

Minutes of Meeting held on

Tuesday 18th January, 2022. (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 (EM)	Friends of Tregoniggle Woodland
Mark Williams (MW)	Falmouth Town Council
Simon Penna (SP)	Falmouth Town Council
Jacqui Owen (JO)	Falmouth Town Council
Sarah Walker (SW)	Falmouth Town Council
Tessa Marie (TM)	Falmouth Town Council
Zoe Young (ZY)	Falmouth Town Council
Deborah Clegg (DC)	Falmouth Town Council
Kath Statham (KS)	Prislow Woods Community Project
Jennifer Carter (JC)	Prislow Woods Community Project
Dean Evans (DE)	Falmouth Town Council
Sheila Gowers (SG)	Falmouth Bay Residents' Association
Sue Scott (SS)	Fal/Helford SAC
Nick Jemmett (NJ)	Falmouth Allotments Association
Jake Causley (JC)	Guest, Falmouth University

1) Introduction/Attendees/Apologies for Absence

JC was welcomed to the meeting to familiarise with the activities of the FGCF and to subsequently consider requesting that he represents Falmouth University as a full member of the Forum. Apologies for absence were received from Ken Reid, David Saunby, Alan Jewell, Pete Lochrie, Jay Gidman, Tony Parker and Tony Arden.

2) Minutes of the previous meeting (09/11/21) and actions arising

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

All matters arising had been actioned or covered by agenda items for today's meeting.

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

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

A Woodland Fair is planned for April 30th. This will be a community event focussing on woodland activities with skills demonstrations, talks and woodland walks. All FGCF members are welcome to attend this free event. Anyone wishing to have a stall at the fair or to promote a woodland activity of any kind should contact Friends of Tregonigge Woodland. If Covid rules should require the event to be cancelled a plant sale will still go ahead

It is encouraging to see new volunteers joining the group, particularly families and younger people.

Good initial dialogue has been had with the new Head of Falmouth School who is very keen on community engagement. Hopefully, involving schoolchildren with woodland activities will promote a sense of ownership and help reduce incidents of littering and minor damage.

The first draft of the new management plan is nearing completion and will be circulated to relevant parties for comment, including members of FGCF. Gratitude was expressed to Tim Kellett for his valued, professional input to the preparation of the plan.

It is hoped to complete a new access path at the wood sculpture area to provide mobility/wheelchair access between upper and lower levels. Cormac are scheduling to complete the work before the end of March when the grant funding from the Post Code Lottery is required to be spent.

Gavin Henderson, Cormac is scheduling improvement works for access to the woodlands at Bickland Water Road, Empire Way and Fawkener Close.

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

The main aim of the group of providing a boardwalk pathway through the woods has been successfully completed. The new facility is well used and has greatly enhanced the green corridor. No further projects are planned at present but it is intended to hold seasonal events with a coffee morning being considered for the spring

Report by **DY** - Swanpool Forum

Chair Pete Lochrie was unable to attend but had reported that all was well on the nature reserve and that coppicing maintenance work and removal of invasive species may be undertaken before the nesting season begins but will probably be held over until the end of the year.

The new resident cob and pen had shooed away their previous season cygnets and were preparing to nest.

Eight fishing permits have been renewed.

The planning application for siting two large houses at the old quarry site overlooking the lake has been refused by Cornwall Council. As the decision notice cited many deficiencies with the application it is hoped that it will not be taken to appeal.

4) Project Updates

(i) Yellow Fish campaign

Making the necessary arrangements to supervise volunteers working on the highway has proved problematical but one option now being considered is to use Falmouth Town Council staff, some of whom have the necessary training, to supervise the activities. **KE** will liaise with CC Highways and believes that this proposal will be sanctioned. **Action KE**

Assuming the go-ahead is given, the Yellow Fish leaflets will be printed. **JC** will send the current design to **KE** and **DY** for approval. **KE** will then arrange printing. **Action JC/KE/DY**

A meeting of the Yellow Fish sub-group will be arranged to review and confirm assignment of volunteers to the various locations and to establish timescales. **Action KE**

(ii) Swanvale – Making Space for Nature

JO reported that work on the MS4N project at Swanvale was nearing completion. A variety of trees had been planted together with wildflowers and bulbs. Wetland plants had been sown on the banks of the leat and a new border introduced with high pollen and nectar yielding plants. An additional border, not originally planned, is also to be planted. Work is expected to be completed within the next 4 - 6 weeks.

JO, SW and **TM** have liaised with Falmouth School regarding litter issues. Engaging the pupils and involving them in the work programs will, hopefully, instil a sense of ownership and heightened respect for the natural environment.

SW and **TM** commented that if the trees planted on the site could be dedicated to a cause, organisation or individual then it would be easier to protect them with TPOs. **DE** suggested that dedicating the trees to the Queen's Platinum Jubilee this year would be an ideal fit and provide maximum protection for the natural lifetime of the trees.

The planned woodchip pathway has been deleted from the project as this was linked to the proposed cycle path which will not be going ahead at present.

SW and **TM** reported that there is some remaining funding from the MS4N project and that the co-ordinator, Karen Hall, has proposed this be spent on two projects. The first would be the installation of simple "waymarker" signing at various points along the corridor and the second would be the funding of an opening event which would also celebrate the green corridor as a whole. Forum members voted unanimously in support of both projects.

It was confirmed that the signposts would be made from wood rather than steel or synthetic materials. It was also suggested that the signs feature the FGCF logo. Details of the signposts, markings and proposed locations will be sent to FGCF members for comment. **Action SW**

The Forum expressed its gratitude to Karen Hall for her work in co-ordinating and overseeing the MS4N projects and for recommending the two related projects detailed above.

(iii) Eve Parc – Integration with green corridor

Robbie Brown (Persimmon Homes) gave a comprehensive update of the Eve Parc plans in relation to the green corridor at the last meeting.

It was proposed by **EM** and agreed by the Forum that Robbie will be contacted with a view to holding an on-site meeting at Eve Parc to view first hand how it interacts with the corridor and to discuss future plans. **Action DY**

(iv) Queen Anne Gardens Pathway

SP reported that he understands the overgrown plot of land at Queen Anne Gardens has been sold but may not include land adjacent to the Bickland stream which the Forum would like to secure to complete an urban pathway through the full extent of the corridor. **DY** will investigate further and pass on the information to CC Alan Jewell. **Action DY**

5) **Pollution Monitoring**

EM reported that Ken Reid's diligence in working with south West Water to identify and remedy drainage misconnections is paying dividends. At present there is believed to be only two or three unidentified cases of domestic properties discharging into the surface water drainage system. The investigations will continue, and it is thought that the education of local residents and businesses in these issues will be helped by the pending Yellow Fish campaign.

Apart from misconnections there is growing concern regarding the capacity of the local sewage system, following recent incidents at Maenporth and Penryn. It is considered that improvements to the system has not kept pace with the growing demands, particularly in relation to new housing developments. Every opportunity should be taken to highlight this situation and urge SWW to make the necessary infrastructure investment. In support of this position **KE** will write a letter on behalf of the Forum and submit to SWW. **Action KE**

EM reported that sampling of the Bickland Stream is ongoing in accordance with the Westcountry Rivers Trust protocols. Sampling at the Swanpool end of the stream will be carried out by **SW** and **TM** who are currently awaiting delivery of sampling equipment.

CL raised the issue of communicating pollution incidents more widely, particularly to local businesses. **KE** will include this item on the agenda of the next Falmouth Beaches Management Committee meeting.

6) Any other business

SW reported on efforts to establish a community volunteer group at Bosvale to monitor and protect the tributary to the Bickland stream which runs through the area. Richard May will promote this at the community centre and notices will be placed on the building and also at the local Co-op. Residents will be visited and Councillors **DC** and **DE** will inform constituents of the initiative at relevant opportunities.

KE reminded those present of the Cornwall Community Flood Forum's free Volunteer Flood Wardens Training Workshop on Thursday 10th February, details of which had been previously circulated to Forum members.

ZY and **DC** reminded those present of the Tree Day and Tree Warden training scheme to be held at Princess Pavilion on Sunday 23rd January.

JC will make enquiries and progress the production of an illustrative map of the green corridor which may feature on the website, on future interpretation boards, murals, etc.

ZY is involved with forage walks and would be happy to hear from anyone interested in engaging with this initiative.

KS reported that the AGM of Falmouth Allotments Association will be held on 18th February; all interested are welcome to attend. (Further details from **KS** or **NJ**)

SS asked to be contacted to assist in any forum initiatives which may involve the Fal/Helford SAC.

JC outlined his role at Falmouth University. He will liaise with **CL** on potential for funding limited wetland planting at Prislow woods

7) Date of next meeting

Wednesday 29th April 10.00 a.m. Venue to be confirmed, hopefully Princess Pavilion.
