

Minutes of Meeting held on

Wednesday 30th June , 2021. Council Chambers, (By Zoom)

Present:

Kirstie Edwards (KE) (Chair)	Falmouth Town Council
Clare Lewis (CL) (Vice Chair)	Prislow Woods Community Project
David Yelland (DY) (Secretary)	Swanpool Forum
Euan McPhee (EP)	Friends of Tregonigge Woodland
Ken Reid (KR)	Friends of Tregonigge Woodland
Mark Williams (MW)	Falmouth Town Council (Clerk)
Simon Penna (SP)	Falmouth Town Council
Jacqui Owen (JO)	Falmouth Town Council
Tony Arden (TA)	Environment Agency
Nick Jemmett (NJ)	Falmouth Allotments Association
Tony Parker (TP)	Plastic Free Falmouth
Sarah Walker (SW)	Falmouth Town Council
Tessa Marie (TM)	Falmouth Town Council
Sue Scott (SS)	Fal/Helford SAC
Kath Statham (KS)	Prislow Woods Community Project

1) Introduction

DY outlined the format of the meeting which adopted a simplified agenda to carry over technical issues and certain administrative matters until a face to face meeting could be held.

Thanks was again expressed to Tony Parker who had stood down as Chair after successfully leading the Forum through its formative phase. Fortunately, Tony has not severed ties with the Forum and will remain a member, representing Plastic Free Falmouth.

In seeking a new Chair, the Forum was fortunate that Kirstie Edwards volunteered to fill the role having represented Plastic Free Falmouth on the Forum from its inauguration. Kirstie was invited to Chair today's meeting with the permanent role to be tabled for ratification at the next meeting.

2) Attendees and apologies for absence

Those present, as listed above, introduced themselves; apologies were received from Pete Lochrie, Jenny Carter, Danny Konik and Gavin Henderson

3) Minutes of the previous meeting (20/01/20) and actions arising

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as a true recording of the proceedings.

All matters arising were covered by agenda items for today's meeting

4) Updates from constituent groups (Friends of Tregonigge Woodland, Prislow Woods Community Project, Swanpool Forum.)

Report by **EM** - Friends of Tregonigge Woodland.

- Following local opposition, Cornwall Council withdrew the proposed cycleway through Tregonigge Woodland. It is hoped that an alternative route will be installed along Conway Road and Venton Road, paralleling the woodland and linking in with other existing and proposed cycle routes.
- The tree sculptures adjacent to the Conway Gardens entrance are nearing completion. Feedback from the public has been very positive. A formal opening is planned when Covid restrictions allow.
- The Making Space for Nature project has been completed with the introduction of wilflower meadows and rebuild of the Cornish hedge in the region of the tree sculptures. Again, feedback from the public has been very positive
- Pollution monitoring of the stream continues in accordance with Westcountry River Trust procedures.

Report by **CL** - Prislow Woods Community Project

- Activities and social events have been on hold owing to Covid restrictions
- The pathway through the woods is progressing. Work on the boardwalk will commence next week and should be completed within 4-6 weeks. **SP** was thanked for organising and managing this project. An opening ceremony will be held when appropriate,
- Pollution monitoring of the stream continues in accordance with Westcountry River Trust procedures.
- Additional Item - The surface grid by the bridge at the end of the new pathway regularly becomes blocked and causes flooding. All agreed that it should be removed but investigation is needed to determine ownership and responsibility
Action: TA

Report by **DY** (for Pete Lochrie) - Swanpool Forum

- Meetings and activities were suspended during the pandemic; a face to face meeting will be held as soon as restrictions are lifted.
- Clearance of invasive species, as agreed with Natural England, will commence in the autumn after nesting/growing seasons. (£4K funding available)

- The resident cob and pen hatched 8 cygnets, all of which survived the usual rat/fox attacks and continue to thrive.
- Pollution monitoring at the Bickland Stream inlet to the lake will be introduced and synchronised with sampling at Tregonigie Woodland and Prislow Woods.
Action DY

5) **Funded Project Updates**

Prislow Woods Pathway project covered under item 4 above

JO reported on the completed Making Space for Nature (MS4N) projects at Lambs Lane, The Beacon and Tregonigie Woodland, all of which have been adjudged to be a great success. An assessment will be undertaken and it is anticipated that there will be some replanting of trees and a degree of reseedling using a different supplier.

Work on the MS4N Swanvale project will commence in September, details of which have been circulated. **SP** reported that the goal posts and nets on the football pitch at the site are scheduled to be replaced. New rubbish bins are needed at the site; this provision will be related to Karen Hall. **Action JO**. The proposed cycle path through the site is being handled as a separate project by Cormac and requires planning permission. There are different opinions regarding the suitability and benefits of the cycle path. The status of this project will be investigated, **Action KE**

SW reported that a number of trees had been planted in the amenity area at the Persimmon Homes development at Eve Parc. The WI was involved with sourcing trees for the project but the Covid situation disrupted progress. Robbie Brown (Persimmon) will be invited to the next meeting to give an update and also to discuss future plans for integrating Eve Parc open spaces with the green corridor. There are also issues to be resolved regarding ongoing environmental management when Persimmon complete the development. Cllr A Rowe will be consulted on the related planning issues. **Action KE**

6) **Yellow Fish Campaign**

KE reported that the campaign is ready to run as soon as Covid restrictions allow. The Persimmon grant money is being held in Plastic Free Falmouth's account, some of which will cover the costs of the information leaflets, the design of which has been approved.

7) **Pollution Monitoring**

KR reported on his ongoing dialogue with South West Water and indicated that they have conducted a review of misconnections under the authority of a newly appointed manager. Further action has been taken to identify and remedy misconnections, investigations are ongoing. Twenty companies on the Tregonigie industrial park have been reminded of their duties and responsibilities regarding

pollution management measures. It is evident that **KR**'s efforts, for which he was commended, are achieving positive outcomes.

As reported earlier, pollution sampling of the Bickland Stream at Tregonigie Woodlands is ongoing and similar testing will be introduced at a point close to the inlet to Swanpool.

Following reports of a number of pollution incidents on Swanpool Beach it was decided to investigate the feasibility of organising a pollution monitoring programme for the Swanpool lake and Swanpool Beach. It was noted that the Westcountry Rivers Trust kits are only suitable for sampling fresh water and that Natural England and Surfers Against Sewage may advise/participate). **Action TA and KE**

A reminder was given that all pollution incidents should be reported on the Environment Agency hotline 0800 80 70 60. The SAS website also gives guidance on reporting beach/sea pollution incidents

8) Website

Jenny Carter, who could not be present today, was thanked for producing an excellent website together with a Facebook presence. She will be asked to post the Environment Agency hotline number and a link to the SAS website. **Action DY**

9) Any other business

NJ encountered difficulties with the Zoom link so reported for Falmouth Allotments Association as follows: "there is a revitalisation of the allotment committee post Covid, and in particular on the re-instatement of the leat that traverses the site. Coffee mornings will recommence in July, Saturdays 10 - 12"

CL raised the issue of a potential pathway through Queen Anne Gardens to link Swanvale to Tregonigie Woodlands by a more natural route than via Shelbourne Road. **SW** has received no feedback from owners of properties which border the land on their thoughts on the proposals but will make further inquiries. If such a pathway could be achieved it would be a significant asset to the green corridor. This item will be included in the agenda of the next meeting. **Action DY**

The extensive clean-up of litter and fly tipping at Bosvale was discussed and raised the issue of whether or not the tributary stream and the surrounding green areas which link Bosvale to the Bickland Stream should be officially adopted as part of the green corridor. Currently, the Constitution and Neighbourhood Plan does not recognise the land in question as being an integral part of the corridor. This topic will be added to the agenda of the next meeting. **Action DY**

10) Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held in September, time, date and venue to be confirmed
Action KE/DY