

**MINUTES OF QUENDON & RICKLING PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 14TH JULY 2021 AT 7.30 PM.**

Present: Sally Kitcat – Chairman (SK)
Tom Duncan – (TDN)
Katherine Nuthall- (KN)
Tony Dear - (TD)
Jennie Sutton – (JS)
Andy MacNaughton – (AM)

Neil Hargreaves – (NH) (District Councillor)
Keith Williams – (KW) (Parish Clerk)

1 member of the public

870. Declarations of Interest

None.

871. Apologies for Absence

Carrie Williams (CW)

872. Minutes of the last meeting held on 9th June 2021 (already circulated)

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

873. Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting on 9th June 2021

None

874. Public participation session

None

875. Correspondence

A resident has reported that drug dealing had been noted in the lane by the football pitch.

876. Finance

a. Accounts balances (already circulated).

Noted.

b. Invoices and payments for approval.

The payments were approved.

[186/2021]

c. Adoption of the Budget for 2021/2022

The Budget was adopted.

877. Planning

UTT/21/2180/HHF – Manor Farm, Cambridge Road

Proposed reinstatement of paddock within garden and erection of fencing and single storey shelter to be used in association with the keeping of Alpacas.

No objections.

878. B1383

a) Traffic Calming Scheme

KN advised that she has been trying for a while to discover what the detailed design for the scheme is. She knows what the proposed design looks like post validation, courtesy of Bruce Bambers' amended drawings, but this has not been confirmed.

To try and get an answer KN attended the latest LHP meeting on the 5th of July. She received the following email from Rissa Long, Highway Liaison Officer for Braintree, Harlow and Uttlesford, just prior to the start of the meeting.

“As soon as the design is ready then we will of course share it with yourselves and Cllr Gooding prior to the implementation element being programmed. It is the intention that the scheme is delivered in its entirety this year and as being progressed as a priority scheme for Uttlesford.”

Currently the budget put forward for the scheme is £50K. It is proposed to be implemented in Q3 (July-Sept).

b) VAS signs

The sign is still not working. The Parish Clerk had tried to notify Highways but their on-line portal would not accept the notification. He therefore contacted County Councillor Ray Gooding (RG) on 29th June to ask for his help. Cllr Gooding replied that he would chase this up and try to get the sign repaired. At the time of this meeting there had been no further information. The Parish Clerk will therefore contact Cllr Gooding again for an update.

c) 50 mph sign

The sign is still awaiting repair. The Parish Clerk will check on the current position.

879. Events

a) Quickling

KN reported that arrangements were proceeding satisfactorily. Posters had been produced for display around the village. Prizes have been donated.

[187/2021]

b) Marquee

TD advised that there appeared to be no white marquees of the required size available in the country. Black is available but this was not considered to be acceptable. It is hoped that the marquees will be obtainable in September. TD will keep the Parish Council informed.

880. Foxley 2

- Access should be reverting back to the original status.
- The verge will be reinstated.
- Stonebond is still in discussion with Essex Highways.
- The bat/bird boxes have been installed.

881. Village Maps

TD had contacted the producers of the original maps who quoted an amount of £437 for new maps, but with the Parish Council providing the artwork. It has been suggested that Parish-on-Line may be able to supply the required maps. TD will investigate.

882. Wildlife Friendly Village

Mowing

Paul Wilsher (PW) explained that the basic principle for the new procedures would be to mow less often, allowing wild flowers to naturally seed. It takes approximately 6 weeks from flowering the setting of seeds. The longer grass will also support birds and insect life. The cuttings will need to be removed. After the Summer/Autumn mowing has been completed it will be in order to revert to regular mowing.

Ponds

There are 3 ponds, which generally appear to be in a healthy condition.

- a) *Green pond* – the only concern is that there is a pipe under the road nearby and the worry would be that there could be some run off. This should be monitored.
- b) *Lane pond* – this is situated close to fields and once again there is the possibility of run off.
- c) *Church pond* – this is quite overgrown with extensive tree cover. Fortunately it is not near fields or roads so there is no concern there.

Very often ponds which look unkempt actually support a lot of wildlife. No action should be taken without expert advice. He recommends contacting Essex Wildlife Trust who will give good advice and guidance. The Parish Council agreed and PW said he would contact the Trust.

883. Forsters Footpath planting

There is still evidence of rubbish on the footpath site. SK suggested that in November a team should be formed to clear the area.

884. Queens Platinum tree planting

The choice of tree is still being considered but an attractive option is a tulip tree.

885. Call for sites

A Call for Sites response has been submitted by Strutt & Parker on behalf of their client, Quendon Estate. They have submitted the agricultural land and the football field off Belchams Lane, along with the land off Coney Acre as part of UDC's Local Plan requirement to have a Call for Sites across the district. The proposal is for both sites to provide a range of residential accommodation that would be retained by the Quendon Estate and then let out on a private rental scheme basis. If both proposed sites are developed, around 145 to 165 new homes, three new play areas, sports and leisure facilities and new footpaths could be provided for the village over a number of years.

The list of submitted sites has not yet been published. A Parish Council Workshop is scheduled for 26th July, to which Parish Councils are invited, and it is hoped that more information will be made available then.

886. Footpaths

There had been a complaint from a resident that the open land to the North of Bluebell Woods where the public footpaths cross in various directions had not been cut. This was referred to Graham Willoughby who is the farm manager of Maces Farm.

He replied directly to the resident explaining that the Public Right of Way footpaths were cut about 4/5 weeks ago and then again the previous Friday. He explained that the grass fields themselves are in a stewardship scheme to encourage more flowering grasses and wildflowers in order to increase the habitat and food available for invertebrates, birds and other animals (GS2). The rules that must be followed state that they can only be cut after 1st of July, which would be done once the weather enabled their contractor to cut them and make hay, as he has done in the past.

The footpath to the side of Manor Farm had been cut back.

887. County and District Councillor reports

District Councillor Neil Hargreaves

- An interim Chief Executive, Rob Tinlin, had been appointed following the resignation of Dawn French.
- Cllr Judy Emanuel had been to two planning meetings
- Two proposed developments had been refused planning permission due to the wording contained in the Neighbourhood Plan.
- UDC was seeking a judicial review regarding the permission granted for the expansion of Stansted Airport.

[189/2021]

888 Date of next meeting

8th September 2021.

889. Closure of meeting

There being no further items to be discussed, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 20.59.

[190/2021]