



# Queen Camel Parish Council

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING** of the **PARISH COUNCIL** held in the Marples Room of the Memorial Hall on **Monday, 18 May 2015 at 7.30pm**

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<b>Present:</b>	Chairman	<b>Rosemary Heath-Coleman (RHC)</b> <b>Angus Davidson (AD)</b>
	Councillors	<b>Chris Bennett (CB)</b> <b>Andrew Hoddinott (AH)</b> <b>Simon Thornewell (ST)</b> <b>John Brendon (JB)</b>
<b>In Attendance:</b>	Clerk	<b>Christine Richardson (CR)</b>
	Locum Clerk	<b>Terry Philpott (TP)</b> <b>Mike Lewis (ML) – arrived 7.55pm</b>

Members of the public: 20

**Welcome & Introduction** – RHC welcomed Councillors and members of the public to the Meeting. RHC introduced TP and JB to members of the public and explained how the Agenda would be in 3 parts this evening.

## 1. To receive Councillors' Declarations of Acceptance of Office

Declarations of Acceptance of Office were signed by all four Elected Uncontested Councillors – Chris Bennett, Angus Davidson, Andrew Hoddinott and John Brendon.

## 2. Election of Chairman and Acceptance of Office of Chairman

RHC asked for any nominations for Chairman, AD put himself forward. **CB proposed, JB seconded. 3 for and 1 against.** AD elected Chairman.

AH thanked RHC for all her considerable hard work and dedication to the Queen Camel Parish Council over the past 12 years.

**RHC thanked the Council and Public and left at 7.45pm**

AD signed his Acceptance of Office of Chairman.

## 3. Election of Vice Chairman

Election of Vice Chairman to be deferred until June PC Meeting. **CB proposed, AH seconded. Unanimously agreed.**

## 4. Co-option of Councillors to fill Casual Vacancies

Two applications to be co-opted into the Council were received from Simon Thornewill (ST) and John Carnegie (JC) – John Carnegie was not present at meeting. TP explained that both candidates could be co-opted at the same time rather than individually but would need Council Resolution.

ST addressed the Council and explained that he wished to join a Council who pulled together and showed each other courtesy and followed the Code of Conduct. AH asked ST if he had seen the

Council in action and whether he was prepared to debate issues. ST stated he had been on the Council twice previously and knew how the Council worked and was happy for debate, as long as all members remained courteous to each other.

*Votes for candidates:*

Candidate	Proposed	Seconded
Simon Thornewill	JB	AH
John Carnegie	CB	AH

**AH proposed, JB seconded** a Council Resolution to Co-Opt both candidates at the same time. **Unanimous.**

ST signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office. As JC was absent he is to sign it within 28 days of the Meeting. **CR to forward Declaration by email**

#### **5. To review Councillors' portfolios**

It was agreed by the Council to defer this to next meeting in June. CR to forward a copy of the Councillors' portfolios via email to the new Councillors.

#### **6. To review the Terms of Reference of Parish Groups**

It was agreed by the Council to defer this to next meeting in June.

#### **7. To inspect any deeds and trust investments in the custody of the Council as required.**

It was agreed by the Council to defer this to next meeting in June.

#### **8. To agree a schedule to review the Council's Policies & Procedures**

It was agreed by the Council to defer this to next meeting in June.

#### **Suspend Standing Orders**

#### **Public Session Time: 8.00pm**

AD addressed the general public and asked whether they had any questions for the new Council.

Several members of the public criticised AD's speech at the Annual Village Meeting on 15 May 2015, which was on behalf of the new Council. They outlined that he had implied the previous Council had failed the Village, had several misgivings and lacked transparency. They said that they were shocked and angry by AD's comments and that the community on the whole had supported the old Council. The public wished for AD to give clarification of what he had meant and where he felt the Council had gone wrong.

In support of the public PPC read out a statement on behalf of all six Councillors who did not stand for re-election. A copy of which is at Appendix (I) of these Minutes.

AD replied that he felt there had been a lack of transparency in the Council and they had not listened to the village. He felt that they should move forward as a village and work together and listen to each other.

AH and JB both stated that the comments in AD's speech had not reflected their own opinions. They felt that the speech was solely the personal views of AD.

AD offered his apologies to the public for any upset and offence that he may have caused and wished to build a good relationship with them in the future. CB encouraged feedback from the public over the coming months and assured the public they would adhere to the Code of Conduct.

The public stated their appreciation and thanks, on behalf of the village, to all of the previous

Councillors and especially RHC who had dedicated 12 years to the Parish Council.

## Reconvene meeting 8.40pm

9. **Apologies** – Thelma Mead and John Carnegie

10. **Declarations of Interest** – None.

0515.01 **Minutes of Extraordinary Meeting 30 April 2015** – circulated with Agenda - approved and signed by Chairman.

0515.02 **County & District Councillors' reports** – ML reported that a new Highways & Transport portfolio holder had been instated at the Council and should bring improvements. ML also confirmed that the Council would be investing £6,000,000 over the next 3 years and employing 100 new staff (including Social Workers) within Children's Services. He said that the SSDC were under no overall control at present after the Election. CB asked ML about grants for flood protection in Queen Camel. ML advised that grants would be available before next winter from a 'Flood Mitigation Fund', however Queen Camel would need to have a project to do with flooding in order to qualify for one. The grants would only be available for Parish / Town Councils and not individuals. ML to let CR know when the grants are available.

## 0515.03 **Police & Safety matters**

03.1 **Police report** - Avon & Somerset Neighbourhood Statistics April 2015

Wincanton Rural South AE030

No Recorded Crime Statistics for April 2015

Calls to Force Services Centre

A total of 172 were received for the month.

Made up as follows

Sparkford 26

Marston Magna 7

Ilchester 34

Queen Camel 4

West Camel 7

Abbas Templecombe 15

Miborne Port 26

Henstridge 13

Horsington 1

Holton 2

Maperton 1

Charlton Horethorne 2

Podimore/Yeovilton 13

This makes up the area of Wincanton Rural South AE030

03.2 **Safety Group**

- Safety Group/NW will be included in June report on Community Plan 2005 (see 0515.06)
- S.I.D. – CB advised he had not approached other Parish Councils yet and was still looking into the effectiveness of installing a S.I.D. A decision was taken to postpone a decision on the use of a S.I.D. in Queen Camel for a future meeting.
- Flood Shed – an email from Nick Howman (NH), Chairman of Flood Committee, dated 10 May 2015 was circulated with Agenda and is Appendix (II) of these Minutes.

### **AD opened Meeting to public 8.55pm**

NH outlined his concerns to the Council relating to the flood shed. The Council acknowledged all his concerns and AD is to look into the shed being insured for theft and personal injury. The flood shed is to stay as it is at present as it is fit for purpose and unanimously approved by the Council (see March 2015 Minutes (03.2)). It was agreed however that this would be reviewed by the Council once all the equipment had been placed in the shed.

### **AD closed Meeting to public 9.05pm**

## 0515.04 Highway's matters

### 04.1 Drains and pavements

- Kerb outside shop – CB confirmed that this had now been fixed by SSDC.
- Broken pavements on Sparkford Hill Road, CR confirmed that the contact details for the owner of the field were passed to SSDC on 29 April 2015.
- Blocked drain in England's Lane – CR confirmed these had been reported to SSDC – they have acknowledged and will be looking into it.
- AH advised of a blocked drain on Gason Lane. **CR to investigate and report to SSDC.**

04.2 **Ownership, boundary, classification and legal rights of way**, as applicable, to the 'rough' car park adjacent to the playing field and Green Lane north and south. CR had meeting with CB to discuss. It was decided that a search may be necessary and CR is to find an appropriate map of the area in order for it to be possibly carried out.

## 0515.05 Planning Applications

05.1 New applications to consider – None

05.2 Updates received since last meeting – None

05.3 Applications ongoing:

*For information* – 14/00215/FUL – Land at Southfield Farm, Yeovilton – Revised Scheme for Solar Park – ongoing – decision expected June 2015.

0515.06 **Parish Group Reports** – June Report on Community Plan 2005 will cover each of these. AH proposed that the Council invite members from each Committee to speak at the next meeting. AD seconded. Agreed that Council would approach members and offer an invitation.

06.1 **Communications** – none

06.2 **Environment** – new bench for The Glebe. CR outlined that the order for a bench at The Glebe, which had been placed with Mr Holland, was on a like for like basis to the existing bench i.e. same dimensions / style. It was proposed that the order should remain in place and once it had been fulfilled would be installed and painted black (if necessary) by CB and AH.

06.3 **Frontrunner (PDG)** - none

## 0515.07 Other Reports

07.1 **CLT** - CB gave update on residents moving into property and advised that the last shared ownership property had now found a new owner. AH added that the CLT had done a great job with this project.

07.2 **PFC Lease** - a clean / final copy of the Lease has not yet been received from Rachel Saltonstall. CR to ask Ben Turner if he would be willing to oversee the Lease being brought to a conclusion.

07.4 **Queen Camel Solar Park** – a Copy of Deed was forwarded by CR to Abercornyn Solar Limited external services on 12 May 2015. Since the meeting CR has had email confirmation that a cheque in the sum of £5,500 had been issued to the Council.

07.5 **Cleaveside House (Old Health Centre)** – an email was received on 18 May from Andrew Tucker and circulated to Councillors. ML confirmed activity related to this matter was ongoing with ML being hopeful that this subject would be concluded in due course.

07.6 **Primrose Lane Development** – CB attended a meeting in Trent on 15 April. He suggested that the Council should take an interest in the development, especially as it may increase traffic through Queen Camel. CR is to register the Council's interest on the F.O.M.A.G website so the Council can be kept up to date with the scheme.

07.6 **SSDC Leisure Policy consultation** – report from CB – see Appendix (III) of Minutes.

#### 0515.08 Financial matters

08.1 Payments received -

	None
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08.2 Payments made -

Playing Field Committee - Grant	£2667
Parochial Church Committee - Grant	£1458
3 <sup>rd</sup> Sparkford Scout Group - Donation	£250
Sparkford Copse Trust - Donation	£100
QC Cricket Club – Youth - Donation	£500

08.3 Payments to be approved -

Terry Philpott (Locum Clerk) – Invoice dated 26 March 2015	£100.80
PC Insurance renewal with Aviva through Came & Co (invoice and policy cover circulated with Agenda)	£346.50
SALC Good Councillors Guide (10 hard copies)	£25.45
Clerks Expenses – toner cartridge / paper / postage	£69.04
CB expenses (for Environment Group)	£44.94
SALC subscription renewal fee (invoice circulated with Agenda)	202.50

CR confirmed that all payments made were in line with the 2015/16 Budget.

**AH proposed, JB seconded, unanimous. Expenditure was agreed**

08.4 **Banking**

- Update regarding new bank account 'Community Benefit Fund' – CR informed the Council that she would be looking into getting a new account as soon as the new signatories were put on the two existing accounts.
- PC resolution required regarding transfer of funds from Poors Charity to Community Benefit Fund. AD, a trustee on the account, deferred this matter until the next meeting in June as he needed to discuss with Patrick Pender-Cudlip, the other trustee. AD confirmed that there is approximately £1,000 currently being held in the Poors Charity fund.
- PC resolution regarding bank signatories – CR is to remove all previous Councillors from the Natwest bank accounts. JB, AH and AD are to be instated as the new signatories. It was also proposed that the existing signatories on the accounts can sign any cheques if necessary until such time as the new signatories are set up. This process normally takes 10 working days. **CB proposed, ST seconded. Unanimously approved.**

08.5 **PC Income & Expenditure & Budget Update 2014/2015** – to be next circulated in July 2015.

08.6 **Internal Audit - 2014/2015** – John Calvert has completed his internal audit and his report approved the accounts. PC resolution on Internal Auditor's engagement for 2015/2016 has been deferred until the next meeting in June 2015.

08.7 **External Audit – 2014/15** – TP posed the external audit form questions to the Council. All questions were answered yes. **AH proposed, JB seconded that the external audit forms could be signed by the Chairman. Unanimously agreed.** AD signed the forms.

0515.09 **Incoming Correspondence (not included above)** – None

0515.10 **Advance Notices** – of external and Parish Council meetings and training

- 'Our Place Programme' Course, Martock, 20th May 2015 at cost of £10.00 per person – Details circulated with Agenda. CB volunteered to attend on behalf of the Council. Cost of £10 to be borne by the Council. **AH proposed, JB seconded. Cost unanimously approved.**

**0515.11 Matters for report or for the next agenda**

- Co-option – a strategy to engage further Councillors and achieve a gender balance.

**0515.12 To confirm the date of the next meeting for Monday, 8<sup>th</sup> June at 7.30pm – Marples Room.**

AD thanked everyone for attending.

**End time: 10.25pm**

**Signed:**

**Date:**

**June 2015**

DRAFT

**APPENDIX (I)**

To: The Chairman, Queen Camel Parish Council

18<sup>th</sup> May, 2015

Dear Chairman,

As former Parish Councillors we wish to express our disappointment and dismay about Angus Davidson's address to the Annual Village Meeting, apparently on behalf of this Council.

While talking about the new Council Mr Davidson made what were taken to be critical remarks about the previous Council. He is of course entitled to his personal opinion but since he remained a member of that Council throughout its term of office a sense of honour, loyalty and propriety might have stopped him from appearing to criticise it in public.

It is particularly unfortunate that he made his remarks at the Annual Village Meeting, a community celebration. It was embarrassing for parishioners and for invited guests and it cannot have enhanced the reputation of Queen Camel and its Councils, past or present.

If Mr Davidson's remarks were intended to be critical we would ask the Council to disassociate itself from them but if they were misunderstood we would ask him to clarify them, on the record.

Yours

pp.

David Biggart

Sue Cole

Rosemary Heath-Coleman

Steven Millard

Patrick Pender-Cudlip

Ben Turner

## APPENDIX (II)

queencamel clerk <queencamel.clerk@gmail.com>

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### Flood Shed

1 message

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**Susan Howman** <Howman\_4@msn.com>

10 May 2015 at 20:23

To: queencamel clerk <queencamel.clerk@gmail.com>

Cc: Alan Cole <a.cole757@btinternet.com>, Linscott Gary <Gary.Linscott@agustawestland.com>, Maggi & Ray Hunter <hunterofwales@btinternet.com>, Arthur Thring <w.thring32@btinternet.com>, "info@selfrealizationcentres.org" <SRMHC@selfrealizationcentres.org>, Adrian McWilliams <padzmac@googlemail.com>, Stephen Millard <Stephen.millard@siemens.com>, Rosemary Heath-Coleman <rheathcoleman@talktalk.net>, "thelma.mead@avonandsomerset.police.uk" <thelma.mead@avonandsomerset.police.uk>, "lozzerpaul@gmail.com" <lozzerpaul@gmail.com>

Dear Christine

Following on from the email exchange last week, I and other members of the Flood Committee have inspected the Shed. We are all of the opinion that it is most unsuitable and not at all what we suggested or anticipated. Reasons being:

1. It is of very flimsy construction (as evidenced by the damage done by the wind last week)
2. The handles which could be padlocked are not strong and could be broken easily.
3. The size in particular the height is a safety hazard - as several of our team including the Road Closure volunteers would need to wear a hard hat to access equipment.
4. Too small a shed with little storage space - we had anticipated storing sand bags, road cones, the required road closure equipment, safety jackets, waders etc

Kind regards

Nick

Sent from



## APPENDIX (III)

### Report to Queen Camel Parish Council – April 2015 Meeting

#### SSDC Leisure\* Strategy – Consultation Evening 30<sup>th</sup> March 2015

SSDC are preparing a new Leisure strategy to be published in late 2015, this evening event in Castle Cary was one of a series of consultations across the District. The current strategy expired in 2012, the new strategy is intended to last for 5 years. The meeting was led by Lynda Pincombe from SSDC and Alison Baker, a consultant, two other SSDC staff were present and one member of Somerset County Council staff, along with 14 members of the public including Angus and I.

After brief introductions, it was explained that with no strategy or plan for Leisure, there would be little or no funding for Leisure, leading ultimately to a decline in local facilities and services. After a short presentation by AB the meeting split into 4 groups each tasked to identify what they thought was good / not so good, about Leisure in the District.

Each group then provided feedback on flip charts to the meeting. I have requested a copy of the presentation, the feedback and the current Leisure Strategy, which I will circulate when they are received.

This evening was aimed at allowing SSDC to collect thoughts and ideas, rather than them communicating information to us. As an attendee, the evening itself did not feel that productive, though SSDC seemed happy with the feedback, which was mainly sport orientated ( from football or cricket clubs) and other local facilities providers. Now the Queen Camel name is known as being interested, I believe we will be involved with further consultation and shaping the new strategy.

Chris Bennett

On Behalf of QC PC

\*Leisure = sport, play, health and youth, but not arts.

