

Minutes of Queen Camel Parish Council meeting on Thursday 07 May 2026 at 7:45pm, Marples Room, Queen Camel Memorial Hall

Present - Councillors John Brendon, Bryan Norman, Philip Jones, Harriet Chappell, Dan Hewlett, Philip Hall and Henry Warne (from item 05/02/26)

6 members of the public were in attendance and Somerset Councillor Henry Hobhouse.

05/01/26 Public Session

- There were no issues raised.

05/02/26 Apologies and updates on any vacancies

- Somerset Kevin Messenger, Councillor Davidson and Councillor Lawrenson. These were accepted.

05/03/26 Declaration of interests in the agenda

- Councillor Chappell as she is on the Friends of Barnabas Group who have requested a grant.

05/04/26 Minutes from the Parish Council Meeting held on 17.03.2026 and the EOM on 20.04.2026

Both sets of minutes were agreed to be an accurate record and signed by the chair.

Proposed: Councillor Chappell

Seconded: Councillor Jones

All councilors present in agreement

05/05/26 Actions from last meeting

- Heritage Trust update – Councillors Hewlett and Davidson were following this up and will report back at the next meeting.
- Vacancy on parish council – Henry Warne has put his name forward and his details have been forwarded to councillors in advance of the meeting. Councillors were in agreement to co-opt Henry onto the parish council

Proposed: Councillor Brendon

Seconded: Councillor Chappell

All councillors present in agreement

Mr Warne signed declaration.

05/06/26 Somerset Councillor Report – Henry Hobhouse

- National Planning Consultation – comments needed to be submitted by 23.04.2026 and the Chair confirmed that Queen Camel had made a submission. Councillor Hobhouse advised that any applications for fewer than ten houses will not have the opportunity for it to be heard before the Area Planning Committee.
- Environment Agency – has made a number of employees redundant which has resulted in them not having an enforcement officers which has an impact on environmental issues that are reported. Councillor Hobhouse recommends that the parish council writes to it's local MP, Sarah Dyke to ask how this is being challenged in parliament.
- River Cam pollution – Councillor Hobhouse advised that the this can be tested locally and has offered to bring an expert to the next parish council meeting that would be able to talk this through with councillors. Clerk to text Councillor Hobhouse with the next meeting date.

ACTION: Clerk

- 05/07/26 To RECEIVE the Clerk's Report of actions taken and updates for information**
- Clerk's Report has been circulated to councillors and placed on the website. Items are covered on the agenda.
- 05/08/26 Planning applications to consider and submit comments where appropriate.**
- **26/01008/TCA** - this is a notification only.
- 05/09/26 To RECEIVE approved planning applications**
- None notified.
- 05/10/26 To RECEIVE other planning information**
- Friends of Mudford Action Group (FOMAG) – judicial review took place on 28 April and the outcome has not yet been confirmed.
 - Somerset parish councils group working to challenge current Somerset Council planning (SCRAPP) – Councillor Brendon attended the last meeting and reported that he believes that it is worth joining the group.
 - Four councils working group complaint against Sutton Farm planning approvals and enforcement action update - Councillor Chappell advised that the information has gone to the barrister. He has asked for more information including an impact statement. Councillors Chappell and Mr B Norman will be meeting the barrister on 26 May to discuss next actions. There appears to be lots of lorries going through the village again. Councillor Jones advised that the A359 does have a standard weight restriction but this can be exceeded if the transport is using the road for access to site purposes.
 - Old surgery planning response re boarded up windows update – Councillor Brendon has had a conversation with Somerset Council with a promise of further contact, but to date there has been none. The email with no response has been forwarded to Somerset Councillor Hobhouse who asked for it to be resent so that he can follow it up.
ACTION: Councillor Brendon and Somerset Councillor Hobhouse.
 - Ashford Homes development update regarding concerns raised about drainage during development – Councillor Brendon has spoken to Tom Griffiths (Director) who advised the attenuation ponds could be put in first prior to the development. Mr Norman and other councilors advised he would like to meet with Tom on site and Councillor Brendon agreed to arrange this.
ACTION: Councillor Brendon
 - Submission on consultation to remove the ability of parish councils to refer planning applications of less than ten dwellings to the Area Planning Committee – comments submitted.
 - Somerset Council Planning Newsletter – this has been circulated to councilors and contains Somerset Local Plan timeframe and the Local Housing Needs Assessment
- 8.30pm Members of the Memorial Committee left the meeting after they had spoken.
- 05/11/26 Highways and Traffic**
- Updates on HGV traffic through the village update – Peter Farror is conducting another survey but needs some volunteers to help.
 - Blocked drains and gutters update – the gullies have been cleared on England's Lane. Mrs Chappell has reported two more blocked drains
 - Resurfacing of bridge and High Street by the Old School update – this is now in progress.
 - Dark Lane Pack Bridge update – Councillor Jones has been told by Highways that this is not on the planned work schedule yet.

- 05/12/26 Flood Working Group update**
- Chair of the Flood Working Group, Martin Lilley, attended the meeting. The Somerset River Authorities bid has almost been completed and the application is for the full grant available which would be used to clear the culvert by The Old School. Landowners of the adjoining properties it is understood were in agreement for the work to be completed if the funding is granted. The working group have also been seeking matched funding from other stakeholders.
- 05/13/26 Playing Field Working Group updates**
- Mower is working now.
 - Paul Dobson has now completed the repairs in the pavilion and his invoice has been presctned in the sum of £300 as per his estimate. Councillors in agreement to pay the invoice.
 - The cricket club request for new cricket net was considered – the options were an initial planning enquiry costing £66.50 and then full planning can be applied for if that initial enquiry was positive. The cost for planning would be £450. Councillors agreed that it would be best to just go for the full planning. There maybe a need to complete a bio diversity net gain assessment/survey completed. Councillor Chappell will enquire with the planning officer if this is necessary.
Agreement to move to planning application stage
Proposed: Councillor Chappell
Seconded: Councillor Jones
 - Pavilion Showers – Councillor Chappell has identified that there was a broken water meter which has now been replaced and the showers are working adequately.
 - Exploration of football teams hiring the pitch update – Councillor Chappell has spoken to the footballers and they are keen to hire the pitch as from September 2026. The charge for the use of the pitch would be as per the Playing Field agreed fees. Purchase of the goal posts needs to go on the next agenda. Councillor Chappell to speak to the working group to determine the best place to site the goal posts if they are purchased.
- 05/14/26 Neighbourhood Plan Working Group**
- Currently no updates as awaiting Somerset’s Call for Sites information.
- 05/15/26 Update from the last Local Community Network (LCN) meeting**
- LCN Highways next meeting 02.06.2026
- 05/16/26 Grant Applications**
- Friends of St Barnabas Group – request for grant to purchase public liability insurance in the sum of £110. Councillors were in agreement.
Proposed: Councillor Hewlett
Seconded: Councillor Jones
All councillors present in agreement
- 05/17/26 Finance and Banking**
- Finance Personnel and Risk Committee met on 20 April and minutes have been circulated.
 - Community Benefit Fund current balance is £38 398.
 - Internal audit arrangements – Simon Pritchard has agreed to audit the 2025-26 accounts. Clerk to send electronic information to him. Another meeting at the end of June will be required to sign off AGAR (external reporting form) for the last financial year 2025-26.
 - Tractor for sale – agreed to sell to Councillor Hewlett for £750. This was agreed at Finance, Personnel and Risk Committee on 20 April 2026.

- Payments made since the last parish council meeting in March

Standing Order to clerk for home office allowance - £26 for April

Clerk salary for March and April - £495.30 x 2

DD British Gas – no payments as in credit

DD UTB for bank charges in March and April – each for £7

DD credit card with Lloyds payment in March £6 and April £45.89

Inland Revenue (PAYE) - £1172.34 in April

Harriet Chappell (camera replacement) – £169.99 in March

Andrew Hoddinott (fuel for tractor) - £7.81 in March

SLR for grass cutting annual contract - £3392.40 in March

PATA for payroll services - £40.35 in April

Mudford Parish Council - £500 in April

Stuart Todd for NHP consultation - £250.02 in April

- Upcoming payments
Clerk salary and HMRC – amounts yet unknown
Credit card – amounts yet unknown
Office allowance for June and July – 2 x £26
Bank service charges for June and July – 2 x £6
- Income received
Sale of gang mower - £486.63 in March
Precept - £13200 in April
- Bank balances as at 30.04.2026
Current account = £3543.18
Reserves (savings) = £65464.05
- Bank Reconciliation – this have been completed as at 31.03.2026 and signed by the Chair.

05/18/26

Policy Review

- IT Policy
- Data protection

Both were agreed

Proposed: Councillor Brendon

Seconded: Councillor Jones

05/19/26

Annual Village Meeting

- Councillor Jones advised all the arrangements have been finalised.

05/20/26

Date of next meeting

Monday 20 July 2026 at 1930 in the Marples Room at the Memorial Hall.

Annual Parish Meeting – Friday 15 May 2026

Meeting closed at 2136

