



Queen Camel Parish Council

MINUTES of the **PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**
held in The Marples Room at the Memorial Hall
on **Monday 11th September 2017** at **7.30pm**

Present: Councillors **John Brendon (JB)** – Chairman
John Carnegie (JC)
Jo Pender-Cudlip (JPC)
Simon Stapely (SS)

Apologies: **Chris Bennett (CB)**
Andrew Hoddinott (AH)
Zelda Sowerby (ZS)
Kit Stapely (KS)
Bryan Norman (BN)

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

Procedural Items

1. JB welcomed Councillors and members of the public.
2. Public session. Two residents drew attention to the problems caused by vehicles misdirected by satnavs onto Blackwell Lane when the A303 was congested. The lane is very narrow so speeding cars pose a particular danger to pedestrians and horse-riders. HGVs and cars with caravans get stuck because they can neither pass each other nor reverse, and as a result the road gets blocked completely. The Council agreed to press Somerset County Council (SCC) Highways Department and Highways England to deal with this problem and install appropriate signage, urgently. The Flood Committee Chairman outlined the Committee's work and the equipment it needs to safeguard the public (see also 09.3, below).
3. CB, AH, BN, KS and ZS sent apologies for being unavoidably absent.
4. PPC reported that a compact disk holding scanned images of the playing field deeds and other documents appears to be corrupted and was asked to obtain digital copies from Dyne Drewitt who are holding the deeds.
5. It was agreed that a number of Councillors would attend training sessions organized by South Somerset District Council (SSDC) and the Somerset Association of Local Councils (SALC).
6. Councillors agreed about which of their contact details would be published on the website and noticeboards.
7. **RESOLVED 4-0-0 [For-against-abstained] that the minutes of the meeting held on 10th July 2017 be confirmed and signed as a true and accurate record.**

Business Items

01 [0917] County and District Councillor's report – ML reported that Highways England expect to reveal its preferred route for the upgraded A303 in the second half of October and that around the same time SCC plan to start work on the footpath between the Glebe and the school. The Care Quality Commission has acknowledged a great improvement in SCC's provision for young people in care. SSDC plans to borrow up to £75m. from the Public Works Loan Board in order to generate income by investing in land and property.

02 [0917] Crime and Safety – The latest crime report for Queen Camel (June 2017) records a burglary on Cleaveside Close and a theft on Bindwell Lane.

03 [0917] Updates:

1. **Green Lane** – deferred to October.
2. **Website** – PPC reported that the Flood Committee was running its own page on the website and that the Playing Field Committee (PFC) was planning something similar. As Clerk he was required to ensure that the information required by the Transparency Code was uploaded onto the website and he would keep it ticking over but unless the Council could find a volunteer with the skills, enthusiasm, imagination and time to cherish it and keep it constantly updated its quality, popularity and reach would inevitably suffer.
3. **Annual Village Meeting (AVM)** – Councillors noted a resident's detailed complaints about the 2017 AVM and would keep these in mind when the 2018 AVM - which would be coordinated by SS – was organized.

04 [0917] Highways:

1. **Bypass** – Councillors were in favour of BN investigating possible options in case government (Major Road Network plan) funding became available.
2. **Blackwell and Eyewell (Traits) Lane** – SCC Highways would be pressed to remedy the traffic problems on these lanes urgently (see *Public Session* above).
3. **Speed limit, engineering works** – SCC Highways has been asked to extend the 20mph limit along the entire High Street and past the school on the West Camel road, to install a dropped kerb at the bottom of Hill View and to continue its drain clearance programme. PPC would continue to press on these and other Highways matters including damage to the parapet of the bridge and the carriageway in Wales.

05 [0917] Planning Applications:

1. **RESOLVED 4-0-0** to support application **17/03204/FUL Old Mill House, Grace Martins Lane**, to replace the existing garages with a garage and studio.
2. The Council was informed that applications **17/02982/TCA & 17/03049/TCA Old Vicarage, High Street**, for tree surgery on four trees, were permitted.
3. The period for considering the application for a Sustainable Urban Extension at Primrose Lane, Mudford has been extended until 31st March, 2018.

06 [0917] Councillors' reports and motions:

1. **The Playing Field and Fields in Trust** – deferred.
2. **Environment** – When the PFC has chosen the most appropriate rubbish bins for the gateway between The Glebe and the playing field they will be ordered. JPC as Environment Warden reported that SCC intend to trim the footpaths by the Medical Centre and along Henshallbrook within the next two weeks and to repair or replace defective stiles soon.
3. **Chairman's training** – In the light of SALC recommendations at the training

session (attended by JB and SS) Councillors agreed to look into ways of making the Council more effective. These might include an annual review of Council objectives, dealing with Agenda items in order of importance rather than in a set order, reviewing the possible use of Council Committees, the frequency of Council meetings and an offer by SALC's County Executive Officer to review the way the Council operated.

07 [0917] Other reports and motions:

1. **Flood Committee** – Councillors noted the minutes of the FC meeting of 18th July and associated correspondence (see *Public Session* above and 9.3 below)
2. **Environment Group (EG)** – Councillors noted a report on the EG meeting of 4th September and directed PPC to ask the EG for further clarification about how it saw its role in the future.
3. **Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group (NPSG)** – Councillors noted reports on the NPSG meetings of 31st July and 6th September. PPC was asked to find out when the NPSG would be consulting Councillors about possible development sites and other details of the draft Neighbourhood Plan.
4. **Community use of ride-on mower** – Councillors confirmed that the mower had been granted to the PFC unconditionally. The Council had expressed the hope that the PFC would make the mower available to other organisations in the parish but it was for the PFC to determine whether or not this was feasible and, if it was, to make the appropriate arrangements.

08 [0917] Clerk's report – PPC noted that he was discussing planning issues with SSDC.

09 [0917] Finance

1. The Council had received £676.94 in reclaimed input VAT for 2016/17.

2. **RESOLVED 4-0-0 to authorize the following payments:**

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| £1200.00 | Dorset Planning Consultant | Neighbourhood Plan |
| £54.00 | Queen Camel Memorial Hall | Rent of Marples room & hall |
| £129.58 | C.Bennett | Office, mileage, Land Registry |
| £57.74 | P.Pender-Cudlip | Office expenses |
| £751.72 | P.Pender-Cudlip | July & August salary |

3. **RESOLVED 4-0-0 to authorize the following purchases:**

- Safeguarding equipment (Flood Committee) - £302.96
 - HP OfficeJet Pro 8730 All-in-one printer (Clerk) - £246.00 (£50 of which will be refunded under the terms of a cashback offer).
4. **RESOLVED 4-0-0 to agree the NPSG's supplementary Neighbourhood Plan budget of £2,457.60 if SSDC Frontrunner funds will cover this.**
 5. **The 2016/17 Annual Return** including Governance and Accounting statements has been certified by Grant Thornton PLC, the Council's official auditors.
 6. **RESOLVED 4-0-0 that the first quarter's accounts for 2017/18 be approved.**
 7. **Financial regulations** and online banking - deferred until October.

10 [0917] Incoming correspondence noted: from SSDC (on an electoral review of SSDC wards and on artificial grass pitches), the Somerset Rivers Authority, the Somerset Waste Partnership, the National Farmers Union (on agriculture and planning) and from the Queen Camel Community Land Trust and others on SCC and the Old School site.

11 [0917] Advance Notices: Councillor training sessions will be held by SALC and

- SSDC (variously) on September 14th, October 5th, October 12th & November 23rd.
- 12 [0917] Agenda items for next meeting:** Digital deeds from Dyne Drewitt, Green Lane, bypass, playing field, Financial regulations, Online banking.
- 13 [0917] Matters arising post-Agenda** – none.
- 14 [0917] Next meeting** - 7.30pm on 9th October, 2017 in The Marples Room

Signed:

**John Brendon
Chairman**

Date:[9th October, 2017]