

**MINUTES OF QUENDON & RICKLING PARISH COUNCIL VIRTUAL MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 10TH FEBRUARY 2021 AT 7.30 PM. BY ZOOM ONLINE.**

Present: Sally Kitcat – Chairman (SK)
Tom Duncan – (TDN)
Katherine Nuthall- (KN)
Tony Dear - (TD)
Carrie Williams – (CW)
Jennie Sutton – (JS)

County Councillor Ray Gooding – (RG)
District Councillor Neil Hargreaves – (NH)
Keith Williams – (KW) (Parish Clerk)

786. Declarations of Interest

None.

787. Apologies for Absence

Ted Crow – (TC)

788. Minutes of the last meeting held on 13th January 2021 (already circulated)

The minutes of the last meeting held on 13th January 2021 were agreed as a true and accurate record and will be signed by the Chairman.

789. Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting on 13th January 2021

None

790. Public participation session

None

791 Finance

a. Accounts balances (already circulated).

Noted.

b. Invoices and payments for approval.

A query was raised regarding the monthly payment to e-on. The parish clerk explained that under the Parish Councils Act 1957 and Highways Act 1980 Local Councils or Parish Councils are responsible for power to light roads and public places in the council's area. In our case it is the Parish Council. The parish clerk will confirm that e-on is aware of the LED lighting in many of the lights, which should ensure that the most competitive charge is being made.

[169/2021]

The payments were approved

Balance b/f @ 31/12/2020	40773.62
less Mike Stevens	145.00
less bank charges	18.00
Balance at 31/12/2020	40610.62

Payments to be authorised for January 2021

Payee	Chq No	Amount	Reason
e-on	dd	58.30	Electricity for December 2020
Keith Williams	online	359.97	Clerk salary for January 2021
HMRC (Keith Williams)	online	90.00	PAYE January 2021
Payroo	online	6.00	Payroll expenses
Strutt & Parker	online	3.00	Quendon Athletic FC
Total Payments for January 2021		517.27	
Refund from Local Toilet Hire		31.20	
Balance @ 31/01/2021		40,124.55	
Balance c/f @ 31/012021		40124.55	

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

792. Correspondence

An invitation has been received from the Institute of Government and Public Policy to attend a two-day online seminar, at a reduced rate of £495 plus VAT. It was decided that the seminar was more appropriate to larger institutions than small parish councils. The council will not therefore be taking up this offer.

793. B1383

a) Highways Survey

Rissa has been in contact regarding the highway scheme. Bruce Bamber has submitted revised survey drawings which incorporate the comments from the Validation carried out at the end of last year by an Essex Highway Engineer. The amended survey has been received and the survey has been scheduled for consideration by the LHP on the 29th March. RG is confident that the recommendations will now be implemented.

[170/2021]

b) Quendon trees

RG advised that the trees will be maples and that planting is imminent.

c) 40 mph buffer zone

This is earmarked to be introduced before the end of March. RG has been through the legal process and it has been signed off.

794. Events

Waffle Van – this will be in the village on the 18th March. An advertisement will be put into The Link.

Pumpkin Competition – The plan is to buy a supply of pumpkin seeds for sale to residents in March. They will be encouraged to plant them with a view to harvesting in October in time for Halloween. There will be a competition for the heaviest pumpkin.

795. Quendon Woods

Strutt and Parker are licenced to coppice trees in the wood, which is being carried out at the present time.

796. Footpaths

There have been comments from residents that some of the footpaths are quite muddy. This was noted, although there is little that can be done with the current weather conditions.

797. Cricket net

Strutt and Parker have agreed to storage of the net on estate land for which they will issue a licence. They propose making a nominal charge for the agreed period. The matter is now under consideration by members of Quendon Athletic FC.

798. Donation to the Village

A previous resident, Sue Lydamore, has made a generous donation of £500 to the village, to be spent at the Parish Council's discretion.

799. Census 2021

This is scheduled for Sunday 21st March 2021.

800. Wildlife Friendly Village

The parish council is looking for ideas, and will put an entry in the Link to invite suggestions. RG does not believe that permission will be required to plant flowers on Highway's land. An entry will be made on Facebook asking for volunteers.

[171/2021]

801. Local Plan consultation – 9 themes

SK, TD and JS will liaise to see what responses should be made. TD has looked at the videos and is of the opinion that a lot of the information requested is beyond the scope of a small parish council. Many of the issues appear to be directed towards larger authorities, but QRPC will contribute where information requests are considered relevant.

802. Lockdown 3

The Parish Council would like to remind all villagers that the council is available to give every assistance possible to residents during the current lockdown period.

803. County and District Councillor reports

Ray Gooding (County Councillor)

- The defibrillator situation at the school has been resolved.
- A Winter Emergency Fund of £2000 has been made available to Uttlesford Food Bank. The Food Bank at present is quite well stocked so it is hoped that the Fund could be targeted at fuel poverty.

Neil Hargreaves (District Councillor)

- The budget, which is classified as a “balanced” budget, has gone for scrutiny.
- There will be £5 p.a. increase in Band C Council Tax.
- A grant of £150,000 has been made available for sports activities.
- Council house rents are due to increase by 1.7%.

804 Date of next meeting

10th March 2021.

805. Closure of meeting

There being no further items to be discussed, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 20.29.

[172/2021]