



Queen Camel Parish Council

MINUTES of the **PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**
held in The Marples Room at the Memorial Hall
on **Monday 12th February 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

Apologies: **John Carnegie (JC)**
Jo Pender-Cudlip (JPC)

In attendance: **Patrick Pender-Cudlip (PPC)** - Clerk
Mike Lewis (ML) – District & County Councillor

4 members of the public

Procedural Items

- Welcome and introduction:** JB opened the meeting, welcoming Councillors and members of the public. For the benefit of those intending to talk about the A303 Improvement Scheme he passed on what Highways England (HE) representatives had told Councillors at an informal meeting on 12th December 2017 (see also 04.1 below):
 - HE is committed to Route 1 and is keen to hear suggestions as to what changes to the design of the new road would be beneficial to local communities.
 - HE had ruled out the idea of keeping the existing A303 carriageway in operation alongside the new road but it acknowledges that the idea enjoys local support. It will not feature in the Statutory Consultation but it will be reconsidered when HE is finalising its proposals prior to applying for a Controlled Development Order (DCO).
 - HE is committed to managing traffic during the construction period in a way that will cause the least possible disruption for Queen Camel and other local villages.
- Public session:** No points were raised by members of the public at this stage.
- Apologies:** JC and JPC sent apologies for being unable to attend.
- Declarations of interest:** CB and AH declared an interest in item 09.02 as members of the Playing Field Committee (PFC).
- Informal workshop:** Councillors agreed to attend an informal workshop on 8th March to explore a number of ideas including possible Council Committees, arrangements for the Annual Village meeting and possible changes to the Council's Financial regulations.
- RESOLVED 4-0-3 [for-against-abstained] that the minutes of the meeting held on 8th January 2018 be confirmed and signed as a true and accurate record.**

Business Items

01 [0218] County and District Councillor's report - ML reported that:

1. **Somerset County Council** (SCC) is reviewing the future of SCC libraries including the one in Castle Cary; the public consultation will close on 22nd April. Ofsted has reported an improvement in SCC Children's Services.
2. **South Somerset District Council** (SSDC)'s *Transformation* process has so far saved £2.4m, with staff reduced by 78 to 350, and the process should be completed by December. SSDC is investing in the commercial property market in an attempt to increase its revenue. Ofsted has reported an improvement in the performance of Countess Gytha Primary School.

02 [0218] Crime and Safety: 2 offences were reported for the month of December 2017 in Queen Camel, 1 of anti-social behavior and 1 of public disorder.

03 [0218] Updates:

1. **Playing Field:** AH reported that a long-term lease did not appear to be a prerequisite for grant applications and that changes to the PFC constitution could only be made at its Annual General Meeting, in April.
2. **Rubbish bins, fingerposts:** CB reported that the rubbish bin and the dog waste bin ordered by the Council had arrived and would be installed by the PFC after the precise location had been discussed with nearby property owners. Historic fingerposts would be registered with SCC via the Somerset Fingerpost e-Survey phone app.
3. **SCC land:** BN would supply the Clerk with the details required to apply for a Community Asset Transfer of SCC-owned land on and next to the Playing Field.

04 [0218] Highways matters:

1. A303 Sparkford to Ilchester Dualling scheme:

1. Views expressed by residents at the Parish Meeting on 6th February were noted and helped inform the following discussion (04.1.2 below). [**Clerk's note:** *Draft minutes of the meeting were subsequently published on the website and noticeboards*]
2. After an extended discussion of the A303 Dualling Scheme it was **PROPOSED that the Council's response to the Highways England Statutory Consultation include observations on possible changes to the Hazlegrove junction, possibly retaining the old A303 alongside the new road, improved local access from both north and south, making the new road Expressway-compatible and ensuring an effective Traffic Management Plan.**
Before the matter was put to the vote it was **RESOLVED 4-3-0 that the motion be amended to include a recommendation that if Highways England (HE) were to ignore the Council's observations the Council would resile from the neutral stance it adopted in the Preferred Route Consultation and might declare Route 2 to be its preferred choice.**

After some discussion of proper debating procedure

the Motion as Amended was PROPOSED AND DEFEATED 2-4-1.

[Clerk's note: *The Council's Standing Order 10.6 supports the standard convention that "If an amendment is adopted, the motion it is applied to changes. However, the amended motion itself is not adopted until the motion, as amended, is voted on and passes" (Robert's Rules).* After further discussion it was

RESOLVED 5-1-1 that the Clerk should respond to the HE Statutory Consultation and include the following observations:

- 1) HE must honour its undertaking to keep a two-way carriageway on the A303 open throughout the construction period.
 - 2) HE should review its plans for Sparkford junction and consider returning to its earlier plan for two roundabouts at that location.
 - 3) HE should think seriously about retaining the carriageway of the old A303 as a through road running parallel with the new A303.
 - 4) HE must take all reasonable steps to ensure that existing rights of way are maintained as far as is practicable.
 - 5) HE in conjunction with SCC Highways must set up an effective Traffic Management Plan capable of being properly policed and enforced.
 - 6) HE must ensure that road construction and operation noise is properly managed and controlled by bunds and planting, especially during the first fifteen years of the road's operation.
 - 7) HE must take into account the points made in the Council's response to the Planning Inspectorate's Scoping Opinion Statutory Consultation.
 - 8) If HE ignores its observations the Council reserves the right to review its response to the Preferred Route Consultation and consider choosing Route 2 as its Preferred Option.
3. **RESOLVED 7-0-0** to ask JB and BN to attend an informal workshop at West Camel to explore the possibility of the two parish councils coordinating their responses to the HE Statutory Consultation.

05 [0218] Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs) – The Clerk is investigating the SID rental scheme proposed by SCC Highways and possible commercial alternatives.

06 [0218] Planning Applications:

1. Update on planning application previously heard:
17/04613/FUL Hayley Cottage, High Street – erection of car port and stores: approved, with conditions.
2. Planning application in a neighbouring parish:
17/04916/OUT Land adjacent to Fletcher Moss, Sparkford Hill Lane - erection of 4 dwellings & construction of vehicular access (outline). After a short discussion it was
RESOLVED 6-0-1 that the application be opposed because
 1. **The access onto the A359 is dangerous.**
 2. **The proposed dwellings would encourage further linear development along the short stretch of the A359 between Sparkford and Queen Camel increasing the likelihood of the two villages eventually merging.**

07 [0218] Councillors' reports and motions: After a short discussion taking into account views expressed by residents at the Parish meeting on 6th February it was **RESOLVED 6-1-0 to write to SSDC supporting the development pattern set out in the revised Local Plan proposals and opposing the proposed Yeovilton Garden Town Settlement.**

08 [0218] Other reports and motions:

1. **The Neighbourhood Plan (NP):** The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group (NPSG) is looking into the possible impact on the NP of the revised version of the National Planning Policy Framework due to be published this spring. The NPSG will deliver a report at the Council's next meeting in March.
2. After a short discussion it was **RESOLVED 7-0-0** to accept with gratitude the offer of the volunteers who had kindly offered to continue production of the Welcome Pack and the Parochial Church Council who had kindly offered to distribute it, and to confirm that the Council would continue to provide the necessary funding.
3. The Council agreed to write thanking the Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator and asking what it could do to help and support Neighbourhood Watch.
4. The Clerk explained that under changes in Data Protection regulations Parish Councils would be required to have a Data Protection Officer from May 2018. The National Association of Local Councils (NALC) and the Information Commissioner's Office are still working out implementation details but there could be cost implications.
5. The Council noted that the Local Government Boundary Commission has proposed redrawing the boundaries of Camelot Ward so that it would include Sutton Montis, South Cadbury and Babcary and exclude Marston Magna and Rimpton.

09 [0218] Clerk's report

10 [0218] Finance:

1. **Payment received:** £6,658 from Oxford Capital Partners for Solar Park
2. **Payments to be agreed:**

RESOLVED 7-0-0 that the following payments be agreed:

£227.42	Somerset Association of Local Councils	SALC/NALC Affiliation fees 2017/18
£75.00	Somerset Association of Local Councils	SALC Councillor training fees
£169.25	Rosemary Heath-Coleman	N'hood Plan Drop-In Event expenses
£11.30	Chris Bennett	Gravel for footpath repair
£80.00	Queen Camel Memorial Hall	Room hire
£80.06	J.Pender-Cudlip	Website expenses (Weebly, UK2)
£375.86	P.Pender-Cudlip	January salary

RESOLVED 5-0-0 that the following payments be agreed:

£3,800	Swillington Rollers	Playing field roller (from Community Benefit fund)
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3. **Neighbourhood Plan expenses:** It was agreed that the Clerk ask SSDC to pay £347.50 in Neighbourhood Plan expenses out of *Fronrunner* funds.
4. **RESOLVED 7-0-0 to approve the 2018/19 Accounts, first three quarters**
5. **Online banking** – Natwest is still processing the application.
6. **Jubilee account** – The Jubilee Committee is planning to organize a community event in 2019 using the balance of funds in the Jubilee account.

11 [0218] Correspondence received from The Charltons Parish Council, Somerset Waste Partnership, the Memorial Hall and the Community Land Trust was noted.

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12 [0218] Advance Notice: HE Statutory Consultation (A303), concludes 9th March.

13 [0218] Agenda items for next meeting: Council Committees, Annual Village Meeting, Neighbourhood Plan, Parish Meeting feedback, Financial regulations, Online banking,

14 [0218] Matters arising post Agenda: none.

15 [0218] Next meeting: Monday 12th March, 2018

The meeting concluded at 10.12pm

Signed:

John Brendon

Chairman

[Date: 12th March, 2018]

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