

QUEENBOROUGH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Queenborough Town Council **Environment Committee** held on **Monday 9th October 2023** in the Guildhall, High Street, Queenborough at 19.00.

Present: Councillors Shiel, Telford, Marchington, Darby, Fowle, Swarbrick, J Constable.

The Clerk to Queenborough Town Council, Lisa Gransden

(Cllr Stockbridge is chairperson for 2023/2024)

The Chairperson not being present, Cllr Fowle chaired the meeting.

- 1. Apologies received:** Councillor Flew (holiday), Stockbridge
Late arrivals: Cllr Richard Darby at item 3.

To be noted in the minutes, Anti-social behaviour happened, an egg was thrown at the Guildhall window at approximately 18.48 prior to the meeting commencing.

- 2. Declaration of Interests:** Cllr Marchington at item 3 with association to working with the workmen volunteers.

- 3. Thank you to workmen volunteers**

The Committee thanked the two men Michael and Steven for their handyman work for the Council at the allotment site and back yard. Cllr Telford as Chairperson of the Allotment Committee presented them each with a twenty pounds Morrison voucher in gratitude.

Cllr Darby entered the meeting.

- 4. Public Questions:** None

- 5. Queenborough & Rushenden Waterways**

The Clerk read out notes from the SBC virtual meeting with stakeholder organisations, which she attended, held on 25th September 2023. Points noted were.

Portal – has been set-up by Police and has been used 13 times – not all for Queenborough issues, it has been promoted locally via my community voice. Looking at posters/signage on the hut at slipway if access can be obtained. Councillors tonight did not know the whereabouts of the key, reportedly the hut had not been used for many years.

Registration of top part of slipway – Originally kiosk/top part of slipway was under control of SBC so would need SBC to make the first registration. If claim for possessory title SBC would need to show were in control of this parcel of land for last

12 years would then need to transfer to QFT. It was reported that Land Registry are about 6 months behind in workload. QFT are happy to progress this.

Meeting with secretary of QFT and principles of QHT on 6th October re agreement in principle for transfer of slipway.

Teams group – Has been set-up with exception of data protection statement some need to be added including the Town Clerk.

Issues/Incidents since last virtual meeting damage to a boat from a jet skier, investigation is ongoing and jet skier hurting a child, but this was not reported directly by the victim or their family.

Ideally video evidence is required for further investigation, often it is only photographs provided as evidence which is not sufficient. Peel Porst have had feedback for Island that jet ski related issues have been a lot better than last year.

Update from Queenborough TC – no further incidents than what already flagged by others.

Updates from Coastguard – Julia is senior coastal officer for north Kent coast and will be point of liaison moving forward.

Updates from QFT – no new issues etc not already covered.

Updates from SBC - CCTV is in place now and looking at more permanent solution.

Looking at painting speed limit on slipway/causeway. It has been raised with QFT and was more down to cost – it maybe better as a metal sign, SBC will look at this with preference to using road markings.

Date of next virtual meeting with stake holders and it was agreed do not need regularly during winter months, but more regularly in summer – agreed next one before Christmas.

6. Anti-social behaviour in the community

There were no reported incidents to the Clerk since the last meeting.

Tonight, the Guildhall window had been targeted with eggs and youths were seen running away.

Cllr J Constable reported on the vehicle accident at the Co-op weeks ago where Cllr M Constable's car was hit, updating that the Police are investigating the other driver further.

7. Chair's Remarks: Cllr Fowle thanked everyone for coming and hoped Cllr Stockbridge would be back soon.

8. Minutes of the meeting held on 29th August 2023

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

9. Matters arising from previous meeting: None

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

The Clerk had written to the Main Road resident in reply to their correspondence received at the last Environment Committee stating that there is 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, whilst passing on Sheppey Hall contact details.

Further correspondence from the Main Road resident had been received which the Clerk read out, Councillors reported there was nothing further the Town Council could do at this stage, it was a matter for the residents and the Sheppey Hall Trust.

ii) Cllr Shiel reported that customers to his business had been fined for parking on double yellow lines along North Road. Cllr J Constable reported it would be good if this could be affected in Main Road at School times.

11. Queenborough & Rushenden Map, Brochure and boards – Despite chasing this with the company there was still no reply or update from Handy Prints.

Cllr Fowle said she would visit the Company tomorrow to speak with Cllr Stockbridge.

12. Queenborough & Rushenden Freighter Day

After discussions of a voucher large item collection system and discussions at the last Environment meeting, with no outcomes. By resolution the Committee agreed to cancel freighter day, by a vote of 5 supporting and 2 abstaining.

By resolution it was agreed for the virement of the sum of £12,000 for Freighter day to

£8,000 to Environment Committee General

£2,000 to Q&R Emergency Plan for further purchases of community resources

£2,000 to Q&R Neighbourhood plan

13. Train Station Murals

With quotes for artwork labour from two separate artist being £900 plus, it was agreed to speak with the camera club at Castle Connections to see if local photos could be converted to drawings.

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

It was agreed that Cllr Fowle will be the Environment Committee representative.

15. Reports from Working Parties

a) Christmas Lights

The Clerk reported on her chasing of the contractor for the permit documentation required, so it could be submitted on time to KCC.

b) In Bloom

Cllr Telford reported on the award of Silver Gilt for the Town from South Southeast In Bloom for 2023, this was met with applause and congratulations.

c) Allotments

Cllr J Constable reported on a person waiting for a plot, the clerk replied everyone on the list has been contacted and there were none waiting at present, but there were no plots available at this time either.

Cllr Telford reported on making a compost bin from old pallets.

Cllr Telford reported on her family members' wishes to fund and plant trees at Park Avenue Allotments.

The donated conker tree in the back yard was discussed for planting this year.

d) Community Emergency Plan – None

e) Emergency Food Bank – Cllr Darby reported on the great job that Cllr J Constable and Simpson do every week.

Cllr Constable reported on a donation from Bosuns gratefully received in the sum of £100 towards the cost of a new fridge/freezer.

Cllr Telford reported on the KCC Ladybird Centre at Rushenden being an ideal premises for the food bank if it is left empty, it was agreed that the Clerk can enquire further with KCC regarding the building's planned use.

Cllr Darby reported on the land at the back of the Guildhall and that SBC have still done nothing with it, a portacabin on the land could be an idea for the food bank, Cllr Marchington reporting on Christmas Lights and In Bloom use also for a portacabin.

16. Correspondence – It was reviewed and noted, reported from Kent Police on attendance of Police Officers at Town Council meetings, it was agreed there was no further response required from QTC at this time.

17. Late inclusions – The Clerk reported on an incident last week at Castle Connections where a Trustee had acted swiftly and possibly saved the life of a customer at the Community Centre, it was agreed that a letter could be sent and flowers to the Trustee Karen Friday, for her brave action.

From this the Clerk will look at the costs of St Johns Ambulance First Aid Courses as Cllr Shiel reported they come with a cover of insurance for any first aid administered whilst valid certification.

The Clerk will check the office first aid box and update if necessary.

18. Any Other Business –

Cllr Shiel reported he would be taking the Remembrance Church Service this year, which would start outside.

Cllr Shiel reported on the Church of England Follow the Star and the community joining in song on the 23rd of December at Queenborough Park and holding carols in the park inviting the Town Council to join the Church, there will be Carol sheets, hot chocolate and singing around the Christmas tree.

5pm on Christmas Eve is Christingle.

17th December is Carols by Candlelight.

9th December is Christmas Tree Festival.

Cllr Telford reported on the broken Church wall, Cllr Shiel reported that SBC Greenspace officer was dealing with this.

Cllr Shiel reported on the leak at Rushenden Road which was not Homes England land but on Peel Ports land who are now investigating the leak.

Cllr Fowle reported on a large litter pick of nineteen bags from Rushenden Road and seven shopping trollies returned to stores and thanked everyone involved for their hard work.

The Clerk asked for the Castle Site Bus Stop to be painted blue over the graffitied signs, it was agreed until replacement of the images.

The Clerk reported on the SBC CCTV operations visit and asked for those wishing to attend to reply.

The Clerk reported on further correspondence regarding convoys through North Road and her action in writing to GBA with a long list of dates and times given by a resident and councillors.

The Clerk reported on 80 D-Day Event next year and the Council getting involved, it was agreed to set this up under annual events.

Being no further business, the meeting closed at 20.50.

Date of next meeting: Monday 20th November 2023