

MINUTES OF THE QUENINGTON ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON 4TH MAY 2017 AT QUENINGTON VILLAGE HALL

Present: Cllr Mike Scott (Chairman), Cllr Don Downes, Cllr Mike Sayer, Cllr John Dooley, Cllr Maurice Denton, Cllr Serena Robinson, Cllr Jan Sallis, County & District Cllr Ray Theodoulou, Penny Ibbotson (Clerk) and 22 members of the public.

- 1. Apologies:** All present
- 2. Welcome from Mike Scott:** Mike Scott, Chairman of Quenington Parish Council welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- 3. Minutes from previous meeting on 28th April 2016:** The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 28th April 2016 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) has had a successful year and carried out more joint working with neighbouring districts to share overhead costs, which gives substantial financial savings and there will be no increase in Council Tax this year. There is to be a reorganisation of Local Authorities with Government allowing Districts to keep the business rates, there is a very uneven distribution of business rates across the country though, so there will need to be some balancing out.

County Council: The County focus is still on infrastructure and this is evident locally with the broadband improvements that are currently taking place. There is also a strong focus on road improvements with a proposal to spend £10 million per year over the next 5 years to further reduce the backlog of repairs needed. The Air Balloon bypass is ongoing but the route still needs to be decided; the aim is for a 2022 start.

The new large waste facility near Gloucester has been granted government approval and construction has started on site.

GCC has allocated money to improve community life, for example helping village halls and recreation facilities. The Active Together grant has supported improvements to Quenington Playground.

The main challenge in the County and nationally is the increasing demand for care of the elderly, young and vulnerable. Overall the County Council Tax has increased by 1.99% with the 2% levy for care of the elderly on top of this.

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

5.1 Dr Victoria Edwards, Chief Executive, Ernest Cook Trust

The Ernest Cook Trust is a local landowner but also has estates across the country, totalling 22,000 acres. Surplus money gained from these estates and the Trust's investment portfolio results in £1.8million being available for grants; the focus being on education. The Ernest Cook Trust has three purposes: to manage the estates, provide education officers and provide grant funding for educational purposes. In her role as Chief Executive, Victoria Edwards would like to develop the overlaps between these three main purposes, including increasing ways in which there can be educational and

environmental benefits from the estates. If anyone has any ideas/views on how this can be developed, please get in touch.

Question: Are ECT grants just for school leavers? Victoria Edwards replied that grants are also available for school pupils; Farmor's School is to receive a bursary from the Trust, which they can distribute to those most in need.

Grants range in size from large (up to £15,000) and small (£25-£4,000) and must be for educational purposes – 500 per year are allocated.

Question: Does the Trust still purchase land? Victoria Edwards replied that the Trust does still purchase land, especially where it feels it can make a difference and they are hoping to purchase some land in Swindon to use for educational purposes.

The Trust was congratulated on its work.

5.2 Rev John Partington, CHEQS Parish

Services in Quenington are continuing to alternate between morning and evening and numbers attending are good. John Partington would like to arrange a few more special services in Quenington as these are always well attended. There is a new Junior Church running in Coln and this is attended by some children from Quenington. The CHEQS parish is part of the South Cotswolds Team and there has been a change in responsibilities with him also taking on Kempsford, Whelford and Castle Eaton churches. To help with the workload, the Lechlade vicar is now covering Southrop and Eastleach.

John Partington is looking into varying the times of services as he can't be in all churches at the same time, but will consult with regular churchgoers first. The Quenington Church Fete & Dog Show is on Saturday 13th May from 2-5pm with kind permission from the Old Rectory – please come and support this event.

John Partington was advised that the CHEQS magazine was much appreciated in the community.

5.3 Catharine Smith, Finance Director, Xylem

Catharine Smith was pleased to report that the business has recovered from the downturn and is now expanding across the world, including the Middle East & Philippines. Work has been carried out to upgrade the facility but the gates are still work in progress – they need to be secure yet visually pleasing. Xylem supports the global charity 'Watermark' and also encourages voluntary work in the local community. In 2016, 100 employees tidied up the City Bank area of Cirencester and in 2017, work was carried out at the Abby Ground, Cirencester. If there is anything xylem can do to help in Quenington, then please get in touch but there does need to be a link to water. The next activity is a 'Walk for Water' with employees walking to Fairford to raise money.

Question: Is the company privately owned? Catharine Smith replied that the company is on the American Stock Exchange.

Question: Is there still manufacturing taking place on site in Quenington?

Catharine Smith replied that pumps were still designed and built at Quenington and distributed across the world.

5.4 Caroline Burton, Hatherop C of E Primary School

Caroline Burton is the new Head teacher at Hatherop Primary School but has had long links with the school, starting in 1993 as a parent and then as a teacher in 2004. The majority of children are from the villages of Quenington,

Coln and Hatherop and there are currently 77 pupils. There is a strong staff team that offers a unique educational experience with a bespoke, family ethos.

Recent highlights include a Victorian Day to celebrate the 160th Anniversary of the school and a Mind, Body, Spirit Week. After the SAT's exams, there is to be an Arts week with a sculpture theme to link in with Fresh Air; the children will be exhibiting their work in the Church during the Fresh Air opening days. A trip to the science museum @Bristol is also arranged and a French residential with two other local schools in Southrop and Bibury.

As a Church School, all important Festivals are celebrated with the help of John Partington. Thanks were given to the Ernest Cook Trust for their educational provision and the school has a number of trips to ECT land.

5.5 Lucy Able Smith, Quenington Society & Sculpture Trust

All residents of Quenington are members of the Quenington Society, which organises a range of activities such as walks, visits and lectures. The next event is on Monday 22nd May with a talk about the small shops revolution. Historic photos of Quenington are always welcomed, to build up the archives and also any ideas for new events.

The first sculpture show was in 1992 in conjunction with the Brewery Arts Centre in Cirencester and there were approx 300 visitors. David and Lucy Able Smith subsequently founded the Sculpture Trust in 1997 and the show is now a regular biannual event; in 2015 'Fresh Air' had expanded to 14,000 visitors. The show also has educational activities and 700 children are already booked in for this year. Children are encouraged to buy art by exhibiting artists donating a small item that can then only be bought by a child.

This year the open night for Quenington residents is on Saturday 10th June. The exhibition is well supported by volunteers on the gate and all 'slots' are now full. Local groups such as the RAF and Sea Cadets and Fairford Youth Club do an excellent job meeting and greeting on the Green at weekends.

5.6 Fran Huckle, Chair of Quenington Village Hall Committee

It has been a busy year for the Village Hall, which has continued to thrive and is appreciated as a community asset. Regular groups use the hall and also bookings are taken for one-off events; bookings have increased this year, possibly from word of mouth recommendations. Monthly Saturday coffee mornings continue to be run, some have visitors such as the Surgery Patient Practice Group and Fairford Hospital League of Friends.

The Apple Day has become a regular event and this year is on Saturday 21st October. A one woman drama was held in February though the Arts in Rural Gloucestershire programme, which was very popular and at the end of September a music quintet is going to be performing.

With respect to maintenance, the gravel area at the rear has been renewed and a new notice board is planned. A balance of funds is building up from bookings, 100 Club and surplus electricity from the solar panels.

6. Quenington Parish Council Report

Mike Scott reported that Janet Sallis had joined the Parish Council, she has filled the vacancy left by the sad passing away of Derek Fielder, who was a Councillor for many years.

The biggest project over the last 12 months has been the purchase of land to extend Quenington Cemetery. Thanks are given to the Douglas Hume family for selling a small portion of their land to the Parish Council for this purpose. The next step is to construct a dry stone wall around the site, this is going to be a major expense so the Parish Council budget is going to be tight for the next few years.

An attempt to set up a Community Speedwatch programme in Quenington was made last year, this didn't really get off the ground but after joining forces with Fairford, Poulton and Honeycombe Leaze, there is now a body of 30 volunteers – many from Quenington and speed monitoring has begun.

The telephone kiosk is now looking much smarter with thanks to James & Ollie Sweeting and it is planned to use the kiosk as a local information point in the future.

Following concerns about the amount of dog mess in Mawley Road, a new dog waste bin has recently been installed to encourage people to clean up after their dog.

The Parish Council has also been successful in receiving grant funding from Gloucestershire County Council's Active Together funding and this will be used to renovate the roundabout and surrounding safety surfacing.

The aim for the next 12 months is to review and refresh the Quenington Parish Plan, input from residents is needed for this so please look out for further information in the coming months. If anyone would like to join the working party to take this project forward, please contact the clerk.

Finally, a reminder about the Defibrillator Training Session on 6th May in the village hall, this is a one hour session to learn essential life saving skills.

7. Public Questions

- Did QPC have any involvement in the new street light programme as it was queried why not all lights had been changed? Mike Scott replied that this was a County initiative and is a rolling programme of work. Raymond Theodoulou advised that this will make large savings on the energy bill.
- Will there be another litter pick this year? Mike Scott advised that there had been one on 8th April.
- A comment from a resident was passed on that they would prefer to see the telephone kiosk used for residents eg as an exchange rather than an information point. Mike Scott replied that this option will be raised when use of the kiosk was considered.

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

_____ Chairman _____ 2017