

**MINUTES OF QUENDON & RICKLING PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 12TH APRIL 2023 AT 7.30 PM.**

Present: Tom Duncan – (TDN) Chairman
Gari Spearpoint – (GS)
Philip Sowter – (PS)
Ljiljana Ortolja-Baird – (LOB)

Keith Williams (KW)-Parish Clerk
0 members of the public

1241. Declarations of Interest

None

1242. Apologies for Absence

District Councillor Neil Hargreaves (NH)
District Councillor Judy Emanuel (JE)

1243. Minutes of the last meeting held on 8th March 2023 (already circulated)

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed as a true and accurate record and were signed by the Chairman.

1244. Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting on 8th March 2023

None

1245. Public participation session

None

1246. Correspondence

1. LOB advised that the Speedwatch Team have received instructions for calibrating the speed indicator.
2. Alexander Stewart of the Community Policing Team would like to attend the next session of the Speedwatch Team. Arrangements will be made.
3. There is one comment on Facebook regarding the new road island on the B1383.
4. The owner of the Green has approved the Coronation Event.
5. There is concern regarding some motorists parking on the Green.
6. Walkers are concerned at the presence of loose horses in the field with the footpath which they use. The owner of the field has agreed to erect electric fencing.

1247. Zero Carbon Grant

A grant of £5425 has been agreed which will be passed to Paul Wilsher to finance the clearing of the ponds.

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1248. Planning

There were no planning applications to consider.

1249. Finance

- a. **Accounts balances (already circulated).**
Noted.
- b. **Invoices and payments for approval.**
The payments were approved.

FINANCE REPORT for MARCH 2023

Balance b/f @ 28/02/2023 38892.15

Payments to be authorised for March 2023

Payee	Chq No	Amount	Reason
Npower	dd	43.74	Electricity for February 2023
Payroo	online	6.00	Payroll expenses
Ted Crow (already paid)	online	72.58	Park post
Local Toilet Hire (already paid)	online	127.20	Football pitch toilets
Ted Crow (already paid)	online	114.84	Grassline paint
Keith Williams	online	386.56	Salary for March 2023
HMRC (Keith Williams)	online	96.80	PAYE for March 2023
Philip Sowter	online	105.00	Posters for Coronation Day
Unity Bank	dd	18.00	Service charge
Total Payments for March 2023		970.72	
Balance at 13/03/2023		37921.43	
Football Pitch receipts		460.00	

Balance c/f at 31/03/2023 38381.43

Please note: The payment to HMRC and was made by the parish clerk and is being reimbursed.

1250. Events

- a. Signs advertising the Coronation Event have been displayed around the village
- b. For the Big Lunch on Monday 8th May the organisers have agreed to hire a bouncy castle and bouncy obstacle course.

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- c. The landlord of the pub has arranged for a live band to play. The Parish Council has agreed to contribute 50% of the cost.
- d. Flowers have been planted at the Fountain.
- e. LOB is trying to arrange a boundary walk. She is compiling a definitive boundary map.

1251. Footpaths update

The footpaths behind Rickling House are in a poor condition, which it is presumed is a result of the recent set weather.

1252. County and District Councillor reports

District Councillor Neil Hargreaves (report submitted in his absence)

Three motions were passed at the last UDC full Council before the election:

1. Objecting to the Walden Amenity Site booking system as not needed – the chief exec has written on behalf of the council to Essex asking for a rethink
2. To government concerning Essex 'devolution' and requirement to have an elected mayor as an extra tier of government in order to obtain levelling up funds. The funds potentially on offer sound large but over 30years and spread across the county on an annual basis would not even cover the 23/24 budget unspecified cuts made just by one council (ECC) never mind what is being cut by the other 15 or so councils in Essex. So the chief exec has written to Michael Gove who heads the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities asking that council finances be put on a sound long term basis so we can plan properly
3. Another motion and letter to Michael Gove on Right to Buy which has cut UDCs social houses from 6000 to just under 3000, and we still lose 12 a year, but the requirement to house people has grown not diminished. The request is either give councils 100% of the proceeds from sales, which are currently significantly discounted to the buyer and then councils don't get to keep all the remaining cash either, and spending it is hedged with rules, or abolish Right to Buy as already done in Scotland and Wales

On the Neighbourhood Plan, you have the minutes and 'scene setting' note from the consultants from the first meeting. Would be good to have that on the PC website.

A second meeting has been held, just Steering Group members. UDC have been written to confirming that we will be doing new site allocations, and asking them to confirm that we will therefore need an Environmental Assessment (which they arrange), asking for NQRNHP2 to be noted on the UDC website, and asking to confirm that grant cash is available from them.

1253. Date of next meeting

10th May 2023

1254. Closure of meeting

There being no further items to be discussed, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 20.40.

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