



Queen Camel Parish Council

Clerk: Elaine Owen, Innes House, Kingsdon, Somerton, Somerset, TA11 7LL
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Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting and Parish Council Meeting held via Zoom Conference Call Facilities on Tuesday 04th May 2021 at 7:30pm

Public Question Time

There were 6 members of the public virtually in attendance during the Zoom meeting. Immediately prior to the meeting members of the public were provided with the opportunity to speak

No members of the public chose to speak

Present: Councillors Michael Baker, John Brendon, Kathy Grainger, Phil Jones, Rachael Malton and Bryan Norman.

Also present:
County and District Councillor Mike Lewis
Parish Clerk and RFO Elaine Owen

1. Election of Chairman for this meeting

The present Chairman (Councillor Gettings) was unable to be present necessitating the election of a Chairman for this meeting.

It was RESOLVED to appoint Councillor Brendon as Chairman for meeting of 4th May 2021

For 6, Against 0, Abstained 0

2. Election of Chairman

Councillor Gettings was **ELECTED** Chairman of Queen Camel Parish Council for the year 2021/2022. Although absent from this meeting, Councillor Gettings had indicated her willingness to serve.

For 6, Against 0, Abstained 0

3. Election of Vice Chairman

Council agreed to **DEFER** election of the Vice Chairman of Queen Camel Parish Council for the year 2021/2022 to a future meeting.

4. Apologies for Absence

Councillor Sue Gettings, Councillors Brian and Dan Hewlett

5. Declarations of Interests

none

6. To RECEIVE County and District Councillor reports

6a Annual briefing from SCC

County and District Councillor Mike Lewis has sent a briefing sheet summarising key points from the year from SCC. This will be forwarded to all councillors.

6b Somerset Unitary Authority consultation

Council will be aware of the two options for the future of Somerset local government.

- One Somerset (preferred by SCC) <https://onesomerset.org.uk/>
- Stronger Somerset (preferred by SSDC) <https://www.strongersomerset.co.uk/>

The consultation closed on 19th April and a decision will be made by the Secretary of State by the time of the Parliamentary summer recess on 22 July 2021.

The district councils (Mendip, Sedgemoor, Somerset West and Taunton and South Somerset) have recently decided to run a poll for the two options and are asking the Secretary of State to take the results into consideration when he makes his decision. This is a consultancy, not a referendum. It will be run independently and every elector will be issued with a ballot paper to vote by post or online.

7. Standing Orders, Financial Regulations and Code of Conduct

Council were asked to consider if any changes are required to the Queen Camel Standing Orders, Financial Regulations or the Code of Conduct.

A typographic error has been noticed in the Financial Regulations. Under Budgetary control. Item 4.1, third bullet point should always have read £500 not £100.

All policies presently have out of date clerk details.

Council RESOLVED to make the above amendments. Standing Orders, Financial Regulations and Code of Conduct are to be adopted with new dates. Remaining policies will have clerk details updated, but date of adoption will not be changed until they are reviewed.

For 6, Against 0, Abstained 0

8. Council Meeting dates

To **RESOLVE** to return to holding Council Meetings, usually on the second Monday of each month (excluding August). Meetings will be on Thursday 17th June and Monday 12th July, 13th Sept, 11 Oct, 8th Nov, 13th Dec, 10th Jan 2022, 14th Feb, 14th March.

The meeting on 17th June may not take place, or the venue may be changed, due to Covid-19 restrictions.

Council RESOLVED to return to the regular face to face meeting dates above, subject to Covid-19 restrictions.

For 6, Against 0, Abstained 0

9. Composition of Finance and Risk Committee for 2021/2022

Council was asked to appoint members to the Finance and Risk Committee. The first meeting is suggested to take place on 7th June (subject to Covid-19 restrictions) at which the Chairman will be appointed.

Councillors Baker, Brendon, Grainger and Jones were APPOINTED to the Finance and Risk Committee for 2021/2022

For 6, Against 0, Abstained 0

10. Representatives on Outside Bodies for 2021/2022

Council was asked to appoint Council representatives to the Community Benefit Panel and Flood Committee:

Councillors Getting and D Hewlett were APPOINTED to the Community Benefit Panel for 2021/2022

For 6, Against 0, Abstained 0

Councillors Brendon and Norman were APPOINTED to the Flood Committee for 2021/2022

For 6, Against 0, Abstained 0

11. Minutes of the previous meeting to be confirmed as correct

Council approved as a correct record the minutes of the previous meeting held on 27th April 2021 to be signed by the Chair at a later date.

It was RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the meetings held on Monday 27th April 2021, as an accurate record of the meetings.

For 6, Against 0, Abstained 0

<http://queencamelpc.org.uk/meetings/agendas-minutes-2021/>

12. Action Points from Previous Full Council Meeting (all other matters are on the Agenda)

QCPC were asked to write to SSDC, SCC and the MP regarding the discharge of sewerage into the River Cam by Wessex Water. This item was **DEFERRED** for report at the next meeting.

Council were asked to write to Abercomyn Solar Ltd. to negotiate a possible extension to the royalty scheme. **(See Item 22)**

13. Update on lease to Playing Field Committee (PFC) and Working Group

Item is **DEFERRED** to the Extraordinary Council meeting set for 20th May 2021.

14. Up-date on Neighbourhood Watch (NW) Scheme

Council expected to **receive** an update from Councillor Gettings, including information about Welcome Packs. This item is **DEFERRED** to the next meeting.

15. Flood Committee

Council **received** an update from Councillor Norman who reported that additional equipment has come to light. The full inventory will be circulated to councillors once complete.

16. Council Response to the Secretary of State (SoS) Development Consent Order (DCO) for A303

Council **received** an update from County and District Councillor Mike Lewis.

There is an offer of an alternative place to locate a turnaround and this is being followed up.

Councillor Norman suggested that it would be sensible for Queen Camel to be able to directly liaise with contractors while work is in progress. This would probably need to be set up through Highways England. Further information will be sought and reported at the next meeting.

17. Highway Works

a) Wales Bridge

No further information has yet arrived from the SCC highway/bridge team about the planned works to Wales Bridge.

b) Blackwell Road, Gason Lane and Traits Lane

SCC have responded to say that sat nav alteration is being pursued by them. QCPC will keep this under review.

18. A303 impact

Council **discussed** traffic impact in the village due to the development of duelling on the A303 road.

Councillors were made aware that previous traffic surveys have taken place and that it may be appropriate to consider a suitable time to re-run the survey to provide comparison data.

A discussion took place about the merit of the village pinch points. The problem is that the anticipated increase in traffic volume will cause traffic to back up either side of the pinch points. Stationery traffic with engines running creates the potential for high levels of pollution for residents and pedestrians. Associated noise and vibration may also be a problem. If the pinch points were removed and a 20 mph limit introduced that might help traffic to flow safely through the village.

Other councillors were in favour of keeping the pinch points and concerned about their removal. It was agreed that the situation needs review by a traffic expert.

Council RESOLVED to write to SCC Highways summarising the concerns in relation to the forthcoming road works and asking for a professional review. For 6, Against 0, Abstained 0

18. Footpaths and Environment

The QC Environment Warden (Councillor Grainger) **reported** that:

- Litter has visibly reduced. Thanks were given to the volunteer litter pickers.
- Bags of rubbish have appeared near litter bins. It is possible that people are using public bins to get rid of household rubbish. The situation is being monitored.
- Grass cuttings are still being tipped onto verges. In effect this is fly tipping. This item will be mentioned in *The Camels* magazine.
- Graffiti has appeared around the village on the old school, on the tin shed and at the pavilion. This is also being monitored, some has been cleaned.

19. Planning Applications

No new planning applications have been validated since the last meeting

20. Notification of Planning Applications

There were no new Planning Applications about which the Council has received Notification, but is not required to be consulted since the last meeting.

- 21. Previous Planning Applications**
No planning applications have been decided since the last meeting.
- 22. Solar Farm Extension Impact on Community Benefit Fund**
An email has been received from Abercomyn Solar Limited regarding extra community benefit following their application for extension of the solar farm from 25 to 40 years. QCPC are researching what level of community benefit has been applied to similar solar schemes when they are extended. An update will be given to the next meeting.
- 23. Correspondence (not included elsewhere in the Agenda)**
An email was received from Mr C S Bennett on 27th April 2021 under the QCPC Complaints Procedure relating to the short period of time available for parishioners to apply for co-option to the Council. This has been acknowledged and a full reply will be sent within the 14 days permitted under the policy.
- 24. Annual Village (Parish) Meeting**
Council discussed preparations for the Annual Village Meeting on Friday 17th September 2021
- No village meeting was permitted to take place last year and 2021 offers the opportunity to review the format of the community event. For resilience it was agreed that there should be two councillors on the working group who will need to attend an initial meeting date of 1st June at 6.30pm
- The Memorial Hall has already been booked for 17th September 2021.
- It was RESOLVED that Councillor Norman and Councillor Malton should form a working group with members of the community**
For 6, Against 0, Abstained 0
- 25. Community Benefit Fund (CBF)**
There are 5 positions for community members on the Panel, but Council received only 4 applications before the deadline in response to the first advert. The opportunity has now been re-advertised on the website from 30th April and will be in The Camels magazine too. The closing date for applicants is now 9th June 2021.
- Those who applied in response to the first advertisement do not need to reapply; their applications will automatically be considered.
- 26. Neighbourhood Plan (NP)**
Council urged everyone to vote in the Queen Camel Neighbourhood Plan Referendum on 6th May 2021.
- 27. SCC Land at Playing Field**
SCC have provided further information. Moving forward is dependent upon the decision to be made at the Extraordinary Meeting scheduled for 20th May 2021 so this item is DEFERRED.

28. Review the Parish Council Banking signatories

At least four signatories are recommended for resilience. It was agreed that members of the Finance and Risk Committee and the Chairman were the most suitable candidates.

Council RESOLVED that Councillors Baker, Brendon, Gettings, Grainger and Jones should be the bank signatories and that the clerk would organise the process with Unity Bank
For 6, Against 0, Abstained 0

29. Auditing of accounts

Council discussed the appointment of an internal auditor. They were satisfied with Lightatouch last year.

Council RESOLVED clerk to approach Tim Light of Lightatouch as the preferred internal auditor
For 6, Against 0, Abstained 0

30. To Authorise Accounts for Payment (March 2021)

Council noted receipt of £6,658 Solar Farm payment and payment of £279 for strimmer training.

Council RESOLVED to authorise the following payments:

- **S Hill March salary £81.57**
- **PATA payroll £23.85**
- **HMRC March tax £18.40**
- **Unity Trust service charge £18.00,**

For 6, Against 0, Abstained 0

Dates of next public meetings:

- 20th May 2021 at 7.00pm Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting (Playing Field), Main Hall, Memorial Hall
- 7th June 2021 at 7.30pm Finance and Risk Committee, Marples Room, Memorial Hall
- 17th June 2021 at 7.30pm Parish Council Meeting in the Main Hall, Memorial Hall

Meeting closed at 8.30

Elaine Owen
Parish Clerk

Signed..... *S. Gettings*

Date *11/05/21*

Meeting Recording deleted

Elaine Owen 14/6/2021