

Quethiock Parish Council
Minutes of the meeting held on 30th January 2023
at Quethiock Parish Hall at 7.00pm

Present: Councillors: John Blatchford (Chair), Nigel Gaskell, Tim Lynch, Steve Hobbs and Alison Jeffrey. Clerk: Matthew Wald.

Apologies: Councillor Vic Welch

In attendance: Jane Harris Wood (“JHW”) and Anne Lynch (“AL”)

1. Declarations of Interest:

None

2. Minutes of meeting on 15th November 2022

The Council approved the minutes of the previous meeting (proposed Cllr Jeffery, seconded Cllr Gaskell)

3. Matters arising from the meeting of 10th October 2022

3.1 Defibrillator in Trehunist: The Chair said that the defibrillator has been ordered but a date for installation cannot be arranged until the electrical supply has been installed and certified. The plan is to instal it on the wall outside the Udys’ property, but the electricians are not yet in place. Cllr Gaskell will discuss with them when that may be. Failing that, it may be installed outside the Stonemans – they are however away at present. **Action Cllr Gaskell**

3.2 The clerk said there has been no progress on the matter of new road signs suggested by Cornwall Councillor Daw at the May meeting. On 14th October Cllr Daw advised that she was awaiting a response from the relevant Cornwall Council officer.

3.3: Quethiock Telephone box: The Clerk and Cllr Gaskell will paint the box when the weather improves. Cllr Gaskell mentioned that he and his neighbour are keeping the area by the phone box tidy. **Action Clerk/Cllr Gaskell**

3.4: Traffic speed in Trehunist and Blunts: The Clerk reported last time that he had submitted “expression of interest” forms to the Community Network Panel Highway Scheme in relation to speeding through both Blunts and Trehunist. He has heard nothing further. There are news reports that Cornwall Council intends to impose 20mph limits in “residential areas” across the county, but it is unclear whether that would include these areas.

3.5: New noticeboards are now in place in Trehunist and Blunts.

3.6: School play equipment: The clerk has checked with the school that this is inspected regularly – they confirm it is.

3.7: Cllr Jeffery reported that the Heritage Display is now up in the church.

3.8: Footpaths etc: The Clerk reported that he written to Cormac’s footpath officer asking him to contact the Clerk to discuss the way forward with repairs etc to the network

4 Coronation celebrations

JHW and AL had attended to join in discussion on this item. They advised that several people in the parish are proposing to hold a tea party at the Hall on the Sunday of the Coronation weekend, in the same format as the tea party for the jubilee last year. There will be no charge, the intention is that people will be encouraged to contribute food etc, and the Hall will not charge for its use for the event.

Cllr Jeffery added that there should be no need to hire in equipment such as a marquee.

Councillors welcomed the proposal and asked that the organisers keep the Council informed of its progress, and who is running it. If there is a requirement for funding then they should apply to the Council (via the Clerk).

JHW advised that the Hall Committee AGM will be in the first week in March. The Clerk said that he hoped to have a memorandum recording the basis on which that Committee manages the Hall ready by then. **Action Clerk**

Councillors also discussed whether to distribute Coronation mugs to the schoolchildren. In view of the relatively small number of pupils who live in the Parish, this idea was not approved.

5 Planning

There were no applications.

6 Community Benefit Fund

The only application for funding was from the church, for a provision of £550 for grass cutting this year. The Clerk advised that there is currently £260 allocated for grass cutting (but so far unused) from 2022-23. The Council approved allocating a further £290, making £550 in total, for grass cutting in the calendar year 2023 (proposed Cllr Jeffery, seconded Cllr Hobbs, Cllr Lynch abstaining)

7 Finance

The Clerk had circulated a summary of the financial position prior to the meeting (see Appendix 1 to these minutes).

He reported that he had in November transferred £7,774 from the current account to the "business" [deposit] account to bring it up to a round £10,000, these being funds he did not think we would need to draw on in the near future.

This has increased the amount of interest we receive. The sums are not large: about £2 per month now, but that represents an 875% increase on the previous £0.24 per month.

8 Any other business

8.1: Trehunsey Wood: Cllr Gaskell reported that there had been extensive felling in Trehunsey Wood [the woodland by the old quarry on the bridle path adjacent to Trehunsey Barton]. He asked why this had happened. The Chair said he believes this had been carried out by Cornwall Council. The Clerk will seek further information about this. [*Note: It transpires that the felling was necessary to clear diseased larch trees under a Statutory Plant Health Notice. The bridlepath through the wood is closed until 26th February 2023.*]

8.2: Cllr Hobbs mentioned the new requirement for photo ID at elections. This needs to be publicised when there is an election lest voters are caught out.

8.3: Cllr Jeffery said that Cathy Goodship has made available some display boards for use in the parish. They are stored in the shed. The Clerk was asked to convey the Council's thanks to Mrs Goodship.
Action Clerk

The Chair asked that a list of what is available for public use be put on the website.

Action Cllr Lynch

8.4: Cllr Jeffery said that the Horticultural Show is being organised by Keith Fox and Sarah Gradidge. The Chair asked her to send the clerk their contact details, and those of anyone else who is involved in organising it.
Action Cllr Jeffery

8.5: There was a discussion about the old wire litter bin at the school crossroads. It is little used but on occasion has been used inappropriately, for example for large quantities of rubbish and/or dog waste. Cllr Jeffery has been emptying it, because the Council does not.

Following discussion it was resolved (proposed Cllr Lynch, seconded Cllr Gaskell) that (a) the Clerk should check whether a bin can be added to the Council rota at reasonable cost, and (b) if it can, a new, plastic bin should be obtained to replace the wire bin, and should preferably be placed on the other side of the road, opposite the seat. The Clerk should price up various size alternatives for approval.

8.6: Website: There was a discussion about the website. It was agreed that the following changes should be made:

(i) Add a "Links" page. Mary Ann Parsons has asked that there be a link to the "St Hugh" website – it was agreed that this could be added under "Links".

(ii) Move the page "Book Village Hall" to the top ribbon, and rename as "Village Hall", so that it is more obvious and can accommodate other "village hall" information.

Action Cllr Lynch

8.7: Coombe Lane: The Clerk reported that he had received a request from the residents of Coombe that the Council provide a grit bin. Coombe Lane is a narrow and extremely steep hill off the road from Trehunist to Tilland, at the bottom of which are three residences. In slippery conditions (eg ice) it is more or less impossible to get up it either by foot or by car. He has visited the site and discussed the problem with several residents.

The Clerk said that he doubts that a grit bin would be of much use to them. Cllr Lynch agreed and said that he thought that they would need at least three (at the top, the bottom and in the middle). The Chair added that it would be difficult for residents to spread the grit adequately, even if there was enough, if there was ice on the road. The Clerk said that he had advised that residents consider snow chains, but had agreed to pass their request on to the Council.

The Clerk added that the residents wish to put a bin at the top of the hill on the site of an existing, but disused, water tank in the hedge. They would need to secure its removal to create a site for a bin.

[Note: The Clerk was asked the likely cost of a bin: he has subsequently checked: the council acquired a 200L grit bin in March 2022 for £94 plus VAT, the same model is currently £108 plus VAT]

Following discussion, the Clerk was asked to respond to the effect that the Council would be prepared to instal a bin provided the Coombe residents could provide a suitable site – it would be for them to supply the salt or grit.

Action Clerk

8.8 Computer data backup: The Chair said that currently the Council's data on the laptop is backed up to a separate drive, but as this is also held in the Clerk's home it offers inadequate protection. Seadog IT (the Council's IT consultants) have recommended some sort of off-site backup, eg via the Cloud. The Chair asked Cllr Lynch to discuss with Seadog how to achieve this, automatically, and as economically as possible.

Action Cllr Lynch

There being no other business, the meeting concluded at about 8.45 pm.

Date of next meeting: Monday 13th March 2023, 7.00pm, in the Village Hall.

Signed ChairmanDated.....

Appendix 1 - Finances:

1. The current cash position is as follows:

i. Business Bank Instant account: £ **10,004.25** as at 9th December 2022
(plus £2.10 interest monthly)

ii. Treasurer's (current) account: £14,123.69 as at 19th December 2022

Less cheques drawn but
unpaid and STOs due to 30th Jan (£3,485.64)

Plus due from CB a/c £2,196.00

Net **£12,834.05**

iii. Community Benefit Account: £5871.66 as at 16th November 2022

Less £(2196.00) to be transferred to current
account re defibrillator

Net **£3675.66.**

Total available: **£26,513.96**

2. Further income: Still to come (as at 19th December 2022, date of the latest available
current account bank statement) are:

- This year's LMP payment £604;
- A VAT refund – not yet claimed but perhaps £400 odd,

making a total expected further income this year of about £1,000 odd.