

QUEEN CAMEL PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Elaine Owen, Innes House, Kingsdon, Somerton, Somerset, TA11 7LL

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**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on
Monday 20th March 2023 at 7:30pm**

Public Question Time

12 members of the public were in attendance.

- A member of the public spoke about the PCC grant.
- Another Member spoke about The Heritage Trust and explained that there is approximately £5000 available in the trust, that is not presently accessible.
- A parishioner asked if the council was doing anything to celebrate the coronation. A reply was given that no requests have been received with the exception of the grant application at 03/14(b).
- Sutton Montis Road problems were raised and discussed under 03/15(a).
- Stiles and footpaths some are reported as needing improvement.
- Parishioner asked about a Zebra crossing in the village. The clerk was asked to add to a future Agenda.

Present: Councillors Mike Baker, William Beveridge (left at 9pm), John Brendon, Angus Davidson, Brian Hewlett, Dan Hewlett, Brian Norman

Also Present: Elaine Owen, Parish Clerk, County and District Councillor Mike Lewis

03/01 It was RESOLVED that Cllr Baker would Chair the meeting

03/02 It was RESOLVED to accept the reasons for apologies for absence from Phil Jones (family commitment)

03/03 **Declarations of Interests** Cllr Dan Hewlett declared an interest in 03/10(b) due to being a working neighbour and Cllr John Brendon declared an interest in item 03/14b due to being on the PCC.

03/04 **County and District Councillor reports**

Cllr Lewis reported on the progress of moving to unitary authority and gave several announcements relating to Somerset news.

03/05 It was RESOLVED that the press and public would be excluded from the meeting for Item 03/17 and 03/18 by reason of the confidential / staff in confidence nature of the item(s) in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 s 1(2).

03/06 It was RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 20th February 2023.
<https://queencamelpc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/2023-02-20-Signed-minutes.pdf>

03/07 **Clerk report** There were no questions arising.

03/08 **Policies**

a) It was RESOLVED to RE-ADOPT the following (reviewed and no changes required)

<https://queencamelpc.org.uk/your-council/policies-procedures-publications/>

- Health and Safety Policy
- Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults Policy
- Risk Assessment for Playing Field
- Risk Assessment for Sports Pavilion
- Risk Assessment: Template

b) It was **RESOLVED** to **ADOPT** the Risk Policy and Assessment. The Finance, Personnel and Risk Committee will review the risks in detail.

03/09 No applications have been received for the Councillor Vacancy

03/10 **Planning applications**

a) [23/00188/FUL](#) | Erection of a general purpose agricultural storage barn. | Camel Hill Farm Conegar Corner to Gason Lane Queen Camel Yeovil Somerset BA22 7PL

It was RESOLVED that the clerk should comment SUPPORT

b) [23/00257/PAMB](#) | [Notification of prior approval for the conversion of agricultural buildings into No.5 dwellings.](#) | [Rectory Farm West Camel Road Queen Camel Yeovil Somerset BA22 7ND](#) Application Received Date Wed 01 Feb 2023 | Application Validated Date Wed 01 Feb 2023

It was agreed that the council would not make a comment on the planning application.

It was RESOLVED that the clerk should write separately to the planning authority to ask how such applications fit with the infill comments in the Neighbourhood Plan.

03/11 **Playing Field – land under Somerset County Council ownership**

Cllr Brendon reported that he had spoken to Charlie Field at SCC and a proposal is being followed up by him with his colleagues. At the same time this option is being reviewed by The National Lottery via the parish council solicitor to see if it may satisfy the application requirements.

03/12 **Play area equipment replacement Working Group**

a) Cllr Dan Hewlett had attended a recent meeting of the Play Area Fundraising Club and fed back that the preferred location for the new play equipment remains the location they propose. Should it have to be moved it is requested that there is further consultation.

b) The clerk confirmed that the amount available for replacement of the Play Area in parish council funds is the same as last month, being £30,416. An additional £9808 is pledged from National Highways making a total of £40,224.

c) It was RESOLVED that the Members of the play area replacement Tender Board will be Cllr Brendon, Cllr. Jones, (Cllr.Norman as Deputy) with Rob Hinks from the Play Area Fundraising Club (Terri Plummer as deputy).

03/13 **Village Maintenance Contract**

It was RESOLVED that the parish council should take over the existing maintenance contract at a set price of £2415 (excluding VAT) for the year 2023-2024.

Councillors to supply details of any additional areas to the clerk for an additional quote.

03/14 **Grant Applications**

a) An anonymous donation has been made to fund the TV for the Cleaveside Close Social Club so the grant application was no longer needed.

b) It was RESOLVED to APPROVE that £600 may be granted to St Barnabas Church for clock maintenance / lighting and The Camels magazine. (granted under Section 137 of the 1972 Local Government Act)

c) It was noted that there is no further money available for grants from precept in 2023-2024. Any further grants (that are not eligible for funding from the solar farm community fund) will require funding from the general reserve.

03/15 Highways and Traffic:

a) Heavy goods traffic

Heavy Good vehicles from Sutton Montis Farm are causing potholes, damage to banks and danger to pedestrians, cyclists and other road users. The drains are being blocked by mud leading to flooding. A variation to the operators licence has been applied for which will double the number of vehicle movements from 5 to 10. It was commented that this is now becoming an industrial activity.

It was RESOLVED that the clerk should write on behalf of the parish council to object to the proposed variation of the operators licence

It was further suggested that the parish council should write to the portfolio holder (Mike Rigsby) at Somerset Council to request a site visit.

b) Road Closure Order

The road closure order that prevents weekend congestion in Queen Camel is now permanent but the parish council will still need to put out signs until the new A303 is open (when a review will take place).

It was RESOLVED that further signs be purchased, the number and type to be determined by email.

03/16 Banking and Finance

a) Details of PAYMENTS since last council meeting are uploaded to the website together with the latest Reserves Statement <https://queencamelpc.org.uk/your-council/meetings/agendas-and-minutes-2022/>

Bank Balance at date of meeting	£18,651.84
Instant Access savings account at date of meeting	£75,112.27
Total	£93,764.11

b) There were no other payments that required approval.

03/17 In confidence: National Lottery Application

A Resolution relating to the National Lottery application will be made public in due course.

03/18 Staff-in-confidence: Matters relating to clerk employment and recruitment of replacement clerk

a) Recruitment of clerk.

It was resolved that following a job re-evaluation for the role of the clerk at Queen Camel's, the range of spinal points on the local government scales should allow for pay of up to £17 per hour depending on the experience of the candidate and allowing for any pay awards from 1 April 2023.

It was further resolved that the clerk's job should be re-advertised on this basis. The Council noted that no pension would be offered, but recognised that the pension auto-enrolment limit of £10,000pa could become operative relatively soon.

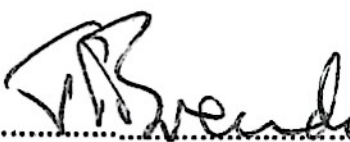
b) Interim arrangements.

It was resolved that Cllr Brendon should liaise with Elaine Owen to secure locum clerk arrangements from 1 April 2023 for up to a three month period.

Dates of all meetings are available at <https://queencamelpc.org.uk/meetings/>

- Finance, Personnel and Risk Committee 17th April 2023
- Parish Council meeting 15th May 2023
- Annual Village Meeting 19th May 2023 at 6pm

Elaine Owen, Parish Clerk

Signed  (Chairman)

Date..... 22 May 2023