Quethiock Parish Council
Minutes of the Meeting held on 19th November 2025
at Quethiock Parish Hall at 7.00pm

Present: Councillors: John Blatchford (Chair), John Warren and Alison Jeffrey. Clerk: Matthew Wald.*[and see minute 4 below]*

Apologies: Cllrs Chris Healey and Steve Hobbs

In attendance: Tom Riggs (Headmaster, Quethiock School), David Glanville, Kevin Hoare

1. Declarations of Interest: None

2. Quethiock School: Mr Riggs introduced himself – he is the "lead" for the Liskeard area as well as headmaster at Quethiock School. He is keen to build or reinforce the connection between the school and the community, and to foster a sense of belonging to Quethiock in the children. He is also keen to improve the wellbeing of the children by involvement with their local outdoors and countryside. He mentioned the possibility of developing a running/cycle track around the school field, and encouraging cycling to school. The Clerk explained that the PC has funded the school in the past and has funds for "community benefit", and communication channels via its website, its email list, and its facebook page.

3. Approval of Minutes of the meeting of 22nd September 2025:

The Council approved the minutes of the meeting of 22nd September 2025 (proposed Cllr Jeffrey, seconded Cllr Warren)

4. Co-option of Councillors:

The Council resolved to co-opt Kevin Hoare and David Glanville as councillors (proposed Cllr Warren, seconded Cllr Jeffrey). The new councillors signed their Declarations of Acceptance of Office.

5. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the meeting of 22nd September 2025:

5.1 Cemetery bench (minute 5.1): The Clerk has inspected the bench. It consists of two metal supports, fixed to a slab and in good condition, and five planks (about 4" x 1") which are screwed to the supports to form the seat and back, and which are rather worn. He has spoken to Cormac: they have no funds to repair it, and if it is hazardous would remove it. They have no objection however to the PC repairing it. **Cllr Warren** will look into replacing the timbers.

5.2 Lane from "Cobblers" to the church (minute 3.2): Cllr Blatchford has reported it and is informed it will be on Cormac's cyclic maintenance list. Cllr Jeffrey said that some work has now been done to the road.

5.3 Salt bins (minute 10.3): Cllr Jeffrey said that all the bins are at least half full. Cllr Blatchford said that there is a further supply of salt stored at Trebrown, should refills be needed. Agreed that no further action required at present.

5.4 Trehunist bench (minute 10.1): Cllr Jeffrey said this would need treating in the spring.

6. Planning:

The Council considered application PA25/07869 (replacement of porch at Tilland Farm with single storey extension), to which it had no objection.

7. Parish Hall:

Cllr Jeffrey reported that;

- A projector screen has been installed, and window blinds fitted
- The Hall continues to be well used, including for a quiz event, games nights, private parties and a forthcoming Christmas market
- Funds total £7,575

8. Community Area Partnership

Cllr Blatchford had nothing to report

9. IT

Seadog IT are recommending an upgrade to the website to make it more secure, more "accessible", and easier for QPC personnel to use. Although this would be at a cost of c. £2,500, there should be savings if we can post material in future, rather than having to pay Seadog to do so. The consensus was that an upgrade s necessary and desirable, although there was concern to ensure that it becomes genuinely more "operator-friendly": the Clerk is to have a session with the designer to understand how it would work - **Cllr Blatchford** to contact Seadog to organise this.

10. Community Benefit Fund

10.1 The Council considered a request from the Church to cover the cost of grass cutting in 2026 (£818).Following discussion, the Council resolved to pay £500 towards this in 2026 (proposed Cllr Warren, seconded Cllr Jeffrey).

10.2 The council resolved to purchase a tree at £50-75 for the small plot of land adjacent to the telephone box in Quethiock (proposed Cllr Jeffrey, seconded Cllr Glanville).

11. Financial:

11.1 Current position: The Clerk had circulated a summary of the current balances *[see Appendix 1 to these Minutes]*

11.2 Banking: The Clerk said that there has been some progress with Lloyds: attempts to register Cllr Warren for internet banking have at last succeeded, however it is unclear whether the same goes for Cllr Hobbs.

He now has the various signed paperwork required to progress setting up accounts with Unity Trust Bank.

11.3 Community Infrastructure Levy: QPC has received £837.27 as the "neighbourhood portion" of Community Infrastructure Levy from Cornwall Council. It has to be spent:

"to 'support the development of the local council's area, or any part of that area, by funding:

a) the provision, improvement, replacement, operation or maintenance of infrastructure: or
b) anything else that is concerned with addressing the demands that development places on an area."

It has to be spent within 5 years. If we can't spend it then we should send it back.

The Council decided that in principle this would be used to support works to road and path signage, etc.

11.4 2026-2027 Budget and Precept: The Clerk had circulated a draft budget for the year 2026-7, with suggested options. The Council resolved to approve the draft budget subject to raising the precept to £10,250 (proposed Cllr Glanville, seconded Cllr Jeffrey).*[Budget in accordance with this resolution attached as Appendix 2]*

12. Any Other Business:

12.1: Cllr Glanville will report the flooding near Hammett Cottage to Cornwall Highways– it is undermining the road.

12.2: Cllr Warren reminded the Clerk that the Udys' bill for footpath clearance is outstanding *[now paid]*

12.3: Cllr Jeffrey asked that the Clerk put a reminder in Quethiock News about how to obtain it by email.

There being no other business, the meeting concluded at about 9.30 pm.

Next meeting: Monday 5th January 2026 at 7pm in the Parish Hall.

Signed Chairman……Dated……

Appendix 1: Financial Summary

Current financial position:

i. Instant Access [deposit] account:	**£17,406.59** as at 9th October 2025
ii. Community [current] account:	£6,070.22 as at 28th October 2025
Add due from Community Benefit a/c	£1,026.91
Less payments due or paid, cheques drawn but uncleared, and STOs due, to 30th November	£(1,178.72)
Net	**£6,222.03**
iii. Community Benefit Account:	£15,299.29 as at 20th October 2025
Less due to current a/c	£(1026.91)
Less bank charges Nov 25	£ (4.25)
Net	**£14,268.13**
Total:	**£37,896.75**

iv. Overall position

- Total precept funds, after allowing for accruals this month, are **£23,628.62**
- Unallocated Community Benefit funds are **£14,050.88**

Appendix 2: Budget 2026-2027

Budget year	**2025-26 £**	**2026-27 £**	***notes***
Income			
Precept	9625	10250	
LMP Footpath grant	689	704	
Interest	300	350	
VAT refund	200	200	
Transfer from reserves	1015	701	
Total	***11,829***	***12,206***	***1***
Expenditure			
Clerk	6850	6815	
Employers' NI	277	272	
Stationery, postage, admin	200	200	
Insurance	600	625	
CALC subscription	320	340	
Footpath maintenance	750	754	
Audit	300	300	
Asset maintenance etc	100	100	
Quethiock News	100	nil	
Gmail account	600	672	
Routine IT support	360	400	
Other IT Support	400	650	
RBL Wreath and donation	50	50	
Defibrillator (provision)	100	400	
Training costs	nil	nil	
Signposts	nil	100	
Waste bin emptying	402	456	
Election (provision)	318	nil	
Bank Charges	102	72	
Provision	nil	nil	
Total	***11,829***	***12,206***	***1***

Notes:

1. *These figures have been arrived at by assuming:*

   (i) inflationary increases in most costs of 2%
   (ii) we transfer all current account banking to Unity Trust Bank (which should save some charges)
   (iii) interest will be earned at 2% on £17,000 on deposit
   (iv) any Community Infrastructure Levy funds received are likely to be used on possible footpath repair projects not in this budget, and have therefore been ignored
   (v) *potential website upgrade estimated at c.£2,500, will be funded from reserves.*