

DRAFT MINUTES OF QUENDON & RICKLING PARISH COUNCIL VIRTUAL MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 13th MAY 2020 AT 7.30 PM. BY ZOOM ONLINE.

Present: Sally Kitcat – Chairman (SK)
Carrie Williams – (CW)
Ted Crow – (TC)
Tom Duncan – (TDN)
Ele Stoneham (ES)
Katherine Nuthall (KN)
Tony Dear (TD)

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

Note: no members of the public has requested the ID to log onto the meeting.

629. Declarations of Interest

CW declared an interest in item 8: Planning UTT/20/0790/FUL – Hill House.
KN declared an interest in item 8: Planning UTT/20/0790/FUL – Hill House.

630. Apologies for Absence

None

631. Minutes of the last meeting held on 11th March 2020 (already circulated)

The minutes of the last meeting held on 12th February 2020 were agreed as a true and accurate record. As the meeting was held online the Chairman was unable to sign the minutes at this stage. Arrangements will be made for signing of the minutes.

632. Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting on 11th March 2020

SK advised that there had been a very successful litter-pick.

633. Public participation session

None

634. Finance

- a. **Account balances (already circulated).**
Noted.
- b. **Invoices and payments for approval.**
Approved.

FINANCE REPORT for APRIL 2020

Balance b/f @ 31/03/2020 49332.91

UDC Precept (first instalment) 6250.00
55582.91

Payments to be authorised for April 2020

Payee	Chq No	Amount	Reason
e-on	dd	58.30	Electricity for March
Brian Blackwell	1141	150.00	Grass cutting
Keith Williams	1142	343.72	Clerk salary for April 2020
HMRC (Keith Williams)	1143	85.80	PAYE April 2020
Payroo (Keith Williams)	1144	6.00	Payroll expenses
Total Payments		643.82	

Balance c/f @ 30/04/2020 54939.09

c. Unity Bank

The Parish Council agreed to the transfer of the bank account to Unity Bank, which would enable future on line payments. The parish clerk will make the necessary arrangements.

d. Insurance renewal

The Parish Council agreed to transfer the council's insurance to Pen (AXA), via Came and Co brokers, with the long-term agreement. The parish clerk will make the necessary arrangements.

635. Correspondence

An email has been received from a former resident, expressing his dismay at the apparent degradation caused to "Quendon Wood" [aka Bluebell Wood]. SK responded and advised the former resident that a copy of the email would be forwarded to the land owner. SK will contact the land owner to see what measures can be taken to prevent future damage.

[128/2020]

636. Planning

UTT/20/0790/FUL – Hill House, Cambridge Road.

Conversion of existing barn to form residential annex.

The Parish Council has objected to this planning application. The full comments can be viewed on the UDC Planning website.

637. B1383

a) Quendon Trees

The trees which have been planted do not look very healthy. Irrigation bags have been placed at the bottom of five of the trees and efforts are being made to keep the trees watered.

The parish council would like to know if any further action is to be taken. RG advised that it is unlikely that any further action will be taken. The Parish Council wishes to place on record its dissatisfaction with the outcome of this process and the lack of satisfactory communication from the responsible authority.

b) VAS sign

Rissa Long (RL) of Essex Highways has advised that the sign was ordered prior to the lockdown and that under normal circumstances Solagen [the installers] would operate on an 8 week turnaround. However due to the government enforced Coronavirus restrictions Solagen have temporarily shut down operations so we will not know for the foreseeable future when the sign will be replaced.

c) 40 mph limit

RL has advised that the 40mph buffer which had been agreed by all parties was originally intended to be installed and operational in April. However due to the objections received during the consultation process there is now a big question mark over the progression of the scheme. The objections now need to be resolved before the scheme can commence and this requires a report to be prepared for the Cabinet Member to consider. RL cannot therefore say if or when this will be now be installed.

RG has indicated that he would like to discuss with the parish council some proposals he has.

d) Speed Survey on Coney Acre

This is currently on hold.

e) Highways Survey

The survey has commenced and the first draft has been received by the parish council for consideration and comments.

[129/2020]

638. Events

All events are on hold during the Covid-19 crisis.

639. Covid-19

TC advised that he had received two requests for assistance. There is considerable help available within the village, with a substantial amount of information on the website. There is general satisfaction with the way the situation is being handled within the village.

640. Restoration work

- a. Noticeboards**
- b. Posts**
- c. Benches**
- d. Dog Bins**

All these issues are on hold during the Covid-19 crisis.

641. County and District Councillor reports

Neil Hargreaves (District Councillor) –

- The Local Plan is being revised.
- An amount of £20 million has been made available by the government to businesses during the Covid-19 crisis.
- The government has also made an extra £905,000 available to district councils to help offset the additional costs incurred during the Covid-19 crisis. NH advises that he does not feel that this will actually cover all the extra costs.
- Not all the council tax has been collected. UDC will therefore have to decide if they will be able to make the second payment of the precept.
- All the current UDC meetings are carried out via Zoom.

Ray Gooding (County Councillor)

- ECC is also using Zoom for council meetings.
- Repairs, including to road surfaces, are continuing but inevitably there will be some delays.
- Care Homes are one of the biggest challenges facing the council.
- The council has experienced the highest number of referrals to the Family Support Unit. There is great pressure on families at this time.
- Only 1% of bus services are currently in operation which means that commercial income, as opposed to council grants, has virtually ceased. This could have an impact on future operations.

642. Date of next meeting

10th June 2020.

643. Closure of meeting

There being no further items to be discussed, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 20.38.

[130/2020]