council), he Chairs their liaison group with Parish Councils and helps to promote the local maintenance partnership agency agreement. The Devon Countryside Access Forum had been producing a newsletter and he hoped that Cornwall may be able to produce something similar.

Cllr Brickell had attended the Meet The Leader session at Cornwall Council and gave an overview of the questions and issues that were discussed which were mainly about housing, affordable housing and homelessness. He said there were also issues raised about contacting Council staff when problems arose. Cllr J Allen asked why County Council staff were still working from home?

Cllr Alvey said that lots of staff were now working from home due to reductions in the estate of Cornwall Council and also to help with the reduction of the Councils carbon footprint.

Cllr Cooper said she would like to ensure the discussion that we had with the Affordable Housing team about modern methods of construction and affordable housing was not forgotten.

## **8. CURRENT REPORTS**

### **Cornwall Council**

Cllr Alvey gave his apologies for the December meeting. He confirmed that he had requested the planning application for The Dene be 'called in'.

There was a lot of media currently about the 'Mayor for Cornwall' and Devolution Deal, he suggested we wait until the Devolution Deal had been signed off and then the detail of the offer would be available and consulted on before becoming too concerned about this.

Cllr Alvey has now exhausted his Community Chest fund, he had helped fund Hidden Help, The War Horse crochet project, Devoran School and HAIRE intergenerational memory shanty project, Carnon Downs Village Hall, Bowling Club and Monday Club in Playing Place. The Chairman thanked Cllr Alvey for all the donations to the groups in the parish.

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

The Clerk had circulated the invoice list for October 2022 due for payment.

**RESOLUTION: CLLR P ALLEN PROPOSED THE CHAIRMAN SIGN THE INVOICES FOR PAYMENT LIST, SECONDED BY CLLR KEMP AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Delegated authority for arranging energy costs**

The Clerk asked the Council to consider giving her delegated authority to arrange the new gas and electricity contracts as currently prices were changing daily and if a good deal was found by the time she brought this back to Full Council in December it may well have gone up in price. Cllr Cooper said she felt strongly we should be looking at 100% renewable as we have declared a climate emergency. Cllr Cooper would circulate the slides

**RESOLUTION: THE CHAIR PROPOSED THAT THE CLERK BE GIVEN DELEGATED AUTHORITY TO SEEK THE BEST VALUE ENERGY SUPPLIERS AND TO PROVIDE A COMPARISON OF THE OPTIONS TO THE COUNCIL INCLUDING IF THEY ARE 100% RENEWABLE, FIXED TERM CONTRACTS, STANDING CHARGE AND UNIT PRICES, SECONDED BY CLLR KEMP AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

#### 10. FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

The Chairman said the last meeting was not quorate so could not elect a new Chair and Vice Chair and requested this be done at this meeting instead.

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

It was agreed for the Chair and Vice Chair, Cllr Lightfoot and Cllr Steel to remain for the next year.

#### 11. BUDGET & PRECEPT 2023/24

The Clerk explained the budget that had been discussed by the Finance & General Purposes Committee and the draft budget had been circulated to all Councillors prior to the meeting.

There were concerns raised that the 2% increase on the precept recommended was not sufficient to keep up with inflation and increased energy costs. After much discussion the following resolution was made:

**RESOLUTION: CLLR P ALLEN PROPOSED THE PRECEPT FOR 2022/23 BE INCREASED BY 3% FOR 2023/24 MAKING A TOTAL PRECEPT REQUEST FOR NEXT YEAR OF £141,308, SECONDED BY CLLR HAMBLY-STAITHE AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

#### 13. PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT

The Clerk asked that as a temporary measure could the Terms of Reference for the quorum of the Planning Committee be reduced to 3 due to the vacancies on the Committee until new members were elected. This would help the Assistant Clerk when she needs to get approval for planning consultee comments agreed by email.

**RESOLUTION; THE CHAIR PROPOSED THE PLANNING COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE BE TEMPORARILY REDUCED TO 3 UNTIL SUCH TIME THAT NEW COUNCILLORS HAD BEEN ELECTED TO THE COMMITTEE, SECONDED BY CLLR P ALLEN AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

#### Neighbourhood Development Plan Review

It was agreed to make a decision about whether or not to carry out a review of the NDP after meeting with Group Lead for Planning which was being held in January next year.

Cllr Alvey commented that the Climate Change DPD should be adopted by early 2023.

Cllr Cooper left the meeting at 9.15pm.

## **CIL monies received**

The Chair said that the Council had previously agreed in principle to use CIL monies for improving active travel and cycle routes. Cllr P Allen said that an interesting point had been raised at the Affordable Housing meeting that CIL money could be used to improve affordable housing energy efficiency and this could be done retrospectively. Cllr J Allen did not agree and felt this should be spent on cycle routes or playgrounds which would benefit more residents.

**RESOLUTION: CLLR HAMBLY-STAITTE PROPOSED THAT USE OF CIL MONEY IS DISCUSSED AT THE NEXT ACCESS & AMENITIES COMMITTEE, SECONDED BY THE CHAIR AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

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

The next meeting is being held on 29<sup>th</sup> November 2022.

## **15. HAIRE & WELLBEING PROJECT UPDATES**

Cllr Hambly-Staite gave an overview of the visit we had today from the HAIRE Belgium partners. When looking at healthy ageing it was said that the Government departments in Belgium did not link or work well together. A report would be written on today's visit and circulated.

The HAIRE team had made a presentation to Stithian's Parish Council and also would be presenting soon to Kea Parish Council with a view to explaining the HAIRE toolkit and how the project could be replicated in other Parishes.

## **Warm Spaces**

Cllr Hambly-Staite had written a report regarding Warm Spaces and the proposal to support these with Council funding which had been circulated. Cllr J Allen did not agree with the provision of Warm Spaces and felt that it was more beneficial for residents to visit friends.

**PROPOSAL: CLLR HAMBLY-STAITTE PROPOSED THAT IN ADDITION TO THE PARISH OFFICE WARM SPACE THAT THE PARISH COUNCIL FINANCIALLY SUPPORT ONE APPROPRIATE ORGANISATION IN EACH WARD AT A SUM OF £30 A WEEK EACH AND THROUGH THE HAIRE PROJECT PROVIDE PROMOTIONAL SUPPORT, INFORMATION AND ENCOURAGEMENT AS REQUIRED, ATTENDANCE AND USE WOULD BE REVIEWED ON A MONTHLY BASIS, THIS SUPPORT TO BE FOR A MAXIMUM PERIOD OF NOVEMBER 2022 TO END OF FEBRUARY 2023, SECONDED BY CLLR P ALLEN, CARRIED WITH 6 IN FAVOUR AND CLLR J ALLEN AGAINST.**

Due to time, it was agreed to defer the Feock Eco and main Highways agenda items to the December meeting (with the exception of the residents correspondence).

## **16. HIGHWAYS**

### **Correspondence received from resident regarding Old Carnon Hill**

The Clerk had circulated the email received regarding the priority of the crossroads, she had also made the Kea Parish Clerk aware of this correspondence.

**RESOLUTION: CLLR A ALLEN PROPOSED THAT THIS ISSUE BE LOOKED AT AS PART OF THE WIDER ISSUE RELATING TO TRAFFIC ALONG THE CARNON VALLEY AND THROUGHOUT THE BISSOE AREA THAT HAD BEEN RECENTLY RAISED BY RESIDENTS WITH KEA PARISH COUNCIL, SECONDED BY CLLR KEMP AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**18. AGE FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES**

Cllr Hambly-Staite had written a report which had been circulated but emphasised that this was not just about elderly people it was about considering all age groups when decisions were made.

**RESOLUTION: CLLR J ALLEN PROPOSED THAT THE COUNCIL ADOPT THIS SCHEME IN PRINCIPLE, AND LOOK IN FUTURE IN MORE DETAIL AT THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE SCHEME, SECONDED BY CLLR A ALLEN, CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Cllr Hambly-Staite would prepare a paper to give more details to Council about the implementation of the scheme for a future agenda.

**19. COMMUNITY NETWORK PANEL AREA REVIEW**

Cllr A Allen explained the changes that have been proposed and that herself and Cllr J Allen attended the meeting held by Chacewater Parish Council recently.

**RESOLUTION: CLLR J ALLEN PROPOSED THAT THE RESPONSE AGREED AT CHACEWATER JOINT MEETING, SECONDED BY CLLR A ALLEN BE OUR RESPONSE TO ON THE COMMUNITY NETWORK PANEL AREA REVIEW, CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

All members of the public left the meeting as the meeting moved into closed session.