

**MINUTES OF QUENDON & RICKLING PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 12 FEBRUARY 2020 AT 7.30 PM.**

Present: Sally Kitcat – Chairman (SK)
Carrie Williams – (CW)
Ted Crow – (TC)
Tom Duncan – (TDN)

Ray Gooding (RG) – (County Councillor)
Neil Hargreaves (NH)- (District Councillor)

6 members of the public
Keith Williams – (KW) (Parish Clerk)

585. Declarations of Interest

None.

586. Apologies for Absence

Ele Stoneham (ES)
Katherine Nuthall (KN)
Tony Dear (TD)

587. Minutes of the last meeting held on 15th January 2020 (already circulated)

The minutes of the last meeting held on 15th January 2020 were agreed as a true and accurate record, and were duly signed by the Chairman.

588. Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting on 15th January 2020

None

589. Public participation session

- The north boundary of Foxley 2 has been badly treated and trees have been removed. SK will take this up with the developers.
- A resident reported to Essex Highways that there were trees down and was pleased to report that contractors were down within a day and removed the trees.
- The driveway opposite the new development has been blocked by developer's lorries. SK will contact Stonebond.
- Was a map of the possible development sites proposed by Strutt and Parker presented at the last meeting? There was no map as S&P have given no clear details of their plans at this stage.

590. Sheep

- Lambing is now in process. The sheep will shortly be moved from Quendon and Rickling.

[115/2020]

- If all goes well then Wayne, the shepherd, has undertaken to erect additional fencing.
- Dog mess in the sheep fields has been a problem. This can cause blindness in sheep. So far he has lost 7-8 sheep which he believes is due to the dog mess.
- He has had lots of support from residents.

591. Finance

a. **Account balances (already circulated).**
Noted.

b. **Invoices and payments for approval.**
Approved.

FINANCE REPORT for JANUARY 2020

Balance b/f @ 31/12/19 26476.81

26476.81

Payments to be authorised for January 2020

Payee	Chq No	Amount	Reason
e-on	dd	58.30	Electricity for December 2019
Quendon b& Rickling Village Hall	1119	163.00	Room hire
EALC	1120	330.00	Councillor training
Payroo (Keith Williams)	1121	6.00	Payroll expenses
Local Toilet Hire	1122	124.80	Portaloo hire for football pitch
Keith Williams	1123	343.52	Clerk salary for January 2020
HMRC (Keith Williams)	1124	86.00	PAYE January 2020
A&J Lighting	1125	140.40	Electricity maintenance

Total Payments 1252.02

Balance c/f @ 31/01/2020 25224.79

Please note: The payments to HMRC and Payroo were made by the parish clerk and are being reimbursed.

c. **Unity Bank**

The parish clerk gave a brief overview of the facilities which can be provided by Unity Bank, in particular on-line banking. He hopes to provide more details at the next meeting.

[116/2020]

592 Correspondence

An email had been received regarding overhanging branches on the property designated as “Land to the North of Manor Farm”. It has been established that the site is owned by 4 persons. The parish clerk is to write to all 4 owners to request that they arrange for removal/cutting back of the trees.

593. Planning

There were no planning applications to consider.

594. Foxley 2

Stonebond agreement

It was agreed that the agreement should be signed by the Chairman and parish clerk and be forwarded to Stonebond together with the invoice for £25000.00.

595. Events

- The Wine and Waffle is due take place this month.
- The pop-up cinema will be in March.
- Preparations are in force for the Quickling Festival.

596. B1383

Solar lights –

- Chris Phillips (CP) has spoken to Essex Highways about any issues which may arise as the suggested area is a conservation area. He is awaiting their response.
- CP provided details of a lighting system which he would recommend.
- SK has received an email from a resident who is very opposed to the lights.
- SK suggested having a survey amongst residents of the to assess their views.

Horse Chestnut Trees

CW advised that the arboriculturist from UDC had completed a survey of 7 trees, 4 are dead and need to be removed. The work has been put out to tender. The trees will not be replaced at this time as there is a moratorium on planting trees.

VAS sign

RG advised that the damaged sign is due to be picked up and assessed to see if it can be repaired.

The parish clerk is still waiting to hear from the council’s insurers as to whether replacement of the sign would be covered under the council’s insurance policy.

[117/2020]

40 mph limit

NH gave an overview of the actions taken to date. The matter is still being considered.

A resident wondered that, if Highways will not agree to extend the 30mph limit, rather than insert a 40mph limit between the existing 50mph limit and 30mph limit, could the village sign be moved back to encompass the new developments and therefore move the 30mph sign also back? This is certainly a consideration.

RG feels that opposing the 40mph limit, and holding out for a 30mph limit, would delay matters. His opinion is that a 30mph limit is unlikely to be granted.

The general feeling seems to be to try for the 30mph limit.
The council is currently awaiting a reply from Highways.

597. Broadband

TDN gave an update on current installations.

598. Spring Litter Pick

This has been scheduled for 21st March.

599. Footpaths

There are a number of fallen trees across footpath 22 which have been reported to Strutt and Parker. S&P have also been asked to remove rubbish left by a tenant. SK will also approach the Diocese.

600. Councillor training

Three parish councillors have attended training courses arranged by EALC.

601. Appointment of Vice-Chairman

TC was duly appointed to be Vice-Chairman.

602. DART

KN has received the following communication from Frances Carpenter who is the Transport Officer for Essex County Council.

“We have also had some movement here in the office with regard to hopefully being able to do some substantial work around publicising DaRT to the right people. My colleague is also working on booking in DaRT meetings for April, so I will let you know once we have booked these.”

RG advised that UDC has not yet signed up to the concessionary fares arrangement.

603. Essex Highways update

SK had a meeting with Rissa Long. The summary of the meeting is as follows.

Traffic calming/speeding

The B1383 is a priority road, so we are unable to have a number of traffic calming measures according to the TSR&GD (the Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions, the Highways "Bible"). The only possible calming measure we can have is an island or a pedestrian refuge but Highways believes that our road is not wide enough. If we did manage to get one, it is unlikely that we will be able to illuminate it with above lights as residents do not want more unnatural light at night so the bollards would be illuminated from within only. We are unlikely to get a zebra crossing as there are not enough people crossing the road in one day to make it viable and a pelican crossing is completely unviable as it is too expensive.

TC and SK have measured the road at either end of Quendon to see if a traffic island is practicable. It is 7.2 metres wide by the village hall. For comparison, in Newport a recent installation was on the road whose width is 7.4 metres. At Waterbutt Row the road width was measured at 7.44 metres, so this could be a possible site.

SK to raise a Scheme Request Form for a LHP for Essex Highways to investigate traffic calming measures further.

Once they receive the LHP forms from councils, the monies are allocated in the January or March meetings of each year for the following year. An engineer is then sent to assess whether the request meets their criteria and whether the solution is cost effective. Once the monies are allocated for the year, there is no money left for anything else and this is why it takes so long for anything to be done.

It was mentioned that the most natural form of traffic calming is parking on the main road!

The police are or have been trialling a new speed camera, which records everything on the gun rather than having to write details down as well. SK has been in touch with SW police to see where we stand and await their response.

Brick Kiln Lane/Belchams Lane

Highways has confirmed that a survey will be done on this road in April.

Proposed Footpath from Ventnor to Village Hall

Highways confirmed that this has now been cancelled. Once Foxley 2 is built there will be no need for residents to walk along the main road as they will be able to walk through the developments.

The VAS sign

Highways is going to get Solagen (the contractors who erected the sign) to have a look at the mother board and see if it can be mended. This probably won't happen until April as there is no budget left this year.

The 40mph Buffer Zone

Funding has been agreed. The notices are now up asking for any comments or objections.

Missing Bus stop outside Broomwood

Where the bus stop should be, it is not believed to be council owned property but Highways is going to look into this further.

Replacement Bus Shelter

Highways to investigate further to see if this is being replaced.

Main Pavement on the B1383

There is a problem clearing the pavement in the 50mph zone as the Rangers are unable to work outside a 30 mph. SK to continue to report the continuing deterioration.

Hole in Belchams Lane

There have been traffic cones around this hole for some time now, complete with repair red lines but there is no sign/enquiry number on the Highways website. SK to resubmit.

604. Noticeboards

The glass has fallen out of the Thistley Crescent noticeboard and the others need some attention. SK will obtain a quotation for the work.

605. County and District Councillor reports Neil Hargreaves (District Councillor)

- The Council's budget is currently under discussion.
- The Local Plan has not been accepted. The options now are to either amend it or withdraw it. If it is withdrawn this could potentially lead to more housing developments.

Ray Gooding (County Councillor)

- The Essex County Council budget meeting was held the previous day.
- Support was being established for the "just about managing families", with for example summer camps.
- Youth services were being extended to encourage young people to speak to youth workers.

606. Date of next meeting

11th March 2020.

607. Closure of meeting

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

21.29

[120/2020]

