

QUEENBOROUGH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Queenborough Town Council **Environment Committee**

held on **Monday 8th January 2024** in the Committee Room, 44 High Street,
Queenborough at 19.10.

Present: Councillors Shiel, Marchington, Darby, Fowle, Flew.

Adrian Oliver – Swale Borough Council

The Clerk to Queenborough Town Council, Lisa Gransden

1. Apologies received: Councillor Swarbrick (attending swimming club), Telford (unwell), Constable (unwell).

2. Declaration of Interests: None.

3. Public Questions

Adrian Oliver the Active Travel Co-ordinator at Swale Borough Council updated the committee on the Sheppey Walking Wheeling and Cycling Workshop. Plan is over then years aim at connecting Queenborough, Rushenden, Sheerness, Halfway and Minster to get between areas by walking, wheeling and cycling. It is proving what is currently in place and what is needed.

Queenborough is in the ten per cent most deprived communities in the country, which is a plus for development of infrastructure, car ownership is down in our area by 50/80% so reviewing existing network to see how can fill in those gaps.

Lots of bus stops but without buses, inconsistency.

Wheeling includes scooters, wheelchairs, mobility scooters etc.

Ways to improve safety lighting, high traffic volumes and speed. Narrowness of roads, drop kerb locations looking at accessibility for someone in a wheelchair, actions to make it work and attractive for all users.

Adrian recognised during his study of the families using Rushenden Road, the poor conditions further highlighted by Cllr Shiel, future investigation into the path running along Rushenden Road at the same level.

The separate Sheppey Light Railway Greenway project is from Queenborough to Leysdown and is a twenty-year period, land negotiations are required, and this is not the same route or plans as the SWWCW.

4. Chairs Remarks

Cllr Fowle thanked everyone for coming on this extremely cold evening and thanked the Clerk for warming up the meeting room.

5. Minutes of the meeting held on 21st November 2023

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

6. Matters arising from previous meeting: None

7. Anti-social behaviour in the community

There were no reported incidents from the Clerk or Councillors to discuss.

8. Queenborough & Rushenden Map, Brochure and boards – The Clerk reported that she had now received contact from Handy Prints who had moved premises from Queenborough to Halfway. The latest proof had been given to a local resident for review as previously agreed by the Committee and members of the Environment committee will review copies outside of the meeting to report back any amendments to the Clerk within the next week, so this can be sent for final print as soon as possible.

9. Train Station Murals

Cllr Shiel reported on the Camera Club meeting with Cllr Telford, the Clerk and himself on 12th December and the Committee waiting for the submission of photos for review. He will be attending the Club tomorrow evening for a Mayor's photoshoot portrait.

10. CCTV in the community

Cllr Shiel reported on the walkaround with Cllr Telford, the Clerk and himself and the location points discussed for the placement of CCTV in the community. The Clerk has chased the quotations, but nothing further had been received to date. Cllr Fowle reported on another visit to the centre for other councillors who did not attend the first one.

11. Easter Seasonal Afternoon Tea

Following the previous meeting it was agreed to plan for a QTC Easter Afternoon Tea, whereby people could purchase a ticket and plans for a museum talk with afternoon tea to bring people into the Guildhall.

Cllr Fowle reported it would not be cost effective to go ahead.

Cllr Shiel reported it could maybe be a future event to plan in the style of a history tour of the town with a light lunch.

12. Hedgehogs R Us Highway Project

It was reviewed and agreed to adopt the project and purchase a first kit in the amount of £150, along with many other Parish Councils who have signed up to the project in raising awareness. This could also coincide with In Bloom.

13. Operation Menai Bridge

At the request of Cllr Shiel this was on tonight's agenda.

The draft policy for review at Full Council was circulated by the Clerk.

The Environment Committee agreed to purchase items to store, should the inevitable happen for the operation.

14. Correspondence

The Clerk reported on a Thank You letter received from a local resident for In Bloom and the Christmas Lights.

The Clerk reported on an email received from a seafront bench plaque holder, where the family plaque had been replaced by another not agreed by QTC. It was agreed to write back to ask for the new plaque to be removed as it was not agreed.

15. Reports from Working Parties

a) Christmas Lights – None there was meeting earlier this evening.

b) In Bloom – there is a meeting this week.

c) Allotments – the Clerk reported on the distribution of water butts under the RHS Project to allotment holders

d) Community Emergency Plan – there is a meeting planned.

e) Emergency Food Bank – Cllr Darby reported on the food parcels given to the Trafalgar in Queenborough, no further food will be given to residents residing here until clarification can be given on the cooking facilities and operation of the house.

f) Annual Event 2024- there is a meeting planned.

16. Public relations/website/newsletter.

Cllr Fowle reported on her idea of a leaflet drop to all residents. Getting the local businesses and community centres involved and distribution quarterly. Putting event dates including other organisations and the church i.e. blessing of the waters etc. Reporting it is about giving the community more information as people visiting her shop do not look in noticeboards or have social media, so they do not know what is going on.

Cllr Flew reported QTC used to do a date for diary leaflet.

It was agreed for Cllr Fowle to construct with local businesses and present a draft leaflet for the committee to review at the next environment meeting.

17. Late inclusions – Cllr Shiel reported on the closing of the Queenborough Post Office in February 2024 and recognising the dedication of the family and staff member by way of presenting an inscribed object presented by the Mayor on their last day. This was agreed with a final day presentation and purchase of item to be clarified by Mayor and Clerk.

ENV: 8/1/2024

18. Any Other Business – Cllr Shiel reported on the pipe concern at Rushenden Road, he had visited, and water was flowing, he was unsure if correctly flowing but there was water.

Being no further business, the meeting closed at 21.08.

Date of next meeting: Monday 19th February 2024