

QUINTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting
October 24th Quinton Village Hall 7.30pm

Cllr. Robert Spooner (Chairman)
Cllr. Suzi Edmunds
Cllr. Chris Watson
Cllr. Sean Edmunds
Cllr. Andy Smith
Clerk/RFO: Debbie Woodlife

Also present: 4 members of the public
County Councillor -Izzy Seccombe
District Councillor – Stuart Keighley

1.Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr. Dominic Skinner

2.Declaration of Interest

None received.

3.Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of meeting held on September 5th, 2023, were agreed as an accurate record, and were signed by the Chairman.

4. County/District Councillor reports.

The Chair/Council members agreed to receive County and District Councillor reports prior to the open session.

4.1 District Cllr. Stuart Keighley updated members on various topics:

- (i) District Council 4-year plan has been published with public consultation now closed. Further details will be advised in due course.
- (ii) Reference was made to a 'State of the District Report'. This essentially is a series of statistics and facts which helps to identify the trends and opportunities which need to be considered by the council. The details reveal how the population of Long Marston ward has increased 184% from 2011 to 2021 and has not doubt increased further since. It is the largest growth of any of the district wards.
- (iii) WCC Highways are still working on the VECTOS traffic study, with several applications along the B4632 awaiting highways updates including ATW.
- (iv) AB1 Community Hub at Fernleigh Park/Shackleton Village – awaiting resubmission of evidence regarding occupation rates and trigger point variation for the Community Hub building.
- (v) The Chair advised Cllr. Keighley of some issues relating to 123+ collections and reduced frequency of collection of grey bins. Cllr. Keighley confirmed he would investigate and report back prior to the next parish council meeting.

4.2 County Cllr. Izzy Seccombe advised the following:

(i) following recent heavy rain in the county, various villages and road routes had been flooded. Reference was made to vehicles moving too fast through flooded roads forcing water over verges and into private properties.

(ii) councillor grant funds have re-opened. Clerk to review with council members funding application for key projects.

(iii) members were informed the Vectos report in conjunction with SDC and Homes England/key stake holder, was an SDC commissioned report and not WCC. It was emphasised how Cllr. Seccombe and her committee team were not in agreement with the vision outlined by Vectos/SDC/Homes England etc., suggesting key factors were not being given sufficient scrutiny to make the plans viable. Therefore, WCC had commissioned an independent report which is expected to validate any comments made by WCC.

5. Questions from the public

5.1 Member of the public requested council members to consider their position with regards to temporary parking on the green in Upper Quinton. It was noted, there is no room for a skip unless the vehicle reverses onto the green which according to the resident, could cause greater damage to the green than allowing the skip to be placed on it. The PC were asked to distinguish between visitors to the area and those living by the green.

The Chair understood the problem but stated no evidence could be found that showed use of the green for parking. The Parish Council own the land but Highways state it cannot be used without permission of the landowner. With this in mind, a request for use was put forward. Council members suggested if parking was temporary, and for practical use by a resident, then it may warrant approval. To avoid this potentially creating parking issues down the road, the Chair felt the decision should be that the matter would not be pursued (when residents temporarily use), rather than grant permission. Motion carried.

5.2 Member of Fernleigh Park mentioned graffiti on litter bins by the Greenway. Members felt this was likely to be the responsibility of the developer. Clerk to write to Cala Homes.

5.3 Chair confirmed funding had already been agreed previously to host meetings for the police (discuss local issues) including the use of Meon Vale assets. Currently working on suggested dates.

6. Procurement of basic life support equipment

Cllr. Sean Edmunds had requested council members to consider the purchase of key equipment to facilitate life support training. Members were informed estimated costs would be approximately £4k plus service charges, and as there is no longer emergency first response, the council may wish to consider approving the request. Members unanimously agreed to the purchase, but the council would need to be notified of training sessions and where the equipment will be stored. Cllr. Sean Edmunds to advise.

7. Parking in the Village

Matter was discussed during public open session.

8. Meon Vale Assets.

8.1 Clerk confirmed questions relating to the transfer of assets had been raised by Robert Lunn & Lowth (parish council solicitors) to Ladders (representing St Modwen) and had subsequently been answered. There was a query of a change of name from St Modwen Developments to St Modwen

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Homes (legal name for transfer) and whether this has now been finalised. Clerk has requested a draft copy of transfer agreement to be submitted asap.

8.2 Members debated the situation of the newly appointed Asset Management Committee (AMC), and the reluctance of some members to continue to meet until the transfer has been concluded. There has been some frustration over the lack of ability to cement an action plan for the assets, and it was agreed to review the situation once we have more conclusive information available including:

- (i) expected date of transfer.
- (ii) Costs for management company (re appraise share % of costs including Londs, Leisure centre etc.), and what further options may be available to the respective parish councils.
- (iii) Fixed cost summary (costs to date), utilities etc.,
- (iv) Example lease for Charity (pavilion).

8.3. Members were advised of the ability to create a separate company (management company) that may prove to be more effective in terms of managing the assets. This may also enable management fees to be collected from residents for managing key assets. Clerk to provide more detailed information and impact of recovering any cost shortfall via the precept (the latter would be a consideration for the two respective two parish councils).

8.4. Cllr. Watson asked if a marketing strategy was being organised for the Business Centre. Members felt this and other points of asset planning needed to be organised.

9. Correspondence

9.1 Member of the Residents Association advised members that a floor cleaning session had been conducted in Meon Village Community Centre to assess what type of floor cleaning machine would be most effective. The RA had received £1k funding towards the machine but noted a shortfall of approx £600. Council members felt the matter along with other expenses needed further discussion before a commitment could be made.

9.2 Meon Residents Association also requested support to purchase chairs and hanging trolley for the village hall. Price depended on number of chairs but between 100 and 150 chairs with applicable trolley, costs ranged from £5- £7k. Members felt this, the floor machine and other likely expense needed to be discussed within the council budget preparations.

10. Planning Matters

No planning decisions made. Clerk has informed WALC /SDC in change of clerk to ensure planning applications are received correctly.

11. Finance

11.1 No requests for authorisation submitted. Clerk is currently formatting financial transactions and referring back to become fluent in all regular parish council financial obligations including Thos. Fox.

11.2 The bank has been contacted with regards to changing the mandate.

12. Councillor Reports

12.1 Chair would normally have a specific agenda point.

- (i) Chair noted he has been in contact with the locks company regarding Meon Vale Village Community Centre and advised remote heating control was not possible.
- (ii) The fire panel to the MV Community Centre is on order, St Modwen will organise the fire training.

12.2 Cllr. Watson confirmed discussions relating to WIFI (including the Pavilion) were ongoing.

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Meeting closed 21.24

Date of next meeting: 28th November, Quinton Village Hall at 7.30pm