**Quethiock Parish Council**
**Minutes of the Meeting held on 22nd September 2025**
**at Quethiock Parish Hall at 7.00pm**

**Present:** Councillors: John Blatchford ( Chair ), Steve Hobbs, Chris Healey,John Warren and Alison Jeffrey. Clerk: Matthew Wald.

**Apologies:** None

**In attendance:** Several members of the public

**1. Declarations of Interest:** None

**2. Approval of Minutes**

The Council approved the minutes of the meeting of 28th July 2025 ( proposed Cllr Hobbs, seconded Cllr Jeffrey )

**3. Matters Arising from the Minutes:**

3.1 The Chairman has looked into the availability of land for a possible car park. He has spoken to the Wenmouths and received a "non-committal response". Cllr Warren has spoken to Mr Giddy who is "not interested".

*3.2* The Clerk referred to minute 8.1of the July meeting which said that "*Concern was expressed that (a) the lane from "Cobblers" to the church has been narrowed and needs clearing, and (b) the verge opposite the entrance to Penpoll farm, which needs cutting so pedestrians are visible to traffic."*

As to the Cobblers lane, he had driven down it and did not understand the concern. Cllr Jeffrey said that residents are having difficulty getting in and out of their drives, it needs ploughing down the sides, and there are potholes.

As to the Penpoll verge, he also sought clarification: the Chairman said that until recently it was cut by a farmer, but he is going out of the farm so cannot be relied upon in future. It needs cutting in early summer and early autumn.

**4. Councillor Vacancies:**

Two parishioners who are interested in taking up the councillor vacancies attended the meeting and met the current councillors. A decision was deferred as a further candidate was unable to attend this meeting because of a prior engagement – the Clerk will ask the candidate to attend a further meeting on 6th or 7th October.

**5. Community Benefit Fund**

5.1 The bench in the cemetery is dilapidated. The Clerk will have a look at it with a view to repair/replacement ( subject to Cornwall Council approval ) at the expense of the Fund.

5.2 Richard Winstone then addressed the Council on the subject of the churchyard maintenance. He had asked the Council to meet this year's cost of cutting [ £528 ] but the Clerk had said that no allocation towards this had yet been approved by the council

and councillors had some concerns about doing so. Richard Winstone explained that the church has adopted a management plan favoured by the diocese and intended to produce varied habitats in the churchyard in the interests of biodiversity, as well as generating a better "village space". As the Udys have retired from cutting the churchyard a new contractor has been employed who has scythed it in accordance with the management plan.

Following discussion the Council resolved to meet the current bill mentioned above from the Community Benefit fund ( proposed Cllr Jeffrey, seconded Cllr Healey ) and indicated that it would be happy in principle with allocating about £500 per annum to this in future, but subject to annual approval. .

5.3 Richard Winstone added that the idea of installing a Portaloo in the churchyard had now been dropped in favour of installing one in the church itself. The church will be open daily between 9.30 and 6.00 and it will be disabled-accessible. It will have to be grant funded and a letter of support from the Council would be helpful in securing grants.

**6. Community Area Partnership**

The Chairman reported that there has not been a recent meeting.

**7. Financial:**

7.1 The Clerk had circulated a summary of the current balances ( see Appendix to these Minutes )

7.2 The Clerk said that attempts to register Cllrs Hobbs and Warren for internet banking have been derailed by the Lloyds process. It has so far proved impossible. It is currently being treated by Lloyds as a complaint but no progress has been made with it. This is becoming a major headache and the Clerk has concluded that the Council should move its banking to Unity Trust. This was approved unanimously by the Council. The Clerk and the three intended signatories ( Cllrs Blatchford, Warren and Hobbs ) will get together to set it up.

**8. Planning:**

There were no planning applications before the Council.

**9. Parish Hall:**

Cllr Jeffrey reported that;

- There has been no significant expenditure recently
- The Hall continues to be well used
- The sheds have been given a coat of wood treatment.

**10. Any Other Business:**

10.1 Cllr Jeffrey noted that Ron Newbit has treated the Trehunist bench. The Quethiock bus shelter needs treating as well.

10.2 The Chairman will check the renewal dates of the defibrillator pads and tell the Clerk what needs re-ordering *[ now done ]*

10.3 Cllr Jeffrey said that she would clear around the Quethiock salt bins.

10.4 The Clerk was asked to pass the local police contact details to Cllr Hobbs.

**There being no other business, the meeting concluded at about 8.30 pm.**

**Next meeting: Wednesday 19th November 2025 at 7pm in the Parish Hall.**

Signed Chairman……Dated……

## ***Appendix: Financial Summary***

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|---|---|
| **i. Instant Access [ deposit] account:** | **£17,388.39** as at 11th August 2025 |
| **ii. Community [ current ] account:** | £2,647.80 as at 1st September 2025 |
| Add precept received 4.9.25 | £4,812.50 |
| Add due from Community Benefit a/c | £1,026.91 |
| Less payments due or paid, cheques drawn but uncleared, and STOs due, to 30th September | £( 806.23 ) |
| Net | **£7,681.18** |
| **iii. Community Benefit Account:** | £15,307.79 as at 19th August 2025 |
| Less due to current a/c | £(1026.91) |
| Less bank charges Sept 25 | £ ( 4.25) |
| Net | **£14,276.63** |
| **Total:** | **£39,346.20.42** |

**iv. Overall position**

- Total precept funds, after allowing for accruals this month, are **£25,069.57**
- Unallocated Community Benefit funds are **£14,050.88**