

## Quethiock Parish Council

### Minutes of the meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> April 2021 via a “virtual” meeting at 7.00pm

**Present:** Councillors: John Blatchford ( Chair ), Roy Vass, Stephen Hobbs, Vic Welch, Tim Lynch, Chris Healey and Alison Jeffrey. Clerk Matthew Wald.  
No members of the public present.

**Apologies:** None

**Declarations of Interest:** None

#### **1. Minutes of the Previous Meeting:**

The minutes of the meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> March 2021 were approved ( proposed Cllr Healey, seconded Cllr Vass ). Since the meeting, Cornwall Council has asked QPC whether it wishes the planning matter to be referred to the Planning Committee, and it has responded “yes”.

#### **2. Matters arising from the Minutes of the meeting of 8th February:**

1. **Signposts:** The sign for the school crossroads is on order. The Clerk reported that the one he made for the “triangle” has been well received. He suggested and it was resolved ( proposed Cllr Healey, seconded Cllr Vass ) that QPC go on to replace those needing replacement ( two at the “triangle”, one at Pounda, and one at Tilland ) in the same manner. The Clerk was authorised to incur further cost of up to £750 on that work.
2. **New dog bin:** This has been welcomed and is being well used. The Council discussed whether to instal further bins in Blunts and/or Trehunist. The need is unclear: it was decided that the situation would be kept under review.
3. **Litter bin ?** JB said that there is however a need for a litter bin in the lay-by by the entrance to Penpoll. Clerk to report back with price(s).
4. **Flooding by solar farm - Cornwall Council reference W2155407:**

The Cornwall Council website currently says “*We have inspected the issue and can confirm that it has already been reported to us and appropriate action is being taken in accordance with our Highway Maintenance Manual.*” If no progress then to be taken up with the new County Councillor after the May election.

5. **Devolution of assets:** The Clerk reported that he is waiting for confirmation of registration at the Land Registry from Stephens Scown. [ *Since the meeting, SS have reported the registration of the transfer of the Hall/Playing field, but that the car park is more complex and likely to take several months further.* ]
6. **School laptops:** The Clerk reported that Community Benefit funding has now been provided to the school.

7. School outdoor play equipment: The Clerk reported that this has now been repaired. The contractor advised ( and the Head Teacher agrees ) that it requires some anti-slip paint on the top surface. The Clerk was instructed to obtain suitable “wood colour” paint. Cllr Blatchford volunteered to deal with the painting.

8. Quethiock News: The meeting noted that Rachel Winstone is now collecting material.

9. Local Management Partnership – footpaths:

The Council resolved ( proposed Cllr Jeffery, seconded Cllr Lynch ) to ask the Udys to cut the footpaths this year. The Clerk is to liaise with them as to the scope of work, and also to assess the cost – it may be necessary to incur further cost over and above that covered by the LMP grant.

Some “Footpath/Bridle Path” signs are needed. There may also be other essential path maintenance ( eg stile repair ) which may prove to be required. The Council authorised the Clerk to buy signs as required– a standard “Public Footpath” plastic sign can be had for about £10 - and to incur cost up to £100 on any urgent maintenance. Otherwise, maintenance work to be re-considered at the next meeting.

10. Insurance: The Clerk reported that he had renewed the insurance for 2021-22.

11. Climate Change Plan: The revised version of the Plan is to be put on the website for comments, together with an invitation to the public to submit photos to illustrate it.

12. Village Hall Management: [ Cllr Vass declared an interest as a member of the Hall Committee ].

The Clerk advised that the Hall site was let to three individuals (“the old trustees”). That lease has expired. The Hall building is owned by different people ( “the new trustees” ) but actually run day to day by the Hall Committee ( “the committee” ). So, at present the legal position regarding the Hall is uncertain. This needs tidying up. The present arrangement whereby a team of keen volunteers runs the Hall however works well and he thinks that it would be undesirable to put in place legal formalities which might get in the way of that continuing.

There are essentially two options:

- (i) The PC gives the committee a lease/licence and leaves them to get on with running it as they have been hitherto;
- (ii) The PC formally becomes the operator of the Hall, and the committee becomes the “agent” of the PC to run it.

The Council discussed whether to leave current management in place via the “committee”, or to take management “in house”. It decided to leave current arrangements in place. The Clerk is to draft a suitable lease/licence agreement along those lines, rent-free, and revocable on 6 months’ notice by either side.

The Council noted that the Hall is a second-hand timber building with a limited life expectancy, and therefore (a) it requires regular maintenance and (b) sooner or later will need replacing.

13. Finances: The Clerk reported that he has arranged for the same auditors as last year to audit the PC – no date yet fixed thanks to lockdown, but probably late May or June. He is now drawing together the accounts etc.

The Clerk reported that projected expenditure for 2020-21 ( excluding the Community Benefit money ) was about £9,812. Actual expenditure ( again excluding the Community Benefit money ) was about £11,266, but that included two significant un-budgeted items paid since the last meeting, namely Signposts £752, Play Equipment Repair £1995

Cash balances as at the most recent bank statements were as follows:

<u>a. Business Bank Instant account:</u>	<b>£ 2,227.34</b> at 9 <sup>th</sup> March 2021
<u>Treasurer's ( current ) account:</u>	<b>£15,669.88</b> as at 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2021
<u>Total "reserves" therefore:</u>	<b>£17,897.22</b> as at 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2021
<u>Community Benefit Account:</u>	£6,280.57 at 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2021 ( <i>of which</i> <b>£5,480.57</b> <i>remains unallocated/unpaid</i> <i>and available for future projects</i> )

*[ Note: Since the 8<sup>th</sup> February meeting, the Clerk has also submitted a VAT repayment claim for the period 26-May-17 to 28-Jan-21 for **£2,024.96** ]*

The Council instructed the Clerk to instruct the bank to increase his monthly salary by £10 p/m, in line with the increase in National Minimum Wage, with effect from April 2021.

### **3. Planning:**

There were no pending applications.

### **4. Community Benefit Fund:**

The Council considered a request from Richard Winstone on behalf of the Church for £500 p/a towards grass cutting for the next three years. The Clerk reported that there is currently £300 allocated but not yet expended towards this.

Following discussion, the Council agreed to allocate a further £100 for this year ( ie total available now £400 ). The Council will consider further funding when the maintenance plan for the churchyard has been worked out, and asked that Richard Winstone supply details when he has them.

### **5. Any Other Business:**

- (i) Cllr Jeffery said the 30 mph sign by the cemetery has been bent around. Cllr Lynch said he would take action about it after the meeting.

- (ii) Cllr Vass said the Quethiock defibrillator battery had required replacement – now done, cost £282. Cllr Blatchford said the Blunts battery was OK when he looked recently, but this will probably also need replacing sooner or later. QPC has one spare set of pads but will need two more in May when the current ones will need to be changed.

**Meeting concluded 8.20pm.**

**Next meeting – 17<sup>th</sup> May 2021 at 7.00pm, in the Village Hall.**

Signed Chairman .....

Date .....