

QUANTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council meeting held at the Memorial Hall on 13th October 2016

Present:

Councillors: Arthur Evans (chairman), Nick Heirons (vice chairman), Michelle Thompson, Malcolm Wearn, Nick Butler, John Knox, Claire Lucas, District Councillor Kevin Hewson, Brian Fludgate (clerk).

Bucks CC representatives: Simon Garwood, Paul Irwin

Nine members of the public.

1. Apologies for Absence:

RESOLVED c/2016/22 to accept apologies from County Councillor Janet Blake.

2. Modernising Local Government in Buckinghamshire

The Bucks CC representatives presented an overview of their business case* to change the current county and district structures.

The ongoing reduction in central government funding has resulted in the county council having to save £145m since April 2010 and both county and district councils will need to deliver a further £30m in savings by 2020. It is argued that the current local government structure is not sustainable, and therefore the current 4 district councils would be abolished and replaced by a single county-wide unitary authority.

Services would be accessed by residents at local 'Community Hubs' and parish and town councils would be represented at up to 19 county wide 'Community Boards' in order to being involved in local decision making. There are no plans to change the structure or number of parish and town councils.

There followed a public discussion on the proposals. The main concern expressed was how to ensure the more rural north of the county would not be unduly disadvantaged in the provision of services due to the density of wards and councillors based in the south.

Bucks CC will continue to consult with all parish and town councils and intend to meet with the district councils to discuss further, and agree what new authority structure(s) would be finally presented to central government.

* Available to view online at www.quanton.info/latest-news

3. Declarations of Interests:

There were no declarations of interest in relation to the agenda items.

4. Meeting Minutes:

Having been circulated prior to the meeting, the minutes of the previous meeting were duly signed by the chairman as a true and accurate record.

RESOLVED c/2016/23 to approve the minutes of the meetings held on 8th September 2016.
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5. Open Forum:

There were no representations from the public.

6. Reported Matters Outstanding:

1. Removal of asbestos sheets at the Sports Ground

The cost for removal is estimated at £30 per sheet + vat. There are at least 7 sheets to be disposed of.

RESOLVED c/2016/24 to authorise the cost to remove asbestos sheets.
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2. Village Defibrillator

Quanton School have confirmed the order of a unit and are seeking a contribution from the council of £550. Current donated or pledged monies total £572.

The clerk will check on the location of the unit in the school grounds, and also pursue the fitting of a plaque to acknowledge the donations received from local residents and businesses.

RESOLVED c/2016/25 to authorise the payment of £550 to Quainton School.

3. Station Road – High Speed Broadband

The council had contacted Connected Counties who have a programme in conjunction with BT of rolling out fast broadband county wide, but there are no current plans to connect Station Road.

Further investigations will be made, and whether alternative providers to BT Openreach would be interested in providing a service if the take up by residents makes it commercially viable.

The chairman had also included a request in Quainton News that Station Road residents should ensure they have registered an interest in high speed broadband with BT.

7. District Councillor Briefing:

1. The District Councils have published their options document following a independent review of current council structures.*
2. An update was also provided on current planning issues (see Planning Matters).
3. Cllr Hewson will investigate what response AVDC will provide to the detailed letter submitted to them by Quainton Village Society to further argue the Wellingtonia tree at the Old School House Church Street should be retained. AVDC had previously determined the tree may be felled due to its reported damaging effect on the building foundations.

* Available to view online at www.quainton.info/latest-news

8. HS2 Developments:

1. The House of Lords Select Committee are due to visit Buckinghamshire again on 19 October, but no public meetings or consultation is planned.
2. Local landowners who are due to present their petitions to the Select Committee will also present a possible road diversion at Station Road which is an alternative to the proposal in the parish council petition.
3. Details of the HS2 Community Fund will be available shortly. The council had previously submitted a list of mitigating projects for funding to Bucks CC.
4. Cllr Knox attended a meeting with Bucks CC in regards to mitigating the likely additional disruption should both East West Rail and HS2 will be working in the same areas particularly at Calvert and Charndon.

Note: A map of the HS2 route past Quainton, and the full HS2 Petition is available to view online at www.quainton.info

9. Planning Matters:

1. Applications Pending or Recent Determination

Planning Ref	Details	Location	PC Comments
16/03531/ALB	Single storey rear extension and new pitched flat roof to existing extension	45 The Green Quainton	No objection
16/02701/APP	Re-fenestration of Block 2 of school buildings exterior windows and doors	Quainton School Lower Street Quainton	Approved 22.9.16
16/03042/APP	Demolition of single storey side extension. Erection of 2 bedroom 2 storey side extension	52 Upper Street Quainton	Opposed
15/03583/AOP	Development of 31 dwellings and associated infrastructure	Land south of The Strand Quainton	Developer to appeal to Sec of State in regards to non determination by AVDC
15/04276/APP	Land south west of 62 Station Road Quainton	Erection of 15 houses	Opposed
16/02626/APP	Demolition of hay barn and trailer.	Land adjacent to 6 Cautley	Approved 15.9.16

	Creation of manège and erection of stable building and barn/feed store. Change part of garden use from residential to agricultural.	Close Quainton	
16/02728/APP	First floor storey side extension	21 Cautley Close Quainton	Approved 08.9.16
16/02763/APP	Erection of agricultural storage barn	Little Acorns Acorn Nurseries Station Road Quainton	Approved 28.9.16 for agricultural purposes only
16/02304/ALB	Structural repairs to damaged areas.	28 Church Street Quainton	Approved 14.8.16
16/02367/APP 16/02369/APP	Erection of agricultural building Retention of existing mobile home for use as a temporary agricultural worker's dwelling	Trail Flatt Farm Quainton	Opposed

2. Tree Works

Planning Ref:	Details	Location
16/02766/ATC	Fell 1 Western Red Cedar	Land adjoining to 15A Church Street Quainton
16/03223/ATP	Fell T1 Holm Oak	The Laurels 59 Lower Street Quainton

3. New Housing Development – land behind 151 Station Road

The planning consultant for developer JA Pye (Oxford) Ltd have requested a meeting with the council in regards to a proposed 60-80 housing development on land backing onto 151 Station Road. The developer is to distribute a consultation leaflet to residents.

Residents had raised concerns with the council in regards to the installation of CCTV cameras at the junction of Station Road and Lower Street week commencing 3rd October. It was subsequently discovered the CCTV was to conduct a traffic survey on behalf of JA Pye in advance of submitting their planning application to AVDC. The contractor had obtained a licence to set up the CCTV from Bucks CC. It was agreed to raise this matter with Cllr Blake as to Bucks CC policy on CCTV surveillance and the conditions for the granting of the licence.

4. 15/03583/AOP – Land South of The Strand Quainton

AVDC have notified the council that the developer has lodged an appeal for non determination of the planning application. Further comments may be sent to the Planning Inspectorate within 6 weeks of the appeal date 7th October 2016.

5. 16/03323/ATC – Fell Holm Oak 59 Lower Street Quainton

It was agreed to oppose the felling of the tree until an independent investigation into the condition of the tree had been conducted by the AVDC tree officer to properly establish if the tree poses an unacceptable risk. The tree has a preservation order, and is cited in the Quainton Conservation Area Review as an important tree.

10. Clerks Report:

1. Allotment Fencing

The revised cost to install a straight line fence on the western side of the allotments will be £ 889.50.

RESOLVED c/2016/26 to approve the funding to install a new allotment stock fence.
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2. Allotment Accessibility

Following recent issues in allocating allotment space, it has brought up the issue of how best to promote allotment take up in the future. There is a possibility that there may be several allotments becoming spare, and there is one half plot that has been vacant for over 12 months. The clerk will investigate the practicality and local interest in 'mini plots' which may be more attractive to those who do not have the time or capability to manage the current size of plots.

3. New Village Website Look

The clerk had circulated the draft new template for councillors to provide input as to what information should be incorporated in addition to the sections on the existing website. It is planned to get the new site running before progressing the Local Council Award status, as the information required to be published to qualify for the award will be better presented.

11. The General Power of Competence (GPC):

The GPC is available to councils who meet two criteria for eligibility as set out in the Parish Councils (General Power of Competence) (Prescribed Conditions) Order 2012. The GPC is also provided to councils under s1(1) of the Localism Act 2011.

The council resolves it has met the criteria namely :

- The clerk obtained the CiLCA 2015 qualification in September 2016
- Two thirds of councillors were elected at the last election (currently 5 from 7).

RESOLVED c/2016/27 to adopt the General Power of Competence as of 13th October 2016 until the power is reviewed at the next Annual Meeting of the Council.

12. Representations from the Public (correspondence):

All correspondence had been circulated prior to the meeting:

- Email from the George & Dragon re approval of new sign on The Green – Cllr Heirons will consult with the Schools Land Charity on the proposed size and suitability of the sign to be installed.
- Letter from Bucks CC offering support to install LED street lighting – the clerk will investigate whether BCC could carry out the street light column inspections. A private contractor has quoted £475 to carry out the work.
- AVDC letter on The Strand re developer appeal – see Planning Matters
- Bucks Playing Field Association AGM – 20th October
- Bucks CC notice on Station Road closure from 24th October for 5 days.
- Email correspondence from a resident re allotment availability
- Email from Bucks CC re change to No. 18 bus service.

13. Finance:

1. Payments pending previously circulated	2. Receipts reported
£ 237.25 – Clerk's net salary (Sept)	£ 0.90 – Bank interest
£ 320.80 – HMRC PAYE July & August	£ 128.00 – Allotment rents
£ 30.25 – Minute Book	£ 11980.00 – Precept
£ 15.98 – Litter picker	£ 99.90 – Refund (lockable posts)
£ 1379.38 – Salix Finance loan repayment (LED lighting)	
£ 338.99 – Clerk's computer & software licence	
£ 44.01 – Eon street light supply (Sept)	
£ 24.18 – Thames Water allotment supply	
£ 360.00 – Mazars LLP external audit fee	
£ 75.00 – Winwood Trust half year allotment rent	
£ 239.00 – QMH room bookings	
£ 403.83 – Office expenses Q2	
£ 158.00 – HMRC PAYE September	
Total £ 3626.67	

RESOLVED c/2016/28 to approve the payments as recorded above.

3. Bank Reconciliation

The bank reconciliation statement for period 5th September to 5th October 2016 was presented for review and approval.

RESOLVED c/2016/29 to approve and sign the bank reconciliation statement as correct.

4. Monthly Financial Report 2016/17

- All expenditure recorded to date is within the current budget limits.
- The current surplus remains at £956

5. Clerk's Remuneration

In recognition of the clerk's CiLCA accreditation, it was agreed to raise the hourly salary rate to the next Spinal Column Point on the NALC national salary scales (SCP19 - £9.65). It was also agreed that the council would fully fund a new computer and software (see Payments Pending).

RESOLVED c/2016/30 to the increase in the clerk's hourly salary rate to £9.65.

6. Budget & Precept 2017/18

Three councillors and the clerk will meet to commence budget planning and recommend the level of precept for next year, and will report back with a first cut set of figures at the next meeting.

14. Recreational Facilities:

Current and Outstanding issues:

1. Christmas tree on the Green 2016

The clerk will liaise with the volunteers from the Fireworks Committee who arranged the installation of the tree last Christmas as to what funding may be needed to install a larger tree this year.

2. Skatepark Repairs

The contractor Maverick will inspect the skate park and make recommendations as to further maintenance. Other councils have entered into a quarterly inspection and maintenance contracts to try prolong the life of their existing equipment.

3. Tennis and Football Club

- The tennis club wish to dig a trench to install a water pipe around the perimeter of the football pitch and connect into the football club supply. Cllr Knox will seek permission for the works from the council's landlord the Saye & Sele Trust.
- There was no councillor support regarding the request to install a dog bin by the courts or skate park.
- The padlock on the gate to the sports field is faulty.
- Interim repairs to the sports pavilion roof will take place by the end of October.

4. Youth Cafe

The chairman advised the Youth Cafe have disbanded due to a lack of members attending the sessions at the Memorial Hall.

15. Roads, Pavements and Street lights:

1. LED Street Lights on the Green

Contractor CU Phosco are still investigating the 'brightness' LEDs endeavouring to find a fix on site.

2. Repairs to tarmac at Cautley Close

Cllr Blake has nominated Cautley Close as the councillor pick for priority maintenance in 2017/18 TfB roads programme.

3. Update on outstanding works with Transport for Bucks (TfB)

- Red tarmac on the 30mph marking on Lee Road is still to be completed.
- The white road markings outside the Upper Street playground need repainting.
- The tarmac trench across Lower Street outside the Swan and Castle has sunk and needs to be brought up to the level of the road.
- Street light column outside sports ground to be straightened..
- Pavement and road repair outside the school scheduled to be done at half term.
- Other TfB remedial work previously recorded remains work in progress or awaiting scheduling .

16. Business for next meeting:

Possible meeting with developer JA Pye regarding 151 Station Road.

17. Date of Next Meeting:

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on **Thursday 10th November 2016** in the main hall at the **Memorial Hall Station Road Quainton** at **8 pm**.

Being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 10.15 pm.