

## **Clerks report for December Parish Council Meeting**

### **Updates on actions from previous meeting**

#### **Precept 2025/26**

The Clerk had submitted the request to Cornwall Council and acknowledgement of receipt of this had been received.

#### **Application for Grant Funding**

The Clerk had contacted the Perranwell Wellbeing Hub to advise them that their application had been unsuccessful as it did not meet the criteria for funding.

#### **Land at the Carnon Valley**

The Clerk had confirmed to Cornwall Council that the Parish Council did not have any interest in the land however had pointed out about the importance of the drainage ditch and the County Wildlife site.

#### **Point Orchard**

Environment Health had been in touch regarding their correspondence with the homeowner and this information had been circulated. A further meeting with the homeowner had been arranged for w/c 9<sup>th</sup> December.

### **Supporting information on items on the agenda**

#### **Item 12 – Gas and electricity contacts**

Up to date prices will be provided on Monday in time for the meeting.

#### **Item 13 – Point Orchard Septic Tank issue**

A meeting with the homeowner and Councillors had been arranged for w/c 9<sup>th</sup> December to try to find a way to resolve the issue.

#### **Item 14 – Access & Amenities Committee**

A vacancy existed on the Access & Amenities Committee and Cllr Newman has expressed an interest in joining.

#### **Item 15 – Pensions Discretion Policy**

Cornwall Council require all Council members to have a policy (see draft at end of this report). It is a statutory requirement under the LGPS regulations 2013 for all employers to formulate, publish and keep under review a policy on all mandatory discretions.

#### **Item 16 – Energy Survey Costs**

Quote received from Community Energy Plus for consideration by Council to be paid for from reserves.

*The cost of the audit will be £499.*

*It will include a full audit covering heating, heat loss, appliances, and all the ways in which energy is used onsite, and then from the audit a decarbonisation strategy will be created with recommendations covering behavioural changes, technological investments and operational changes that can be made. We focus on recommending 'quick wins' in the short term (low investment changes with high as possible impact) to get savings as quickly as possible.*

**Item 18 – Council to consider installation of boulders on land at Carnon Yard to allow area to regenerate**

The expected cost is in the region of £150 and will be to block the area that was cleared by a resident to create a parking space and this will protect the area and allow it to regenerate.

## Item 15 – Pensions Discretion Policy

### DRAFT POLICY

#### Feock Parish Council Local Government Pension Scheme Discretions Policy

Under the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) Regulations 2013, all employers are required to prepare and publish a written statement on how it will exercise the various discretions.

	<b>Policy decision</b>
<b>Shared Cost Additional Voluntary Contributions Scheme</b> An employer can choose to pay for or contribute toward a member's Additional Pension Contract.	Feock Parish Council can contribute to Additional Voluntary Contributions.
<b>Flexible Retirement</b> Employers may allow a member from the age of 55 onwards to draw all or part of the pension benefits they have already built up while still continuing in employment. This is provided the employer agrees to the member either reducing their hours or moving to a position on a lower grade. In such cases, pension benefits will be reduced in accordance with actuarial tables unless the employer waives reduction on compassionate grounds or a member has protected rights	Feock Parish Council can consider employee requests to take flexible retirement on an individual case basis after considering business needs and costs that may apply.
<b>Early Retirement on Compassionate Grounds</b> An employer can permit early retirement on compassionate grounds	Feock Parish Council can permit early retirement on compassionate grounds on an individual case basis after considering business needs and costs that may apply.
<b>Waiving of Actuarial Reduction</b> Employers have the power to waive on compassionate grounds the actuarial reduction (in whole or part) applied to members benefits paid on the grounds of flexible retirement. Employers may also waive, on compassionate grounds, the actuarial reduction (in whole or part) applied to members' benefits for deferred members and suspended tier 3 ill health pensioners who elect to draw benefits on or after age 60 and before normal pension age. Employers also have the power to waive, in whole or in part, the actuarial reduction applied to active members benefits when a member chooses	Feock Parish Council can consider waiving of actuarial reduction on an individual case basis after considering business needs and costs that may apply.

<p>to voluntarily draw benefits on or after age 55 and before age 60.</p>	
<p><b>Shared Cost Additional Pension Scheme</b> An employer can elect within 30 days of returning to work to pay for a shared cost additional pension contribution (SPAPC) to cover the amount of pension “lost” during that period of absence.</p>	<p>Feock Parish Council can extend the 30 day deadline on an individual case basis after considering business needs and costs that may apply.</p>
<p><b>Power of employing authority to “switch on” the 85 year rule</b> An employer can choose whether to “switch on” the 85 rule for members who voluntarily retire on or after age 55 and before age 60. (The 85 rule is where the employee’s age and length of service totals 85 – prior to 2014 the employee could retire with unreduced benefits with the consent of the employer. As the decision to retire early now rests with the employer the LGPS 2014 regulations automatically “switch off” the 85 rule). An employer can also choose to waive, on compassionate grounds the actuarial reduction applied to benefits for a member voluntarily drawing benefits on or after age 55 and before 60.</p>	<p>Feock Parish Council will not “switch on” the 85 year rule for early retirement.</p>
<p><b>12 Month Time limit for transfers into the LGPS</b> There is a time limit of 12 months to transfer existing pension benefits from previous employments into the Cornwall Pension Fund</p>	<p>Feock Parish Council can extend the 12 month time limit up to two years for employees to request Cornwall Pension Fund to investigate the option of transferring any pension benefits from previous employments into the Cornwall Pension Fund.</p>
<p><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.</p>	<p>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.</p>