

MINUTES FROM THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON 26TH APRIL 2018 AT QUENINGTON VILLAGE HALL

Present: Cllr Mike Scott (Chairman), Cllr Mike Sayer, Cllr Maurice Denton, Cllr Serena Robinson, Cllr Jan Sallis, County & District Cllr Ray Theodoulou and 11 members of public.

1. **Apologies:** Cllr Don Downes
2. **Welcome from Mike Scott:** Mike Scott, Chairman of Quenington Parish Council welcomed everyone to the meeting.
3. **Minutes of the previous meeting on 4th May 2017:** The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 4th May 2017 were accepted as a true record of the meeting and were signed by the Chairman.
4. **Report from County & District Cllr Ray Theodoulou:**

District Council: Cotswold District Council (CDC) have managed to reduce costs by forming Publica in collaboration with Cheltenham, Tewkesbury and Forest of Dean Councils, enabling the sharing of resources. As a result, there is no increase to Council tax this year.

The Chesterton housing application was a big issue at CDC this year and has now been approved, this is a 20year project and will result in a 20% increase in housing in Cirencester, Cllr Theodoulou supported the application because it included the necessary infrastructure for a major development to take place.

County Council: Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) has allocated 60% of its budget on adult and child care. The Children's Services Dept had a poor Ofsted result last year so more money was needed to improve services than had been anticipated. The cost of adult care is rising and if it carries on at the same rate, 86% of the total budget will need to be spent on this, which is not sustainable; GCC is looking at working more closely with the NHS to try and resolve this issue.

An extra £50 million has been allocated to the road budget over the next 4 years but road repairs are currently behind schedule due to the bad weather over the last winter.

Consultation has recently taken place regarding the 'missing link' at the Air Balloon. The cost for this new section of dual carriageway is being mostly met by Highways for England rather than GCC.

Each County Cllr has been allocated £30,000 for 'Growing Communities' grants and £1,500 has recently been awarded to Quenington Parish Council to enable the safety surfacing to be replaced in the playground.

Questions/Comments

- Pot holes in and around Quenington seem to be dealt with more quickly than in neighbouring counties.
- Is there an assurance that infrastructure will be put in place before major housing developments take place? RT replied that unfortunately this did not happen in Fairford but the Chesterton development does include improvements to infrastructure.
- It was suggested that developers should be made to pay for infrastructure in advance of building. RT replied that developers do pay through the Section 106 Agreement but often there are a number of

small developments from different developers so only small amounts of money come in at one time.

- Is it true that housing opposite Farmor's School been proposed? RT advised that housing in this area has been included in the Fairford Neighbourhood Plan but there is not currently a planning application for this proposal.
- Why aren't all pot holes in one area filled at the same time? RT replied that the worst holes are filled in first. It would be preferable to resurface a whole section but there are cost limitations to doing this. GCC has started a procurement process for a new roads contract and the current contractor Amey is not bidding again.

5. Representatives from local groups and organisations gave a short presentation:

5.1 Catharine Smith, Managing Director of Xylem: There have been ups and downs over recent years but in 2017 Xylem grew by 30% as a business and now sends pumps across the world, including USA & Australia. Pumps are manufactured in Quenington then distributed out globally, there is also a sister plant in the Middle East. New types of pump have been developed including pumps for helicopters, nuclear plants and ones that can work in the extreme cold of Siberia.

- What percentage of employees are from a 5mile radius? Catharine estimated that about 20% of employees were from the local area. Jobs are advertised in local employment agencies and cover a wide spectrum of skills and levels. Xylem also has a lot of communication with Farmor's School and Cirencester College and recruit apprentices from these contacts.
- What is the procedure for receiving goods that arrive late? The goods receivers finish work at 4.30pm so companies are told not to arrive after this time. If there is a late delivery, they are turned away and directed to Cirencester Services.
- Who should residents contact if large lorries park up in the village. Catharine asked for residents to contact herself with details.

5.2 Caroline Burton, Hatherop C of E Primary School: Hatherop Primary School primarily takes in children from the three villages of Quenington, Coln and Hatherop. It is a three class school, with currently 78 pupils and numbers are growing; it is anticipated to have over 80 pupils from September. Ofsted inspected the school in November 2017 and judged the school 'Good'. Residents are encouraged to visit the school website to keep up to date with events and news. (www.hatherop.gloucs.sch.uk) The school relies on community support, for example, Xylem is going to be carrying out a project in school regarding water and the 2017 Fresh Air sculpture exhibition is funding an art project with the Brewery Arts Centre. This week St James' Place in Cirencester sent out a team of volunteers to help build a bark path in the new nature area, kindly providing all labour and materials.

All Governors are local people, the Local Authority Governor is Mike Francis, who brings experience from his former job as Deputy Head at Farmor's School. Penny Ibbotson, the Quenington Parish Clerk has recently started working in the school office for two days a week.

As with many schools, finances are tight and the school relies on donations and fund raising for any extras. A recent purchase from local donations (including Quenington Parish Council) were new interactive whiteboards for each classroom.

5.3 David Able Smith, Fresh Air Sculpture Trust & Quenington Society:

The Old Rectory recently hosted a Rare Plant Sale and thanks was given to the Parish Council for allowing parking on the green. The event raised £2,000 towards the Cobalt charity, which raises money for MRI scanners. 2018 is a year off from Fresh Air but work is underway for 2019; each exhibition is funded by the previous one and £50-60,000 needs to be raised to support an event. The team are aware that the exhibitions bring traffic into the village and thank residents for their support.

5.4 Margaret Stranks, Quenington Village Hall: The Village Hall continues to thrive and is a busy and much appreciated community asset. There is a healthy balance of funds, primarily from bookings but also from our fundraising events such as coffee mornings, 100 club and surplus electricity from the solar panels. The Hall is booked every week night in term time for various clubs and activities and is also regularly booked by private individuals for one off events. Apple Day has become a regular event and will be held again in October this year. Two events from the Arts in Rural Gloucestershire programme have been held over the last year –musical quintet Fordante in October and Latin American music group Sonrisa in February, both very much enjoyed.

A new notice board has been installed at the front of the car park, the small meeting room redecorated and the curtain tracks replaced with poles. The Hall has received two gifts, an embroidery by former resident Isabel Elliott and a local scene painting from the Firth family.

The Quenington Society has recently deposited the village archives in the Hall, which are available for anyone to consult – a valuable asset for the village. The Hall committee help with tea & cakes at the village fete and last year this paid for the hire of the cider press for Apple Day. The Parish Council uses the Hall for office space and meetings, for which rental is paid, thank you for this support, which is much appreciated.

- What time to people have to leave the Hall in the evenings? The rules state that it has to be quiet from 10.30pm and the hall empty by 11pm.

6. Quenington Parish Council: The Parish Council has continued to focus on maintenance of the village and almost one third of the annual budget is spent on regular grass cutting of the green, playground, cemetery and some verges. Unfortunately the lower edge to the main green has become badly damaged and QPC is working with County Highways on how best to repair and protect this area; a low granite kerb is currently being considered.

Thanks to part funding from the GCC Active Together Fund, a new rubber safety surface has been laid around the roundabout. The safety matting around other play equipment is now in need of replacing and a grant from the GCC Growing Communities fund has been recently approved to cover half of the costs.

The biggest expense for 2018 is going to be the construction of a dry stone wall around the cemetery extension area. The Parish Council has been

building up funds towards this for a number of years and work is to start in August of this year. Burials will continue in the existing cemetery for a number of years, but the extension area will be ready for when needed.

A second Speed Indicator Device has been purchased thanks to part funding from the Police Commissioner's Fund. This means that more of the parish can be covered and the device is being used along Fairford Road and in Honeycombe Leaze. Coneygar Road is covered by the original device, which is shared with Hatherop & Coln.

The Community Speedwatch team is still active and carrying out random speed checks in the village. The figures from August to October were reviewed and at first glance the figure of 84% not speeding seems encouraging. However, when monitoring, the team are conspicuous in their yellow jackets and there are warning signs in place that speed monitoring is in progress. Casual observation at other times suggests that on a daily basis, approx. 50% vehicles are speeding to varying degrees. More help would be gratefully received to help with Community Speedwatch as we would like to extend the monitoring locations to include Springfield Road and Netherton, please contact QPC if you would be interested in being involved.

For the first time in a number of years, there were significant snowfalls in the parish – thank you very much to the snow wardens Richard Lander and Tim Peachey for clearing the roads so efficiently for everyone. The Parish Council is currently working on preparing a Winter Action Plan for the future.

Work has begun on updating the Parish Plan and questions will be circulated to all residents later in the year to gain feedback.

7. Public Questions:

- Concerns were raised about activities in the playground such as camping, parties and older teenagers gathering. It was suggested that signage is needed to clarify that the playground is for younger children only.
- Problems with vehicles regularly parking on the green were raised, this is causing significant damage especially when the ground is wet. The Parish Council fully understand that this is an issue and work is ongoing to try and prevent the unrestricted parking that is taking place.
- At the top end of the green, near the junction with Springfield Road, permission was given for one disabled person to park there, this seems to have resulted in others following suit. The Parish Council is aware of this issue and is trying to come up with a solution, including liaising with Bromford Housing.
- When will all the lighting be converted to LED lights? Cllr Theodoulou advised that this is work in progress but eventually all light will be LED lights. The lights are dimmed from midnight to 5.30am.
- Quenington Parish Council was thanked for all the work it does for the residents of the village.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.35pm

_____Chairman

_____Date