

# Clerks report for Parish Council Meeting on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2025



## Updates on actions from December 2024 meeting

### Tram Road Hedge Cutting

The Clerk had contacted Biffa before Christmas to ask them to sweep the Tram Road following the hedge cutting.

### Christmas Tree in Devoran Park

The Clerk had written a risk assessment which was a requirement of our insurance company relating to the erection of the Christmas Tree.

### Abandoned boats at Carnon Mine

This item has been put on the January Access & Amenities Committee agenda. Clerk to send out list of which Councillors are responsible for monitoring our various land assets.

### Salary scales

The Clerk had circulated to all Councillors the salary scales for staff.

### Gas and electricity contracts

The new gas and electricity contracts had been arranged via Utility Aid with EDF and started on 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2025 for a period of 3 years.

### Point Orchard Septic Tank

A site meeting has been held with the homeowner and Councillors.

### Energy Survey of the Parish Council Office

The energy audit had been carried out on the 17<sup>th</sup> December 2024.

## Supporting information on items on the 13<sup>th</sup> January 2025 agenda

### Item 12 – Point Orchard Septic Tank issue and Maintenance of Orchard

Following the site meeting, the homeowner has been asked to provide evidence of inherent right to use the septic tank installed in the Orchard and the Council are awaiting receipt of this.

The Point Quay Association (PQA) have advised as follows (in italics, extract from email from PQA to PC) regarding the maintenance of the Orchard which is currently leased to them from the Parish Council together with Point Quay. The PQA are transferring to a Community Interest Organisation and therefore a new lease will need to be drawn up with the new organisation and this would be an opportunity to make any amendments that both parties require.

*Whilst the PQA would be quite prepared to continue with the management of the Orchard, we recognise that with current resources and income our energies and time are likely better spent managing the Quay and working with the Regatta committee to ensure that that maximum use of that is made available to all.*

*To assist that as you know we are applying for the PQA to effectively become a CIO, and we are currently waiting to hear back from the Charity Commission concreting that.*

*Our preferred option is for the Parish Council to assist in the maintenance of the Orchard, such as using the same contractors that mow the Point Green to also do the Orchard grass and hedgerows. We'd be happy to manage the use of the Orchard and try and encourage that.*

*If the Parish do not feel that is possible then we would be prepared to amend the lease so as to exclude the Orchard from that and return it to the Parish. It makes sense that the to do that would be at the point we look to transfer the lease from the PQA trustees who are registered at Land Registry to the COI.*

### Item 13 – Pensions Discretions Policy

At the December Parish Council meeting a draft Pensions Discretions Policy was discussed, Councillors asked the Clerk to provide alternatives to the following section of the policy as they did not feel it was clear enough.

<b>Power of Employing Authority to grant additional pension</b> An employer can choose to grant additional pension to an active member or within 6 months of ceasing to be an active member by reason of redundancy or business efficiency.	Feock Parish Council can permit additional pension on an individual case basis after considering business needs and costs that may apply. Feock Parish Council will permit employees the option of paying in additional pension at no additional expense to the council.
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Alternative policy section wording from other Parish Councils:

1. Feock Parish Council will only exercise this discretion in exceptional circumstances. This discretion will only be exercised with the expressed permission of Feock Parish Council after consideration of the costs that would apply. (From Perranzabuloe PC and St Ives PC)

2. The default position is that it will not make additional pension contributions. However, exceptionally, where it is in the financial interests of the Council to do so and there is a tangible and specific organisational benefit, the policy allows for the payment of discretionary benefits in cases of early retirement and the award of additional pension. The policy also provides for early retirement on compassionate grounds in exceptional circumstances and flexible retirement where there are benefits to the Council.

Policy details Granting extra annual pension, at full cost to TCC, up to the LGPS additional pension limit (reviewed annually), to an active member or within 6 months of leaving to a member whose employment was terminated on the grounds of redundancy or business efficiency The Council's policy is not to contribute extra to an employee's Pension. However, the Council permits the award of a discretionary additional amount of pension, as a result of an employee appraisal, for those employees who have reached the top of their salary scale. The Council will exercise its discretion depending on the circumstances described above, subject to consultation with the Responsible Financial Officer regarding the budget from which any additional costs are to be met. (From Truro City Council)

3. Note: Regulation 31 allows employers to grant additional pension up to the maximum allowed by the scheme rules provided that the member is active or is within 6 months of leaving for reasons of redundancy or business efficiency or whose employment was terminated by mutual consent on grounds of business efficiency. Employers may wish to use this Regulation as an aid to recruitment, an aid to retention or to compensate or reward an employee who is retiring. Employers should also consider provisions of this Regulation, in particular Regulation 31(4), if they decide to exercise their power under Section 1 (general power of competence) of the Localism Act 2011. Sompting Parish Council does not consider contribution towards additional pension contributions to be an essential part of its employment strategy. The Parish Council will not exercise this option. (From Sompting Parish Council)

#### **Item 14 – Planning Applications for consultee comment**

**PA24/09679** - Application for Permission in Principle for construction of up to 9 detached dwellings (minimum 5, maximum 9) Land NW Of Wayside, Tresithick, Carnon Downs TR3 6JW

Application link: <https://planning.cornwall.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=summary&keyVal=SOQULQFG1FD00>

**PA24/09731** - Application for tree works 18 Trevallion Park, Feock, TR3 6RS

Application link: <https://planning.cornwall.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=summary&keyVal=SOSRO4FGGEU00>

**PA24/09816** - Replacement of dilapidated prefabricated concrete shed with new larger timber frame boat shed without compliance with condition 2 of decision notice PA22/02968 dated 08/06/2022 Kon Tiki, Old Tram Road, Penpol, Devoran, TR3 6NN

Application link: <https://planning.cornwall.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=summary&keyVal=SP03EOFGL2B00>

## **Item 15 – Great Western Railway (GWR) Funding**

Customer and Community Improvement Fund – application deadline 31<sup>st</sup> January 2025

Funding to be spend by March 2026

Background information from GWR:

*This year we are focusing on projects that connect to the Railway 200 celebrations. In addition, we are specifically interested in rail schemes that show a tangible benefit to customers and the community with an emphasis on inclusion and diversity, youth engagement, careers in rail and increasing rail travel.*

*We want to encourage bids of all shapes and sizes. However, as the funding needs to cover the whole GWR network, we are particularly interested in small and medium projects. This could include phased projects, for instance a bid for a feasibility study or some research, to support a larger project. The maximum bid amount is £50,000, although most bids previously awarded have been under £25,000, and the average bid awarded for financial year 2024/25 was £12,500.*

*There must be a link to the railway in every project and all bids must address an area of social need. To find out more about the Fund, submit an application, or find our guidance booklet, please visit <https://www.gwr.com/about-gwr/what-you-can-expect/community/community-investment>.*

Suggestion from Cllrs Keith Hambly-Staite and Phil Allen on what a project to fit this funding could look like:

A project celebrating the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the railway and link to current community interest and projects and linking to the Tram Road and Redruth Chacewater Railway

- Indicating our Feock Trail references to the railway, together with the QR narrative aspects
- Referencing the Redruth Chacewater Railway as a very early forerunner crossing the path
- The Mid Cornwall Metro opportunities to link with the Mining Trail and World Heritage Site

The bid might be focussed on publicising the Mining Trail connection at Perranwell Station and signposting the route from Perranwell Station to the Trail in the Valley, together with perhaps developing the Feock Strolls short walk in the Valley. This would be focussed on encouraging rail users to appreciate the opportunities for taking a day out amongst outstanding landscape and world class heritage sites, possibly production of a Feock Strolls/Trails leaflet.

## **Item 16 – Repairs to Devoran red phonebox**

The door of the red phone box the Parish Council own in Devoran has broken away at the bottom and needs repair. There are two options:

1. A new hardwood frame for £280+VAT plus £35 delivery and then swap over all the metal frames and glass and repaint it from the existing door, cost approx £600.
2. Buy a new door complete already painted and glass fitted for £968+VAT plus £95 delivery plus cost of fitting.

Details here of the spares available [British K6 Red Telephone Box and spare parts for sale](#)

## **Item 17 – Co-option to Devoran and Feock ward vacancies**

No applications for these vacancies received to date.