

QUINTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Council held on 9th April 2021

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

Members of the public

The Chairman gave his annual report to the assembled meeting outlining the successes achieved by the Parish Council during the year together with some of the frustrations experienced by the PC.

The full report would be published in the Quinton News and the Parish website.

Throughout the difficulties experienced in the light of the pandemic and relations with HS2 the PC was pleased to gain much support from the local MP.

During the year as a result of 'lock down' the PC had to hold meetings through the remote electronic system of communication known as 'zoom' on line. This means of holding parish meetings was due to end on 17th May. Some councillors were in favour of maintaining the system while others considered a face-to-face contact was preferred. It remains to be seen whether councils will dispense with 'zoom' on the due date.

The Covid epidemic led to much voluntary support for the parish.

Quinton was highly regarded as an area of natural beauty and the Neighbourhood Plan paid due respect to this view.

The ongoing issue of a satisfactory upgrade to Broadband together with a number of other projects would be carried forward to the new council. Details of these would be passed to the Clerk.

Only three applications for the new Parish Council, due to take office at the May meeting, had been received by deadline. Two were from present councillors and one from a new person, who was present and welcomed. These three would be duly elected. This meant that there was a quorum and they would be able to co-opt up to 4 other eligible, interested parties. This fact would be publicised in due course.

1. Chairman's Introduction

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

2. Apologies for Absence

Andrew Jones, Ian Macpherson and PCSO Fahy

3. Declaration of Interests

Chairman's initials

Date

Cllr Claire Lucas re HS2 re-affirmed.

4. Approval of Minutes

- 4.1 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.
- 4.2 Those Parish councillors present confirmed they had been both seen and heard.

RESOLVED c/2021/09 to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 11th March 2021.

5. Updates on matters arising

- 5.1 The dog barking nuisance at Trailflatt Farm has hopefully now been resolved.
- 5.2 A new training session was to be arranged for new councillors.
- 5.3 The refusal to classify the Butcher's shop as a community asset by BC was to be appealed.
- 5.4 Cllr Thompson indicated that the planning application for 36 Upper Street may be affected by possible drainage problems presently being investigated.
- 5.5 Cllrs Thompson and Lucas would continue to pursue Broadband upgrade for the village to determine whether lower costs could be achieved.
- 5.6 Grass cutting contracts have now been agreed.
- 5.7 The grass verge adjacent to the church has been damaged by vehicle parking and would need to be repaired. Seeding with a good quality grass seed would be preferred. Highways permission may be necessary.
- 5.8 Cllr Heirons is to review the agreement between SLC and PC relating to The Green. This should consider insurance cover for voluntary work undertaken on it. There is also concern that specialist trades working thereon should be professionally qualified. This will be passed to the Clerk to ascertain that appropriate insurance cover is held.
- 5.9 Cllr Heirons will also examine the statutory position regarding the Cross Monument. The PC has responsibility for the monument, and must ensure that it is used for proper Purposes. The PC has taken on its protection which fact will be part of the review.
- 5.10 The application for a further advert board on The Green raised some questions, including colour. Cllr Heirons will raise this issue with residents. To be settled by 21st April 2021.
- 5.11 Permission had been given to use the Beacon in June. It would then be taken down. The possibility of seeking full planning permission for the Beacon was not supported by a majority of councillors.
- 5.12 The question of sub-groups arose and it was established that people could continue such membership until they were stood down. It was stated that Parish Council nominees did not have to be councillors

6 Review of County Matters

- 6.1 Cllr Heirons has responded to the Parish Charter document largely in disapproval since it diminished the role of parish councils and prioritised Buckinghamshire Council.

7. Consideration of current planning applications and related matters

7.1 12 Church Street. Questions to be raised about a possible lack of parking provision and the possible detrimental effect on the foundations of the neighbouring property.

7.2 Cllrs Lucas and Thompson will examine plans for 77 Station Road in more detail.

7.3 A street lighting proposal at Romney Meadows has been received from Barwood Homes. The sub-committee will review it, but with minor amendments it appears acceptable.

The light on The Green was still on during the day since a request to CUPhosco to switch it off had not been actioned yet. The clerk would follow this up.

7.4 The water leaks at 36 Upper Street and 127 Station Road were reported as ongoing works. In the former case there were at last some grounds for optimism.

7.5 Changes to the spur road work in Station Road resulting from a landowner's concern over effects on his entrance were being pursued with HS2 because of repercussions on traffic flow and properties in that area..

It was noted that traffic lights at Berryfields crossroads still spelt danger. TfB to be contacted yet again.

7.6 The Paddock alongside the new build at Station Road Farm should be kept as such and these conditions expressed by QPC would be reiterated.

7.7 The fencing off from the paddock at the rear of the Windmill raised questions to be addressed to the relevant officer as to whether the public footpath on the definitive map had been compromised.

8. Clerk's report

8.1 Inspections of the Playground and Skate Park were in hand or have been satisfactorily completed.

8.2 Loan repayment of £2,246.20 would be made on 4th May, to the PWLB in respect of the Quinton Memorial Hall Loan.

9. Monthly finance report and bank reconciliation

The monthly Finance Report had been previously circulated to members.

Items of expenditure

Receipts

To be authorised		Bank interest	0.20
already paid for year ending 31 March 2021			
OLB471	RQ Graphix	420.00	
OLB472	HMRC PAYE March	72.40	
OLB473	Clerk Salary (Mar)	289.04	
OLB474	Office expenses Q4	391.23	
OLB475	J Godfrey -Litter 2020	236.75	
OLB476	Groundwork Grant repay	138.90	
DD	Streetlighting (Feb)	47.12.	
Total		1,595.44	0.20

RESOLVED c/2021/10 to approve list of payments shown.

Bank Balances

Beginning of year Balance

Current Account	(11,712.96)	Bf balance 2019/20	(26,594.15)
		Receipts to date	<u>(36,674.05)</u>
Business Reserve	<u>(21,940.36)</u>		
Subtotal	(33,653.32)	Subtotal	(63,268.20)
Payments not drawn	381.52	Payments to	29,996.40
Receipts not banked	<u>0.0</u>		
Closing Bank Balance	<u>(33,271.80)</u>		<u>(33,271.80)</u>

Chairman's initials

Date

10. Reports on recreational facilities and activities

- 10.1 Cllr Lucas had already circulated the recreational report to members.
An indication of the state of the play area equipment suggested a major spring clean was necessary. The condition of the matting surfacing due to ground movement was something that could be brought to the attention of the inspector of the play area during the May visit.
- 10.2 The football field drainage had now been put in, with some area fencing erected.
- 10.3 The PC has received several responses to the provisioning of new equipment for the Skate Park and a notice of this has been put in Quinton News explaining the process. It was stressed that Buckinghamshire Council are made aware that QPC wishes to install new recreational equipment.
- 10.4 The tennis courts are now operational and Covid compliant. A new system of pay and play has been introduced and full details are available on the website and Facebook page.
- 10.5 A number of people have expressed interest in becoming involved with the recreational and sports field improvements.
- 10.6 An apple pressing day will be held in September, and a fund-raising event has also been planned. A window display notice will be available soon.
- 10.7 Chaz, the Skate Park contractor will shortly renovate the paintwork and supporting Metalwork in the Skate Park.

11. Non cultivated allotments

- 11.1 There are a number of plots which lie fallow. These are to be identified and the owners written to in order to determine the renter's intention, whether to cultivate the plot or or discontinue the rental.
- 11.2 There are 4 applicants awaiting an allotment allocation.
If a future applicant wishes to take over an uncultivated plot the PC may grant up to 2 Years rent free.

12. To record items for the next council meeting.

- . 12.1 The next meeting will be on May 13th 2021 at 8pm.

Chairman's initials

Date

This will be the Annual Council Meeting and the signing in of the newly elected Council and election of Chair and Vice Chair.

The meeting concluded at 9.15 pm.

Chairman's initials

Date