

**QUEENBOROUGH TOWN COUNCIL**

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

held on **Monday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2024** in the Guildhall, High Street, Queenborough at 19.00

**Present:** Councillors Shiel, Fowle (Chairperson), Telford, Flew, Darby

Cllr Swarbrick at 19.23 at item 5

The Clerk to Queenborough Town Council, Lisa Grandsen

Lauren Swarbrick alongside the Town Clerk on Work experience from Fulston Manor School.

**1. Apologies received:** Councillor Constable (holiday), Marchington (unwell), Swarbrick (notified of late arrival due to family commitments)

**2. Declaration of Interests:** None.

**3. Appointment of Environment Committee Chairperson for 2023/2024**

Deferred to end of meeting.

Cllr Fowle continued to Chair the meeting.

**4. Public Questions:** None

**5. Sunset Seaside Stroll**

Lee Ewart from the Sunset Seaside Stroll reported on the operation of the event.

All monies raised are for Cancer Research. This year theme is Children's TV.

The event will take place on the 10<sup>th</sup> of August.

After many ideas discussed for the start and end of the stroll, it was agreed for the Committee to donate a £50 hamper to be selected from all entrants. **Action the**

**Clerk**

Light up headbands/bracelets up to the value of £100 will be purchased and given out by QTC. **Action the Clerk**

Cllr Telford offered to help set out the candle bags at Queenborough from p.m.

**6. Minutes of the meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2024**

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

**7. Matters arising from previous meeting:**

There had been no update regarding the installation of the CCTV.

**8. Chairs Remarks:** Cllr Fowle thanked everyone for coming and wished Cllr Marchington well and hope he is back with us soon.

**9. Anti-social behaviour in the community**

The Clerk reported she had attended a Jet Ski meeting and there had been no reports to other organisations or herself.

Cllr Fowle reported on her husband being approached to ask if had any drugs to sell.

Doorbell footage showed cocaine being taken on the street at the recent event in Queenborough, this has reportedly been passed to the police.

## **10. Committee Projects**

### **Replacement of Allotment Fencing at Coronation East**

With the small number of four Councillors sitting on the allotment committee and three being present tonight, it was agreed along with the Environment Committee to consider the 3 quotes received for the replacement fencing. By resolution agreed to use Anchorage and spend up to £4,000 on powder coated 1.8M fencing from set reserves for the allotment maintenance.

### **Welcome to Rushenden Sign and Bench**

By resolution agreed to ask Unit Engineering to design a 'Welcome to Rushenden' sign similar in style to the Queenborough Park sign in blue metal, by email to Councillors to agree the design. With no new bench required at this time due to refurbishment by the In Bloom team and the groundworks required for removal, to spend up to £2,000 set in reserves on the sign.

### **Christmas Light motifs and sockets**

A review of the lights is planned for 16<sup>th</sup> July and a further walkaround the town with the contractor following, A meeting of the Christmas lights has been set in August to discuss replacements required.

### **Train Station Murals**

Two more photos are waited for War Memorial Sheerness with colour and an Eastchurch Aviation picture.

### **RHS Sustainable Grant**

Agreed to spend the remaining funding of £423 on further water butts for distribution.

### **Vibe Grant**

Vibe had been in contact regarding the further funding received, it was agreed to pay the granted £2,000 now further funding had been awarded to the group to continue the services in Rushenden.

### **Blue Street Bin outside QTC Office**

Agreed for unit engineering to repair the stand of the bin at a cost of £120.

To obtain a price for new lid for the bin here and at Wildfire Park.

### **11. Correspondence**

The Clerk had received an email from Cllr Mike Whiting with details of the Queenborough Charter, which she is happy to print for anyone interested.

### **12. Reports from Working Parties**

**a) Christmas Lights** – Cllr Shiel reported it had been agreed at the earlier meeting to move forward with ideas for the event and raffle. The next meeting will be held on the 5<sup>th</sup> of August.

**b) In Bloom** – Cllr Telford reported regional judge visited on Friday and this went well. Thanking everyone for their hard work. Local judging will be this week, the Clerk read out the distribution of roads to those helping judge and explained the criteria sheet for front gardens. A date for the presentation will be set in October.

**c) Allotments** – The clerk reported on working on reallocating unworked plots.

**d) Community Emergency Plan** – None.

**e) Emergency Food Bank** – Cllr Darby reported on the food drive on Sunday at Morrisons, 4 trollies were filled with green food bags and money was donated in the sum of £58.41

Queenborough School fete had raised £172.40 for the food bank through sales of pastries and cakes. A gentleman had matched this amount and donated another £171.20 to the office.

The food bank had received a great response this weekend.

**e) Community Crisis Plan-** Cllr Shiel reported on the recent traffic problems experienced along the A249, he has enquired with SBC and KCC to when their severe action plans would be activated. SBC reporting, they would not activate it would be KCC to action.

The work experience placement, replied on her experiences during these traffic problems, as she was stuck on a bus for two hours, no phone chargers, the bus drivers do not know where they are going, a child missed an appointment, people anxious sitting upstairs for this long with clash of people. No tissues, no water, no first aid only the bus driver.

### **13. Public relations/website/newsletter.**

Cllr Fowle's reported on the leaflet idea, discussions centred around this, and this will not be going ahead with at this time.

**14. Late inclusions – None**

**15. Any Other Business**

Cllr Shiel reported on the uncollected bins from SBC service. He reported on the new leased vehicles that were off the road under the Suez contract. Suez noncompliance, Queenborough have been added to a catch up round. To forward to next Full Council for update consider writing to the MP,

Cllr Telford reported on a recent incident where a boy had been found down the sewer hole at Castlemere Carpark, this is a sewage manhole with sensors due to the flooding issues in this area. The boy has been before with lifting brackets for manholes and looking around them, this was reported to Southern Water and Kent Police.

Cllr Telford reported on a dog attack at King Georges VII play park, the dog received treatment for puncture and bites, the attacking dog owner did little to apologise. Kent Police, the dog warden and RSPCA have been contacted.

Cllr Telford reported on her telephone call to the office this morning and the polite young lady answering the phone, welcoming Lauren on work experience to QTC for the week.

The Clerk reported on fly tipping at Well Road where Castle Avenue residents are throwing their rubbish onto the Hop yard garden, there is space at the front of the properties for their bins, but they use the back access. This has been reported to SBC, the environment warden and waiting for the warden to contact.

Lauren reported on VE Day next year and communication received regarding holding an event like this year's lighting of the Beacon, it was agreed to go ahead and forward to the Annual Events Committee.

The Clerk asked the work experience placement to report on their previous conversations regarding the bus stop at the top of Rushenden Road.

Overgrowth feeling unsafe especially in darker evenings.

Queuing for bus down pavement rubbish

The bus top is heavily graffiti some in appropriate words on benches, and all sides.

There is rubbish everywhere including smashed glass.

The litter bin is constantly pushed over and the rubbish spills to the floor.

No CCTV covering area, place for anti-social behaviour.

No lighting in bus stop, hidden people sit around it. Environment protection pispo.

Can the area be cleaned up and cut back.

**3. Appointment of Environment Committee Chairperson for 2024/2025**

By paper vote Cllr Vicky Mawhinney was elected to serve as Chairperson for 2024/2025

ENV: 8/7/2024

Being no further business, the meeting closed at 21.15.

**Date of next meeting: 19<sup>th</sup> August 2024**