

QUAINTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Council held on 11th March 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)

Invitees: Andrew Jones.

Members of the public 2.

1. Chairman's Introduction

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

2. Apologies for Absence

Cllr Wearn and Ian Macpherson

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/2021/07 to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 11th February 2021.

5. Public forum and correspondence

- 5.1 Cllr Lucas had sent a slide show explaining the Green Spaces competition to her fellow Councillors. She and Cllr Thompson were approaching this forum for money to spray the sports field and part of football field for thistles and plant a wider variety of meadow grasses.
- 5.2 They have also asked the Chiltern Rangers to guide the PC on its tree project and advise where more trees could be planted.
- 5.3 It was hoped to plant some black poplars to replace several trees which have been

felled or are diseased.

- 5.4 A letter had been received from a parishioner addressed to the parish councillors in which was stated a considerable amount of fly tipping had been going on in surrounding villages and that the writer had spent considerable time in completing fly tipping reports to BC and advocated that villages were encouraged to conduct litter picking on their own account. Here, QPC wished to point out that it had its own team of volunteer litter pickers. It was agreed that the chairman would respond.
- 5.5 Councillors agreed that BC should give more attention to the views of the PC on their views on street naming in the light of the new developments being completed in Quanton. The PC proposals had not all been accepted by BC and the street names of Romney and Clifford were the likely names to be chosen.

6. Review of reported matters outstanding.

- 6.1 Cllr Heirons indicated he would draft a response to the proposed Parish Charter and commented that the agreement between QPC and SLC was too rigid in format.
- 6.2 The Parish Charter proposed by BC had not been met with enthusiasm by councillors but a consideration should be given to it in precise terms. The fear would appear to be that BC were striving toward the consolidation of parish matters so that it could reflect more influence on future decisions to be made.
- 6.3 It was reported that the White Hart Field street light had now been repaired.
- 6.4 Cllr Thompson updated the meeting on the Broadband improvement scheme and noted that the original parameters had changed and as a result Open Reach, the service provider for BT, have now said QPC is not eligible for the voucher scheme from either Gigabite or even the replacement scheme coming up. This would mean the PC having to raise around £100,000 to upgrade Station Road or £100,000 to upgrade the whole Parish. The price would be the same for two differently sized jobs. Cllr Thompson stated that MP Greg Smith is presently looking into this situation. Substantially, Open Reach had been asked to revise their position.

7. Report on transport and infrastructure matters.

- 7.1 Cllr Knox had issued a draft for discussion with regard to adopting the street lighting for the new development by Barwood homes. The draft indicated that six lights at current electricity charges would cost £61. This, however, electricity consumption was

the same as current lighting. Details of lighting requirements were set out clearly in the draft.

- 7.2 A detailed statement of Quainton current issues with HS2 had been received from Joan Hancox of BC which had been sent to all councillors and this was responded to by Cllr Knox
- 7.3 Residents in the part of Station Road to become a cul de sac had been alerted to the fact that the cul de sac would now be closed at both ends and access in and out would be via a spur road to the planned new road linking Station Road to Fiddlers Field.
- 7.4 A table of outstanding, previously reported work for TfB has been listed by QPC and has been checked with Fix My Street notification program.
- 7.5 HS2 Road Safety Fund:
Details of this fund have been issued by the HS2 Road Safety Team briefly indicating how to apply and that applications must be made by 5pm on 15th May 2021.
Cllr Knox made the meeting aware that the funds available were for strictly new road safety initiatives.
It was agreed that traffic calming in some form should be investigated for the Strand and proposed that the School SID should be retained.
The PC had requested help to move the SID to other sanctioned positions once the other SID posts had been positioned. A member of the public present thought this possible.
- 7.6 Concerns had been expressed by some residents about the white lines marked outside some properties. It was pointed out that these lines were not legally enforceable and indicated where vehicles should not be parked anyway. Such lines had been provided by TfB at request of residents not PC.
- 7.7 Cllr Scott Raven raised QPC on its approach to the vexed question of resolving issues, caused principally by poor liaison between BC and HS2. The latter having greater power in these matters than BC. He also indicated that Quainton was high on the priority list for jobs that needed to be done.

8. Report on Buckinghamshire matters

- 8.1 Cllr Scott Raven spoke of the Covid testing schemes organised by BC and that secondary school testing for staff and students would take place twice weekly.
- 8.2 He went on to say that government guidelines would be followed during election

Campaigning.

- 8.3 From 28th March six people could group together for campaign activity.
- 8.4 BC has spent £42.5m on the Covid pandemic of which £42.0m is to be repaid by the National government. 25% of this was used to cover a shortfall in council tax.

9. To consider current planning applications and related matters

- 9.1 NP Consolidation – update:

The consultation period ended on 19th February last.

570 consultations were sent to households and businesses in the Neighbourhood area
59 statutory consultees were contacted by letter and email. 37 responses were received of which 8 had neither comment nor objection; 15 raised questions which which would need a further response.

As a result of this outcome the steering group will consider comments and suggestions for the submission Plan. Of the responses received, BC comments are the most detailed and will require further clarification a discussion. The steering group will ratify the settlement boundary on land to the North of Station Road and inform the respective landowners of the position. All submissions will be incorporated into a consultation statement for submission to BC as part of Regulation 15 in the Neighbourhood Planning process.

- 9.2 Two new planning applications were received:

Garage conversion and side single storey extension at 4 Winwood drive and
Variation of condition 2 relating to application 15.04276/APP on land south west of 62 Station Road. In both cases there were concerns about a perceived lack of parking provision.

- 9.3 The year-to-date planning application schedule had been previously sent to councillors.
- 9.4 The clerk is to establish a meeting of the council with the developer in connection with the changes proposed for the erection of one dwelling at 36 Upper Street, Quainton.

10. To receive the Clerk's reportas

- 10.1 QPC has accepted the quote from Reg Porter for cutting the Green, Upper Street play Area, and the surrounds of the Skate Park and Tennis court.

Ross Lawry has quoted for hedge cutting and two other contractors are being approached for quotes for the remaining verge cutting.

- 10.2 The nomination of the Quanton Play Area as a Community Asset has been accepted and added to George and Dragon, Butcher's shop, and Village Stores
- 10.3 Payment is to be received from BC for cutting the grass areas in the village devolved to QPC. The amount will be £2,039.22.

11. To receive the monthly Finance Report and Bank Reconciliation

The monthly Finance Report had been previously circulated for review.

Items of expenditure		Receipts	
To be authorised		Bank interest	0.17
already paid		NatWest credit	5.00
DD Allotment water (March)	19.74	Sports field cut	100.00
		VAT reclaim	2,822.95
to be authorised			
not already paid			
OLB466 Clerks salary (Feb)	305.32		
OLB467 PAYE (Feb)	76.20		
OLB468 NP expenses	31.15		
OLB469 BMERK data access	30.00		
DD Zoo conferencing (Feb)	14.39		
Total	476.80		2,928.12

RESOLVED c/2021/08 to approve list of payments shown.

Bank Balances		Beginning of year Balance	
Current Account	(13,404.10)	Bf balance 2019/20	(26,594.15)
		Receipts to date	<u>(36,673.85)</u>
Business Reserve	<u>(21,940.16)</u>		
Subtotal	(35,344.26)	Subtotal	(63,268.00)

Chairman's initials

Date

Payments not drawn	0.0	Payments to date	27,923.74
Receipts not banked	<u>0.0</u>		
Closing Bank Balance	<u>(35,344.26)</u>		<u>(35,344.26)</u>

12. Report on Recreational facilities and activities.

- 12.1 The recreation report for March had previously been sent out to councillors, detailing work to be done on drainage and Skate Park upgrading.
- 12.2 The Green maintenance consisted of putting the riser and cover in place for the electrics.
This facility will need to be monitored to ensure the RCD box is kept dry.
- 12.3 Drainage has been completed on the Football field giving it time to settle before playing is resumed.
- 12.4 The Tennis Court will re-open at the end of March and work is currently under way to extend the car parking area.
Discussions have been held to improve the natural environment of the field.
- 12.5 The PC expressed interest in a general grant covering ditching and other items including tree replants and furniture for a relaxation area.
- 12.6 There is an enthusiastic response to improvements to the Skate Park facility.

There being no other business to conduct, the meeting closed at 9.45pm.

The next meeting would be at 7.30 pm on Thursday, 8th April 2021.