

**MINUTES OF QUENDON & RICKLING PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 10TH JANUARY 2024 AT 7.30 PM.**

Present: Tom Duncan – (TDN) Chairman
Sue Joannou - (SJ)
Gari Spearpoint - (GS)

Keith Williams (KW)-Parish Clerk
District and County Cllr Ray Gooding (RG)
1 member of the public

1395. Declarations of Interest

None

1396. Apologies for Absence

Philip Sowter – (PS)
Caroline Mackrill – (CM)
District Cllr Neil Hargreaves (NH)

1397. Minutes of the last meeting held on 13th December 2023 (already circulated)

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

1398. Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting on 13th December 2023

There is concern regarding the condition of the Green which is being churned up by cars.

1399. Public participation session

Has Cllr Gooding met yet with Kimi Bedendoch MP?
Who keeps the website up to date?

1400. Correspondence

A request for a donation has been received from the Friends of Clavering Primary School.
The invoice for use of the Village Hall has been received from the Village Hall Committee.

1401. Planning

UTT/23/2923/HHF-Foxley House, Rickling Green Road
Two storey extension and roof alterations.

No objections subject to access to the site being via Rickling Green Road.

1402. Finance

a. Accounts balances (already circulated).

Noted.

[309/2024]

b. Invoices and payments for approval.

The payments were approved.

FINANCE REPORT for DECEMBER 2023

Balance b/f @ 30/11/2023 41011.42

Payments to be authorised for December 2023

<u>Payee</u>	<u>Chq No</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Reason</u>
Ted Crow	Already paid	18.99	Corner flag
npower	dd	109.35	Electricity for November 2023
EALC	online	456.00	Training days for Caroline and Su
Gari Spearpoint	online	39.59	Christmas decorations
Payroo	online	6.00	Payroll expenses for November 2 Salary and backpay for December
Keith Williams	online	637.86	2023
HMRC (Keith Williams)	online	159.60	PAYE for December 2023
Local Toilet Hire	online	132.00	Toilet hire for football pitch
Ted Crow	online	60.00	Matchday preps December 2023
Ted Crow	online	105.00	Allocation payments December 2
Total Payments for December 2023		1724.39	
Balance at 31/12/2023		39287.03	
Football Pitch income		0.00	

Balance c/f at 31/12/2023 39287.03

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

1403. Events

The invoice for the Christmas Tree has been received.

There are no national events to consider in 2024. Plans for 2024 events would include;

- Mid to late Summer Quickling Festival.
- Run Fest in mid-June.
- Autumn Daze.

SJ will co-ordinate event arrangements.

[310/2024]

1404. Footpaths update

No further updates. The salt/grit bins have been filled.

1405. B1383 update

GS has written to Cllr Gooding pointing out that the path continues to deteriorate. He is considering contacting BBC Look East to further publicise the problem.

1406. Capital Projects for the Village

SJ is compiling a list of potential projects, with appropriate costings.

1407. Neighbourhood Plan

No further updates.

1408. Pond maintenance

Paul Wilsher (PW) had advised that checking for the presence of great crested newts in the ponds was required. A quotation of £438 for this testing has been received. The PC would like this to proceed, and the clerk will advise PW.

1409. County and District Councillor reports

Neil Hargreaves (NH) (submitted in his absence).

Planning

The latest housing build figures (which councils have no influence over) have shown a slowdown of building. This triggers a 20% buffer on top of the 5 year land supply which we had at April 2023 and so UDC no longer has the required 5 years and the balance towards giving permission has reappeared.

Good news is the Dec 2023 reissue of the NPPF gives Neighbourhood Plans a 5 year life at full strength, so we have a full weight NHP, which has been very effective at opposing unsuitable applications.

There is a Local Plan intervention letter from Mr Gove demanding a revised Local Development Scheme.

Neighbourhood Plan

With Q&R not wanting to go for any sites we are concentrating on Newport. A draft Housing Mix analysis has been done by AECOM, now with us for fact checking. Also a Strategic Environmental assessment has just started which looks at sewerage, water, general ability to sustain development.

[311/2024]

Budget

Our 24/25 budget is in preparation. We are not in the position of other authorities, typically those with social care responsibility, who are going to s114 effective bankruptcy, but it will still be a tough budget. More below inflation govt funding and a bar on council tax increase above 3% means a hard look at non statutory spend. The council gives £700k a year, nearly 5% of the budget to voluntary bodies and grants such as to Citizens Advice.

Ray Gooding (RG)

RG has spoken to Kemi Badendoch regarding the ongoing problem of the B1383 footpath. GS asked if work was likely to proceed this year. RG confirmed that it would. He has been trying to get an agreement for the work to be carried out in stages. Initially the bushes and shrubs would be cleared with the re-surfacing work to follow. This clearing work would need to be carried out before bird-nesting season. GS pointed out that the nesting season starts around late February early March.

The budget was currently being considered and is likely to result in increased council tax.

1410. Date of next meeting

14th February 2024

1411. Closure of meeting

There being no further items to be discussed, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 20.51.

[312/2024]