

## **MINUTES FROM THE ANNUAL VILLAGE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2022 AT QUENINGTON VILLAGE HALL.**

**Present:** Cllr Mike Scott (Chair), Cllr Don Downes, Cllr Mike Sayer, Cllr John Dooley, Cllr Ben Rambaut, Penny Ibbotson (Clerk) and 2 members of public.

**1. Apologies:** Cllr Jan Sallis, District Cllr Ray Theodoulou

**2. To receive report from Quenington Parish Council:**

It has been another busy and varied year for Quenington Parish Council.

Council meetings returned to face to face meetings in the village hall from May 2021 after a year of using zoom, as the temporary legislation allowing remote meetings came to an end. The National Association of Local Councils is lobbying Government for permanent legislation that allows for remote meetings to take place.

Planning matters have been at the forefront as Cllr Ben Rambaut worked hard with representatives of other local town and parish councils to express concern over changes to the Cotswold District Council planning process. The majority of planning applications are now decided by individual planning officers rather than by the planning committee, which doesn't give local councils and residents the chance to share their views in a public forum. CDC has set up a Review Panel which now decides whether an application should be decided by committee or not, rather than the previous process where the local Ward Councillor could make this request.

There have been a number of discussions with CDC representatives, the latest meeting being positive with the feeling that CDC is now willing to listen to the concerns raised and has a genuine intention to work with town and parish councils to improve the planning process. There has been a lot of hard work and persistence to get to this stage and it is hoped that the end result will be a more open and democratic planning process.

There were approx 30 planning applications considered over the last 12 months. 40% being proposed work to existing buildings and 60% proposed work to trees. The largest application to be submitted was the proposed change of use of Court Farmhouse to offices and an education space with associated works; there was a public meeting and a public exhibition to discuss and share information about this application, which is still awaiting a decision by CDC.

With the help of County Cllr Dom Morris, a meeting with the Local Highways Manager was arranged in December, where we walked around the village to highlight local highways matters. These will be ongoing meetings so that progress on matters raised can be monitored.

Progress has been slow with the automated speedwatch campaign but thanks to the persistence of Bob Passmore, it looks as if the installation of community owned automatic speed detection cameras is getting nearer to becoming a reality. Gloucestershire Highways has been working very closely with the Traffic Management unit of Gloucestershire Police and believes they have reached agreement on how to proceed with approving sites, licensing camera installations

and managing the data generated. It is hoped that Quenington will be a trial site for the scheme.

A group of enthusiastic residents were keen to improve the ecological diversity of the village and this resulted in a slight change to the grass cutting regime. Three areas of grass were allowed to grow longer to encourage wildflowers and insects; these wildflower strips are located in front of the hedge bordering Greenview, in front of the hedge by the bus stop on the Green and in the verge at the junction of Victoria and Church Road. The results were reviewed at the end of the season and it was agreed to start cutting the first two areas earlier (after the bulbs have died down) rather than in late summer as last year this resulted in untidy edges to the Green.

Volunteers planted wildflowers in the Church Road verge and in the autumn 1650 bulbs were planted by volunteers around the edge of the Green and in the cemetery. The daffodils by the bus shelter have been particularly successful. In addition, four trees have been planted as part of the Queen's Jubilee celebrations. The bulbs and trees were paid for with money raised through a crowd funding scheme organised by Catherine Zoraida, so we are grateful for her help in organising this.

The last full burial space in the current cemetery was used in January so full burials will take place in the cemetery extension from now on (unless a re-open or reserved space). There are still plenty of spaces for cremation plots in the current cemetery. The Commonwealth War Grave Commission will be fixing a sign outside the cemetery to highlight that it contains war graves. The coping on the outside wall is to be repaired shortly.

A long term project for Quenington Parish Council is to rejuvenate the playground facilities as number of pieces of equipment will need replacing soon. Playground companies will be contacted for advice and the views of local residents/users sought. This will be an expensive project so a savings pot has been set up to accumulate funds over the next few years.

Mitch Watkins resigned from the parish council in January as he moved away from the area. This leaves a vacancy, which can be filled by co-option; if anyone is interested in joining then please contact the Clerk. Tani Phillips has also stepped down as Tree Warden, so again if anyone is interested in filling this role, please contact the Clerk. Thank you to both for the time that they have given.

Thank you to the volunteers that turned up for the recent Spring Clean, it is most appreciated and there will be a second litter pick event in the autumn. If anyone wants to borrow a litter picker to tidy up our local area in their own time, please contact the Clerk as we have a stock of litter pickers available to lend out.

There are combined Quenington, Coln and Hatherop events planned on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> June (lighting of beacons) and Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June (afternoon tea party) to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Look out for more details nearer the time and please do support these opportunities to come together as a community.

### 3. Public Questions:

There were no specific question but Bob Passmore gave an update on progress with the automated speed watch cameras as he had attended a meeting that day with representatives from Glos Highways and Glos Police. A full policy statement has been written and responsibilities allocated; approval of potential locations of speed cameras needs to be sought from both agencies. The devices are solar powered and work off a remote server. Signage would be needed to advice public of the presence of cameras and the police are currently agreeing the wording; signage would need to be at all of the entrances to the village. It was thought that this in itself would help to reduce speeds. There are data protection requirements to be met, further details of this are to be agreed shortly by the police.

Quenington is to be a trial site for the system and licences for a number of locations can be agreed in one go. These locations are to be confirmed in due course but it is likely to include Coneygar Road, Fairford Road and Netherton. Honeycombe Leaze was suggested as another location as the hamlet is within Quenington parish. The cost per camera is £585 with an annual server charge of £85 per camera.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.15pm.

\_\_\_\_\_ Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_ Date