

**Draft Minutes of meeting of Queen Camel Parish Council on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2025  
at 7:30pm, Marples Room, Queen Camel Memorial Hall**

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Present - Councillors John Brendon (JB), Bryan Norman (BN), Phil Jones (PJ), Roy Lawrenson (RL) Phillip Hall, Dan Hewlett (DH) also Somerset Councillor Henry Hobhouse (HH) and Parish Clerk Cherry Toop  
4 members of the public were in attendance including Kathy Grainger (KG)

No matters were raised in the Open Session

**03/01** Apologies were **RECEIVED** from Somerset Councillor Kevin Messenger. It was **NOTED** that councillors Angus Davidson and John Carnegie were not in attendance

**03/02** PJ declared an Interest in agenda item 03/09 2.

**03/03** The minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> February 2025 were **APPROVED** and signed as a correct record by the chairman

**03/04** It was **AGREED** that the press and public shall be excluded from the meeting for 03/18 by reason of the Staff-in-Confidence nature of the item in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 s 1(2).

**03/05** HH reported Somerset Council has declared a balanced budget for 2025/2026. The rollover of the £100 million schools budget ends in April 2026  
Meetings have been held with National Highways regarding flooding at Podimore  
HH has been successful in reversing the phosphate policy which will enable free mitigation from Wessex Water on future planning developments. Concern was raised about the continuing discharge of sewage into the River Cam. HH advised Wessex Water will not address this until 2030

**03/06** One application was received for the Casual Vacancy and it was **APPROVED** to co-opt Harriet Chappell who joined the meeting as parish councillor

**03/07** The Clerk's Report was **RECEIVED** with no matters arising

**03/08 Highways and Traffic**

1. BN reported the A303 works are still not complete
2. With the exception of Church Path all reported problems have been repaired. It was reported that Blackwell Road has potholes which have been filled with stone. Work will commence on Wales Bridge on 22/04/2025 and is expected to last 8 weeks
3. The Sutton Farm Working Group chairman has received a disappointing and unsatisfactory response from Dawn de Vries at Somerset Council. HH suggested contacting Sarah Dyke MP to raise the concern about the Operators Licence at a parliamentary level and contact Mike Rigby regarding impact on highways
4. The drains and gutters in Church Path are still awaiting repair

**03/09 Footpaths and Rights of Way (ROW)**

1. PH reported on progress with maintenance of the footpath and ROW in the village
2. The footpath on Ministry of Defence land at Camel Hill was **DISCUSSED**
3. PH was **APPROVED** as **Parish Path Liaison Officer**

**03/10 Planning**

1. Application **25/00284/OUT** at Townsend Sparkford Hill Queen Camel Yeovil Somerset BA22 7PF for 1 dwelling with all matters reserved save Access was **DISCUSSED**. It was **AGREED** to support the application with a comment that it should be within the existing residential curtilage

2. JB will contact Rachel Moon at Somerset Council to check if all points have been considered on the West Camel Road development
3. As there has been no progress on the field next to the doctors' surgery this was **DEFERRED** to the next meeting

### **03/11 Playing Field**

1. The latest Somerset Council inspection report was **DISCUSSED**. PJ confirmed the gate has been removed and he will look at the back board
2. It was **AGREED** the PFWG will research a suitable replacement for the tractor
3. KG reported replacement of the Pavilion needs serious consideration. A levelling compound will be purchased as an alternative to the high cost of replacing the flooring in the shower room
4. KG reported owners continue to exercise dogs off-lead despite requests for them to be properly controlled and dog fouling remains a problem. Dog wardens will patrol the area but can only enforce action if offenders are caught. It was **AGREED** to improve the wording of notices to discourage dogs from being exercised on the playing field
5. The approved contractor can commence work on refurbishment of the car park on 07/04/2025 and the revised Contract will be signed 25/03/2025
6. It was **APPROVED** to appoint PJ, BN, DH as members of the Playing Field Development Working Group and Ian Conway has volunteered

### **03/12 Neighbourhood Plan Working Group (NPWG)**

1. It was **AGREED** that JB, BN and PH would be appointed as members of the NPWG with Rosemary Heath-Coleman and Terri Plummer. The date for the next meeting on 07/04/2025 was **NOTED**
2. Support for a 10% housing development Rural Parishes Policy will be **CONSIDERED** at the next NPWG meeting
3. The Road Safety and Speed Working Group will be **DISCUSSED** at the NPWG meeting

### **03/13 Flood Committee**

No report had been received from the Flood Committee

**03/14** The Annual Village Meeting 2025 will be advertised in the April and May edition of The Camels magazine and promoted on social media channels. Representatives from Countess Gytha and Hazlegrove School, Queen Camel Medical Centre, and the police as well as Sarah Dyke MP will be invited to speak during the first half of the meeting with an open arena in the second half for discussion of topics causing concern in the village

**03/15** The Clerk advised no response has been received from the Local Community Network (LCN) Link Worker to confirm the date and venue for the next meeting and minutes from the last meeting have not been circulated

**03/16** It was **AGREED** not to support the Safety of Lithium-ion batteries campaign or to consider any future requests

**03/17** It was **AGREED** that a letter of support will be sent to the Chairman of FOMAG (Friends of Mudford Action Group) with consideration of a grant for financial support towards judicial review of the Primrose Lane development after the next meeting on 05/04/2025

### **03/18 Finance**

1. Authorised payments since the last council meeting were **NOTED**

2. There were no unauthorised payments to approve
3. The bank balances as at 28/02/2025 of T1 account £9132.18 and Deposit account £63945.12 were **NOTED**
4. It was **AGREED** to carry forward the balance of the playing field budget and the approved quote for the tree work as reserves for the next financial year

**03/19** Two applications were received for the Parish Clerk vacancy. One has since withdrawn their application and an interview has been arranged for the other candidate. Interim Locum arrangements may need to be considered if a replacement is not in place before the Clerk leaves at the end of the month

Meeting closed 9.30 pm