



Queen Camel Parish Council

**MINUTES of the MEETING OF
QUEEN CAMEL PARISH COUNCIL**
held in The Marples Room at the Memorial Hall
on **Monday 9th July 2018 at 7.30pm**

Present: Councillors **John Brendon (JB)** – Chairman
Chris Bennett (CB)
Andrew Hoddinott (AH)
Bryan Norman (BN)
Zelda Sowerby (ZS)
Kit Stapely (KS)
Simon Stapely (SS) – Vice Chairman

In attendance: **Mike Lewis (ML)** - District and County Councillor
Patrick Pender-Cudlip (PPC) - Clerk
3 members of the public

Procedural Items

- 1. Welcome and introduction** - JB opened the meeting, welcoming all present.
- 2. Public session** – The Chairman of the Heritage Trust recommended the Council to reappoint the existing Trustees (see 05.2 below) and indicated that they were minded to apply Trust funds to the Church Roof appeal and other heritage assets. A member of the public pointed out that the Trust was intended to benefit parish's heritage assets generally and not just those associated with the church.
- 3. Apologies** – There were no apologies, all Councillors being present.
- 4. Declarations of interest** – AH and CB declared an interest in items 05.2 (below) as, respectively, Trustee and the Clerk of the Heritage Trust.
- 5. Vacancies on the Council** – Two casual vacancies were declared following the resignations of John Carnegie and Jo Pender-Cudlip from the Council. Unless ten electors of the Parish submit a formal request for an election the Council will fill the vacancies by co-option.
- 6. It was RESOLVED 7-0-0 [For-against-abstained] to adopt the Financial Regulations (2018) as recommended by the Finance & Risk Committee.**
- 7. It was RESOLVED 7-0-0 to refer the review of Council policies to the Finance & Risk Committee.**
- 8. Flood Committee Terms of Reference** - The Committee would be asked if it wanted any terms changed
- 9. It was RESOLVED 7-0-0 to confirm as correct the minutes of the meeting held on 14th May, 2018.**

Business Items

01 [0718] District and County Councillor's report:

ML recommended Councillors to consider taking an online training course on the recently introduced General Data Protection Regulations. He reported that the South Somerset District Council (SSDC) *Transformation* programme and concomitant staff reductions are affecting the operation of SSDC's Planning Department and this in turn will affect Parish Councils. Somerset County Council (SCC) is still struggling with the costs of Adult and Children's care and SCC's Chief Finance Officer has resigned.

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02 [0718] Crime and Safety – Nine crimes were reported to have taken place in Queen Camel In April and May 2018: burglary (3), violence/sexual offences (2), and criminal damage/arson, other theft, vehicle crime, & anti-social behaviour (1 each).

03 [0718] Highways matters:

1. The Highways England (HE) A303 Sparkford to Ilchester Dualling scheme:

JB reported on an informal meeting of Councillors with HE representatives on 21st June. The HE design team had slightly modified the junction designs but it did not accept local claims that its proposed design for Hazlegrove junction and its ruling out of a local parallel road would substantially increase the duration and costs of construction, increase the risk of road traffic accidents and cause lasting environmental damage. HE expects to submit its Development Consent Order (≈Planning Application) in late July 2018 in the hope that the Order will be approved by Christmas 2019, with construction starting around March 2020.

It was resolved 7-0-0 to write a letter urging Highways England to start working on alternative designs for the Hazlegrove Junction and a parallel road so that in the event of the Planning Inspector upholding local objections to the proposed design it would be possible to substitute more acceptable alternative proposals without undue delay.

2. Resurfacing of the High Street - After Councillors had discussed how this work was carried out

It was resolved 7-0-0 to write a letter to SCC Highways drawing attention to some of the problems and requesting remedies where possible.

3. Other Highways matters – PPC reported that SCC Highways was undertaking a safety audit of the proposal for a dropped curb on the pavement at the bottom of the hill on South View (adjacent to the junction with Gason Lane and Blackwell Lane). Highways is aware of the damaged parapet on Wales bridge but it is not at the top of its priority list. Although Highways inspected the road drains on Church Path previously they remain blocked and may be undermining the integrity of the cobbled surface so Highways will be asked to rectify the problem and make good any damage.

04 [0718] Planning Applications.

- 1. Planning Committee** – CB reported that no Planning applications had been referred to the Council and the Committee had not yet met but he drew attention to a planning application in Marston Magna which might have an impact on vehicles travelling between Queen Camel and Yeovil.
- 2. Neighbourhood Plan** – BN reported that the Neighbourhood Planning Steering Group (NPSG) expects to submit its draft Neighbourhood Plan to the Council in August.
- 3. Neighbourhood Plan funding** – PPC reported that SSDC has indicated its willingness to meet necessary NPSG expenses out of the *Frontrunner* fund.

05 [0718] Councillors' reports and motions:

- 1. Annual Village Meeting (AVM)** – SS reported that the 2018 AVM was well attended, successful and within budget with the food rated the best ever. Councillors supported the writing of a letter thanking the organisers and agreed to set up a Working Group to plan the 2019 AVM.
- 2. Heritage Trust** – After a discussion about the status and aims of the Trust
It was resolved 5-0-0 to appoint Angus Davidson, Andrew Hoddinott & Dan Hewlett as Trustees.
- 3. Old School Site** – CB reported:
 - SCC has given the Community Land Trust (CLT) 31st December 2018 as the deadline for any bid.
 - SCC has offered to write in support of CLT capital grant applications and the CLT has also held discussions with SSDC about possible loan support.
 - The CLT has obtained a grant of £14,700 from the Community Business Bright Ideas Fund (to

cover some business plan costs) and is seeking further grants.

- The Parish Council was asked to confirm that the £1000 it set aside in 2016 - for possible use in the event of the Council deciding to support a bid for the property - is still potentially available.
 - If the CLT bid goes ahead it may seek more financial support from the Parish Council.
 - During the discussion it was suggested that before the CLT spends any more time or money on the project or seeks further support it needs to confirm that the Environment Agency and the SSDC Planning Department are happy with the kind of development that the CLT envisages.
4. **Keeping Queen Camel Tidy** – Councillors agreed that it would be worth placing a notice in The Camels Magazine urging residents to do what they can to keep the village looking smart.
5. **Councillor Training** – After a short discussion on the nature of training courses
It was resolved 7-0-0 that the training budget be supplemented by up to £50 per Councillor, drawn from reserves, in the event of further training being considered necessary.

06 [0718] Other reports and motions - none

07 [0718] Clerk's report – PPC apologised for failing to put the Church roof appeal and a possible Council contribution on the July Agenda. He gave an update on Cleaveside House and, in response to a resident's written enquiry about who owns which parts of Church Path, he expressed the view that the Parish Council has no standing in the matter.

08 [0718] Finance:

1. **Finance & Risk Committee (F&RC)**- the Council noted the minutes of the F&RC meeting of 11th June and heard a brief oral report about the F&RC meeting of 9th July.
2. **It was resolved 7-0-0 that the Council accept the recommendation of the F&RC that £603 be transferred from reserves to pay the arrears of the Clerk's fixed office expenses from September 2016, at the rate (set in 2012) of £100.50 per quarter.**
3. **It was resolved 7-0-0 to authorise payment to the Clerk of £603 in arrears of fixed office expenses**
4. **Speed Indicator Device (SID)** - After PPC reported that SIDs range in price from c.£2.5k -£6k. and that West Camel Parish Council might be willing to join in the purchase and use of a SID
It was resolved 7-0-0 that the Finance & Risk Committee would investigate the specifications and costs of a SID with a view to making recommendations about purchasing one.
5. **It was resolved 7-0-0 that CB would obtain quotations for refurbishing parish fingerposts.**
6. **Insurances** – SS will review the Council's insurance coverage and policies in discussion with the Council's insurers to make sure that the Council is obtaining value for money.
7. **Online banking** – An amended application has been submitted to Natwest.

09 [0718] Incoming correspondence – emails on Highways England (03.1) , SCC Highways (03.2), the Church Roof appeal (07) and Church Path (07); Southern Waste Partnership newsletters.

10 [0718] Advance Notices: Sue Mountstevens, Police & Crime Commissioner for Avon & Somerset, will be holding a surgery at the Market House, Ilminster, on Monday 23rd July 2-4pm.

11 [0718] Agenda items for next meeting: Church Roof, Casual Vacancies, Community Benefit Fund.

12 [0718] Matters arising post-Agenda: none.

13 [0718] Next meeting - 7.30pm on Monday 10th September, 2018 in The Marples Room.

The meeting finished at 10.02pm

Signed:

John Brendon, Chairman

[10th September, 2018]