

QUEENBOROUGH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Queenborough Town Council **Environment Committee** held on
Monday 10th October 2022 in the Guildhall, Queenborough at 19.00

Present: Councillors Shiel, Beart, Telford, Fowle, Darby, Marchington,
Also present, Adrian Oliver Active Travel Co-ordinator
Mr Jason Howard Headmaster Queenborough School and Nursery

The Clerk to Queenborough Town Council, Lisa Gransden.

Councillor Sandra Fowle is Chairperson of the Environment Committee for 2022/2023.

1. Apologies received: Cllr Swarbrick (sick), Cllr Flew (holiday) and Cllr Stockbridge (traveling)

2. Declaration of Interests: Cllr Beart any Highway matters under the traffic discussions at item 7.

3. Public Questions: None

Item 7 was moved up on the Agenda by the Chairperson, to allow visitors to leave the meeting if they wish after the item discussion.

7. Traffic around Queenborough School and Queenborough Ambulance Station

a) Welcome introduction to visitors

The Committee welcomed and were introduced to Adrian Oliver the Active Travel Co-ordinator for Swale Borough Council, offering help and advice and support where possible on the traffic concerns of Queenborough Town Council and Jason Howard the Headteacher at Queenborough School and Nursery. Town Councillors then introduced themselves to the visitors.

b) Discuss the issues regarding the traffic

The Clerk explained the meeting had been arranged following further complaints received from residents' regarding the traffic in Main Road and the School area and Cllr Stockbridge's suggestions of a walking group, Cllr Stockbridge was not now present tonight, to share her suggestions.

Walking groups were discussed by the Headteacher reporting.

- . they have been tried on many occasions in the past, but the School will continue to retry the walking groups.
- . the School encourage healthy walking and not using vehicles.
- . WOW- Walking on a Wednesday will be relaunched by the School.
- . a newsletter highlighting a walking bus with members of school staff collecting children from their homes, to walk into school will be sent to parents.

. short term remedies work but then go back to normal.

There are infrastructure highway issues in this area of Queenborough.

Problems with Vehicles are incurred with Main Road especially on training days at the Ambulance Station. Thirty pupils were recorded late arriving to School one day, late pupil arrivals are also highlighted by the School, when it is raining.

Parking across residents' driveways in the vicinity of the School.

Attendance is lower since covid, and the school continues to push for higher attendance.

The School actively discourage vehicles of parents using Edward Road as it is single lane traffic.

Sheppey Hall car park is currently out of bounds due to development building works so parents cannot park there.

The School could consider giving up some of the school land to provide for a turning circle at the end of Edward Road. Edward Road is no longer fit for purpose for the current School size. There are now 14 classrooms.

Rushenden parents and children walk the furthest in the winter months, Rushenden Road is sometimes very muddy and wet for their journey to and from School.

The School operates a 40-minute window from twenty past to quarter to drop off pupils. 7.30-8.45 am breakfast club.

Pick up times creates the most vehicle chaos than drop off times. Pupils leave at 3pm and 3.10pm, with the School gates shutting by 3.30pm.

Cllr Marchington reported on his idea in extending Edward Road at the end opposite the Ambulance Station and only turning right if the vegetation was cut back. To create a one-way system for people turning out from the Road.

Adrian reported on his discussion with Iona from Kent County Council school travel team, reporting that Queenborough School travel map is four years out of date and requires updating. Kent County Council can offer initiatives, park and stride, grant funding and active travel to school, but require the School travel map to be up to date. The travel map can be found on the jam buster's website.

Ambulance Station considerations were discussed.

Could the parking spaces at the station be extended towards the A249.

Parking bays at the Station, are oversized for ambulances, a poor parking design but this is for their needs.

Could a search on the land behind the ambulance station be conducted to find out who owns it.

Could the ambulance station visitors use the Aviator Car Park, this would not work for the School as Rushenden and Queenborough residents from the other side of the Town.

Could visitors to the ambulance station for training reduce vehicles by car sharing. The Clerk reported the ambulance station representative not being able to attend tonight, have asked for an update from the meeting.

QTC Environment committee may be able to help with a grant to the school.

QTC to look at the HIP and add flashing school signs, maybe offering funding towards these to Kent County Council.

On closing of the traffic discussions, the Clerk informed Mr Howard of the funding available for a pantomime at the school this year from QTC's budget, to which the school will be in touch.

c) Plan to improve, moving forward

It was agreed to arrange a meeting in six months' time, to update on progress and review the traffic situation.

4. Minutes of the Meeting held on the 30th of August 2022

The minutes were then adopted as a true copy and signed by the Chairman.

5. Matters arising from previous meeting held on the 30th of August 2022

None.

6. Chair's Remarks

Cllr Fowle thanked everyone for coming and getting to work on the Environment issues.

7. Minute as above

8. Environmental Projects – report/update from the Clerk for review

The Clerk reported on an extensive list of Environmental projects currently in hand to the Committee.

9. Queenborough & Rushenden Information Brochure and map

The item was for consideration of the draft design. This was still awaited from Handy Prints, there was nothing to consider.

10. Queenborough & Rushenden Information Board for review

Draft design still awaited from Handy Prints, there was nothing to consider.

11. Poppy Stencil – placement dates and locations in the Community and paint purchase were agreed, four corners of the Queenborough Park, one on each quadrant and any other suitable areas.

To spray paint around the town on poppy appeal, launch date.

12. Remembrance Sunday Services and laying of QTC poppy wreaths

Cllr Shiel reported Queenborough Church Service will be held on Sunday 13th November, Cllr Shiel will be acting as Minister for the Church, so cannot lay a wreath for QTC as the Mayor of Queenborough.

Cllr Beart will be laying a wreath for either the Conservatives, Swale Borough Council on behalf of the Mayor of Swale or Kent county Council, so it was agreed that Cllr Telford as the Deputy Mayor consort will lay the wreath for Queenborough Town Council.

Halfway Service will be on Friday 11th November, the Mayor confirmed will lay a wreath for Queenborough.

13. Isle Connect You 'Pay it Forward' initiative

Support was requested from Sheppey Matters for their Christmas pay it forward initiative. It was agreed to forward the information to Queenborough Town Council Emergency Food Bank Committee and find out about their own Christmas initiative for the community and offer a donation of goods from the environment committee.

14. Environment Budget vs Spend update

The committee inspected closely the Clerk's presentation on the Environment budget spend to 30th September 2022.

15. Reports from working parties.

a) Christmas Lights – a meeting was agreed with the chairman for 6.30pm on Monday 17th October 2022. **Action the Clerk**

b) In Bloom – Cllr Telford requested a meeting, dates to be sent out for a Friday by the Clerk to the Committee, any dates after two weeks.

c) Allotments – Cllr Telford reported there will be a second allotment inspection this week, with those still in contravene receiving letters.

d) Community Emergency Plan – Cllr Shiel reported on holding a meeting soon. He reported on the Church creating a warm bank with donated blankets and socks to give out in the winter and creating a video to keep warm with tips. He reported on his business Teddy Bears creating an emergency box with candles, batteries and a portable cooking stove top in case of an emergency. His business has also designed an emergency plan.

List of emergency contacts an idea for Town Council i.e., KCC for highways etc.

e) Food Bank – Cllr Darby reporting it was steady, the Clerk reporting that Phoenix House Food Bank in Sittingbourne had bought over fresh produce to the food bank the previous two Fridays.

16. Public relations/Website and Newsletter – None

17. Correspondence – there were two items of correspondence.

1. A High Street resident had written about the reviving the High Street market, the current Mayor had previously expressed his concerns on these markets being second hand clear outs and high street residents being territorial outside their properties with a table and being spaced up and down the high street, not collective as a market would be, with not everyone living in the Street wanting to be involved. The Committee reported it was not viable for the Town Council to run a market for the High Street as it used to be. Details of the current Queenborough resident's boot fairs and Harbour Trust Market to be given to the resident in a response letter.

Action the Clerk

2. A Ten page anonymous, rather lengthy letter was read out by Cllr Fowle. Most comments were not related to Queenborough or Rushenden, stretching as far as Barming. As with all anonymous correspondence the Town Council have no way to reply.

18. Late inclusions – None

19. Any Other Business

Cllr Beart asked Cllr Marchington for clarification on the picture he would like to see framed as reported at the recent F&GP meeting, Cllr Marchington explained it was the photo of the actual condolence table set up. **Action the Clerk**

Cllr Beart reported on replacing the out-of-date photos behind the Mayors chair in the Guildhall to the new King and queen of England and the Netherlands. **Action the Clerk**

It was suggested labels are made for hanging items in the Guildhall for visitor reference in the future. **Action the Clerk**

Cllr Marchington reported, Cllr Darby and himself will be erecting racking in the storeroom on Wednesday with Cllr Telford and the Clerk agreed to move items from the committee meeting room to the storeroom on Thursday.

Cllr Beart reported on changing the logo of the Town Council back to the original logo as shown on the Guildhall chairs. To be forwarded to a meeting of the Full Council. **Action the Clerk**

Cllr Shiel reported on doing a walk around with other councillors in the community to do a list of things to do.

Cllr Shiel reported the Mayor's chain requires fixing the clip on the shoulder is broken and there is a loose leaf. The Clerk suggesting with current engagements

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coming up for the Mayor, this is looked at towards the end of the year. **Action the Clerk**

Cllr Shiel reported on a hole in the coat of arms tapestry hanging behind the mayor's chair, the clerk will report to SBC. **Action the Clerk**

Being no further business, the meeting closed at 21.45

Date of next meeting: Monday 21st November 2022