

QUINTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Council held on 11th February 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)
 Ben Everitt, Buckinghamshire Councillor.

Invitees: Iain Macpherson and Andrew Jones.

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

RESOLVED c/2021/03 to accept apologies from Buckinghamshire Councillor, Scott Raven.

3. Declaration of Interests

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/2021/04 to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 8th January 2021

5. Public forum and correspondence

- 5.1 Further enquiries into the ongoing status and intentions of the School Lands Charity in relation to The Green would be set aside for the time being. Clarification about whether the transfer of charity property to the Parish Council would be permitted by law could be sought from the national P C body.
- 5.2 The impending Parish Charter was discussed at some length. Cllr Heirons indicated his view that this charter might be a means for Bucks Council to secure a hold over the number of parishes involved, who would, presumably, sign up to the charter. What might happen if one or more parishes failed to comply was a future question to be answered. Cllr Heirons stated he thought that AVALC had looked at the charter but was in discord with its contents. Cllr

Knox was unimpressed with charter details and that in the light of these views there was a need for consultation.

6. Review of reported matters outstanding.

- 6.1 Consultation regarding the Neighbourhood Plan was ongoing with 'zoom' meetings attended by councillors and members of the public. Detailed information had been sent to all parishioners.

RESOLVED c/2021/05 to support the proposed modified Neighbourhood Plan, subject to a final version being agreed.

- 6.2 Cllr Knox confirmed that a letter concerning the weight limit placed on Station Road bridge and the adverse impact it was having on parishioners had been sent to the Chief Executive of Network Rail, Mr Andrew Haines.
- 6.3 Cllr Thompson confirmed that those councillors nominated by the PC to act for other charities may remain Trustees until they decide to resign.

7. Transport and infrastructure

- 7.1 Cllr Knox raised issues of major concern in connection with roadworks and closures allied to the HS2 project.
- 7.2 Several drains had been cleared during last month with further work involving the roads at North End and the Strand being dug up to follow. Work is soon to be started at the Willows and Station Road. Work required at Berryfields is a low priority category.
- 7.3 Due to COVID-19 problems, HS2 Utilities test drilling on Station Road has had to be delayed. Those works to be completed at the A41/Station Road junction are due to start on Monday 15th February for 8 days.
- 7.4 The impact of the new road where it joins Station Road and which will mean several Station Road properties being in a cul-de-sac has been raised with EKFB, as has the impact on drainage.
- 7.5 The traffic lights at Berryfield crossroads have been reviewed and despite PC objections are to be retained as at present. Two instead of four-way operation is still being pursued.
- 7.6 A streetlight at the bottom of The Green is to be checked and reported if the light is on during the day.
- 7.7 The streetlight in White Hart Field which has been inoperative for over two months had now been formerly notified to the power company through its official documentation requirement and it was hoped this would soon be rectified.

8. Report on Buckinghamshire Council (BC) matters

- 8.1 Scott Raven submitted by email the main BC updates as follows:
- COVID-19 testing stations had been set up in areas in and around Aylesbury and indicated these would be detailed on the Council website.
 - The proposed new prison extension at Grendon Underwood had been officially opposed.
- 8.2 Mr MacPherson raised the issue of the link to the County Council not working on the PC website.
- 8.3 Cllr Everitt reported on the continuation of work to be undertaken by East West Rail. Cllr Knox expressed his wish to know if the project was to go ahead Cllr Everitt indicated that the originally planned expressway would not be built but there was considerable irritation as to

the uncertainty dogging the operation of the East West Rail project. There seemed to be a fragmented approach to these issues which tended to sour the relationship between HS2, its main contractors and the PC.

8.4 The County Council's Growth and Recovery Plan had been sent to national government for approval and this can be seen on the Council website.

8.5 Local Elections have been set by the national government for May 6th.

8.6 A meeting with Matt Whincup would be attended by Cllr Raven later in the month to discuss flooding issues in Quinton. The Parish Council wished to have a member present.

9. Current planning applications and related matters.

9.1 The parish council had been asked by developers of 151 Station Road site if it wished to adopt the streetlights to be erected in that area. It was agreed that several factors, such as light pollution, effects on natural life and future maintenance that the parish council needed to be involved.

9.2 It was agreed that Cllrs Lucas, Butler, Wearn and Knox, with first named as lead would formulate a policy to cover all these matters.

9.3 The YTD Planning Applications schedule had been previously sent to councillors.

9.4 There were two new applications:

- Erection of Equestrian Stables on land to the east of Oving Road, Quinton which a councillor would review.
- Change of use of a 1 bed annexe at Blackgrove Barn, which is currently ancillary residential accommodation, to holiday let rental accommodation.

10. Clerk's report

10.1 Applications have been made to BC for the Village Stores and the Butchers shop to be listed as Community Assets. That for the Children's playground is pending.

10.2 Contractor Reg Porter has stated he is not able to continue with some of the hedge and grass cutting work previously undertaken by him. To this end he has suggested another contractor who would perhaps undertake the work. Cllr Evans to explore these possibilities with Mr Porter and his nomination.

11. Finance.

11.1 The February finance report had been previously circulated for review.

11.2 Expenditure to be authorised		11.3 Receipts
Paid	OLB459 Broadband Survey 28.73 OLB460 Misc expenses 35.92 OLB461 Q News advert 25.00 DD Parish phone bill 170.03 DD Allotment water (Feb) 19.74 DD Zoom conference (Dec) 14.39	Christmas Float 329.00 Bank interest (reserve account) 0.17
Not Paid	OLB462 Stones sports ground 383.52 OLB463 Clerk salary (Jan) 305.12 OLB464 PAYE (Jan.) 76.40 OLB465 Electrics riser - Green 63.95	

Chairman's initials

Date

	DD Street light supply (Jan)	52.17	
	DD Zoom conference (Jan)	14.39	

RESOLVED c /2021/06 to approve list of payments shown. Counter signatures suspended until physical arrangements allow.

11.4 Bank Balances

Brought forward 2019/20	26594.15	Reserve account	21939.99
Receipts to date	33745.73	Current account	11391.44
total	60339.88	total	33331.43
Less bank payments to date	27008.45*	Plus received not banked	nil
Bank balance at 5th February 2020	33331.43		33331.43
* excludes pending payments			

11.5 Councillors were reminded that for VAT to be reclaimed by the Council receipts must be made out to the PC, not individuals.

11.6 Some changes to the financial reporting system were brought in recently concerning format and the additional reporting of the Christmas Float project.

12. Recreational activities

12.1 Cllr Lucas presented her report on recreational activities, full details of which had already been submitted for review. Principal observations were the extremely boggy areas of the Upper Street play area.

12.2 Temporary fixes to the worn areas of the ramps in the sports field Skate Park had been made by the contractor. A further visit is hoped for in March to add metal plates and to paint the apparatus.

12.3 The stone for the track down to the Tennis Courts had been delivered. Volunteer manpower would be used to spread the stone. The Chairman of the Tennis Club would like additional parking on the section of the football field, the other side of the hedge. This issue will be raised at the next PC sports club committee meeting.

12.4 Additional drainage on a section of the football field and some more ditching work has been organised. It is proposed that QPC offer a donation from the Sports Fund in support.

Chairman's initials

Date

12.5 The grant applied for, to the Heart of Bucks, for help with the cost of ditching and additional tree planting and seating, which has been given permission by the Saye and Sele Trust, is still pending.

12.6 The heavy rain has left footpaths down to the middle of North End Road practically washed away. The incidence of running water is causing considerable damage to areas between Sloping Acre and Chestnut cottage. There is a similar problem with spring water pouring down the path of 46 Upper Street.

13. Items of business for the next council meeting

13.1 The issue of the Broadband upgrade for the Station Road is ongoing and will be discussed at the March meeting.

The meeting closed at 9.50 pm.

The next meeting will be held on 11th March 2021