

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF QUINTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD
IN THE VILLAGE HALL, THE CLOSE ON THURSDAY 15TH MAY 2013 AT 7.30PM**

PRESENT: MR.D.WHITE (CHAIRMAN), MRS C BARTON, MR T BATCHELOR, MRS S BRANSTON, MR.T.BATCHELOR, DISTRICT COUNCILLOR M.BRAIN AND TWENTY THREE MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.

1. Election of Chairman.
Mr David White was re-elected as Chairman, proposed by Mrs S Branston and seconded by Mrs C Barton.
2. The CHAIRMAN signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.
3. Apologies were received from MR P MAUNDRILL and the Parish Council noted the resignation of MRS L TAGGART. The Council thanked Mrs Taggart for her contribution during her period of office.
4. Declarations of interests.
Members were reminded that, unless they have been granted a dispensation, if they have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in any matter as defined by Regulations made by the Secretary of State where the interest is theirs, their spouse's or civil partner's, or is an interest of somebody with whom they are living as a husband or wife or as if they were civil partners, they may not participate in any discussion of or vote on the matter and must also leave the room for the duration of the matter. They must also disclose the interest if it has not yet been entered on the Authority's register unless it is a sensitive interest.
No interests were declared and no dispensations sought.
5. Election of Officers and Representatives of the Parish Council for 2014-15
 - Vice-Chairman - no appointment was made
 - Responsible Finance Officer - Mrs E Neal, Parish Clerk
 - Internal Auditor - Mr M Ashton
 - Village Hall Representative - no appointment was made
 - Neighbourhood Watch Representative Mrs S Branston
 - Ditch and Drainage Committee Representatives - District Councillor M Brain
 - John Cooper Foundation Representatives - to be confirmed at a future meeting
 - Quinton School Governor - Mrs C Barton
 - Playground Inspections - Mrs C Barton
 - Quinton and Admington Charities - to be confirmed at a future meeting
6. Meeting dates for the remainder of 2014 were confirmed as follows:
 - 17th July
 - 18th September
 - 20th November

7. Presentation and Acceptance of Annual Accounts 2013-14 / Review of Internal Audit Procedures / Receive any comments from Internal Auditor.
The Clerk presented the annual accounts which had been audited by the internal auditor, who had made no comments and signed the declaration.
The CHAIRMAN signed the declaration on behalf of the Parish Council
8. Acceptance of the minutes of the previous meeting of 20 March 2014.
The Clerk had circulated the minutes which were accepted as a true record by those present. The CHAIRMAN signed the minute book.
9. Any matters from the Public present at the meeting including any items on the agenda (Members of the public are limited to 3 minutes each.)

The Council received representations from Mr P Salt regarding his strong objection to the proposed solar farm which was planned at Radbrook Pastures. Mr Salt was concerned that the planned 90 acres of solar panels would have an adverse impact on the landscape of the nearby Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and the setting of ancient monuments and listed buildings in the vicinity. He was also concerned that it would detract from the experience of walkers using local and national route footpaths. Mr Salt also advised the Parish Council that a second solar farm was proposed at Blackwell and that this would produce a cumulative impact which would prove even more damaging to the local environment.

The Parish Council noted that this proposed development had not yet been the subject of a formal planning application but that this was expected in June or July when the Parish Council would consider its position on the planned development.

RESOLVED THAT:

Quinton Parish Council would consider the Radbrook Pastures Solar Farm proposal upon receipt of a formal planning application.

A further three members of the public requested time to address the Parish Council on the planning application to build 9 houses at Lawyer's Field, Meon Close in Upper Quinton.

Mr G Hutton-Attenborough spoke first and outlined the reasons why he believed that the planning application should be refused, namely that:

- The proposed development on a greenfield site was not in accordance with the local development plan
- The proposed development would result in harm to an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and the national footpaths that pass directly through the site
- The proposed development was not sustainable in terms of employment or its social or environmental impact
- There was no established local need for development on this site.

Mr S Righton also addressed the Parish Council on the Lawyer's Field planning application and presented a petition signed by 73 local residents who opposed the proposed development. Mr Righton advised the Parish Council that there had also been 30 letters of objection submitted to Stratford District Council in respect of this planning application which was a high percentage of the 75 dwellings in Upper Quinton. He also argued that the proposed development could potentially pose a threat to the continued viability of the working farm adjacent to the planned

development site which generated livestock and vehicle movements throughout the day and night. Mr Righton was concerned that, if there were to be a residential development much closer to the farm, this would generate complaints and ultimately compromise the ability of the farm to continue to operate at its current level of activity.

Mrs J Hutton-Attenborough then addressed the Parish Council and focused on her concerns on the impact of the proposed development on the safety of drivers and pedestrians in Upper Quinton. Mrs Hutton- Attenborough advised the Parish Council that the north end of Meon Close was already dangerously narrow for vehicle access and the increased traffic generated by 9 new dwellings would exacerbate the problems already encountered in vehicular access and parking. She was also concerned that, if the planning application were to be approved, the safety of pedestrians and children using Upper Quinton Village Green for recreational purposes would be severely compromised by the additional vehicle movements that the site would generate

10. The CHAIRMAN, noting the level of interest in the Lawyer's Field planning application from the three speakers and the other members of the public attending the Parish Council meeting proposed that item 13a on the agenda (14/00900/OUT – Lawyers Field, Meon Close, Upper Quinton - Outline development for 9 houses including 5 open market and 4 affordable) be brought forward for the Parish Council to discuss while the public were present.

Councillor BRAIN congratulated the speakers on their presentations and advised that he fully supported their objections and recommended that the Parish Council also submitted an objection to the planning application.

The Parish Council discussed the scale and density of the application and its potential impact on access to the proposed development site and the surrounding road network. The Parish Council was also mindful of the views of Upper Quinton residents who overwhelmingly opposed the proposed development and it was agreed that an objection should be submitted by Quinton Parish Council to the local planning authority

RESOLVED THAT:

Quinton Parish Council will, as a recognised consultee in respect of this planning application, submit an objection to the application to Stratford District Council

11. The CHAIRMAN returned to the published order of agenda to consider matters arising from the minutes of the previous meetings:

(a) Meon Vale Developments

Councillor BRAIN briefed the Parish Council on the latest planning application that had been submitted in respect of this development. He said that it did not accord with the masterplan for this site and was not leisure led as originally proposed

The CHAIRMAN advised the Parish Council that it had until 25th June to respond to this application and proposed that an extraordinary meeting of the Parish Council should be convened to consider its response to the application once all of the supporting documentation was available.

Councillor BRAIN advised that BARD had been re-invented to oppose the application and that Long Marston Parish Council were also intending to hold an extraordinary Council meeting to consider the application.

The CHAIRMAN suggested that these meetings could be combined and that Quinton Parish Council, having given due notice to local residents, could attend the Long Marston meeting at the invitation of Long Marston Parish Council

RESOLVED THAT:

Councillor BRAIN will approach Long Marston Parish Council to request a joint meeting to consider the Meon Vale Planning application

(b) Fordway Play Area

Mrs BARTON advised that the see-saw now needed some attention and it was noted that the annual inspection of the area was planned for 26th May

(c) Village Hall Playing Field Play Area

The Parish Council discussed the need for a replacement bin in the play area and the CHAIRMAN expressed concern over the cost of a single bin at £430 +VAT. Mr BATCHELOR advised that he had managed to source two bins at a cost of £600 +VAT and that these could be concreted in by the swings and the skate park with weekly refuse collection provided by Stratford District Council. It was agreed that the bins should be purchased and installed at the revised price

RESOLVED THAT:

Mr BATCHELOR should place an order for two litter bins at £600 +VAT

Mr BATCHELOR also reminded the Parish Council that two picnic benches were now available for installation in the playing field area; it just remained for the Council to determine where they should be sited. He also noted that it had been suggested previously that chains should be installed on the swings to prevent damage from twisting the ropes. It was agreed that these should be purchased without further delay.

RESOLVED THAT:

Mr BATCHELOR should source chains to be installed on the swings in the Play area

Mr BATCHELOR also reported that the wall over the drainage pipe at the back of the village hall was leaning over and he had arranged to meet the surveyor from Orbit Homes on site to determine ownership and liability for repair.

(d) Flood Defence Report

Mrs BRANSTON raised concerns about drainage ditches in Hill Lane, Upper Quinton which were beginning to subside due to cars being parked on the adjoining grass verges. The Parish Council was unclear as to whether the verges fell within its remit and it was agreed that the Parish Clerk should examine the grass cutting contract to see whether this provided any evidence of ownership

RESOLVED THAT:

PARISH CLERK will determine ownership of grass verges in Hill Lane, Upper Quinton

(e) Speed Aware Campaign on Main Road

Although there had been some recent police presence on Main Road the Parish Council was still concerned that drivers were not observing speed levels when driving through the village.

Councillor BRAIN advised that Long Marston had experienced the same problem but that

the village had a very active community camera crew and its reports had prompted police to attend to monitor speeding motorists.

The Parish Council discussed the various deterrents that could be put in place including speed bumps in areas where street lighting was installed, flashing signs and speed reminders along Main Road. Councillor BRAIN advised that there was unlikely to be any funding available from Warwickshire County Council and that the Long Marston equipment had been funded by Global Gathering but he undertook to investigate the potential costs and suppliers of traffic calming measures

RESOLVED THAT:

Councillor BRAIN will report back to the Parish Council on his investigations into traffic calming measures

(f) Neighbourhood Plan

The CHAIRMAN advised that he and Mrs BARTON had had an excellent briefing from Stratford District Council on the steps required to produce a Neighbourhood Plan and the priority now was to find a chairman to lead the process. It was agreed that the Parish Council should advertise for someone who might volunteer to take on this role

RESOLVED THAT:

The CHAIRMAN will produce an advertisement for a Neighbourhood Plan Chairman to be placed on Parish noticeboards and the Quinton website

(g) Village Hall Report

No report had been received

(h) Neighbourhood Watch progress report

Mrs BARTON advised that she will contact Mrs Taggart to arrange a handover of responsibilities.

(i) Kier Homes adoption of POS Millfield Close

It was noted that this transfer was still outstanding pending clarification from the solicitors handling the transfer on the responsibility for grounds maintenance around the electricity substation in the vicinity of Millfield Close

RESOLVED THAT:

PARISH CLERK will contact Robert Lunn and Lowth solicitors to request a progress report on this issue

(j) Grass Maintenance Contract

This item is now closed

(k) Superfast Broadband project update

Councillor BRAIN advised that the infrastructure is now in place for this project although the projected "go live" date in June may be slightly delayed.

(l) Dog fouling problem

The Parish Council had received no further reports on this issue although it was noted that further bins might help to resolve the problem. Mr BATCHELOR offered to ascertain costs and suppliers.

12. Any matters from the Chairman

The CHAIRMAN raised concerns regarding heavy traffic trying to access Lower Quinton Garages via Taylor's Lane. He had spoken to the Garages' owner who was willing to fund signage to resolve the problem and was seeking the views of fellow Parish Councillors as to whether this would be acceptable. The Parish Council agreed that the offer should be accepted provided that the signage was unobtrusive and there was some discussion as to where the most appropriate site for the signage would be. It was agreed that ideally the signage should be positioned at kerb level and could potentially be sited in the vicinity of Edmonds Close / Dobbie Road.

Councillor BRAIN advised that this would require approval from Warwickshire County Council and it was agreed that the CHAIRMAN would seek advice from County Councillor Mrs Seccombe

RESOLVED THAT:

The Parish Council should accept the offer from Lower Quinton Garages to provide traffic signage and that the CHAIRMAN should seek advice from Warwickshire County Council on the approvals required

The CHAIRMAN advised the meeting that the Parish Emergency Plan required updating and the he would undertake this task together with the Clerk for ratification at a future meeting

RESOLVED THAT:

The CHAIRMAN and PARISH CLERK will produce a revised Emergency Plan to reflect current personnel, contact details and resources

13. Any matters from the District Councillor or County Councillor

Councillor BRAIN reported that Stratford District Council had now approved its Core Strategy and chosen Gaydon Lighthorne Heath as its preferred new settlement as opposed to the Long Marston Airfield site.

Councillor BRAIN also reported that:

- He had had initial discussions with new contacts representing Global Gathering
- He had supplied new oak saplings which had now been planted in Goose Lane
- Street lighting had now been installed by Orbit / Warwickshire County Council in the vicinity of Goose Lane / Meon Medical Centre
- He had attended the village tidy up on Saturday 10th May and noticed that the village was especially well kept. He believed that this was in no small part attributable to the work of Tony Stowe who worked hard on a regular basis to keep Quinton tidy and Councillor BRAIN wished to commend him for his efforts.

14. The Parish Council noted the decisions in respect of the following planning applications:

(a) 14/00020/OUT – Orchard land adjacent to Quinavon, Upper Quinton – erection of 2 dwellings APPROVED.

(b) 14/00333/TPO – Long Marston Storage Depot, Campden Road, Lower Quinton – Arboricultural works APPROVED

(c) 14/00643/HRN – Parishes of Quinton and Preston on Stour – Hedgerow removal APPROVED

(d) 14/00552/FUL – 74 The Fordway, Lower Quinton – Single storey side and single storey rear extension APPROVED

15. The Parish Council noted that the following correspondence had been received:

(a) Letter from Pam Sutton, Treasurer, St Swithin's Church, requesting a donation towards maintenance of church groundmowers

The Parish Council agreed that it should make a contribution of up to £200 towards the maintenance costs. It was agreed that the Clerk should contact St Swithin's Treasurer to ascertain their requirements

RESOLVED THAT:

The PARISH CLERK should contact St Swithin's Treasurer with the authority to make a payment of up to £200 towards the maintenance of ground mower costs

(b) Representations from Ray Nicholls, Quinton Football & Cricket clubs for a contribution towards costs incurred in maintenance of playing surfaces 2013-14

The Parish Council noted that it had previously rejected requests from Mr Nicholls for a contribution towards these costs on the basis that it was not of benefit to the wider community and the Council had advised Mr Nicholls that in future approval should be sought in advance if a contribution from the Parish Council was to be requested. It was agreed therefore that the Council would not approve any payment towards these costs

(c) Letter from Warwickshire County Council regarding consultation on the introduction of a common permit scheme to manage activities on the highways

It was noted that this would not result in any additional costs for Parish Councils

(d) Western Power – Free Parish Council Pack – Helping people to cope during power cuts

The Parish Council noted that this pack had been provided free of charge to the Council and was not on public sale but Mr BATCHELOR undertook to contact Western Power to obtain sufficient power packs for pensioners residing in the village

RESOLVED THAT:

Mr BATCHELOR will contact Western Power with a view to obtaining additional power packs for distribution to pensioners within the village

16. The Parish Council noted the following payments that had been made since its last meeting on 20th March 2014:

(a) Clerks Salary £*** (BACS)

(b) Payment to HMRC for tax on Clerk's Salary - £*** (BACS)

(c) Thomas Fox Landscaping for work undertaken during period 17th – 26th March 2014

– Mowing Fordway (£84), mowing playing field (£204), verge and greens maintenance (£510), mowing Millfield (£36) BACS PAYMENT OF £834 IN TOTAL

(d) Quinton and Admington Village Hall (Meetings hire 25 February, 11 March and 20 March) £78

(e) Warwickshire Training Partnership – Parish Clerk induction course - £40

(f) E.On - electricity to Phone Box - £26.09p

(g) WALC - annual subscription - £531

(h) St Swithin's Church – contribution towards production of St Swithin's News - £300

The CHAIRMAN closed the meeting at 9.30pm