



Queen Camel Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 28th JANUARY 2013 AT 7.30 PM IN THE MARPLES ROOM OF THE MEMORIAL HALL

Present: Chairman	Patrick Pender-Cudlip (PPC)		
Councillors	Ben Turner (BT)		David Biggart (DB)
	Dan Hewlett (DH)		Chris Bennett (CB)
	Angus Davidson (AD)		Jean Pilgrim (JP)
	Rosemary Heath-Coleman (RHC)		
Clerk	Les Stevens (LS)		
District Councillor	Mike Lewis (ML)	County Councillor	Bob Little (BL)
Apologies for absence	Steve Millard (SM), PCSO Thelma Mead.		

Members of the public - 12

PPC welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked if any members of the public wished to speak. As no one wished to speak, PPC opened the meeting at 19:31.

0113.01 Apologies for Absence – received from Cllr. Steve Millard and PCSO Thelma Mead.

0113.02 Declarations of Interest and details of dispensations requested or granted since the last meeting (Councillors and visiting Councillors) –

For clarity during budgetary discussions LS felt it prudent to record the interests of CB/DH/AD in the PFC application and BT/DH in the request for a donation from Sparkford Scouts.

0113.03 Update on progress selecting a new site for Queen Camel School – PPC welcomed Mike Lewis (ML2) who is the Service Manager for School Place Planning at Somerset County Council, Helen Rutter (SSDC Area East Development Manager), Janet Mills (Head Teacher) and several school governors to the meeting and invited ML2 to deliver his update briefing.

ML2 gave a brief summary of the search for a new school site. Initially purchasing the land adjacent to the Heath Centre was investigated but after negotiations couldn't be agreed, two further options were considered. Site A (adjacent to the QC Playing Field behind the pavilion) and Site B (South of the West Camel Rd.), with site A being the preferred choice. However, the results of the geo-physical archeological survey revealed that Site A contains significant evidence of extensive Roman archeology, potentially of national significance, whereas site B contains none. Faced with a protracted and expensive planning permission process, which would delay starting building work and increase the risk of losing allocated funding (£2.75m), the Local Education Authority (SCC) and school governors agreed to opt for site B. Negotiations for the acquisition of this land are currently underway and detailed planning design work will follow.

Cllr Jean Pilgrim (also a school governor) gave a very eloquent speech asking everyone to celebrate this decision which will hopefully deliver a new school for the benefit of children across the wider community. She pointed out that the extensive Roman archeology should be viewed as a potential asset to the village rather than as a stumbling block.

PPC opened the discussion to members of the public and Janet Mills (Head Teacher) and several governors spoke in support of the chosen site, following which ML2 answered questions from members of the public and councillors. BL also spoke in support of the chosen site and thanked ML2 and the governors for all their hard work over the past 2 ½ years. PPC added his thanks to BL and ML2 for briefing the PC so thoroughly and brought the session to a close.

0113.04 Minutes of last meeting (10/12/12) to be agreed and signed – CB stated that he was unhappy with the minute 1212.07 where he had previously commented on minute 1112.08 and made two proposals – a) That the words ‘*BT re-confirmed that this was his opinion*’ be added to the minute. This was seconded by AD and carried by majority vote (RHC abstained as she was not present at the December meeting) and b) that he did not accuse the Clerk LS of ‘steering’ the council and that the word ‘steering’ be struck from the minute, seconded by AD. There were no votes in support and 4 votes against with 2 abstentions, therefore the minute remains as written. There being no further amendments PPC and LS signed the amended minutes.

0113.05 Matters of report arising from the last meeting minutes

0712.13 Bush trimming in the Glebe – **LS stated that he had spoken with Rich Davy who would visit site and get back to LS with his finding – ongoing with LS.**

0912.05 Amend Standing Orders – LS reported that the agreed changes did not fit cleanly within QC SOs which have been modified. Further work is required. **Ongoing (Feb 2013).**

0912.12 c Parish Plan – Safety Group – CB/RHC/SM to develop terms of reference – **ongoing**

0912.12g CB to check whether replacement of bowls is required / buy darts – CB has obtained replacement bowls from another pub in exchange for a £20 donation to the pub’s charity, he has also purchased replacement darts. CB proposed making a £20 donation, seconded BT, majority in favour (1 abstention). CB to let LS have receipt for darts etc.- **Closed - receipt submitted.**

1112.08 f – Emergency Plan – CB – **ongoing.**

1212.04 LS to obtain copy of the Police report from TM – **Comp.**

1212.08 a – Community Warden Scheme – LS to speak with Sparkford PC to gauge their interest. LS has exchanged emails with Karen Bourke who reports that Sparkford PC are still considering the scheme, although she doesn’t sense much enthusiasm. West Camel PC are not interested at this time. – **Comp.**

1212.08 b LS to place order for Power Syringes – LS reported that the Power Syringes were handed over to the Doctors at an informal presentation on Tue 22nd Jan by BL and JP, photos were taken and sent to the local press (BMV and Western Gazette) – **Comp.**

1212.08 f Western Gazette A303 campaign – LS to write in support – **Comp.**

1212.10 e LS to purchase data back-up storage device – **Ongoing.**

0113.06 Standing Items of Business –

- a. **Safety and behaviour** - CB stated that nothing relevant had been received from NHW system.
- b. **Police Matters** – in TM’s absence CB delivered the Police report –
There were 2 Crimes reported in the period Dec 2012 to Jan 2013
1 Criminal damage – victim updated and case filed.
1 Theft – victim updated and case filed.
There were 11 calls to the force service centre in the period Dec 2012 to Jan 2013 –
3 Traffic, 2 Theft, 1 Contact, 3 Public service, 1 Disturbance Nuisance and 1 Assist other.
- c. **Highways Drains / Signage** – DH reported that he had met with John Nicholson (Acting Assistant Highways Maintenance Manager) on 24th Dec and had been lead to understand that activity would take place in January. LS added that he had spoken with John earlier in the day and the order has been placed to carry out jetting and root cutting and should be resourced during February (2013). There has been no progress with signage, although this isn’t expected until the start of the new financial year (April).
- d. **SCC Community Enablement – land transfer at playing field between SCC and QCPC**
– LS to pursue with BL (*BL having left the meeting after item 0113.03 to attend Marston Magna PC meeting*).
- e. **Broadband for MM Exchange** – BT reported that he had met on 21st Jan with some reps. from neighbouring parishes and Andrew Neil (Rimpton PC) has drafted a letter to British Telecom and the Connecting Devon and Somerset Consortium seeking support for MM Exchange. He asked councillors to let him know of any businesses in the parish that could add weight to the campaign. **AP – ALL.**
- f. **Additional Dog Poo Bin** – LS reported that he had again spoken with Chris Cooper (SSDC) requesting an additional bin and Chris undertook to investigate further - **ongoing**
- g. **Sutton Farm Planning Application – change of parish** – LS reported that he had queried the apparent late change in parish and been told by David Norris (Head of Planning) that

this site had always been in Corton Denham parish. ML commented that he did not believe this to be the case and suggested it was worth checking the planning site before closing the action. LS offered to check back on the SSDC planning web site. – **ongoing with LS.**

0113.07 Advanced Notices

- RNAS Yeovilton briefing to parishes 5th February – DB to attend.
- Free First Aid Course (first of 4 courses) – Friday 1st March West Camel 6:30pm – 9:30pm at the Davis Hall. – please pass the word. **AP – All.**
- Somerset East Public consultation day (Meet the Police Commissioner) – 11th February Yeovil town center 13:00 – 14:30 – no councilor is free to attend.

0113.08 Correspondence / Reports / Other matters requiring action.

- a. **Telephone Box Competition** – PPC reported that the only suggestions received to date were for a Bookstore or a Museum. After some discussion it was agreed that neither of these suggestions was really compatible and that the question of future use be re-referred back to the action group. **AP PPC to discuss with John Carnegie.**
- b. **Community Council Oil scheme** – AD reported that there were two comparable schemes in use; the Community Council scheme and ‘Club Oil’ which is used by the Memorial Hall. Both schemes offered savings of up to 4.5p per litre over commercial rates and ‘Club-Oil’ mostly seemed to be up to 1p cheaper than the Community Council scheme and also has a lower membership fee. These factors combined with a faster response time appear to indicate that on balance ‘Club-Oil’ is probably the better value. PPC thanked AD for his research and suggested he might provide an article for the Camels Magazine and the Village Web site. **AP AD.**
- c. **Feedback on CLT Public Consultation 17th January** – RHC reported that the CLT/Hastoe village consultation took place between 3 p.m. and 8 p.m. on Thursday, 17th January. An invitation was delivered to every house in the parish as well as to our own Parish Council and to the abutting Parish Councils of Marston Magna, West Camel, Sparkford, Babcarry, Carymoor and South Cadbury (the latter for Sutton Montis) as these were each included in the housing needs survey. Around 100 attended from this Parish and some ten in total from the surrounding parishes. At least eight attendees completed a housing need registration form.
See Village web site for additional information including outline designs.
- d. **SID (Speed Indicator Devices)** – LS reported that initial speed measurements by the SID team didn’t show any speed problems. Poor location and time of day appears to have been a major factor and LS has requested PC input to the sites for the 2 week trial period. DH suggested West Camel Rd. outside South View. **Ongoing with LS.**

0113.09 Planning.

New Applications – there were no new applications to consider.

Updates

12/03506/FUL – (Revised) 1 Eyewell Cottages – single storey side extension. Updated cladding detail SM explained the revisions which were to the cladding of the extension. Councillors were minded to maintain their previous decision – **Granted with conditions.**

12/03288/FUL – Steart Hill Farm (West Camel PC) – Change of use of grain store and surrounding ancillary hard standing from agricultural use to mixed agricultural, agricultural processing (B2) and storage of agricultural produces (B8) use. Retention of buildings as constructed. (Retrospective). **Decision - Deferred at Area East on 12th December for 2 months pending independent verification of capacity data etc.**

12/02879/FUL – Alderley House Englands Lane – alterations and extension of existing detached garage etc. **Granted with conditions.**

0113.10 Financial Matters

- a. To review latest budget/performance – LS briefly reviewed changes in the current spend against budget, including a significant upside in the area of the Memorial Hall grant

- which out turned at £652 instead the £2000 provisionally agreed.
- b. Budget 2013/14 – to review grant / donation requests and agree budget - PPC stated that councillors having expressed a personal interest in aspect of budgetary discussion would be allowed to remain in the room but must refrain from joining in debate and abstain from voting. LS mentioned 2 late donation requests, one from the Sparkford Scouts and another from Queen Camel Guides, to which he had provisionally allocated a nominal £100 each in the budget (along with Sparkford Copse Trust). RHC proposed that each of the 3 requests receive £100, seconded DB and agree by majority (2 abstentions on the Scouts application only for reasons of a declared interest). PFC Grant application – CB distributed copies of unaudited draft accounts for 2012 that he had undertaken to provide following the December meeting. After lengthy debate councillors were minded to continue supporting the PFC in their good works but due in part to the high level of their reserves decided to ring-fence the requested sum of £3,410 in a ‘PFC Contingency fund’ within the PC accounts pending actual need; proposed DB, seconded JP and agreed all (3 PFC members abstaining).
 - c. Reduction in Tax Base – LS outlined the confirmed reduced tax base figures and the two main options; (a) leave the precepted amount unchanged which will appear as an increase in council tax bills of approximately 1.36% or (b) leave the 2012/13 Band D precept rate unchanged at £41.34 and absorb the shortfall in precept of approximately £173.62. As RFO LS strongly recommended councillors consider the latter option. Although the option of substantially reducing the level of precept is also possible, there is a very real risk of being precept-capped in future years. In such an event a full referendum at a cost of around £500 would be obligatory should the percentage increase requirement be other than very modest. DB proposed that the 0% increase option be agreed, seconded by DH and agree unanimously.

RFO Recommendation to maintain Band D charge at 12/13 level i.e. 0% increase.

12/13 Equivalent Band D Charge	£41.34
Confirmed Tax Base 13/14	309.54
Giving a reduced precept of	£12,796.38
Confirmed Allocation of Grant from Central Government	£1,030.00
Total 'Precept' income 2013/14	£13,826.38

Shortfall over 2012/13 Precept **£173.62**

- d. .Cheques to approve –

Chris Bennett – crab apple removal equipment, replacement darts and 2 x skittle balls (for the Mildmay)	£75.65
Memorial Hall 2012/13 Grant (was approved at a max of £2,000)	£652.00
L Stevens – Clerk’s Stationery / postage	£17.40
HMRC PAYE Oct-Dec 2012	£184.50

LS explained each cheque and asked council to authorise payment. PPC proposed authorisation, DB seconded and ALL agreed.

0113.11 Urgent Matters of Report- Post Agenda (At Chairman’s discretion).

- a. Other Matters of report –
 - I. LS - update from SALC on the Community Infrastructure Levy; it is proposed to award Parish councils a 15% share with an enhanced 25% to council who have a Neighbourhood Plan.
- b. Matters for future business – none.

0113.12 Date of next Parish Council Meeting – Monday 11th February 2013 at 7:30 pm in the Marples Room of the Memorial Hall.

0113.13 PPC thanked everyone and closed the meeting at 21:46

Signed.....
Chairman
Date 28th January 2013

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Clerk
Date 28th January 2013