

QUAINTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Council held on 8th October 2020.

The meeting was held remotely via video and audio conferencing as allowed under The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police And Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020.

Present

Cllrs Arthur Evans (chairman), Malcolm Wearn, Nick Butler, John Knox, Michelle Thompson, Claire Lucas, Nick Heirons, Tony Pacetti (clerk)

Buckinghamshire Council: Cllr Scott Raven

Invitees: Nicolette Smith, Iain Macpherson

PCSO Danny Fahey (audio presence)

Members of the public 0.

1. Chairman's Introduction

The chairman welcomed all participants and directed how the meeting would be conducted.

2. Apologies for Absence

0 apologies

3. Declaration of Interests

Cllr Claire Lucas re HS2 re-affirmed.

4. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the last meeting had been circulated prior to the meeting and duly signed by the Chairman as a true and accurate record. Those Parish councillors present confirmed they had been both seen and heard.

RESOLVED c/2020/30 to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 10th September 2020.

5. Public forum and correspondence

The Chairman notified the meeting the annual firework display would not take place this year as the result of the coronavirus restrictions which prevented the congregation of people in close proximity to each other. The Chairman also stressed that the overarching topic of discussion was the pressure being brought to bear by parishioners for a 20-mph speed limit, in particular, along The Strand and Lower Street past the School.

Cllr Knox raised the issue of the 20-mph speed limit which had been the source of complaints for parishioners, indicating that for a successful outcome it would probably require the assistance of

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The Highways committee together with outlying villages providing a database of speed examples to facilitate determining a solution. Cllr Knox also indicated that his experience of earlier speed measurements had not proved successful.

It was also indicated that speeding traffic past the school at opening and closing times was not likely to be a serious issue as cars tended to block the road on both sides thus slowing traffic down.

The issue of flooding and drainage was a prime topic to resolve before considering the question of road repairs. This issue was still in abeyance. Closely allied to road problems was the complaint from Parishioners that lorries passing through the Strand and Lower Street were shaking buildings along this route.

Nicolette Smith suggested that a children's crossing might be conducive to lowering of vehicle speeds or even a one-way system installed.

Cllr Lucas suggested that advice might be sought from BC in relation to the parking arrangements at the school, and in this connection help from the school itself could be welcomed in that parents would be advised by the school head to park a little further from the school and thus mitigate the present congestion that arises in taking children to and from school.

Cllr Wearn confirmed his view of the seriousness of the speeding problem with vehicles passing the school in either direction.

Cllr Knox suggested that flashing warning signs could be of some help here. However, too many signs might be confusing and result in blockages

Cllr Raven felt that a professional person's advice be sought to attempt to resolve the traffic problems being experienced in Quanton Village.

RESOLVED c /2020/31 to secure the services of such a person. A note would be sent to residents via Quanton News detailing the Council's proposed actions.

D Fahey would investigate this area but was currently awaiting further advice from the process.

Cllr Wearn was fully in favour of the school being involved in the process of lessening the impact of the parking problem.

Cllr Knox indicated that road re-surfacing was a priority but to reduce the pressure of the larger funding requirement, prioritising small projects might be a way to speed up the process of getting essential work done.

Cllrs Thompson and Wearn commented on the flooding at a house in The Strand which was to be examined and consultation with those residents would be undertaken.

Cllr Lucas raised the issue of Thames Water needing to dig up The Strand to undertake repairs.

Cllr Knox wanted to deal with the surfacing and flooding. However, it was acknowledged that flood problems needed to be dealt with firstly. Furthermore, TFB should be persuaded to regard these items as one specific project.

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Cllr Wearn felt this was a question of time and also favoured individual projects rather than attacking the total problem at one go. These discussions would lead to difficult decisions as to what should be done firstly.

Cllr Evans stated that the most important activity to be considered was that of the speeding issue present in the village.

Footpath signage

The footpath signage showing the path to Quinton Hill had become obscured by foliage and so it was decided to make this clearer by putting a wooden post in the ground on the opposite bank.

RESOLVED c/2020/32 To seek replacement of metal footpath sign at start of path between The Vine and Hatherways in Upper Street with a wooden finger post on opposite side of the road to the present one.

6. Reported matters outstanding

Re The Green Cllr Heirons indicated that by laws were to be changed and some parking restrictions waived

HS2 and TfB had supposedly resolved the problem caused by their contractors.

Road closures to be effected by 'Fusion' were reported by Cllr Knox. Relevant notices had been extended by 'Fusion' and the Edgcott Road would be closed from 12th October.

Cllr Knox reported that communication is fragmented with HS2 and Fusion but would pursue the matter further.

RESOLVED c/2020/33 Cllr Knox to pursue and clarify HS2/Fusion road closures intentions.

Mr Greg Smith, MP for Buckinghamshire would visit the village on 26th October to view the problems at close hand.

Cllr Raven raised the suggestion that the process of bringing fragmented information to a meaningful whole might best be served through a one stop forum to facilitate a clear understanding of what is going on within the sphere of QPC.

7. Transport and Infrastructure

Cllr Knox offered a possible explanation as to the difficulty in communicating with the Highways Department in that there were only 3 staff dealing with such weighty matters as HS2.

He explained also that Network Rail should but would not strengthen the railway bridge but would insist on a specific weight limit. Cllr Butler indicated it would be difficult to maintain control of lorries passing over the bridge – thus ensuring they were within the constraint limits. Cllr Knox stated that Network Rail should be pressured into reevaluating the strengthening of the bridge.

Concern was expressed by CLLRS Lucas and Thompson about the lack of notification regarding work on trees in the conservation area by BC. The PC have asked to be notified about all work on trees and hedges in the conservation area.

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Cllrs Evans and Lucas felt it would be a good outcome in safety and speed planning if School yellow zig-zag Lines and Slow Road Markings were to be renewed outside the school and that with the involvement of the school TfB could be approached towards achieving this end.

8. Buckinghamshire Council and Community Board Matters

Cllr Raven would take up the matter of tree planning with the appropriate authority within the Buckingham Council hierarchy. He would also ask about TPO orders.

9. Planning matters

There were no new planning applications.

Changes to the development of 40 new homes at 151 Station Road as requested by QPC had not yet been responded to by Barwood Homes.

Concern has also been raised that the conversion of an outbuilding to residential space at 2 Lower Street whereby the building was completely removed may breach Listed Building planning consent. There was also a question as to whether parking space on site was being diminished.

Landscaping at Ladymead Farm has not yet been discharged as insufficient information has been supplied by the applicant regarding planting schemes surrounding the site.

10. Clerk's Report

The New Clerk was now in post and equipment transferred to new premises together with changed details for official communications with statutory authorities.

11. Finance.

The October finance report has been previously circulated for review.

<u>Items of Expenditure</u>			<u>Receipts</u>	
to be authorised	DD Allotment water (Oct)	19.74	Bank interest (reserve account)	.20
already paid	OLB426 Printer cartridge	9.00	Allotment income	242.00
to be authorised	OLB427 QMH room bookings	72.00		
not already paid	OLB428 Tree works	180.00		
	OLB429 Clerks salary	313.43		
	OLB430 PAYE (Sept)	209.20		
	DD Office 365 licence	59.99		
	DD Conferencing	14.39		
	DD PWLB loan	2246.20		
Total		3551.57		242.20

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RESOLVED c 2020/34 to approve list of payments shown.

Bank Balances		Beginning of year balance	
Current Account	(19,106.20)	bf balance 2019/20	(26,594.15)
Business Reserve	<u>(21,939.26)</u>	Receipts to date	<u>(30,061.91)</u>
Sub total	<u>(41,045.46)</u>	Sub total	<u>(56,656.06)</u>
Payments not drawn	.00	Payments to date	15,610.60
Receipts not banked	<u>.00</u>		
Closing Bank Balance	<u>(41,045.46)</u>		<u>(41,045.46)</u>

12. Recreational activities

The Football Club have requested a change in the mowing pattern. The pitch, and parts of the surrounding area will be cut regularly but a portion of the perimeter of the field would be mowed annually. This would be more advantageous to wildlife. The local school had approached the PC regarding the possibility of using the football field for some events. It was proposed by Cllr Lucas that the Football Club Chairman and Headmaster should discuss this.

13. Items of business for the next meeting.

HS2 items to be put on website.

The next meeting would be held on 12th November, 2020.

The meeting closed at 9.24.

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