

**MINUTES OF QUENDON & RICKLING PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON TUESDAY 13th DECEMBER 2022 AT 7.30 PM.**

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

County Cllr Ray Gooding (RG)
Keith Williams (KW)-Parish Clerk
0 members of the public

1169. Declarations of Interest

None

1170. Apologies for Absence

Robert Ryder – (RR)
District Cllr Neil Hargreaves (NH)
District Cllr Judy Emanuel (JE)

1171. Minutes of the last meeting held on 9th November 2022 (already circulated)

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

1172. Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting on 9th November 2022

The pond maintenance has been carried out.

1173. Public participation session

None

1174. Correspondence

There is no grit in the bins. The parish clerk will investigate the free supply of salt from Essex Highways via the Salt Bag Partnership.

1175. Planning

- a. UTT/22/3113/LB – The Thatched Cottage, Cambridge Road**
Restore a Georgian chimney stack/inglenook fireplace.

No objections

- b. UTT/22/3097/HHF – The Thatched Cottage, Cambridge Road**
Construct a two-bay cart lodge and Restore a Georgian chimney stack/inglenook fireplace.

No objections.

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1176. Finance

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

FINANCE REPORT for NOVEMBER 2022

Balance b/f @ 31/10/2022 43595.65

Payments to be authorised for November 2022

Payee	Chq No	Amount	Reason
Ted Crow	online	270.00	Allocation payment
Ted Crow	online	70.00	Matchday preparations
Local Toilet Hire	online	127.20	Football toilet hire
Npower	dd	63.78	Electricity for October 2022
Payroo	online	6.00	Payroll expenses
Thelma Wilson	online	31.97	Pansies for fountain
			Grass
James Penrose	online	220.00	cutting
Parish Online	online	45.00	Digital mapping
Ted Crow	online	19.57	Earmuffs
Ted Crow	online	114.84	Pitch line paint
Keith Williams	online	359.13	Salary November 2022
HMRC (Keith Williams)	online	89.80	PAYE November 2022
Local Toilet Hire	online	127.20	Football toilet hire
Ted Crow	online	60.00	Matchday preparations
Ted Crow	online	180.00	Allocation payment

Total Payments for November 2022 1784.49

Balance at 30/11/2022 41811.16

Football pitch hire 455.00

Pumpkin competition 40.50

Balance c/f at 30/11/2022 42306.66

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

c. Agree precept for 2023/2024

It was agreed that the Precept for 2023/2024 would remain as last year, at **£14203.00**. Any expenses over this amount will be funded from reserves.

d. Agree clerk's annual pay increase

The clerk's increase, details of which had already been circulated, was agreed.

1177. Events

a. Fountain decorations

The decorations were much appreciated by residents and the Parish Council would like to offer their thanks to the volunteers for all their efforts.

b. Christmas lights switch on

There was a large turnout, in excess of 150 people, for the switch on. Once again the Parish Council would like to offer their thanks to the volunteers for all their efforts. Also to Tom's Trees for supplying the tree at a very competitive cost.

1178. Footpaths update

Forsters footpath has been cleared by Highways Rangers.

1179. B1383

a. Speedwatch training

There are now 9 volunteers, and training has been completed. Speedwatch is now in operation.

b. Footway clearance

RG is arranging to meet Lee Scott of Essex Highways in Newport sometime in January 2023. He will take Lee to Quendon to show the poor condition of the footway alongside the B1383 and will impress upon him the urgency for clearance of the overgrown vegetation.

There had been some suggestion of constructing a cycle path from Stansted to Newport. There are no current plans for this at this time.

1180. Voluntary contribution to Highway Rangers

Peter Holt (PH) of Uttlesford District Council (UDC) has advised all town and parish councils in Uttlesford that Essex County Council has withdrawn funding for this service. UDC has decided not to fund the service, which costs an annual amount of £65000. In order for the service to continue he is seeking voluntary contributions from the various towns and parishes.

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He is suggesting a contribution of £1 per registered voter. The Parish Council feels that the services provided by the Rangers should if possible be retained and therefore would be broadly in agreement with the proposal. Further details will be forthcoming when PH has received all responses.

1181. Village Hall Broadband - Gigaclear Community Hub

The current mobile signal in parts of the village is very weak. TDN has been discussing the Community Hub scheme with Gigaclear who will provide broadband, free for the first year, with a dedicated hub to serve the village. It is suggested this be sited in the Village Hall. TDN will discuss this with the Village Hall trustees.

1182. Village Ponds

Brick Hill Lane pond has been cleared. Paul Wilsher (PW) has not yet received a firm quotation for dredging work. LOB will contact PW to see if he can provide at least an indication of the likely cost.

1183. County and District Councillor reports

County Councillor Ray Gooding

- At a full council meeting the subject of young persons mental health issues was discussed. It seems that some families with youngster suffering from mental health issues are having difficulty in making contact with the relevant people.
- A number of young people are refusing to go to school. In many cases they do not leave their homes. There is also concern regarding body image issues amongst some youngsters. These issues are being addressed.
- The possibility of an elected mayor for Essex has been raised. There are advantages and disadvantages. A devolution package for the county is being discussed.

District Councillor Neil Hargreaves (report submitted in his absence)

- Finance heads from all Essex councils met on the 23rd November. Of particular concern is the ending of the Highways Rangers scheme. The Essex Finance lead was not able to say how this service can continue to be delivered.
- Budget pressures were a further concern. Other councils feel that they can balance their budgets with the use of reserves.
- UDC will be proposing a 3% council tax rise, which equates to £5 per year.
- On council house rents, UDC is not likely to impose the full 7% increase, but this has yet to be decided.
- Cllr Judy Emanuel (JE) has asked consultants to obtain a quotation for conducting a review of the Neighbourhood Plan (NhP). However, the good news is that the ministry has intimated that the NhP will have 5 years full weight in place of 2 years, although this is not in legislation yet.

1184. Date of next meeting

11th January 2023

1185. Closure of meeting

There being no further items to be discussed, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 21.12.

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