



QUEEN CAMEL PARISH COUNCIL

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**Draft minutes of meeting of Queen Camel Parish Council on Monday 15th January
2024 at 7:30pm, Marples Room, Queen Camel Memorial Hall**

Present: Cllrs John Brendon (JB), Bryan Norman (BN), Phil Jones (PJ), Roy Lawrenson (RL), John Carnegie (JC), Philip Hall (PH) and David Lowe (DL)

Also present Clerk, Cherry Toop and Somerset Councillors Henry Hobhouse (HH) and Kevin Messenger (KM)

Eleven members of the public were in attendance including David Lowe who joined as councillor at 01/05

Open session

1. A resident raised concern that the Number 1 bus service is at threat of closure
2. It was agreed for the replacement of cricket nets to be discussed under the playing field agenda item
3. It was agreed that flooding and HGV traffic on the Sutton Montis Road will be discussed under the Highways agenda item

01/01 To RECEIVE, and consider for approval, apologies for absence

No apologies received but it was noted that Angus Davidson and Dan Hewlett were not in attendance

01/02 Declarations of Interests

JB declared an interest in 01/17

PJ declared in interest in 01/07

01/03 The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 20th November 2023 were approved and signed as an accurate record by the Chairman

01/04 Somerset Councillor report

KM gave an update on the financial emergency declared by Somerset Council and outlined the assets and services at risk including the recycling centres. Residents are encouraged to write to Somerset Council to support the recycling centres being kept open. No decision will be made before 21/02/2024

01/05 Casual Vacancy

One application had been received from David Lowe who was invited by the Chairman to give a short presentation to support his application and answer any questions from Councillors. It was RESOLVED to co-opt DL who joined the meeting as a councillor

01/06 Clerk's Report

- It was resolved that registering the Somerset Council land as an asset of community value is no longer needed
- Five declarations of interest have been received for refurbishment of the new play area
- PJ offered to assist any councillors struggling to access their parish council email accounts

01/07 Highways and Traffic

1. A303 works

A changeover is planned for overnight on 19/01/2024 with big changeovers in the summer. BN trying to get meetings to discuss misleading signs directing motorists onto the West Camel Road

2. Drains and gutters

- I. The gutter outside the church has been cleared. BN encouraged residents to clear blocked drains as it is unlikely Somerset Council will
- II. Many issues were noted of drainage issues since work on the A303 started. RL will show HH where there is a specific problem at the bottom of Traits Lane. The drains are not yet connected which is causing flooding. It was **RESOLVED** that RL will attend the River Cam flood meeting on 31/01/2024 in the Memorial Hall, Queen Camel

3. Update on road conditions in and around the village (covered in item 01/07 4.)

4. Impact of excessive HGV traffic on the Sutton Montis Road and activities at Sutton Farm (the site)

The Sutton Montis Residents Group reported that planning permission questions asked of Somerset Council remain unanswered. It was **RESOLVED** to have a joint working group inviting 2 representatives from Queen Camel, South Cadbury and Sutton Montis, and Corton Denham Parish Councils to work together to draft a letter to Somerset Council with RL and DL as representatives for Queen Camel.

HH is meeting with John Hammond from Somerset Council Planning team and will also speak to Highways

01/08 Planning

The Parish Council had not previously been notified about 23/02893/COL Application for a Lawful Development Certificate for proposed refurbishment of domestic outbuilding Mill Farm Grace Martins Lane Queen Camel Yeovil Somerset BA22 7NT which has since been withdrawn

01/09 Playing Field – an update was given by Ian Conway in Angus' absence

1. Update and minutes from the PFMC meeting on 08/01/2024

- I. Decision to become a working group was deferred as felt it needed approval of more than 2 members
- II. The Committee recommends that the cricket nets be moved to the other side of the pavilion. It was **RESOLVED** to support this recommendation

2. Update on use of the playing field by Ilchester Youth Football Club.

The arrangement is working well but parking concerns on match days have been raised. Over the weekend a light had been left on in the Pavilion which was left unlocked and had not been cleaned or the bins emptied. It was **RESOLVED** the Clerk will email the Ilchester Youth Football Club secretary to remind them of the agreement and politely request the car park is used on match days not street parking in The Glebe and Cleaveside Close. There is some discrepancy over pitch hire fees for the smaller pitch which needs to be resolved by the PFMC

3. Update on the new play area

Five declarations of interest have so far been received by the consultant and a site meeting arranged for 22/01/2024

4. Servicing and sharpening of gang mowers

Although no formal quote has been received, expenditure up to £700 was **APPROVED** but the PFMC needs to resolve how to keep them under cover and protected

Total PFMC spend for this year is £2516 which is within budget of £3000, but the gang mower costs may cause an overspend. The tractor and ride-on mower have had a lot of maintenance work done and the budget for next year has been increased in anticipation of higher costs

01/10 Somerset Bus Partnership

It was **RESOLVED** the Clerk will email JB and Jane Crozier a draft letter to Somerset Council to highlight that elderly members of society are dependent on the bus service for getting out and about and will become socially isolated if the service is withdrawn. As the village still needs a bus champion PJ will explore if this could be shared with the Yeovil Bus Champion Linda Snelling (*Clerk's note – PJ rather than the Clerk sent an email to Somerset Council after the meeting regarding the issues noted*)

01/11 Local Community Network

1. The Chairman gave a report from the last meeting which focused on the Somerset Council financial emergency. JB will appoint a councillor to attend the next meeting on 22/02/2024

2. Somerset Council's financial position and devolution of assets and services was discussed. HH reported BCP (Bournemouth Christchurch and Poole) Council has issued Section 114 Notice. Other parish councils within the LCN are increasing their precept to absorb anticipated costs from devolved services or engaging a linksman to undertake work locally

3. The review of the Rights of Way map for the parish was **DEFERRED** to the next meeting for the Clerk to enquire why it needs to be reviewed. It was reported that the footpath is being diverted across Gason Lane, following the fence line to gateway at top of Traits Lane however the Horse Society want it to become a bridle way.

01/12 Neighbourhood Plan

JB reported that Rosemary Heath-Coleman was the only member who had confirmed an intention to remain on the working group. Steve Millard is happy to help but too busy to be a member. It was **RESOLVED** that Terri Plummer, Rosemary Heath-Coleman, BN, PH and DL will be members. Others can be co-opted as required

01/13 Biodiversity policy and objectives

Item **DEFERRED** to next meeting for Clerk to obtain model document from SALC

01/14 Budget 2024/2025

The proposed budget was **DISCUSSED** and will be confirmed at March meeting

01/15 Precept

It was **APPROVED** to set the precept at £24000 for 2024-2025

01/16 Training

1. It was **APPROVED** for the Clerk to attend SALC 'Essential Clerk training parts 1, 2 and 3' and 'VAT for unregistered councils'

2. It was **RESOLVED** that councillors will let the Clerk know if they wish to attend the SALC Councillor Essentials Part 1 or 2 training

01/17 Grants

The grant request of £150 for the Camels Magazine was **APPROVED**

01/18 Annual Village Meeting

It was **RESOLVED** that Marina Jones will assist BN with preparations for the Annual Village Meeting on 17/05/2024. It was **APPROVED** to advertise the meeting with an invitation in the Camels Magazine for the 2 months preceding the event

01/19 Finance

1. Details of PAYMENTS since last council meeting have been uploaded to the website

2. The following payments were APPROVED

- I. Battens invoice 238201 for £2624.40
- II. Reimbursement of £25.98 to Sue Gettings for cable ties
- III. PATA Payroll arrears calculation £10.00

3. The Clerk reported bank balances as at 31/12/2023 were T1 account £26102.21 and Instant Access account £92185.78. Credit interest received was £634.59

4. Reports for Quarter 3 including comparison to budget were NOTED with £3000 to be transferred from the Deposit to Current account

5. The bank reconciliation for 31/12/2023 was APPROVED and signed by the Chairman and Clerk

01/20 It was RESOLVED to hold meetings on the following dates in 2024:

Full Council

18th March
20th May
15th July
16th September
18th November

FPRC 15th April

**PFMC 5th February
8th April**

Meeting closed at 21.15 pm