

**QUEENBOROUGH TOWN COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Queenborough Town Council **Environment Committee** held on **Monday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2022** in the Committee Room at 44 High Street, Queenborough at 19.00

**All minutes are draft until agreed at the next Environment meeting.**

**Present:** Councillors Shiel, Beart, Telford, Fowle, Darby, Flew, Stockbridge

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 (work training), Cllr Marchington (working)

**2. Declaration of Interests:** Cllr Stockbridge Items 7 & 8 as a Director of Handy Prints.

**3. Public Questions:** None

**4. Minutes of the Meeting held on the 10<sup>th</sup> of October 2022**

The word pooppy was changed to poppy.

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

**5. Matters arising from previous meeting held on the 10<sup>th</sup> of October 2022 - None**

**6. Chair's Remarks**

Cllr Fowle thanked everyone for coming.

**7. Queenborough & Rushenden Information Brochure and map**

The committee were unable to review, Handy Prints will have a proof ready for the next Full Council meeting.

**8. Queenborough & Rushenden Information Board**

The committee were unable to review, Handy Prints will have a proof ready for the next Full Council meeting.

**9. Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III & The Queen Consort**

It was agreed to hold an event under the Christmas Lights/Annual Event Committee. A meeting date to be arranged after this year's parade to start planning.

**10. Report from the Clerk on traffic at Queenborough Ambulance Station and Queenborough School**

Cllr Fowle reported on continuing to receive complaints about traffic at the School. The Clerk reported on her correspondence with the Ambulance Station and their replies as follows.

ENV: 21.11.2022

Could the parking spaces at the station be extended towards the A249.  
- "Potentially an option, however there would be a significant cost to build and place the appropriate retaining structures to carry vehicles due to the slope down to the water, but we do own to the other side of the water's edge".

Parking bays at the Station, are oversized for ambulances, a poor parking design but this is for their needs - "5 spaces are oversized for DCA parking, the rest are standard spacing and 2 disabled".

Could a search on the land behind the ambulance station be conducted to find out who owns it. "we owned the land directly behind the station, we sold it to provide access to the electricity site".

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. "This a potential option but would need to be off peak given it's a pub".

Could visitors to the ambulance station for training reduce vehicles by car sharing. " we already do this and make use of offsite parking"

We will continue to look at moving some training out of Sheppey to our new site at Medway in Q1 of the new year.

The Committee noted the reply.

The Clerk will write to the Station referring to the land which was sold behind the Station and report back. **Action the Clerk**

### **11. Queenborough Station Murals**

It was agreed to contact three artists, Julie Bradshaw, Graham Upton and John Gevaux Ross for quotes and designs for the mural windows. Suggested Guildhall, Church, Castle, Town Quay with boat, Station, Clock, Rushenden marshland and sunset. **Action the Clerk**

### **12. Allotment Committee Working Party Members**

Due to the current situation whereby more Town Council members have a conflict of interest in allotment plots, this has left the Council with only four Councillors able to serve on the Allotment Committee. Cllr Constable and Telford already serving, Cllr Beart and Flew both agreed tonight to join the working party to support this Committee. This support was received with thanks.

### **13. Environment Budget 2022/2023**

It was agreed by all members present, to propose to budget £500 extra to the Christmas Lights Committee for the parade due to inflation and increase in costs. Allotment Committee reduced their budget request by £500, this amount being unspent over the previous two years.

Defibrillator Maintenance was added under Special Projects requesting £300 for ongoing battery and pad replacement for the two defibrillators currently in place.

Overall increasing the Environment budget request by £300.

To be forwarded to F&GP for proposal and approval. **Action the Clerk**

**14. Date of next Environment meeting**

The date for the next Environment meeting was moved to 9<sup>th</sup> January in the new year by agreement of the Chairperson Cllr Fowle.

**15. Reports from working parties.**

**a) Christmas Lights** – the lights have started to go up.

**b) In Bloom** – AAM Gardening have donated 60 plants, Cllr Fowle and Telford agreed to construct the Festive Christmas Tree for the Church festival and make a Christmas tree wreath for the Guildhall door.

**c) Allotments** – Cllr Telford reported some had been given up since the last inspections, which the Clerk was actioning.

**d) Community Emergency Plan** – Cllr Shiel reported on the recent flooding incident at Castlemere Avenue of sewage. Cllr Swarbrick had gone out in her wellies to investigate, Cllr Shiel had knocked Castlemere resident's doors to check on their welfare and Cllr Fowle had visited the pumping station. Southern Water to be invited to the next Environment meeting. **Action the Clerk**

**e) Food Bank** – Cllr Darby reporting the numbers were going up. Cllr Darby reporting on donations received. The Clerk reporting receiving enquiries from all over the island from people in need of a food parcel and asking if a central island food bank would be a good idea, it appeared there are reasons why this would not work with Swale, Holy Trinity etc, food banks operating as well.

**16. Public relations/Website and Newsletter** – It was agreed that a newsletter was not required at this time, with social media and noticeboards working for the Council. The Christmas Light Parade flyer/Christmas card will suffice for now. Quotes for noticeboard repairs are still being sought by Cllr Beart, Cllr Fowle, Cllr Shiel and the Clerk.

**17. Correspondence** – anonymous letters were discussed and ways to advertise the fact that the Council have no way of reply. There were no further actions to move forward currently on this subject.

**18. Late inclusions** – None

**19. Any Other Business**

Cllr Telford asked about distribution of Christmas Lights leaflets, Cllr Stockbridge reported they would be ready this Wednesday from Handy Prints and will let the Clerk know when they are. It was agreed distribution roads to be allocated by the

ENV: 21.11.2022

Clerk with Cllr Fowle, Telford, Shiel, Flew, Stockbridge, Darby, the Clerk available during the remainder of the week to help distribute.

The Clerk reported she will put up the road closure notifications this week for the parade.

Cllr Shiel reported on Castle Street refuse collections being missed on Mondays and collected on Tuesdays, with resident's rubbish blowing down to Chalk Road. The Clerk will contact SBC. **Action the Clerk**

The Clerk enquired if any Councillors had any further updates on the unauthorised encampment at Rushenden Road, Cllr Shiel reporting they were friendly. Cllr Beart updated the Committee on the district council actions to date.

Cllr Beart asked the Clerk to confirm the latest actions of Optivio regarding the vehicle repairs at the bottom of Gordon Avenue. The Clerk will forward information. **Action the Clerk**

Being no further business, the meeting closed at 21.07

**Date of next meeting: Monday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2023**