

QUAINTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Council held on 12th November 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), Nick Butler, John Knox, Michelle Thompson,

Claire Lucas, Nick Heirons, Tony Pacetti (clerk)

Ben Everitt, Buckinghamshire Councillor.

Invitee: Iain Macpherson

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

District Councillor, Scott Raven and Parish Councillor Malcolm Wearn.

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/2020/35 to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 8th October 2020.

5. Public forum and correspondence

Ben Everitt reported that Buckinghamshire Council is dealing with the COVID crisis but it is also trying to improve services for parishes in regard to planning and enforcement. He acknowledged that parish councils have not been receiving the customer service they would normally expect but it is in the process of employing new people.

The Barwood Homes development is to be discussed by the Planning Committee on 18th November.

Chairman's initials

Date

Mr Everett asked if Barwood Homes had responded to queries following the meeting with the Parish Council and residents. The chairman confirmed that nothing had been heard from the developer.

At the planning committee, residents will be presenting a joint letter explaining their loss of amenity whereas the parish council will be putting forward planning objections. This will show both sides of the argument.

Mr Everett agreed to write a statement and submit to the planning committee dealing with 151 Station Road and would register to speak if available.

Councillor Thompson commended Hazrat Hussain from Buckingham Council for his helpfulness in recent planning matters.

6. Reported matters outstanding

Speeding in the village –

The Chairman met with Buckinghamshire Council regarding traffic calming. It was noted that concrete statistics on the speed of traffic through the village were needed. The technician explained where the poles could be set up; one pole is already in place near the school. COVID restrictions mean that training cannot take place. Councillor Lucas agreed to set the SID up on the pole near the school. This will be a positive visual deterrent.

The Green project-

It was agreed that the PC supports the Christmas tree being placed on The Green and thereby be covered by the PC's public liability insurance. The clerk and Councillor Heirons would meet to sign forms to this affect. The PC is happy for the Bonfire Committee – subcommittee of the parish council – to proceed with this and liaise with School Lands regarding the provision of the Christmas tree and associated electricals and authorise Brian Fludgate to act on their behalf, as requested by that committee.

The clerk will contact the insurance company to make sure the benches and notice board are covered by the PC's public liability insurance.

Councillor Knox and Heirons and the clerk will ensure that the School Lands trustees have third party liability.

There was discussion on the poor broadband reception in Station Road. It was agreed to seek improvements. Councillor Thompson agreed to leaflet residents in that area to gauge their views and requirements.

7. Transport and infrastructure

HS2-

Councillor Knox presented his report indicating that abnormal loads caused chaos and damage in October. He complained to HS2 and the Construction Commissioner supported by our MP, Greg Smith. Subsequent movements were better timed and supervised by EKFB. Final movements were delayed by weather and COVID.

Damage has been repaired with damage at 2 Lower St. to be done properly once the final movements are over.

HS2 abnormal loads - Councillor Knox complained to HS2 on 22nd October and asked when the repairs to the bridge on Snakes Lane/Fiddlers Field would be undertaken but so far, no response has been made and this will be followed up.

On October 26 Councillors Evans and Knox took MP Greg Smith round the parish briefing him on the impact and damage caused by HS2.

In a meeting with Buckinghamshire Highways and TFB Streetworks it was learnt how the HS2 Act severely constrains the control they are accustomed to having over any other roadworks. In effect, HS2 has absorbed their powers. Company representatives may consult but, as with its contractors, can still decide how and when they close roads etc. Sympathy was expressed for Buckinghamshire Council.

BC/TFB is employing 2 people to inspect HS2 works to make sure they are compliant with the Act. Signs erected by HS2 are numerous, lessening their impact, and in some cases are dangerous. Unfortunately, these are governed by the various Road Traffic Acts and is a case of the Law being an ass.

A community Board sub group meeting took place immediately prior to the Parish Meeting and covered most of these points across the area.

QPC will continue to talk to HS2 and their contractors with the aim of reducing the impact and eliminating construction traffic from Quainton.

Utilities and contractors will only work separately as they need to make sure they are covered by their own public liability Insurance.

Streetworks have recruited another officer and inspector and they will be looking at signage and ensure that any contractors signs are safely placed.

Drainage- Jetting work has taken place at Torbay and The Strand but although the drains are clear, further work is needed in both areas, there are 7 other locations. Road closures may be necessary but QPC is determined to give such closures priority over any HS2 claims on these roads, and will continue to liaise with TFB to clear all these problems. Investigations showed that the drainage problems at number 3 The Strand were not caused by problems with public drains. The drains were also jetted and cleared at Winwood Drive and unsurprisingly it was found that the roots of the large willow tree had damaged the drainage pipe.

Work yet to be done-

Townsend/North End, Station Road, Berryfield crossroads and the Willows. This work has been scheduled but no date as yet.

8. Report on Buckinghamshire Council matters

Covered in item 5 above.

Chairman's initials

Date

9. Current planning applications and related matters.

Ladymead Farm Denham had submitted an application for the erection of a general purpose agricultural building. PC comments were requested to be made known to the Development Management by 26th November.

The PC would like more information on the viability of the proposed agricultural barn, at Ladymead; more information on the landscaping and bunding from a previous application, specification on how the proposed farm building is to be accessed and why it is an APP rather than an agricultural application.

No 2 Lower Street- work has been brought to a halt. The PC has also expressed its concern that the parking spaces were now hindered by a large office building.

A memorandum report had been sent to the PC by Brian Fludgate expressing dismay that someone has taken it upon themselves in citing the PC as being in breach of planning law in regards to the Quainton Beacon still being in place at this time.

10. Clerk's report

is held by the clerk.

Reg Porter had sent in his quarterly bill for cutting and hedging.

11. Finance.

The November finance report has been previously circulated for review.

<u>Items of Expenditure</u>			<u>Receipts</u>	
to be authorised	DD Street lights Sept.	50.49	Bank interest (reserve account)	.18
already paid	DD Allotment supply Nov.	19.74	Allotment income	316.00
			Loans	1,727.85
	DD Parish phone bill	169.25		
	OLB432 Secure shredding	36.00		
	OLB433 Litter Bin	90.59		
to be authorised	OLB434 Allotment lease	175.00		
not already paid	OLB435 CPRE membership	36.00		
	OLB436 Clerk's salary	329.44		
	OLB437 PAYE (Oct.)	82.20		
	DD Office 365 licence	59.99		

Chairman's initials

Date

DD Zoom Conferencing	14.39	
Total	1,055.27	2,044.23

RESOLVED c/ 2020/36 to approve list of payments shown.

Bank Balances		Beginning of year balance	
Current Account	(17,261.15)	bf balance 2019/20	(26,594.15)
Business Reserve	<u>(21,939.44)</u>	Receipts to date	<u>(32105.74)</u>
Subtotal	<u>(39,200.59)</u>	Sub total	<u>(56,656.06)</u>
Payments not drawn	.00	Payments to date	19,499.50
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 10th December,2020.

The meeting closed at 9.45.

Chairman's initials

Date