

**MINUTES OF QUENDON & RICKLING PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 11TH MARCH 2020 AT 7.30 PM.**

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

Ray Gooding (RG) – (County Councillor)
4 members of the public
Keith Williams – (KW) (Parish Clerk)

608. Declarations of Interest

None.

609. Apologies for Absence

None

610. Minutes of the last meeting held on 12th February 2020 (already circulated)

The minutes of the last meeting held on 12th February 2020 were agreed as a true and accurate record, and were duly signed by the Chairman.

611. Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting on 12th February 2020

None

612. Public participation session

- What is VAS? Vehicle Activated Sign.
- Why is the meeting room called the “Men’s Club Room”? This is historic.
- During the coronavirus situation, residents should be encouraged to keep a check on the elderly and vulnerable people in the village.
- The Emergency Plan needs updating with current information.

613. Finance

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

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

[121/2020]

FINANCE REPORT for FEBRUARY 2020

Balance b/f @ 31/01/20	25224.79
Football pitch income January 2020	120.00

25344.79

Payments to be authorised for February 2020

Payee	Chq No	Amount	Reason
Carrie Williams	1126	7.90	Plants for Village Hall planter
Ted Crow	1127	49.76	Football pitch fuel
EALC	1128	126.00	Councillor training
EALC	1129	126.00	Councillor training
e-on	dd	58.30	Electricity for January 2020
Payroo (Keith Williams)	1130	6.00	Payroll expenses
Local Toilet Hire	1131	124.80	Portaloos hire for football pitch
Keith Williams	1132	343.72	Clerk salary for February 2020
Q&R Village Hall	1133	87.50	Defibrillator and hall hire
HMRC (Keith Williams)	1134	85.80	PAYE February 2020

Total Payments	1015.78
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Quiz Night income	225.00
Stonebond donation	25000.00

Balance c/f @ 29/02/2020	49554.01
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Please note: The payments to HMRC and Payroo were made by the parish clerk and are being reimbursed.

c. Natwest Bank

TD advised that Natwest Bank is offering a similar system for local and parish councils as that already available with Unity Bank. He will obtain details and present to the Parish Council.

d. Insurance

The current council policy expires on 31st May 2020. It was agreed that the Parish Council should investigate other insurers for alternative quotations. The clerk will contact Came and Co who are specialist brokers for local council insurance. As brokers they are able to offer alternative quotations for consideration each year.

[122/2020]

614. Correspondence

A response had been received from the owners of the “Land to the North of Manor Farm” confirming that clearing and trimming work had commenced. Once the sale of the site has gone through the new owner will deal with the overhanging road branches.

Chris Phillips (CP) had emailed details of solar lighting to the parish clerk for circulation to parish councillors. This had apparently had not been received. CP will re-send the email.

615. Planning

UTT/20/0227/HHF-Quendon Cottage, Cambridge Road.

Proposed single storey front extension.

No objections, with the following comments to be submitted to UDC Planning.

“Having visited the site the Parish Council have no objection to the proposed given the extension is modest and subservient to the existing dwelling, melding in with the materials and roof line of the building. The garage extension is sympathetic and has no material adverse effect on the views of the historic church, or the site more generally.”

616. B1383

a) Quendon Trees

The Parish Council has been trying to obtain from UDC or ECC seven fifteen-foot trees to replace the horse chestnut trees. Thus far the councils have only offered hornbeam trees which are already common in the surrounding woods. The council would like more notable trees. The matter has now been referred to John Lodge, head of UDC, and Gavin Jones CEO of ECC, and a response is awaited. In the meantime, the PC has requested tree planting is held off until an agreement can be reached. Councillor Ray Gooding will also investigate and report back.

b) VAS sign

The existing sign is too badly damaged to be repaired but ECC have now offered to provide a replacement.

c) 40 mph limit

The Parish Council’s objections have been submitted. Nothing further has been heard to date.

d) Highways Survey

The council has received the funding from Stonebond and will therefore give the go ahead for the survey to be carried out.

e) Traffic cameras at Belchams Lane

Enquiries have been made with Highways as to the reason for installation of the cameras. No reply has been received.

f) LHP Scheme – Traffic calming measures

RG will be negotiating on the council's behalf.

617. Foxley 2

Stonebond submitted the name "Ricula" for naming the road on which the new houses would be situated. UDC Planning has now advised that an application was made a few years ago and there were three road names created, Bluebell Drive, Oxlip Close and Snowdrop Road. The layout of the site was considered and any potential future development. For this reason Snowdrop Road had only one property – number 2 – and the development they are now looking at O/00022/NEWDEV is for a continuation of this street. The intention therefore is to use "Snowdrop Road" and not "Ricula". Stonebond is appealing.

The verge has been cleared by the contractors after complaints from residents about lorries parking on them. The contractors are using the Bowling Club site for parking their vehicles.

618. Events

The Wine and Waffle was well attended and £40 is to be donated. The pop-up cinema will be on 28th March.

619. Broadband

- The website has been successfully transferred to the new provider.
- Church End, Rickling, is now full connected.
- 95% of village properties are now connected.
- If there are now any queries residents will need to contact the supplier Gigaclear.

620. Spring Litter Pick

This is confirmed for 21st March. The parish clerk will obtain litter pickers and rubbish bags from UDC.

621. Footpaths

- Both of the trees at Quendon Church footpath have been removed.
- Strutt and Parker will deal with the damaged barn when the weather improves.
- A resident is a member of the Ramblers Association and has permission to use a chainsaw on footpaths. He has offered his services if needed.

622. DART

KN has received information regarding this bus service, to be used to advertise it amongst the village. Before doing this she is awaiting further information from the operators meeting to be held at the end of month in case changes are made. The operators would like to make clear that this service is for all parishioners and not just the elderly. Further information can be found at the following Web address

<https://www.essexhighways.org/Transport-and-Roads/Getting-Around/Bus/Demand-Responsive-Transport-DaRT.aspx>

If it is not used regularly we run the risk of losing it.

623. Noticeboards

A quote of £200 maximum has been received to repair all the noticeboards. Some of the notices have faded and will need replacing.

624. Dog bins

The siting of the new bins is in abeyance. UDC had not yet responded to the issue of emptying. The parish clerk will pursue the matter with UDC.

625. Policy reviews

- a) **Planning Guidelines** – review to be considered next month.
- b) **Complaints Procedure** – review accepted and agreed.
- c) **Grants Policy** – review accepted and agreed.
- d) **Social Media Policy** – review accepted and agreed.

626. County and District Councillor reports

Ray Gooding (County Councillor)

- 70% of residents are likely to be infected.
- ECC is following Public Health England advice.
- There is concern about the possible closure of schools. It is considered to be not necessary until the incidents of infections rises. If there is a closure decision it is likely to last 8 weeks.
- 89% of pupils were allocated their first-choice school.
- 96% of pupils were allocated their first- or second-choice school.
- ECC has bid £1 million to look into public transport. £¼ million will be targeted at the DART initiative.

Neil Hargreaves (District Councillor) – report sent in absence

The Corporate Plan was approved earlier this month <https://www.uttlesford.gov.uk/article/6581/Residents-at-the-heart-of-new-Corporate-Plan>

Also approved was the 20/21 budget and Commercial Strategy. Council house rents going up 2.7%, to average of £101 a week, after four years of govt mandated (unfunded) 1% pa reductions. Council tax up £5 a year ie 10p a week.

Commercial Strategy is to build a £300m fund of investments to provide income to fill a pending £3.6m pa govt funding cut. The main one is Chesterford Research Park £54m. Another one of £32m was approved earlier this year and two more large ones were approved at an extraordinary council meeting this week. We are diversifying locations and type of buildings being bought. We are constrained effectively to commercial property. As the income from the latest two will not be needed until the 21/22 financial year, but will start to come in earlier, we will use it as a one-off fund to implement the Corporate Plan, and the eco initiatives within it.

A decision will be taken shortly on the Local Plan next steps and external consultants from the Local Govt Assn are assisting with this

A fundamental review of the Planning Dept is in progress.

On our Neighbourhood Plan, a response had been drafted to the examiner about the inspectors letter on the UDC Local Plan. In summary, as the inspectors only commented on the spatial strategy and our NhP does not use that at all, the inspectors letter has little significance for our Plan

627. Date of next meeting

8th April 2020.

628. Closure of meeting

There being no further items to be discussed, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 20.57.

[126/2020]