



QUEEN CAMEL PARISH COUNCIL

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## Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 18th September 2023 at 7.30 pm Marples Room, Memorial Hall, Queen Camel

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Present: Cllrs John Brendon, Bryan Norman, Phil Jones, Angus Davidson and John Carnegie

Also present Clerk, Cherry Toop and Somerset Councillor Henry Hobhouse

Five members of the public were in attendance

Open session – no matters were raised

**09/01** it was **RESOLVED** to accept the reasons for apologies for absence from William Beveridge (resignation) and Roy Lawrenson (away). Also Somerset Councillor Kevin Messenger (attending other council meeting)

**09/02** Declarations of interest – none to declare

**09/03** Somerset Council report

1. The phosphate problem remains unresolved and will continue to affect planning decisions
2. The financial challenges of providing statutory Adult and Children's Social Care services is a serious concern for the overall position of the council. Reserves will only cover until March 2025

It was **REPORTED** that the grass areas have not been cut following no-mow May and is now 2-3 feet high. Cllr Hobhouse will escalate this with Somerset Council

It was **NOTED** that although the Somerset Levels received a substantial amount from previous floods Queen Camel has received no financial support following the flood in May and money needs to be diverted to help the village. It was **NOTED** that Cllr Hobhouse will discuss the plans to have attenuation tanks when he meets with Highways on 27/09/2023

**09/04** It was **RESOLVED** to approve the amended minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 17th July 2023

**09/05** **Clerk's Report** – there were no comments on the report previously circulated

**09/06** No new applications have been received for the Casual Vacancy. Following Cllr William Beveridge's resignation there are now 2 vacancies

**09/07** **Planning** - the council considered the following applications

1. [23/01850/HOU](#) 6 The Glebe Queen Camel Yeovil Somerset BA22 7PR Remove all five front elevation windows including pre-cast sandstone mullion surrounds. Replace with standard white uPVC sealed double glazed units. **No comment**
2. [23/01965/OUT](#) Land OS 0081 Land At Manor Farm Howell Hill West Camel Yeovil Somerset BA22 7QX Outline application with some matters reserved except for Access and Layout for the erection of 5No. Dwellings **No comment**
3. [22/01598/OUT](#) Land South Of High Street Sparkford Yeovil Somerset Outline application with all matters reserved except for access for the creation of commercial buildings under Use Class B2 and B8 It was **NOTED** the parish council is disappointed it is unable to comment on the impact of foul water

discharge for proposed development and **RESOLVED** that the clerk will send a short letter to the planning team to advise of sewage treatment concerns

**09/08 Coronation planters/bench**

No update

**09/09 Playing Field**

**a) Playing Field Management Committee**

It was **NOTED** that there is scope for the Committee to continue, however it needs a Chair and nobody has so far come forward for the role. It is a management committee and needs more involvement as there are insufficient members for a committee at present. It was **RESOLVED** that an agenda will be published for the Playing Field Management Committee meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> October with election of the Chair as the first item

It was **NOTED** that the leaf blower and 11 chairs are missing from the shed/pavilion and Phil Jones will raise a crime report with the Police. It was **RESOLVED** that John Brendon will include these items in the monthly report for the Camels magazine in the hope they may be returned. It was **RESOLVED** that Angus Davidson will arrange servicing of the gang mowers and cricket roller

**b) Insurance and electrical costs**

it was **NOTED** that the current insurance covers all general public and parish council activities of the playing field, but it was **AGREED** that the electrics will be reviewed if a business need arises in the future

**c) Land at Playing Field owned by Somerset Council.**

It was **NOTED** that the draft licence is awaiting review by Somerset Council however no major concerns are anticipated. It was **APPROVED** for John Brendon to sign the required Statutory Declaration relating to the LTA 1954.

**09/10 Play area equipment replacement**

**a)** It was **RESOLVED** that publicity for any grants will be delayed until the land transfer is complete

**b)** it was **RESOLVED** that the tender board will arrange a meeting with the play area consultant, and Phil Jones will contact Headteacher Dave Gordon from the school regarding the questionnaires

**09/11 Highways and Traffic**

**a) A303 update**

A site visit has been arranged for 18<sup>th</sup> October from 11.30 – 1.30. Bryan Norman needs to know in advance who will attend. A road closure is planned for 27<sup>th</sup> October and will be notified in advance. The project is on target for opening but not completion by mid-March 2024. Feedback is needed to monitor whether more trees have been replanted than removed

**b) Drains and Gutters:**

The report of blocked storm drains in Church Path has been outstanding for 3 years. It is undermining a wall and path cobbles and floods down Church Path when it rains

**d) Disabled access: dropped kerbs in the village:**

Andy Barron from the Highways team of Somerset Council has been notified that the dropped kerbs at Hill View are blocked by vehicles and the bollards are too close together on the pathway from the Glebe to Englands Lane for mobility scooter users

**e) Village white gate signs:**

it was **RESOLVED** this is not in line with the Neighbourhood Plan for the decluttering of street signs and would not be money well spent at the moment. It was **NOTED** that the 'give way' sign at the bridge is ignored as drivers do not see the sign which needs to be added to the list for highways to address

**f) Culverts and river clearance:**

John Brendon advised he has chased the Environment Agency and copied in Cllr Hobhouse and Mike Stanton, Chairman of Rivers Authority.

**g) Paths and pavements**

John Brendon will include a reminder in his report for the Camels magazine that landowners are responsible for maintenance of branches and shrubs that overhang pavements to ensure accessibility for all

#### **09/12 Flooding**

It was **RESOLVED** that the Flood Committee should produce a map with house names, residents and telephone numbers for the 16 properties involved in the May flood. It was **NOTED** that a greater contingency response is needed

#### **09/13 Wincanton Area - Local Community Network**

It was **RESOLVED** that Angus Davidson will attend the next meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> October 2023 at Henstridge Village Hall

#### **09/14 Neighbourhood Plan**

The end of year report was **APPROVED**. It was **RESOLVED** that a working group of the parish council chaired by John Brendon will be formed to progress projects. John Brendon will check if the committee formed to review the Plan are still happy to be involved. The clerk will obtain a copy of the national census to assist in housing needs assessments.

#### **09/15 QC CAT**

It was **RESOLVED** that a working group consisting of at least 2 councillors with volunteers will be formed to serve as an overarching umbrella for all the volunteer groups. The aim is to encourage volunteers and make it easy for them to become involved and contribute their time for the benefit of the community. The group will be supported by the parish council and will be covered on its insurance. Phil Jones will draft Terms of Reference for the next meeting. It was **NOTED** that village maintenance is not given due recognition, such as clearing the crab apples from the Memorial Hall car park for which a new broom has been requested

#### **09/16 Website**

It was **RESOLVED** to engage Western Web Ltd and pay the required deposit to design and deliver the new website. The Parish Council will retain the current domain address but **CONSIDER** changing to a "gov.uk" address for emails, if deemed necessary in the future. It was **RESOLVED** that designated parish council email addresses will be set up for all councillors and should be used to conduct all council business

#### **09/17 Remembrance 2023**

It was **RESOLVED** that John Brendon will contact Sue Gettings to organise a working party for the display of lamp post poppies in the village. It was **NOTED** that registered volunteers will be covered by the Parish Council insurance and minor expenses will be reimbursed

#### **09/18 Finance**

- a) it was **NOTED** the bank balance does not currently reconcile with the accounting software by £134.85 as the clerk is currently unable to access credit card statements
- b) bank balances as at 18/09/2023 were **NOTED** as current account £10,715.56 and Deposit £90,033.59
- c) bank charges for period July – September of £18 were **NOTED**
- d) it was **APPROVED** in principle to pay the CiLCA course enrolment fee (currently £450) for the Clerk

#### **09/19 Correspondence to note**

1. The Memorial Hall has advised the shed at back of the hall still needs clearing. John Brendon will contact Dan Hewlett

Meeting closed 21.05 pm

Date of next meetings:

Playing Field Management Committee meeting 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2023 (

Finance, Personnel and Risk Committee meeting 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2023 at 7.30pm in the Marples Room, Memorial Hall

Parish Council meeting 20<sup>th</sup> November 2023 at 7.30pm in the Marples Room, Memorial Hall