

## Quethiock Parish Council

### Minutes of the meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2020 at Quethiock Parish Hall

**Present:** Councillors: John Blatchford ( Chair ), Roy Vass, Stephen Hobbs, Vic Welch, Chris Healey, Tim Lynch and Alison Jeffrey. Clerk Matthew Wald, Cornwall Councillor Phil Seeva and several members of the public.

**Apologies:** None

#### **Minutes of the Previous Meetings:**

The minutes of the meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> January were approved - Proposed by Cllr Jeffrey and seconded by Cllr Healey .

#### **Matters Arising:**

1. Signposts: Cllr Seeva said that he is attending a meeting with Cormac at 2.00pm on 11<sup>th</sup> March at the school to discuss this. He said they should be fixed. Cllr Jeffrey will attend for the Parish Council, Clerk will send her details of the affected posts.
2. "Centenary Wood". Clerk passed on Simon Harris-Wood's report that he has made contact with Cornwall Council but owing to being away has not otherwise yet made substantive progress.
3. Road flooding at solar farm near St Ive: Cllr Seeva said that next week's meeting will also address this.
4. Coryton Charity: the Parish Council resolved to appoint Richard Winstone and Louise Nicholls as trustees of the charity, and the Chairman and Vice Chairman signed the form of appointment, which was delivered to Richard Winstone.

#### **Public Participation:**

1. Cllr Seeva informed the meeting of the 3.99% increase in Cornwall Council's budget, meaning a council tax rise of 1.99%. This includes a 2% increase for adult social care, increasing staff on minimum wage to the "living wage", £20m for environmental projects, £13m for improvements to school buildings, and £10m for rural road improvements.
2. He added that he also has a "community chest fund" available for small local projects ( eg up to £500 )

#### **Planning:**

The following planning applications were considered, and both supported:

- PA20/01115 two storey extension at Pounda Cottage, Quethiock
- PA20/01273 single storey extension to "Avondale", Quethiock

#### **Clerk's Report:**

The clerk referred to his written report ( previously circulated) as follows:

- a. Website Accessibility Seadog have carried out a website accessibility check. Some issues have been identified, he will discuss with Seadog, with a view to minimising the admin burden and cost.
- b. Road Flooding: He had written to St Ive PC about the flooding by the solar farm, but had no reply ( but now overtaken by news from Cllr Seeva mentioned above ).
- c. Signposts: He had have reported these to Cornwall Highways who responded “*not a safety issue. If we have any funding will review whether to do anything about them*” ( again, see Cllr Seeva’s information mentioned above ).
- d. Fallen tree remains in cemetery: Reported to Cornwall Council. No action yet.
- e. Correspondence etc

- He has passed on an enquiry from Pengover about Helen Prudden’s offer of tree saplings to her.

- He has responded to a request from CC’s Standards Committee about incidences of bullying or victimisation within the Parish Council ( he said “none” )

- He has made contact with St Keverne PC who are trying to restore their cast iron finger posts

- The government is pressing us to get rid of the old Hotmail address which apparently still shows up on a search – he has passed this to Seadog.

- He has read and publicised the Menheniot draft Local Development Plan

- He has corresponded with our PCSO about two/three incidents of joyriding in fields and on a bridleway

- The school is asking the PC to fund repairs to play equipment – he has asked for an indication of cost but they do not yet have one.

-He has reported concern about mud on Trecorme Hill aka Mill Hill to Cornwall Council – they do not consider action is required. Clerk also mentioned Ray Roberts’ email expressing concern about mud and/or hedge trimmings on roads. Cllr Seeva said mud is a matter for Cornwall Council to deal with – hedge trimmings are the landowner’s responsibility. A member of the public, Paul Treeby, also mentioned road sweeping, which he said is very limited and inadequate. Cllr Seeva said this is a common complaint and he will raise these issues at his meeting with Cormac next week. Parish Councillors did not consider it appropriate to spend community benefit money on these matters ( and doubted whether legally they could ).

- He has had a renewal notice from Zurich for the insurance, and written to them notifying them about the prospective devolution so that cover can be extended as necessary. The Parish Council authorised him to renew after clarification, provided premium no more than £50 more than the current quote.

- Aalgard Renshaw have been asked to do our audit –date yet to be fixed but after year end.

## **Financial:**

The Clerk presented a Summary of the current financial position ( *attached* )

## **Community Benefit funds**

The Council discussed what use to make of its “community benefit” funds. The current balance is about £5,400, of which £1500 was allocated last time towards churchyard wall repair project, and £300 was allocated for village hall insurance.

The Clerk had advertised for further claims. He had had two proposals: that from Ray Roberts that money be spent on “hedge creep” and mud on roads, and from Susan Concannon that funds be made available for signpost repair.

The Council did not consider the former was an appropriate use for the funds. As to the latter, in view of Cllr Seeva’s forthcoming meeting this problem may be addressed anyway.

After discussion the council agreed to allocate the following:

- 1.£320 for four tables to be used by the Village Hall/Horticultural Committee. Cllr Seeva offered to fund a further four from his community chest )
- 2.A provision of £500 to help with redecoration/repair to Blunts Methodist Chapel ( a listed building )
- 3.A provision of £500 towards repairs to play equipment
- 4.A provision of £400 towards grass cutting at the church.

## **Climate Change**

Clerk reported that Cornwall Council have emailed the PC under the heading of their Climate Change Development Plan, asking it to reconsider its attitude to onshore renewable energy.

Cllr Jeffrey declared an interest at this point, as a member of the “Protect Quethiock Parish” group. She reminded the meeting of the level of objection to big wind turbines ( 70% ) and support for small scale solar installations ( 55% ) as recorded in the Neighbourhood Development Plan.

After some discussion, it was agreed that Cllr Healey should prepare draft, or outline, “Climate Change Plan” for the next meeting.

## **Local Development Plan**

The Council reviewed the Plan and did not consider any amendment is called for at present. It noted that amendment would in any event probably require re-running the consultation and referendum process, at significant cost.

( Climate change issues will be dealt with by a separate plan – see previous heading )

## **Advertising in Quethiock News**

The Council decided against having advertising in the newsletter. It would increase its size and cost, would increase the administrative burden on the editor, and was not necessary as

there are other media available – noticeboards, online, etc.

**Any Other Business:**

Richard Winstone reminded the meeting of the Parochial Church Council election on 7th May.

Cllr Welch expressed concern at green slime on pavements which some residents find dangerous – Cllr Seeva will take this up with Cormac.

The Chairman mentioned problems with litter in the layby on the Blunts-Quethiock and St Ive road. Could a litter bin be provided ? Cllr Seeva said the provision of a bin was quite simple but it might be more difficult get it added to the waste collection round.

The Chairman mentioned his intention to stand down as chairman at the next meeting.

**Next meeting and AGM – 4<sup>th</sup> May 2020 in Quethiock Parish Hall at 7.00pm**

Signed Chairman .....

Date .....

## Quethiock Parish Council - Financial position as at 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2020

### 1. Cash at bank per statements

Community Benefit Account 36280860 @ 31.1.20	£ 5,402.49
Business Bank Instant Account 309508 @ 31.1.20	£ 2,226.56
Treasurer's ( Current ) Account 01758398 @ 31.1.20	£17,458.23
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>£25,087.28</u></b>

### 2. Accruals ( further payments due or paid after statement date )

Seadog STO Jan, Feb ( IT services )	£ 38.90	
Seadog ( Accessibility report )	£ 250.00	
Seadog ( email set up )	£ 225.00	
Google DD Jan, Feb	£ 66.91	
Clerk ( Paper )	£ 4.99	
Clerk ( Salary, Jan, Feb )	£ 780.00	£ (1,501.74)

**Net funds** **£23,585.54**

### Note 1

Credit received and credited to Treasurer's Account since last QPC meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> January 2019:

Internal transfer from Community Benefit Account	£ 947.83
<u>Bank interest received</u>	£ 0.09

### Note 2

Payments made and debited to Treasurer's Account since last QPC meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> January 2019:

HMRC Cumbernauld	£ 13.50	
Google DD	£ 66.91	
Clerk Salary (Jan, Feb )	£ 780.00	
Clerk's expenses	£ 43.00	
Seadog IT ( training, accessibility report )	£ 415.00	
Seadog IT( monthly, Jan, Feb )	£ 39.90	£1,358.31

### Note 3

Projected costs to end March:

Clerk's salary ( Mar )	£390.00	
Seadog ( monthly Mar )	£ 19.95	
Google:	£ 37.26	
Misc ( say )	£ 50.00	£ 497.21

Accordingly, net funds as at end March should be about £23k