

QUEENBOROUGH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Queenborough Town Council **Environment Committee** held on **Monday 5th June 2023** in the Committee Room at 44 High Street, Queenborough at 19.00.

Present: Councillors Shiel, Stockbridge, Fowle and J Constable
The Clerk to Queenborough Town Council, Lisa Grandsen

1. Apologies received: Councillor Flew (holiday), Swarbrick (swimming club), Telford (unwell) and Darby (gardening).

2. Declaration of Interests: None

3. Appointment of a new Chairperson for 2022/2023 – Councillor Stockbridge was appointed and accepted Chairperson for the Environment Committee for 2022/2023.

4. Chair's Remarks: Cllr Stockbridge thanked everyone for appointing her as chair, where she will do her best.

5. Public Questions:

A High Street resident, their property backing onto South Street.

Reported on fisherman putting up a fence around the Quay with funding from a Swale Borough Council grant.

Queenborough Town Council were not aware of the fencing, or a grant being funded at this time.

The resident reports of equipment left lying around in the area by the fisherman, children then causing trouble and throwing equipment into the water. The land is leased to the fisherman by Swale Borough Council. The fisherman equipment needs protecting and tidying up, the pods are there for this to put stuff away. According to the resident the quay was built up twenty-eight years ago to stop flooding but was always clean and tidy. The resident gave photos of the untidy area.

The resident reported on vehicles parking both sides of South Street, QTC reported of the same problems along Main Road and there is little the Council can do, if vehicles can move through and there are no double yellow lines in place.

It is felt that a fence is not required, and further rubbish will be thrown in the area, along with unroadworthy vehicles, there is currently one stored on the land. They just need to be respectful, be clean and put chemicals away.

Cllr Fowle spoke of youths causing costly damage in the past to boats and fishing equipment. Trawlers coming back into the area must be made aware or the bottom of the vehicles can be broken underneath on the equipment thrown in the water.

Last year cleaning fluid was left unattended and thrown around by youths harming one youth's eyes. She reported there is a sign in place stating this is not a public footpath.

Clerk Swale Borough Council had sent an email in relation to the resident correspondence previously asking if QTC had any knowledge, which to date we had not been made aware of the proposed fencing or grant being made available to fund the fencing. The Clerk will ask for a copy of the lease from SBC in the first instance to try to establish if there is a duty of care and the terms in place. The Clerk will forward photos and information in reply to the email received from SBC. Cllrs Stockbridge and Shiel will also take the matter to the SAC meeting tomorrow night.

Action the Clerk

6. Minutes of the meeting held on 27th March 2023

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

5. Matters arising from previous meeting:

School signs have now been put up and can be removed from the HIP.

Cllr Constable reported on public comments on social media regarding parking along North Road by Teddy Bear Day Care, Cllr Shiel as the proprietor of the company reported that they are in talks with the owner of Fig Tree House to place a banner saying no parking along this part of North Road and they are aware of the problems.

8. Cullett Drive

The Clerk read out further correspondence from GBA Transport regarding the abandoned trailers on Cullett Drive. Cllr Telford and Constable had previously visited the area reporting back on the unaccompanied trailers, Cllr Constable confirming there is an obstruction to the site access. Advice has always been to report them to Kent Police on 101 as advised by the previous PCSO. The Clerk and GBA have both reported, GBA have reported that they have been informed by Kent Police this an issue for the local authority. The Clerk will now try to source if this is true by contacting KCC Highways.

Action the Clerk

9. Update New Committee on open Environment and Working Parties Projects

The Clerk read a list of open projects and the Committee decided on forward action for each.

a) Highway Improvement Plan – will continue to be updated by the Environment Committee and reviewed as and when necessary.

b) Anti-Social behaviour in the community

A report from a concerned resident was noted, implying that children are afraid to go out in the community for fear of the trouble from other youths.

The Clerk reported on correspondence received from Bosuns, regarding recent anti-social behaviour and the need to have the CCTV reinstalled in Queenborough Park immediately. The new Police Officer for Queenborough and Rushenden had been informed.

Cllr Stockbridge and Sheil will take the matter of the CCTV to the SAC meeting tomorrow night, and report back.

The Clerk reported on her personnel experience in Minster of the Anti-Social behaviour and that it was an Island wide problem.

Cllr Fowle reported on the idea of a buddy system in the town.

We must keep reporting incidents to 101 and get any victims of such abuse to also report it. A suggestion for a leaflet 'report to 101'.

The Clerk asked Cllr Shiel on any future projects at the Community Centre for Youths, he replied that on his last conversation with them they reported on lack of space to store equipment and suggested on the basement being pumped out.

Cllr Shiel highly suggested that Town Councillors visit West Faversham Youth Team looking at their ways they tackle anti-social behaviour.

For the foreseeable future this will be an open item on Environment Agendas.

c) Queenborough & Rushenden Waterways

i) Reporting on the previous report received at the Annual Meeting of QTC from the Wild Swimmers, Cllr Constable reported this was not a new problem and had been since she remembered back to 1997 when it was speed boats causing the problem, which is now jet skis.

Discussions of the placement of a swimming area at Queenborough Seafront, with the Clerk reporting that Peel Ports had reported at the last meeting they had the rope and buoys and were waiting on nautical map data for the placement to create a swimming area.

ii) Further correspondence had been received from a resident regarding the Jet Skis at the weekend coming into South Street Quay, with an accompanying video. The resident reported that Cllr Shiel is working to find out what happens in other local authorities, the Clerk asked that the Town Council are copied into any updates. We will contact Ian Arnell regarding the installation of further signs.

The slipway is Queenborough Fishery Trust, Swale Borough Council and the Harbour Trust.

Cllr Stockbridge and Shiel will take the matter to the SAC meeting tomorrow evening.

The water is for all water users, and it is about being respectful to each other.

Peel Ports, Swale Borough Council and the Maritime Police control restricting and who uses the slipway should be contacted to the relevant authorities.

It was asked that emails to Town Councillors are sent to Councillor emails and not their personal emails.

d) Queenborough Train Station Murals

An artist is required, previous artist have not come to forward.

e) Sheppey Light Greenway Project

The Clerk will redistribute the map to the Committee and invite Linda Brinklow to the next environment meeting for update.

f) Defibrillator at the Ambulance Station

The Clerk will contact the ambulance station to try to move this forward for placement in the community.

g) Queenborough & Rushenden Map, Brochure and boards.

This is still in draft and will be discussed under item 11 tonight.

h) Rushenden Dog Field

Following various correspondence from a public member, it is Swale Borough Council Greenspaces team who unfortunately have the derestriction over greenspaces in the area and would be their agreement in the first place.

i) Alsager Avenue, Seawall

Following various correspondence regarding the state of the seawall in this area and repeated off road vehicle driving on the land, this falls under Peel Ports and any complaints should be directed to them.

j) Sterling Road Noticeboard

The noticeboard still requires repair, Cllr Shiel will chase up the maintenance man to see if he can supply and replace.

k) New Noticeboard

It was agreed to hold the noticeboard until Phase 2 Rushenden is completed for installation into the community.

Noticeboards raised the issue of attracting volunteers to In Bloom, it was suggested flyers are designed and distributed to Schools, Rushenden Club, Community Centre for Autumn leaves.

10. King's Coronation Event on the Castle Site

The Clerk reported on funds raised of £522 through events on the day, this would be donated as agreed to the Christmas Lights for new sockets and light units.

Donations were agreed to BRFM, All Stars and the Fire Engine.

Castle Connections reported they raised £600 for the centre and presented a figure of £80.30 for food and drinks to the Town Council volunteers on the day. The Clerk was asked to write to them explaining that it is good to work together, and we are pleased they made £600, please could we have a breakdown receipt.

11. Queenborough & Rushenden Brochure inc. map and board

Further consideration was given to the draft and alterations noted for amendment, once amendments are complete the Clerk will ask a local resident to review the map prior to publication.

12. Correspondence

a) The Clerk reported on Main Road business owners visiting the office regarding parking issues outside the shop from recovery vehicles, causing them to park on

double yellow lines to offload stock and receiving parking tickets. There is little the Town Council can do as this is a highway matter.

b) The Clerk reported on a litter pick being conducted by the Queenborough Wild Swimmers of the beach and shoreline next Sunday at p.m., the Clerk will clarify the date and send out to Councillors who may wish to help.

13. Late inclusions –

a) The Clerk reported on the UK Special Projects Fund – the Committee will look at producing a town plan in the first instance.

b) The Clerk reported on new pads required for the defibrillator at Rushenden Club in the next 30 days, it was agreed to purchase.

c) SAC meeting, Cllr Stockbridge raised the matter regarding the Queenborough Guildhall, looking through the paperwork from the previous minutes of the SBC regeneration and property committee the Clerk reported that a new property condition survey would be conducted in 2023, that there was no heating in the Guildhall, she will contact property services to update on the situation. The Council welcome a proper survey and reported on the poor condition of the curtains to which Cllr Stockbridge will raise at the SAC meeting tomorrow night.

14. Any Other Business –

Cllr Shiel reported on anonymous correspondence, yet again received to himself as an SBC Councillor and the Town Clerk, the letters will not be reported to the Town council and binned.

Cllr Constable reported on behalf of Cllr Simpson (not present) on activities at the Coal Washer, no one was aware of any updates.

Cllr Constable reported on freighter day and if people left out white goods that the freighters did not collect this would fall to QTC for fly tipping. The Clerk did not agree, it is stated what QTC will accept on Freighter day and anything else left i.e., paint, white goods is the responsibility of the resident who put it out and not the town council, this was disputed. The Clerk then suggested a disclaimer to which Cllr Constable replied they are not worth the paper they are written on, with the Clerk reminding that disclaimers are used for the torches at Christmas Lights and choking hazards at events, then these would not be able to go ahead anymore. Holding a future freighter day will be bought to the next committee meeting.

Cllr Stockbridge reported on the Song Signing organisation enquiring regarding funding to them, the Clerk advised she was still waiting on previous accounts from

ENV: 5/6/2023

the organisation, Cllr Constable reporting that the bank account is a personal one. Cllr Stockbridge will update them.

Being no further business, the meeting closed at 21.37.

Date of next meeting: Monday 17th July 2023

Approved 18th July 2023