

**REPORT OF ACCESS & AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 26TH SEPTEMBER 2023
AT 7PM IN THE PARISH COUNCIL OFFICE, MARKET STREET, DEVORAN**

Councillors present: CARNON DOWNS DEVORAN FEOCK
 J Allen A Allen K Hambly-Staite
 P Allen M Woolcock R Brickell
 L Fitt
 R Bowers (sub for S Cooper)

In attendance: Debra Roberts, Parish Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer
 Cathy Whitmore, Information & Wellbeing Adviser
 David and Jane Woolcock (members of the public)
 Mr Ferris (member of the public)
 Mark Griffiths (member of the public)

1. INTRODUCTION BY CHAIRMAN

Cllr Hambly-Staite welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. APOLOGIES

No apologies had been received.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 4TH JULY 2023

RESOLUTION: CLLR R BRICKELL PROPOSED THAT THE MINUTES OF THE ACCESS & AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 4TH JULY 2023 AS CIRCULATED BY THE CLERK WITH AN AMENDMENT TO THE WARDS ON THE ATTENDANCE LIST AND THE SECONDER CORRECTED TO CLLR COOPER ON THE LAST ITEM, BE SIGNED BY THE CHAIRMAN AS A TRUE AND ACCURATE RECORD OF THE MEETING, THIS WAS SECONDED BY CLLR HAMBLY-STAITTE AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY THE MEETING.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Cllr Hambly-Staite welcomed all the members of the public to the meeting.

Mark Griffiths said he was attending as he was interested in joining the Parish Council.

Jane Woolcock read out a statement with regards to parking issues for those visiting the common land at the end of Restranguet Point to fish or use their boats.

The footpath down to the end of Restranguet Point has one of the best views in the parish, she felt it was important to maintain this increasingly rare public access to the water, people can sit on the benches and enjoy the view, access their moorings or paddleboard or canoe. It was felt from recent incidents of notices being left on visiting cars that some residents were not keen people visiting the area at the end of the Point. Access is hampered by parking being restricted, there are grass verges which have been planted with pine trees and had stones/boulders placed on them to stop parking. There is a parking bay for about 5 vehicles in between the two turning spaces. The space at the top of the common land, is always occupied by a residents car and also used to store a pile of earth.

When parking has been needed on a temporary basis in the large turning bay for parish work (where heavy materials have to be moved) an unofficial notice pretending to be an official notice from

Cornwall Councils emergency services had been placed on the contractors vehicle. All the houses have very wide entrances and able to be turned in so the temporary parking of a work vehicle in the turning circle would not cause inconvenience to residents. The Parish Council were requested to make sure the parking on the Common Land by the resident is stopped and that this space be allocated for loading and unloading only. This space could also be used by the Coastguard in an emergency.

Jane Woolcock asked that Cornwall Councillor Alvey and Cornwall Council Highways take up the request to dedicate part of the large turning space for parking and loading/unloading which would require only a small part of highways verge to be used. This would reduce friction between those who have for generations used the area to access the end of Restronguet Point and residents.

Cllr Hambly-Staite thanked Jane Woolcock for her comments and asked for a copy of her statement. Cllr Hambly-Staite asked Cllr P Allen for his comments as he knew the area well. Cllr P Allen said that years ago oystermen could drive down on to the beach and the Parish Council have had conversations with Highways over a number of years and found the unwilling to maintain their rights to their verges and have the stones/boulders removed. Although the verges may be owned by an adjacent landowner even if this was the case there would still be highways rights over the verge.

Mr Ferris said he had been parking at Restronguet Point for 50 years and the area where parking had been available had changed as stones had been put there to restrict parking which made parking more awkward and gave examples of hinderance he had experienced. Mr Ferris raised that it appeared that a resident had dumped soil in the space that was available for parking.

David Woolcock said he had been working at Restronguet Point recently, he had to remove the old concrete bench which was very heavy, it is too much to expect a contractor to carry tools and for example parts of a concrete bench all the way up to the parking bay so he had parked as close by as he could and received a fake warning notice on his vehicle.

The Chairman said he had sympathy with the public who had come to the meeting to speak about this large issue and we would discuss this further at a future meeting once all the facts regarding access, potential parking and common land had been established. The Chairman invited the residents who had come along today to speak informally with the Council to give the historical background to the issues being experienced after the meeting.

The Chairman brought forward Item 10 to allow Cathy Whitmore to give her report.

10. MYFEOCK WELLBEING REPORT

Cathy ran through her report which had been circulated with the agenda.

Cllr Bowers asked about our ideas for recruiting new drivers. Cathy advised that we were looking at shortening the induction process and taking this inhouse rather than using Age Uk for the training as not all elements were applicable to our drivers, we would also be asking our drivers for their ideas as to how we could recruit new drivers.

The Chairman said that some Councillors and the Clerk had met with the Environment Agencies Project Manager for the Carnon Valley last week about our bid for Community Capacity Funding for the feasibility study and improvements for the Carnon Valley.

Cathy Whitmore left the meeting.

6. CLERKS REPORT ON ACTIONS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

The Clerk reported as follows (report circulated as part of the agenda pack).

Highways issues

A meeting hasn't been arranged but some feedback received on the items. Highways have been chased up to arrange a meeting date.

Repainting of yellow lines in Feock where there has been surface dressing

The yellow lines had now been repainted. There was no news on if Trevilla Hill and Feock Churchtown would be surfaced dressed following patching works.

Landmark Tree from Forest for Cornwall

A Sessile Oak has been ordered for planting in Retallack Playing Field.

Bonemill Pond Foreshore

Clerk is waiting a response from Land Registry regarding being alerted if land is applied to be registered privately.

Plastic Free Project

An article provided by Cllr Fitt for Connect magazine. Cllr Fitt has carried out a survey of the Parish Office and made suggestions as to how it can go plastic free.

7. HIGHWAYS UPDATES

Cllr A Allen said that there was a lot of granite chippings on the road on Trolver Hill near to the bottom. The Clerk has reported this to Cornwall Council.

Cllr A Allen said the Highways team have been and cleared all the ditches out on the Tram Road which would help ease flooding over the winter. Cllr A Allen asked when the Tram Road hedges would be cut back.

The Clerk confirmed that the contractor would soon be cutting the Parish Council hedges on the Tram Road and was currently liaising with a contractor who could do this using a tractor. Cllr Fitt said that members of Feock Eco had walked the Tram Road and suggested some areas/trees/shrubs to be left for environmental reasons rather than cutting the whole length of the Parish Council hedges right back and details of the areas to be left had been given to our contractor. Cllr A Allen was concerned about some of the trees and areas that had been identified to be left and not cut with the hedges may become an issue in the future if they were left to grow due to their position.

Cllr J Allen felt the hedges need to be cut back for safety of highways users including cyclists and pedestrians.

Cllr Bowers felt there was a balance to be met with this cutting to take into account all users of the Tram Road as well as the environment.

Cllr J Allen pointed out that the cycle path between Carnon Downs and Playing Place has become overgrown again and asked if this could be addressed.

The issue of the concrete plinth that surrounded manholes in the verges on Bissoe Road were raised as these were so close to the edge of the highway if vehicles pulled over to let another vehicle through there was a danger they would hit them.

8. PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

PROW at Tresithick

The Clerk advised she had spoken to the British Horse Society who confirmed that they had applied to register as a bridleway the stretch of track at Tresithick that the Parish Council had agreed at the last meeting to register, this was not currently showing on the PROW register online.

Penpol Pond DMMO progress report

The Clerk advised that the application to register the footpath on the track beside Penpol Pond was progressing. As the landowner of the track had not been able to be identified, notices needed to be displayed on site for 42 days which were now in place. Then the application will be logged by Cornwall Council as registered. Cllr Fitt said once this happened Cornwall Council would move to stage 3 which relates to encroachment onto Common Land and they would be sending out questionnaires to residents about this.

9. LAND & PLAYING FIELD UPDATES

The Chairman said he would like to agree the principle of putting ownership signage on our land. This had been discussed before a number of years ago and although the draft sign layout was agreed as suitable more information was needed for some areas as well as thought given to the colour of the signage. It was suggested that QR codes could be useful to link back to information on our website.

Consideration of formation of working 'task and finish' groups

The Clerk advised that the Council may wish to consider setting up some 'task and finish groups' as there were a number of issues that were being raised and needed some work doing on them to establish facts before bringing to Access & Amenities or Full Council.

It was agreed to form the following working groups:

Parish Land Working Group - Cllrs Bowers, P Allen, A Allen, Hambly-Staite and Woolcock

Signage Task and Finish group – one meeting to resolve, Cllrs P Allen, A Allen, Bowers and Hambly-Staite.

Tram Road Working Group - this would be to look at the history, Cornwall Wildlife Trust report, hedge cutting and maintenance and would need meetings on site. Councillors to be identified but suggested this could include a member of the public from Feock Eco as well as Councillors. It was reported that the Cornwall Wildlife Trust report on nature on the Tram Road would be available shortly and for the first working group meeting to be held once this was received.

The terms of reference for each group should be discussed at the first meeting of each working group.

Point Orchard maintenance

The Clerk advised a letter of complaint about condition of orchard had been received as the grass was not cut in time for a pre-arranged event. It was noted that the Orchard was leased to Point Quay Association as well as the Quay, they were a group of volunteers with a rota for grass cutting. There was no detail in the lease of the level of maintenance required and this was left to PQA to manage. Cllr P Allen said that he was confused after the last Parish Council meeting as to the instructions regarding grass cutting for the event that he was meant to take back to the PQA as the Parish Council representative on the committee as this hadn't been clearly agreed.

Some Councillors felt that the Orchard grass should be cut to keep it tidy and make it safer for children to use, however it was agreed after discussion that as the PQA leased the area it was for them to decide to how manage and maintain it.

Cllr Fitt left the meeting. 9.04pm.

Restronguet Point Common Land and Parking issues

This had been discussed during the Public Participation session and would be discussed again at a further meeting.

Point Quay Handrail Update

The Clerk advised the contractor was still waiting on prices for fabrication of the handrail. Cllr J Allen pointed out that part of the slip and also the structure of the quay wall needed some repair in places, the Clerk would speak to our contractor about this.

Carnon Valley Woodland

Cllr P Allen advised that almost 1000 trees had now been planted as part of this joint project with our neighbouring parishes, with just over 50% of the area has been planted. A plan for the future has been agreed with the working group to provide walkways and glades. More planting was planned for Spring 2024 and 2025. It will be some while before public access is allowed to allow the trees to become established.

11. RISK ASSESSMENTS UPDATE

Cllr Woolcock had delivered risk assessment training before the meeting.

12. FEOCK ECO REPORT

The Feock Eco report had been circulated prior to the meeting. There was some discussion regarding the purpose of the group and how it linked to the Parish Council.

13. INFORMATION POINTS/NOTICEBOARDS IN BUS SHELTERS

The Clerk had circulated details of this item prior to the meeting. The Chairman felt that we could make the bus shelters work harder for us and use them as information points with noticeboards that could display a parish map, footpath map, location of nearest facilities, easy to read bus timetable etc.. The Chairman proposed that 3 suitable bus shelters this could be implemented in would be Porthgwiddden and Fourturnings in Feock and Forth Coth in Carnon Downs. An 'i' information sign could be displayed outside so people knew it was an information point.

It was agreed this could be discussed by the Signage group but in principle the Committee agreed for this item to be taken forward to Full Council for budget authorisation. There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.20pm.

Closed 9.20pm