



Queen Camel Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE MEETING of the **PARISH COUNCIL** held in the Marples Room, Memorial Hall on **Monday, 8th February 2016 at 7.30pm**

Present: Chairman **John Brendon (JB)**
Councillors **Chris Bennett (CB)**
John Carnegie (JC)
Andrew Hoddinott (AH)
Simon Thornewell (ST)

In Attendance: **Mike Lewis (ML)**
Apologies for Absence: **PCSO Thelma Mead**
Minute Taker: **Peter Naylor**

Members of the public: 19

1. Welcome & Introduction

A note from AD resigning from the QC PC with immediate effect was read out by JB. JB was elected unanimously to the chair.

Proposed ST, Seconded CB.

Agreed 4 – 0 – 0

JB welcomed Councillors and members of the public to the Meeting.

2. Public Session (Opened: 7.45pm)

- i. Comments were received on the accuracy and completeness of the minutes of the last meeting, plus the wording of the agenda for this meeting were raised (see 0216.03 for actions).
- ii. Flood Group – would like a reply to letter of 17th Dec, and had submitted an expense claim of £300 for sand & equipment for flood prevention.
- iii. Road Closure Group – applied to procure Hi-Viz jackets for team when on duty. AH proposed CB to procure the jackets from the Police's 'Road Closure' grant. There was then discussion on who could use the 'Road Closure' shed, whether it was the Flood and Road Closure Groups or what, how it had been funded and restriction on its use. Both groups wanted the shed secured once equipment had been purchased and it was in use. It was agreed that it may be best if the two groups were fully united. Action for the groups to talk to each other and report back.
- iv. It was suggested that the future of the old school building should be on the agenda for a future meeting. ML reported that he believed the move to the new school would be in April 2016 and the education authority would not be thinking about future use before then.
- v. The Health & Safety Policy & Procedure had not been promulgated to the parish groups.

Action JB to circulate using email addresses on PC Clerk's laptop.

(Public session closed: 8.07pm)

0216.01 Apologies: Were accepted from Thelma Mead (TM).

0216.02 Declarations of Interest: CB and AH regarding playing field

0216.03 Minutes

Having received a number of amendments to the minutes of the meeting of 11th January 2016, it was agreed that these be revised and presented again at the next meeting. Comments on the wording of the agenda were noted.

Action JB with support from other councillors.

0216.04 County & District Councillor's Report

ML reported that 'Council Tax' would be increasing this year as a consequence of increases for adult

social services and Somerset flood prevention.

ML was asked if he had any information about the proposed upgrade to the foot path from the Glebe to the new school as it would go across PC land (the playing field). ML replied that he had no details. It would appear that the only contact has been with the Playing Field Committee, who forwarded the contact to the parish clerk back in October.

JB requested that the information be communicated again to all councillors. **Action PN.**

JB suggested that the order of business was changed to bring forward item 9, which was agreed unanimously.

0216.09 Council Business

09.02 JB gave an overview of PC working group discussions of 2nd February. The conclusions being that the council should seek advice from as many sources (e.g. SSDC, SALC, SLCC) as it can on the legal and practical issues, regarding the possible dissolution of the PC and the holding of new elections or for other options to achieve a PC that holds the confidence of the village and that can give stability.

ML suggested talking to Angie Cox and Ian Clarke at SSDC for advice. Also, if the PC should become inquorate, then the DC may take action to ensure the PC is quorate. Also there are 'Police & Crime Commissioner' elections scheduled for May 2016, which could save the PC costs, if new PC elections are scheduled for the same date.

09.01 Temporary Clerk

In the light of 09.02 above, it was agreed that instead of employing a new (inexperienced) clerk, the PC should endeavour to employ the temporary services of an experienced clerk for a period of 3 or 4 months while the PC reorganises itself.

AH asked to contact SALC to see if Terry Philpott or similar would be available.

09.03 removed from agenda.

0216.05 To Review Outstanding Actions

05.01 Electrical Testing of Phone Box – **CB to action**

05.02 Agreed at last meeting – to be circulated to parish groups – **action JB**

05.03 Disciplinary Policy & Procedure – AH reported that it had been updated in track change and copied to Councillors'. AH to finalise document and send to the Clerk for retention and reference.

Proposed AH, seconded JC

carried 5 – 0 – 0

05.04 Fly tipping Gason Lane – Highways have been informed, ML asked to use his influence to get some action. **CB to chase from PC.**

05.05 Funding for revised Parish Plan – progress of letter from communications group identifying budget request is unknown. **Action ST to check with AD and forward to SSDC if not already done.**

0216.06 Police & Safety Matters

06.1 In the absence of TM, CB reported that there had only been one incident reported in December.

0216.07 Highway Matters

07.1 It was confirmed that England's Lane would be closed for one week from 9th February between Green Lane and Penrridge for drainage upgrade. Also that Highways are proposing to close West Camel Rd from 29th February for 2 weeks between the Medical Centre and Old Farm Court for the construction of a new pedestrian crossing for the new school. A diversion via Marston Magna will be sign posted.

0216.08 Planning Applications

08.1 New Applications

No new applications

08.2 Updates received since last meeting

15/05358/FUL - Hazlegrove Blackford Boarding House extension Approved by SSDC

0216.10 Reports/Motions

10.1 PFC Lease –

The PFC had written to the PC with comments on the last draft.

JB had sent his comments on the draft lease and wider issues to AH

Action JB to circulate his comments to PC so that they can discuss and formulate a document that the PC can put to the PFC.

10.2 Parish Group Reports

It was agreed that a schedule of parish group meetings and their reporting would be useful for agenda production.

The flood committee requested a reply to their 17 December letter.

0216.11 Finance

11.1 Receipts – £6, 658.00 from the solar farm

11.2 Payments approved and cheques signed

Proposed JB, Seconded ST

Agreed 5 – 0 – 0

Clerk's expenses Jan 2016 01387

£100.50

Sparkford Copse Trust grant 01388

£100.00

It was noted that there would be expense claims for next month's agenda from the Environment and Flood groups.

11.3 Banking - ML advised adding a 3rd signatory to the account in case of one of the two being unavailable.

JB proposed ST become a signatory, seconded AH

Agreed 4 – 0 - 0.

0216.12 Incoming Correspondence

12.1 From Parish Groups –Changes noted on agenda.

12.2 Letter from Area East re Property Project – agreed to put possible future uses of old school buildings on future agendas.

12.3 Speed down Sparkford Hill – average speed recorded at bottom of hill was 36 mph.

12.4 Area East committee meeting 10th Feb – CB offered to attend if he was free that day.

12.5 Work Place Pensions – AH had received a leaflet from DWP and would pass a copy to the clerk's files, to be ready when a new clerk is engaged.

0216.13 Advance Notices

13.1 SALC Risk Training – 16th Feb

13.2 A303 Road Show – Highways are hosting an open road show on proposed upgrading to A303 at the Podymore Inn 1 pm to 8 pm on 22 Feb, with a closed session for PC's in the morning.

0216.14 Matters for Report or Next Agenda

CB – reported that the PC had an obligation to publish certain documents and reports from the PC and its parish groups.

A copy of the statement from Ian Woodward re his complaint about the 'Community Asset' label applied to the pub is still awaited. ML stated that Tim Cook (SSDC – Area East) had been asked to speak to Ian.

AH and JB suggested a letter of thanks to AD for all the work he had done for the village over the years. **Action JB**

The PC was asked by a member of the public to ensure that the letter of 16 January from three parish groups was dealt with.

0216.15 Date of Next Meeting

Confirmed as Monday 14th March at 7.30pm

JB thanked everyone for attending, the meeting closed at 9.25 pm

Signed:

Date:

March 2016