

MINUTES FROM THE ANNUAL VILLAGE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 25TH APRIL 2019 AT QUENINGTON VILLAGE HALL.

Present: Cllr Mike Scott (Chair), Cllr Don Downes, Cllr Mike Sayer, Cllr Jan Sallis, Cllr John Dooley, Cllr Anne Willis, County & District Cllr Ray Theodoulou, Penny Ibbotson (Clerk) and 23 members of public.

1. Apologies: None.

2. Welcome from Mike Scott, Chairman of Quenington Parish Council: Mike Scott welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the members of Quenington Parish Council.

3. Minutes from previous meeting on 26th April 2018: The minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record of the proceedings and were signed by the Chairman.

4. Report from County & District Cllr Theodoulou:

Gloucestershire County Council: GCC did not have a good year last year; the accounts did balance but there have been significant pressures on the child and adult care budgets. A poor Ofsted review on social care highlighted overburdened staff with high caseloads, this meant that additional funding was needed to try and reduce this problem. GCC rates have increased by 4.99%, 2% of which is ring fenced for adult care.

The Capital account is in a better financial position, with funds being committed to schools and roads.

Cotswold District Council: The District Council has increased rates by 2% and is in a strong financial position with plenty of reserves.

The major event in the District is the Chesterton development, which has now been granted planning permission. A lot of people were against the development of 2,000 homes but Cllr Theodoulou voted in favour because there would be infrastructure included in the development and this would be a preferable way to meet Government targets rather than the speculative developments such as those that have taken place in Fairford where there were no linked improvements to the infrastructure. There are plans to build a multi storey car park on the Waterloo site but traffic and parking is a difficult issue in Cirencester.

Questions:

What guarantees do contractors give on their workmanship with pot holes? RT replied that the preferred solution is carry out repairs in strips of tarmac rather than just filling in potholes but there is an obligation to fill a pothole quickly. If the workmanship is considered inadequate, the contractor can be asked to do the work again. A new contractor (Amey) has been appointed since the beginning of April. *CDC seems to be better led than GCC, why is that?* RT replied that yes CDC has been very successful in comparison to other authorities; GCC has bigger problems to deal with than CDC.

What will happen to waste when the incinerator is up and running; will it still be recycled? The new incinerator is the largest single investment GCC has made; it will only take non recyclable waste from Gloucestershire and it is hoped to be up and running in June 2019. Waste that can be recycled will continue to be recycled and will be taken out before the rest of the waste is incinerated.

5. Representatives from the following local groups and organisations gave a short presentation/report:

5.1 Ian Wells (Technical Director) & Bruce May (Manufacturing Director),

Xylem: The business is still growing and sending pumps out to all parts of the world. The site at Quenington employs approx 115-125 people and this figure stays fairly constant. It is planned change the car park from gravel to tarmac by the end of the year and a silencing system is being trialled in May to reduce external noise from fans. There are also plans to repaint the building. Xylem is committed to looking after staff and each person carries out at least 1 hour of safety training per month.

Xylem is involved in 'Watermark', which is aimed to make people realise the importance of water through events both locally and around the world. The company also helps with international disasters supplying expertise and equipment free of charge eg there was a team on standby to be sent out to help with the rescue of the boys trapped in the cave in Thailand and they were able to help with recent flooding in India.

There was an open afternoon in November and a group of residents visited the site; it is hoped to offer another visit soon.

Xylem is involved in new product development and has recently launched self priming pumps which are more efficient and reliable. Smart technology is also being investigated for example to allow remote monitoring in the field.

Questions:

What is the turnover of the company? BM advised that it was 38 million last year from the Quenington site, with a 35% profitability on sales. The whole xylem group had a turnover of 5 billion.

To what extent do you see robotics being involved? IW replied that there are people looking into this and it would be most useful on the assembly line.

5.2 Rev John Partington, CHQ Churches: Rev Partington advised that he will be retiring at the end of the year and the vacancy for Coln, Hatherop, Quenington parishes will be a part time role; this shouldn't impact too much as although he is full time, Rev Partington also covers Kempford, Whelford and Castle Eaton. In the intervening period, Tim Hastie Smith, the Bibury vicar will be the main point of contact and there will also be other current members of the clergy around.

The good news is that numbers attending local services are going up rather than down but the bad news is that the village churches are struggling financially and the Quenington Church in particular. There is not enough money to maintain the buildings as the Church doesn't have a compulsory income from parishioners. Rev Partington indicated that the future of St Swithins Church is in the hands of the villagers.

Questions:

Why does Quenington Church have so many Sunday night services? There are the same number of Evensongs in Quenington as there are in Coln and people usually alternate between the two Churches depending on what service they prefer.

Is the need for residents to support their local Church your personal view or the view of the Church? JP advised that it is the Church vision and the C of E Policy is to re deploy clergy to population centres.

5.3 Caroline Burton, Hatherop C of E Primary School: Caroline Burton has been the head at Hatherop Primary School for nearly 3 years it is the local school for Quenington residents. Children also attend from other nearby villages and Fairford. A new member of staff has recently joined the team and we welcome Mr Duncan Russell to the school.

Hatherop C of E Primary School has a family friendly ethos and as a Church school there is a clear Christian vision. There was a Statutory Church School Inspection in early April, the report on this should be received soon. The school encourages a caring attitude; there was a recent sponsored litter pick, which raised £900 for Children in Need and there have been several collections to the Cirencester Foodbank. Recently the school held a Community tea inviting about 20 local people into school for tea and cake; an event that was enjoyed by all.

In November there was a very successful Auction of Promises that was well supported by the local community and raised a total of £15,000 of much needed funds.

There have been many events this year including a Potty Potions day, Diwali Day and a trip to Gloucester Cathedral. There are also some to look forward to including a trip to ECT land near Slimbridge, a French residential, Arts Week (linked to Fresh Air) and a school production of a Wizard of Oz.

Thank you for the support from the local community with donations from events such as Fresh Air and Coln Fete and from help from Church visitors, readers and governors.

Questions:

How will the expansion of Fairford Primary impact the school? CB replied that some parents specifically choose Hatherop for its small village school atmosphere; this year there were 47 families applying for 12 places. We will have to wait and see the impact of the Fairford expansion.

5.4 Fran Huckle, Quenington Village Hall: The village hall is thriving with many user groups offering a wide range of activities, which is building a healthy bank balance. Income comes from bookings, 100 club, coffee mornings, solar panels and one off events.

The coffee mornings are a useful way to reach out to the community and the Quenington Archives were recently launched at a coffee morning. The Archives will now be available for browsing at each coffee morning.

The Apple Day is a regular event on the calendar, it is a family friendly day organised by Ruth Parsons. The committee provide tea and cakes at Quenington Fete and the apple press is hired from the money raised.

The Arts in Rural Gloucestershire event in February was The Importance of Being Earnest - a talented 2 woman production which was very entertaining. Quenington Parish Council rents the office space in the hall and this provides useful regular income and the committee are grateful for this support.

The Hall will be closed for 2 weeks in August for redecoration.

The committee is planning to organise something in memory of Bunny Goddard, a former committee member who sadly passed away recently, there will be more details on this in due course.

5.5 Lucy Abel Smith, Quenington Society & Sculpture Trust: Lucy Able Smith invited residents to the Fresh Air village opening on 15th June at 5pm. This will be the 14th show; it started in 1992 with 300 visitors and has grown to 12,000 visitors in 2017! Residents were thanked for being patient and putting up with the disruption this number of visitors brings. Fresh Air is also grateful to the Parish Council for allowing parking on the Green for the duration of the event. A new venture has been to book the village hall for each weekend of the show for 2 pop up galleries, a pop up restaurant and a photography exhibition. The website has full details and online tickets can be bought this year. The Quenington Society hosted a talk by Tony Scotland earlier in the year and is planning a private tasting from Poulton Vineyard. The Quenington Archives developed from a donation to the Quenington Society and now incorporates a wide range of material; this is a continuous project as new material needs to be added to keep it updated. The Archive is housed in the office in Quenington Village Hall and it would be good to keep it in the village.

6. Quenington Parish Council Report: The biggest project this year was the building of the dry stone wall around the cemetery extension area, Phil Widger worked through the summer months to complete the new wall. A post and wire fence will be erected on the outside of the wall to protect it from damage by any cattle in the neighbouring field. Trees have been checked to make sure they are safe and necessary pruning has taken place. The cemetery extension is now part of the Parish Council grass cutting contract and will be kept neat and tidy along with the other areas we are responsible for. It is planned to have the cemetery extension area ready for burials in 2020.

Another major project over the last 12 months has been a review of the Parish Plan. Parish Plans are community led plans that set out a vision for the future of the parish. The last Quenington Parish Plan was produced in 2011 and Quenington Parish Council, along with local volunteers have reviewed this plan and prepared a new version as a guide for the next 5 years. All residents received a questionnaire in August 2018 so that QPC could gather information to produce the updated Plan. Thanks to Margaret Stranks for working so hard in delivering, collecting and collating the questionnaires. As a result of the feedback a new draft Parish Plan has been produced to guide the Parish Council. There are hard copies of the draft Plan available tonight and it will soon be available on the Parish Council website; any feedback is gratefully received - please contact the clerk or a councillor with your views.

The bottom edge of the Green has been kerbed by County Highways following a request from QPC to tidy up the area damaged by cars regularly parking on the grass. There is currently temporary fencing in place to allow the grass to grow and it is hoped people will respect the area and avoid parking there in the future.

Following a successful grant application to the Cotswold Conservation Board and support from the Keepers Inn and the Ernest Cook Trust, QPC will be producing a

leaflet of walks from the village. This is aimed at both residents and visitors so that they can enjoy the beautiful countryside in which we live.

The Community Speedwatch project is still ongoing with volunteers measuring the speed of vehicles using the local roads and feeding back information to the police. It would be great to have a few more volunteers, please contact the clerk if you are interested – free training will be provided.

It has been a quiet year for planning applications and the majority have been house extensions and tree work applications. A third application to erect a telecommunications mast is being submitted to Cotswold District Council soon, the new location is along the road to Donkeywell Farm.

Maurice Denton and Serena Robinson left QPC this year and we thank them for their time over recent years. We welcome Anne Willis and Mitchell Watkins and look forward to working with them in the future.

7. Public Questions:

Thank you to the Parish Council for organising the shield to the street light near Snake Drive. There two other problems in this area:

- 1. Dogs are frequently seen in the playground despite the clear no dogs sign on the gate; this is dangerous and unhealthy.*
- 2. People are seen regularly driving through the pillars at the entrance to Snake Drive, either to park and watch their children play or because they do not realise it isn't an access road. Please could a no through road sign be installed?*

It was suggested a self closing gate could be put on the playground gate to stop dogs getting in, this will be looked into but often the dog is let in on purpose by its owner.

Quenington Parish Council will consider the access problem to Snake Drive at its next meeting and report back. ECT as landowner will need to be involved.

What is the state of play regarding the communications mast? The Telecommunications company has looked at the site half way between Donkeywell Farm and Quenington and deemed it suitable, a planning application will be submitted in the near future.

Concern was raised about speeding along Fairford Road, are there any plans to tackle this problem? This is a difficult problem across the country. Community Speedwatch is now successfully running in Quenington but more volunteers are needed to enable more frequent monitoring. The Police send out a warning letters and follow up with a visit after three letters.

Gateway features were suggested and this will be revisited but contact with villages that have installed these indicate that they do not make a great deal of difference.

The 30mph road signs have faded and it was asked if these could be made clearer, Highways will be contacted about this.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.05pm

_____Chair

_____Date