

QUEENBOROUGH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Queenborough Town Council **Environment Committee** held on **Tuesday 29th August 2023** in the Guildhall, High Street, Queenborough at 19.00.

Present: Councillors Shiel, Telford, Flew, Marchington and Darby.
The Clerk to Queenborough Town Council, Lisa Gransden

1 No. member of the public.

1. Apologies received: Councillor Constable (holiday), Swarbrick (swimming club), Stockbrige (Bereavement) and Fowle (unwell).

Late arrivals:

Cllr Richard Darby at item 3.

2. Declaration of Interests: None

3. Public Questions:

Resident from South Street spoke of his responses received from the Police regarding recent Jet Ski incidents in Queenborough. He had been told that the Police cannot attend everything and that a support person was available to speak to the victim.

The resident spoke of the illegal smoking of class b drugs at the blue hut along South Street Quay, continuing.

A camera has been fitted to the outside of the Bosun Store showing good video images down to the seafront.

Cllr Darby entered the meeting.

4. Queenborough & Rushenden Waterways

a) Public reports received

Councillors noted the report from the Clerk with all recent public concerns received surrounding the use of Jet Skis at Queenborough Seafront.

b) Organisations reports received

Councillors noted the report from the Clerk with all recent updates from organisations in relation to these incidents.

Swale Borough Council report on their meeting with agencies follows.

Actions and updates:

- At the time of the meeting, there had been limited calls to agencies re jet ski use, which at the time was felt to be due to the poor weather. Peel Ports had continued to undertake patrols and have been educating jet ski users they have encountered.
- A multi-agency day of action is being planned and will take place asap – this will include Police, SBC and Peel Ports as a minimum.
- Police have created a poster which has now been placed around key locations – this details when residents should call Police/Coastguard
- SBC have spoken to Canterbury Council regarding their permit scheme – this took them around 3 years and required Secretary of State sign-off. SBC will be speaking to Councillors regarding next steps with this.
- Queenborough Fisheries Trust attended the meeting – they are looking to see if they can register the top third of the hard causeway and they are in the process of handing over the hard to QHT who will we invite to future meetings.
- Peel Ports legal team are looking at the byelaws update and are utilising learning from Port of London in their response to these issues.

c) Public members and organisations questions - there were none.

d) Action forward

The Environment Committee will continue to monitor under its meetings. It was agreed that the Clerk and Mayor will attend the next Swale Borough Council meeting organised with agencies. Councillors agreed that if the Mayor should be unable to attend, Cllr Marchington will attend in his place.

5. Anti-social behaviour in the community

a) Public reports received

- a) Cllr Shiel reported on an incident on the train from Queenborough to Sheerness where the ticket machine at Queenborough was damaged and not working. He had received a fine for not purchasing a ticket.
- b) Two cars had been damaged at Crundells Wharf, with windows smashed.
- c) The Guildhall window had again been smashed, believed to be youths.
- d) The Sheppey Hall had windows smashed, with CCTV evidence submitted to the police.

6. Chair's Remarks: Cllr Shiel thanked everyone for coming and hoped Cllr Stockbridge returned soon, sending warmest regards to her.

7. Minutes of the meeting held on 18th July 2023

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

8. Matters arising from previous meeting: None

9. Sterling Road Noticeboard

After discussion of the quote for the repairs to the noticeboard in the sum of agreed for the polycarbonate material replacement from H&L Graphics.

10. Parking in the Community

a) Public reports received

Councillors noted the report from the Clerk with recent concerns in the Town around parking.

i) **Dumergue Avenue** reported issues from resident, resident to be given KCC local councillor and highways details for raising and help with these concerns.

ii) **Main Road issues** from the closing of Sheppey Hall Car Park.

Cllr Marchington updated on a 125-year lease in place, the car park is solely for use of the hall and there are now six offices occupied with no resident rights to be parked in the car park. Ambulance station staff/visitors have been asked to park in Park Avenue or Castlemere Car Park.

The Clerk will write to the resident and relay this information passing on Sheppey Hall contact details.

Cllr Shiel thought a tour of the ambulance station would be good in the future.

b) Swale Borough Council Pavement Parking Document

The document circulated from the Clerk prior to the meeting was discussed and will be used for future reference on these issues.

11. Community Dog Control Signs

Agreed to design own and in the meantime purchase online signs as noted this evening, to give to Swale Borough Council for placement in the Town's parks.

12. Queenborough & Rushenden Map, Brochure and boards – no update from Handy Prints.

13. Queenborough & Rushenden Freighter Day

a) Update from the Clerk,

CDDL have had in depth discussions around this and without further information it is currently too big a risk for them.

There is still no reply from SBC regarding Biffa's quotation.

b) Plan forward by Councillors

After different ideas discussed, it was decided to postpone, and all look at different avenues further.

c) Review of Freighter Day reserves

Agreed to leave reserves until further decisions have been made regarding running a freighter day.

Cllr Marchington holds a KCC tip licence and suggested that he could do tip runs in his vehicle and the Town Council would be invoiced by the tip.

14. Train Station Murals

The artist Julie had quoted £900 for producing the artwork and a visit to the other artist had not yet taken place.

15. Flags for Queenborough Guildhall and Queenborough Park

Queenborough Park Flag has lost the rope connections, Cllr Flew will contact SBC regarding this for the Naval Ensign event and work with the Clerk.

It was agreed to purchase a Queenborough Flag design in a printed format rather than embroidered for daily use, should one be available.

16. Litter Pick of Rushenden Road

Date was set for Saturday 30th September at p.m. all Councillors meeting in the Rushenden Club Car Park.

17. Community Emergency Plan

Cllr Shiel had drafted a CEP which was reviewed this evening and adopted as Version 1 of the plan.

It was agreed to purchase from the Community Emergency Plan fund, foil blankets, light wands and flood bags.

A drill of the plan to be run with public volunteers.

QTCC and Rushenden Club to be approached for shelter use in an emergency.

4x4 vehicle and service list to be produced along with vulnerable residents list.

18. Defibrillator maintenance

There is a service available for defibrillator maintenance paid monthly in the sum of £25 which includes the supply of a defibrillator, regular checks, replacement pads etc. The company to be contacted to see if this is a service, they can provide to already installed defibrillators.

19. Environment Committee representative for the Q&R Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

It was agreed to defer until more members are present at the next meeting.

20. Reports from Working Parties

a) Christmas Lights

Cllr Shiel reported on a walk around the town checking lamp posts that require maintenance with the Clerk.

b) In Bloom

The Clerk reported on her administration work to date on the In Bloom Local Presentation in designing certificates, stickers, advertising banner and writing and sending out invitations for the presentation to residents, which some had already replied of their intended attendance to the event.

c) Allotments

The Clerk reported that there was one available plot at Park Avenue, all others had been let. Cllr Marchington will look at clearing the mound on the site and costs to tip and report back to the Clerk.

d) Community Emergency Plan – as discussed above at item 17.

e) Emergency Food Bank – it is busier than ever. Nothing had come to fruition in moving to bigger premises.

d) Neighbourhood Plan – as above at item 19.

21. Correspondence – None

22. Late inclusions – None

23. Any Other Business –

Cllr Telford commended the Councillors still operating the food bank.

Cllr Telford asked if the bird bin could be put out, Cllr Shiel suggested the School or outside the CoOp.

Cllr Telford reported it would have been the late Cllr Cameron Beart's birthday today.

Cllr Darby reported on the Post Office letter sent out.

Being no further business, the meeting closed at 21.42.

Date of next meeting: Monday 9th October 2023