**MINUTES FROM THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON**

**THURSDAY 15TH MAY 2025 AT QUENINGTON VILLAGE HALL.**

**Present:** Cllr Jan Sallis (Chair), Rita Walsh (Clerk), and 19 members of public.

**1. Apologies:** County Cllr Morris

**2. Welcome:** CllrSallis, Chair of Quenington Parish Council, introduced herself and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**3. Minutes from previous meeting on 11th April 2024:** The minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record of the meeting

**4.** **To receive the report from District Councillor David Fowles**

District Councillor Fowles explained that on 1st July 2024 Cotswold District Councillors were re-elected as a shadow council until devolution to a unitary authority takes place. District Councillor Fowles said his role involves attending parish council meetings, being on the planning committee and he also was involved with social housing and with waste management.

**5. Presentations from local groups and organisations**

**5.1 Hatherop School - Taryn Hancock, Head Teacher**

The Head stated that the school currently has 83 children, a staff of 13. The school is supported by 12 school governors, an active PTA and a fund raising committee. The school is small and serves the needs of the local villages. The school has mixed age classes and the children achieve very well against national standards. The school offers a range of sports and outdoor learning activities for the children which the children benefit from. The school has a breakfast club and after school club which means children can be on site until 5pm each day.

The Big Build fundraising campaign has been very successful in raising money to provide better facilities for the school. The first phase of the building project will start this summer ready and it is hoped that it will be completed in time for the start of the next school year.

**5.2 Ernest Cook Trust – Michael Birnie, Property Director and Frances Beeton, Land Agent**

The Trust has recently moved in to its new headquarters at Court Farm in the village. Mr Birnie thanked residents for their interest and understanding during the development of the site.

Mr Birnie informed the meeting that Jeremy and Sophie Iles have been awarded the tenancy on the land around the village and will be farming beef cattle. ECT is working with the tenant to improve the infrastructure on the land such as; gates, fencing, footpaths and stiles. There are currently no plans to reroute the Quenington to Fairford footpath which can become flooded at times during the year.

Mr Birnie said that ECT share the frustration of the residents about the poor mobile phone signal coverage and the slow progress with the completion of the phone mast. ECT are applying as much pressure as possible to get the mast completed but it appears that Vodafone are causing the delay.

**5.3 The Quenington Sculpture Trust and the Quenington Society – Lucy Abel-Smith**

**The Quenington Sculpture Trust – Fresh Air**

Mrs Abel-Smith told the meeting that the first Sculpture show was held in 1992 and led to the Abel-Smith’s forming a charitable trust for *Fresh Air* ’The Quenington Sculpture Trust’ in 1997.  The main purpose of the Fresh Air show is to raise money to support arts education and to provide bursaries to support new artists. Lucy announced that, following the death of her husband, David, in December, she and her family had decided the Fresh Air 2026 will be the last show. Over the years the trust has raised a considerable amount of money which will be used to provide bursaries for artists working in the applied arts for the next 10 years. Whilst Fresh Air 2026 will be the last sculpture show Lucy is determined that it will go out with a blast and she encouraged residents to come along and celebrate with her next year.

**Quenington Society**

The Quenington Society was formed to encourage an understanding of the history of the village and, as part of this, the Society has curated an archive of pictures which are housed in the Parish Council office in the village hall. Mrs Abel-Smith has written a guide to the St Swithin’s church and a separate guide to the church’s rare and unique kneelers. Lucy is currently working on a guide to the monuments in the village church.

**5.4 Village Hall – John Dooley**

Mr Dooley thanked all the village hall committee and the users of the hall for their support during the year and announced that three new members had joined the committee. Last year was a busy one with two evening entertainment events which were both sell outs. The annual apple day and craft fair combined with a coffee morning took place in October and was enjoyed by everyone who came along. The regular coffee mornings continue on the second Saturday of each month and are a good opportunity for residents to meet each other and eat cake. Whilst Mr Dooley was delighted that three new members had joined the committee, more committee members would allow even more events to be run. He asked anyone interested in joining the committee to come and chat to committee members at a coffee morning or contact the committee by email.

**5.4 Quenington Bulldogs – Paul Wilson**

Mr Wilson informed the meeting that the Bulldogs is an organisation with about forty members whose purpose is to raise money for local people in need. Funds are raised by holding events such as the annual fireworks display, the spring festival and by running a beer and burgers stall at the village fete. During the year the group had raised £9800 and had donated £12,000. Mr Wilson outlined four examples of funding that had been provided to local people. One person received funding for a mobility scooter, a family received funding for speech therapy for one of their children, funds were provided to help a family travel to London and stay with a child undergoing medical treatment and a donation was made to a family whose house had burnt down.

**5.6 Coln Valley biodiversity group – Anthea Palmer and Chris Maclaren**

Mr Maclaren explained that the Coln Valley Biodiversity group is a very new group of volunteers established to promote and improve biodiversity across the CHEQS villages. The UK has lost seventy percent of its biodiversity due to a range of factors including global warming and land management practices. A habitat mapping survey is being carried out to identify what the level of biodiversity is in the area. The Parish Council has given permission for the survey to be carried out on the land in the village that it manages. The survey is being carried out by volunteers and although it is not yet complete it has already led to the identification of some interesting plants.

**6. Quenington Parish Council** - **Jan Sallis, QPC Chair**

Cllr Sallis explained that she had recently been elected as Chair and as a lifelong resident of the village she was honoured to take on the role. Cllr Sallis thanked the outgoing Chair, Mike Scott, and said that she was delighted that Mike would be staying on in his role as a parish councillor.

The parish council had lent support to residents experiencing flooding and sewage issues in the village. Meetings between the residents, Gloucestershire County Council Highways representatives, Thames Water and parish councillors had been productive. Thames Water has agreed to carry out an investigation to identify the cause of the problems and to determine what can be done to remedy it.

The recent village clean up event saw the least amount of litter being picked up by the volunteers ever. This was a very encouraging sign and Jan hoped this trend would continue.

**Village plan update – Councillor Logan Ryan**

Cllr Ryan thanked all the residents who had taken the time to complete the village plan survey and provide their views. The seventy responses received were currently being analysed and would be used to inform the next version of the plan. Logan said that a draft of the revised village plan would soon be made available for residents to view and provide feedback.

**Traffic management plan – Councillor John Dooley**

Cllr Dooley explained that following the decision of the parish council to withdraw from the SpeedWatch programme in September 2024, there were a series of meetings with Gloucestershire police and Highways to identify how best traffic can be managed in the village. This resulted in Highways agreeing to carry out a traffic survey to identify the amount of traffic on village roads and the speeds of vehicles at survey sites. The survey collected data over 24 hours for 7 days so the survey data provides a complete set of information from the seven survey sites over an entire week. John presented a summary of the data collected which shows that whilst there are some speeding vehicles, Highways and the police would classify traffic speeds in Quenington as compliant with the speed limits. The most unexpected finding was that Netherton Hill is the road with the most speeding issues.

Based on the data gathered and in collaboration with Highways the parish council will be introducing a new traffic management system. The system will involve three Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS) also know as Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs) which will be located on Netherton Hill, Fairford Road and Coneygar Road. These roads have been selected based on vehicle numbers and recorded speeds. It is anticipated that these visual reminders that a vehicle is speeding will encourage drivers to slow down. Highways will provide the three VAS devices and install them at the three sites. As part of the council’s on going partnership with Highways, Highways will repeat the traffic survey next year so that we can see what the impact of the VAS units is on traffic speeds on our roads.

The Chair closed the meeting at 9.30pm

Signed:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Chair\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Date