

Queenborough Town Council

Minutes of the Queenborough Town Council held on **Monday 7th November 2022**

at the Queenborough Guildhall at 19:00 Queenborough Guildhall

The meeting was recorded.

Present: Councillors Ashley Shiel (Mayor), Sandra Fowle, Jackie Constable, Peter Marchington, Richard Darby, Zoe Stockbridge, Janet Flew, Cameron Beart, Paula Telford

The Clerk to Queenborough Town Council, Lisa Gransden

3 members of the public.

3 Lidl representatives

1. Emergency Evacuation – the Mayor explained the Council procedures.

2. Apologies and grounds for absence – Cllr Swarbrick (training for work), Simpson (work), Flew (holiday)

3. Declarations of Interest – Cllr Beart Item 10.

4. Lidl's Acquisitions Team –

Introductions were made between the Lidl team and Councillors.

The Senior Acquisitions Manger leading the discussion on the chosen location for the planned Lidl store along Queenborough Road. Lidl will create a presence on Sheppey and local jobs for people.

The vehicle expert had been incredibly positive with the highway structure laid out. Vehicles visiting the store already being on a journey thus not creating additional flow of traffic to the highways.

Cllr Telford reported there are no footpaths, no bus routes and this is an extremely busy roundabout.

With regards to the footpaths, it is understood that Aldi will construct a footpath from BP Garage to their store, the business units will construct footpath from Aldi to their site and Lidl will pick up from the business units to the Lidl site the footpath, not all the land is Highways owned.

Aldi have allowed for a crossing in their design.

Retail impact assessment has been done there is less impact on Sheerness Town compared to the Aldi move as Lidl are not in Sheerness. Morrison are in their right to object. Lidl reported on a new store opened in Ditton.

Access to the planned site by the Highway consultant i.e., distance from the roundabout reports and designs are seen as favorable. At peak capacity, the roundabout is already bad, and the new store will not make it any worst. Most people traveling in vehicles will already be there not making new trips.

Cllr Beart reported on the probability of those living in Iwade and Kemsley visiting this new store as it is closer and quicker than traveling to reach the Sittingbourne store.

The visual impact of the store was discussed with the low-level landscape led by the habitat present. The design of the store is customer focused.

Councillors reviewed comments to the application for submission to the Borough Council and concluded to report support to the application with Lidl being a fantastic addition to the Isle of Sheppey. It was recognised that once the store is built then local bus companies may see an opportunity to run a bus service along Queenborough Road with Aldi and Lidl both present.

To report to the application the Council concerns regarding the proximity of the store's entrance/exit to the roundabout. The fact that there are no footpaths or cycle paths. **Action the Clerk**

5. Public questions –

a) A member of public asked about the planning of another meeting regarding the Jet Ski issues the meeting to be arranged with Stakeholders, a date was agreed for Monday 23rd January 2022.

b) A member of public living on the High Street next to the Queenborough Stores reported on item 11 regarding the plan for the stores ramp and new door. Plans showed the bin moved from outside the stores to outside the resident's property. The resident also had concerns with the gate which was between the two properties. The Mayor reported that the Council would speak to the SBC cleansing team to clarify the position of the bin. **Action the Clerk**

6. Policing Matters – the report was read out by the Mayor from the new PCSO. Cllr Fowle reported that there will be a PCSO clinic on 1st November at 11am in Bosuns.

7. Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on Monday 26th September 2022

The minutes were reviewed and adopted as a true copy, signed as a true copy by the Mayor, Cllr Ashley Shiel.

8. Review of Matters arising from previous meeting held on Monday 26th September 2022

Cllr Beart asked for confirmation that a silence for the Queen was not held. This was correct the Council had not followed the Agenda.

The Clerk asked about the gift for the previous PCSO with the Mayor confirming he had purchased a gift; further contact details will be forwarded to the Clerk from Cllr Fowle so he can be invited to a meeting for presentation, or the gift forwarded onto him. **Action the Clerk**

9. Mayors remarks

The Mayor reported it was not too cold this evening, thanking those for heating the room prior.

10. Formalising of Disabled Parking Bay at 18 Jubilee Crescent

Councillors noted the report from Mike Knowles at SBC regarding the issue surrounding the parking bay outside of 18 Jubilee Crescent. This was a temporary disabled bay, and the originating requester was now deceased and someone else was using the bay. The person using the bay living further up the road. The Council agreed to comment that the bay should be applied for and positioned outside the person now using the parking bay house as this was only a temporary disabled bay in the first place. **Action the Clerk**

11. Queenborough Stores ramp and door relocation for the new planned Queenborough Post Office

Councillors considered correspondence from the Project Manager AJW-CS - Party Wall & Planning Consultant

- Planning permission decision notice (discharge of conditions still to be processed)
- Existing and Proposed Elevation drawings
- High level quote for the construction of the ramp and new access door, provided by an approved contractor of the post office. They want to know if this is within budget before providing a detailed quotation.

The store owner was requesting money for the implementation of the ramp and door at the premises in opening a Post Office.

Councillors requested the shop owner submit a grant application form with three quotations. **Action the Clerk**

12. Review of Queenborough Town Council policy for the protocol for the death of the Sovereign or Senior National Figure.

The Clerk had circulated the policy to Councillors for review and update since the recent passing of the Sovereign.

Councillors agreed to changes and a new protocol was adopted. **Action the Clerk**

13. Queenborough Town Council Logo

It was agreed to review the logo of QTC, reverting to the passed logo of Queenborough Borough Council. Replacing the Borough Council with the Town Council wording the castle in gold with the wording in blue. Cllr Stockbridge will work with the Clerk in producing a design.

14. Financial Reports –

i) The cashbook and bank reconciliation were noted for September 2022, as approved by the Finance & General Purposes Committee, the Council approved the items with no matters arising.

ii) Review of payments in September

Payment reports were approved for September 2022, as approved by the Finance & General Purposes Committee. There were no matters arising.

iii) Authorisation of proposed payments due and paid between meetings of the F&GP and Full Council – all payments were approved as the F&GP meeting this evening.

15. Committees and Working Party Reports

(i) Environment Committee

Draft minutes of the Environment meeting held on 10th October 2022 were circulated to all councillors by the Clerk.

The Council approved the actions of the Environment Committee

(ii) Environment Committee working parties:

- a) In Bloom** Cllr Telford reported on the recent In bloom meeting and plans moving forward with the group into the New Year.
- b) Allotments** – Cllr Telford reported on the recent allotment inspections.
- c) Christmas Lights** – Minutes of the Christmas Lights Committee meeting held on 17th October were circulated to all Councillors by the Clerk. Cllr Shiel reported on a busy meeting
- d) Community Crisis Plan** – None
- e) Emergency Food Bank** - Minutes of the Food Bank Committee meeting held on 24th October were circulated to all Councillors by the Clerk. Cllr Darby reported that numbers were increasing. Cllr Constable reported she would be meeting with the Sheppey Football Club on Thursday night for the forthcoming planning of the food bank donations as last year's event.

(ii) Finance and General Purposes Committee –

Draft minutes for the F&GP meeting held on 24th October 2022 were circulated to all Councillors by the Clerk.

The Council approved the actions of the F&GP Committee.

(iii) Planning Committee – None.

16. Reports from QTC representatives serving on other bodies

Local Community bodies

- a) Queenborough Town Community Centre** – The Mayor reported there had been no meetings, the Centre AGM will be held on Tuesday 22nd November.
- b) Queenborough Fishery Trust** – Cllr Constable reported on a business meeting next month.
- c) Queenborough Harbour Trust** – Cllr Fowle reported Paul Kite had left and QHT are discussing how they will move forward with the role.

- d) **Queenborough School and Nursery** – Cllr Stockbridge reported no update and will speak with the School regarding the traffic problems progression.
- e) **Rushenden Community Hall Association** – Cllr Marchington reported events are increasing, there is a drop in regular attendance and hence staffing needs have dropped. He welcomed In Bloom working with the wildlife garden which the Club had begun in 2014. The back area is now constructed, and it is just décor and lighting to do.
- f) **Rushenden Community House** – Cllr Fowle and Cllr Flew visited the house for tea and chat with other different groups. The House is obsessed with ‘Wellbeing’ and people just want to chat. Sheppey matters and Happy Faces attended.

Swale Area Bodies

- g) **KALC Swale Area Committee** – Cllr Beart had sent apologies to the last meeting.
- h) **Local council’s Liaison forum of SBC** – invites had been sent to Councillors for the next teams meeting.
- i) **SBC Swale Area Committee**– None
- j) **Swale Joint Transport Board** – None
- k) **Swale Rail** – the Clerk and Cllr Beart reported on the mural windows at the Station to be updated at the next Environment Committee.
- l) **VEL Surgery PPG** – Cllr Telford reported on the recent meeting at the access social project, maybe the Town Council could set up in Castle Connections next year inviting our food bank etc. Cllr Constable reported on the food bank having leaflets displayed in the noticeboards which had not happened, the Clerk reported draft leaflets were discussed at the recent food bank meeting and the Chair and Committee were going to get together to proof the leaflet.

17. Correspondence – The Mayor reported on anonymous correspondence to his home address.

18. Late inclusions previously notified to the Mayor – None

16. Any other Business –

Cllr Telford reported on the bright lights at the bottom of the Whiteway from Peel Ports car park that is vacant. Cllr Beart reported it is occupied by a security booth.

Cllr Beart reported on an anonymous letter to Sheppey United.

Cllr Constable reported on water sales and it being ok for the food bank to sale the water. Cllr Constable reported that QTC had already received funding for it, the Clerk replying that costs for water purchased by herself and Cllr Marchington during the emergency would be covered by the sale and the funding was going towards the QTC Emergency Fund for future purchases for the community benefit.

The Mayor reported he would clear the Rushenden Sign area and Cllr Telford will speak to Unit Engineering about taking down the old Rushenden Sign.

Cllr Shiel reported on KCC works down Second Avenue with cones out and removed and out again. It was unknown what the works were.

Cllr Beart reported on KCC new mapping system.

Cllr Shiel reported on the Church Vestry being cleared out. Reports on SBC advertising on social media that they had spent £3,200 on a boundary wall at the church, it was unknown by the Church what works had been undertaken with no notification or faculty issued. The Clerk will try to investigate into the works undertaken with SBC. **Action the Clerk**

The Clerk asked if anyone would like to get together for a Christmas meal this year with the consensus a yes. **Action the Clerk**

The Council agreed to the Clerk purchasing Town Clerk contact cards for the Town Clerk. **Action the Clerk**

Cllr Shiel reported that Cllr Flew will have the poppy wreaths and he will have them on Friday for Cllr Telford.

There being no further business the meeting was declared closed at 21.40

Date of next meeting – 19th December 2022