



**QUEEN CAMEL PARISH COUNCIL**  
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## **Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 17th July 2023 at 7:30pm, Marples Room, Queen Camel Memorial Hall**

**Present:** Cllrs. John Brendon, Angus Davidson, Phil Jones, Dan Hewlett, Bryan Norman, plus John Carnegie and Roy Lawrenson from item -07/07

**Also Present:** Clerk Cherry Toop

Five members of the public were in attendance.

### **Opens session**

- One member reported a problem with drains in High Street – advised to self-report on Somerset Council website <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/report-a-problem-on-the-road/>
- Chris Neilson, Community Engagement Manager gave overview of broadband connection service provided by Wessex Internet, a small rural based company based in Blandford promoting the Connecting Devon and Somerset initiative for super fast broadband speeds in rural areas. Potential interest should be registered on their website [www.wessexinternet.com](http://www.wessexinternet.com) Multiple packages are available with a connection charge of £49 if not eligible under the initiative.

**07/01** It was **RESOLVED** to accept the reasons for apologies for absence from Cllr William Beveridge (illness) Appreciation of thanks was given for Mike Baker and Brian Hewlett for service to the Parish Council.

**07/02** **Declarations of Interests** - Cllr Phil Jones declared an interest in 07/12

**07/03** **Somerset Council councillor report** – no report received

**07/04** the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 22 May 2023 were **APPROVED** and signed by the Chairperson following correction of AM12 to amend from 18<sup>th</sup> July to 18<sup>th</sup> September and deletion of a repetition of 05/09 b) [2023-05-22 Annual and Parish meeting minutes.pdf](#)

**07/05** **Clerk's Report** – matters arising

1. Somerset Bus Partnership champion – to be addressed under Community Action Team
2. Bridge action from 24/05/2023. Clerk to check for uncompleted actions from previous minutes. Depending on ownership and responsibility of the repairs, it was suggested that Paul Dobson would be a good local builder for the repairs
3. Noticeboard on Church Path – responsibility to be changed to Cllr Jones. Agendas and Minutes of meetings need to be published on parish noticeboards as well as the website – Cllr Davidson to make available a set of keys for Cllr Brendon, Cllr Jones and the Clerk
4. Salt bin for school – Clerk to order for delivery to Cllr Hewlett

**07/06** **Casual Vacancies on the Parish Council**

Roy Lawrenson and John Carnegie put themselves forward. The Chairman invited both candidates to make a short presentation to support their application and answer any questions from Councillors. Cllr Brendon proposed and Cllr Norman seconded that both be co-opted as Councillors – unanimously supported. It was **RESOLVED** to co-opt Roy Lawrenson and John Carnegie, who joined the meeting as Councillors

## 07/07 Planning

1. Reference **23/01782/TCA** Gatehouse Church Path Queen Camel Yeovil Somerset BA22 7NX – Proposal - Notification of intent to carry out Tree Surgery Works to No. 3 Trees within a Conservation Area - for **information** only
2. **Sutton Farm, Sutton Montis** – it was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk will advise South Cadbury and Sutton Montis Parish Council that there appears to be no change of use planning consent for ongoing engineering works. Cllr Norman will advise Clerk of the planning application number
3. **Development in Marston Magna** – it was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk will check for any update due to concerns of impact on infrastructure

## 07/08 Coronation planters /bench

It was **RESOLVED** that Cllr Hewlett will obtain 3 quotes for replacement planters and **AUTHORITY** was given for expenditure up to £500 for the lowest of the quotes

## 07/09 Playing Field

**a) Playing Field Management Committee** – Cllr Jones reported the Committee now has 5 members and no Chairperson. The field is not being suitably maintained and 4 letters of complaint have been received about the condition of the play area and equipment which have been addressed. More volunteers are needed to assist those who have already come forward to help with field maintenance when suitable equipment is available. Thanks to George and Cllr Hewlett for cleaning the tractor. Need to have a long term plan (10-20 years) plan and focus on maintenance of playing field and its equipment. It was **RESOLVED** that the Playing Field Management Committee be disbanded. The insurance and electrical costs to be **DEFERRED** as agenda items for the next meeting

### **b) Land at Playing Field owned by Somerset Council.**

There is currently no draft licence to approve. Cllr Jones will take Cllr Davidson to Battens on 21/07/2023 to complete identity verification. Cllrs Lawrenson and Carnegie will also be required to complete ID verification. To prevent further delay it was **RESOLVED** that Cllr Brendon be authorised to sign licence when received from Battens. It was noted that a lease would come with responsibility for trees on the land and that a tree safety survey is likely to be required

## 07/11 Play area equipment replacement

- a) National Lottery application –Contact point details for new Clerk have been provided for records to be updated
- b) Tender process for the play equipment – the school will produce a Microsoft forms questionnaire for children to complete after the summer holidays.
- c) Play Area Fundraising Committee - the Club has now disbanded and £4190 will be paid to the Parish Council specifically for the new play area. Cllr Jones reminded the club that its accounts need to be audited annually in accordance with its Constitution. Tender board will needs to change its Terms of Reference as there will be no Club representative
- d) Grant application for £10,000 for the play equipment installation from the Community Benefit Fund – **DEFERRED** to next meeting
- e) Somerset Council's legal costs (estimated at £1300) to be paid by QCPC in relation to playing field land transfer were **APPROVED**
- f) National Highways Social Value Fund - purchase order being raised so that VAT can be reclaimed on grant of £9980 from the social value fund.

## 07/12 Highways and Traffic

- a) Heavy Goods operator's licence – the Clerk advised that a residents 'group from Sutton Montis has been formed and a letter send to Somerset Council Chief Executive, Duncan Sharkey Cllr Norman suggested it is also sent to Traffic Commissioner – Clerk to advise residents 'group of suggestion

**b)** A303 works – Cllr Norman reported the contractors are on schedule for completion March 2024. Road will be closed overnight from 20/07/2023 – 21/07/2023 to clear overhanging trees. No further closures planned before end of September. Sparkford Timber are providing a youth shelter at a cost of £5709. It was **RESOLVED** to add publicity for lottery grant to next Agenda

**c) Drains and Gutters:** Cllr Norman reported problem for at least last 3 years in Church Path. Previously reported to Reference 593419. Flooding occurs for 200 metres along Church Path. It was **RESOLVED** the Clerk will report again with supporting photos from Cllr Norman.

Green Lane is in appalling condition and Gason Lane storm drains are blocked. Residents need to assist in maintaining storm drains but gullies need to be emptied first. No action has resulted from meeting with John Nicholson from Somerset Highways last year. Drains are full of roots previously reported reference 593506. It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk in conjunction with Cllrs Lawrenson and Norman to collate information and make further reports to Somerset Council.

**d) Road conditions in and around the village** Recent accident by Queen Camel House resulting in road closure and damage to white posts by the triangle. Visibility for traffic turning onto Sutton Montis Road is obscured by hedge at Rectory Farm South. **RESOLVED** that Cllr Hewlett will approach the owners to request attention. Cllr Jones to speak to residents of Queen Camel House and the Police regarding damaged posts

**e) NOTED** Dog waste bins were not emptied this week

#### **07/13 Flooding**

a) Cllr Norman reported Highways England have proposed a culvert under Packhorse Bridge but no action has occurred. Concerned with speed at which flood occurred. Flood maps need complete review. Martin Lilley to issue a report and make formal representation to the Section 19 report committee requesting action to stop the speed of the flood by slowing down the flow upstream. Any comments to be passed to Martin. Sec 19 investigation report will be prepared by Somerset Council. (Email of report to be sent to Clerk). The report from Tim Adams of Blackford was previously circulated

b) Report was received from Cllr Norman of a meeting (pre-flood) with Environment Agency regarding reducing risk of flooding at Cam Bridge.

c) To **RECEIVE** any further report on the closed bridges at Wales and Dark Lane (Packhorse footbridge) It was **RESOLVED** that Clerk will chase up Highways to advise that A303 works will be delayed unless Wales bridge is repaired

d) Flip down signs - both need replacing, it was **RESOLVED** that Cllr Jones will follow up

#### **07/14 Wincanton Area - Local Community Network**

Meeting was well attended by most parish councils in the area who expressed similar concerns such as speed safety, road conditions, dog waste etc. General consensus was that the focus should be on addressing the basics before embarking on other projects

#### **07/15 Health and Wellbeing Grants**

It was **RESOLVED** that Cllr Brendon will send details to Cleave Side Close Community Group, Camel Cares and the Old School

#### **07/16 Communications**

Cllr Jones reported the WhatsApp group has 88 members and facebook 99 with ratio 75% female 25% male which represents approximately 20% of the electorate. Engagement increased 259% in 10 days following the flood in May. Feedback from WhatsApp is very positive and supports the contingency plan. There is a need to identify emergency and important notification system for the use of the community and individuals not using social media channels. This is a large project which the Council needs to get involved with and could be a Community Action Team activity

**07/17 Neighbourhood Plan**

It was **RESOLVED** to **DEFER** to next agenda the approval of the end of year NP report and it was noted that a working group is needed to take projects forward

**07/18 Community Action Team**

Cllr Jones reported lots of volunteer support for different community activities and suggested a working group is formed to develop the concept and report to Parish Council. Volunteers would be covered by Parish Council insurance. It was **RESOLVED** in principle to develop the suggestion and Cllr Jones will contact all community groups including the flood committee to encourage support and gauge level of response from volunteers for the Community Action Team

**07/19 Website**

It was **RESOLVED** to **DEFER** replacement of Parish Council website and the quotes received item to September so that further quotes to be obtained for comparison

**07/20 Finance**

- a) PAYMENTS made since last council meeting will have been uploaded to the website by the date of the meeting. <https://queencamelpc.org.uk/your-council/meetings/agendas-and-minutes-2022/>
- b) no payments previously unauthorised to approve
- c) bank balances as at 30/06/2023 – Current account £11684.10 Deposit account £90933.59
- d) Bank charges for quarter 1 ending 30/06/2023 were £18
- e) The date for the next Finance committee meeting needs to be changed to 23/10/2023 – Clerk to action

**07/21 Annual Village Meeting** – it was **RESOLVED** that the date for the Annual Village Meeting in 2024 will be Friday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2024.

**07/22 Correspondence to note**

- a. Email re Neighbourhood Watch – Cllr Jones has responded
- b. Email letter from Liz Jardine of Queen Camel Village Hall regarding flood shed, gazeboes and future emergency contingency strategies – it was **RESOLVED** that Cllr Hewlett will remove the shed and retain the tubs of salt for the new grit bin; that Terri Plummer will remove the gazeboes; and that Cllr Brendon will respond to Liz Jardine. The FPRC will look at contingency strategy when risk is reviewed and liaise with West Camel Parish Council on the flood displacement plan.

Meeting closed at 21.30 pm

**Cherry Toop**  
**Parish Clerk**

Date of next meeting: Parish Council meeting 17<sup>th</sup> September 2023 at 7.30pm in the Marples Room, Memorial Hall

Signed..... Chairman .....Date