Compton Abbas Parish Council

Minutes of the recorded virtual meeting of the Parish Council

on Wednesday the 16th December 2020 at 6.30pm

Present: Cllr T Clements – Chairman, Cllr J Low, Cllr J Coupe, Cllr S Warren.

In attendance: Mrs N Phillips (Parish Clerk) and Dorset Councillor Jane Somper

There were no members of the public present on Zoom.

There was a three-minute public consultation period. Nothing reported.

**23/20. Apologies for Absence**

Cllr J Guttridge could not join the Zoom meeting.

**24/20. Declaration of interest and dispensations**

Cllr T Clements declared a personal interest under agenda item 8 – Planning.

25/20. To appoint Vice-Chairman

Cllr Clements proposed Cllr Coupe for Vice-Chairman of Compton Abbas Parish Council, which was seconded by Cllr Low, all Councillors in favour. Cllr Coupe accepted the proposal.

RESOLVED: for Cllr Low to be appointed as Vice-Chairman for Compton Abbas Parish Council. (25/20 – no budgetary provision required).

26/20. Co-option for new members.

There were none.

27/20. Approve minutes from 16th September 2020 and matters arising.

The minutes were proposed by Cllr Warren and seconded by Cllr Clements, all agreed that the minutes are a true and accurate record of the meeting. They were duly signed by the Clerk on behalf of the Chairman.

RESOLVED: that the minutes were approved and signed by the Clerk on behalf of the Chairman (27/20 – no budgetary allocations required)

Matters arising:

* To agree circulated budget/precept for 2021/2022: The Chairman proposed that at the Parish Council’s precept remain the same as last year, set at £15,000.00, this was seconded by Cllr Low and all Councillors in favour.
  + RESOLVED: to set the precept/budget for 2021-2022 the same as 2020-2021 at £15000.00. (27/20a – budget)

The Chairman gave the following report on works completed since September 2020:

* The play area has had its annual inspection, where there where only minor matters raised, which will be dealt with in the New Year.
* The Parish Council have agreed with a contractor to keep the telephone box cleaned.
* The defibrillators cabinet was faulty, this has now been replaced.
* Two large new road mirrors have been put up to help see oncoming traffic.
* The hedge around Fanner Field has been cut back.
* Information has been put up in the phone box.
* The budget has been agreed and set for 2021/2022.
* A reserves policy has been put into place.

28/20. Bullet Points from the report given by Dorset Council Councillor J Somper: The full report can be obtained by the Clerk and a copy will be put up on the notice board.

Dorset Plan – the consultation will take place in January for 8 weeks. The final adopted plan will be used as guidance for planning in Dorset for about 15 years. There will be assess to the consultation online and hard copies will be available to read from libraries. Please make sure you have your say on the consultation.

Cllr Jane Somper thanked everyone who supported the Cosy Coats and Pyjamas project to supply costs and pyjamas to support families in Dorset. The items have been taken to Shaftesbury Children’s Centre, Wincombe Lane, Shaftesbury SP7 8PZ – open Monday-Friday 9.30am – 4pm. No appointment needed, or form filling families can just turn up and take what they need. It was felt that the access for residents would be better in Shaftesbury rather than the rural spots where drop offs were taken to. Please can you spread the word around to ensure everyone who might need these items knows about them.

Cllr Jane Somper is holding a seminar regarding super-fast fibre broad band on the 4th January, where the Deputy Leader of Dorset Council will be attending.

Cllr Jane Somper reported that she has received an update from Dorset Council, after the request from the Parish Council, regarding Gore Clump and Church Bank. Cllr Somper commented that it was her view that it made sense for the work on Gore Clump and Dinah’s Hollow to be done at the same time . - WSP have completed the preliminary design of a scheme for improvements to the Gore Clump junction and this was being reviewed by Andrew Brown before being passed to Paul Hannam’s team to prepare the final design and final cost estimate ready for issue to the construction team. The design review is one of the required actions before the officer leaves us to join BCP.

Cllr Jane Somper reported the Clump itself is registered as Common Land, which is making the project quite complicated and time consuming. As the proposed junction improvements will be built on part of the Common Land, we had to identify ‘exchange land’ to replace the land lost to the scheme. Some of the available exchange land includes the short section of road on the northern side of the junction that is being stopped up as part of the scheme. Unfortunately the stopping up has to be formally confirmed before this land can then be included in the exchange land. Cllr Somper confirmed DC is aware that one or more local equestrian groups may object to the stopping up, so Phil Crowther wants to be sure that we have all the evidence in place to support the stopping up, before taking this to the Magistrates Court hearing.

Cllr Jane Somper reported Church Bank – it has been agreed that Church Bank doesn’t look pretty, but the risks here are sufficiently mitigated from a safety point of view, so it is not proposed to do anything further.

The Parish Council asked that the Parish Councils are keep informed with regular meetings with Dorset Council Highways officers, regarding the road closure at Dinah’s Hollow, so that the Parish Councils can work with the officers to try and make sure issues that were experienced in the past are avoided. Cllr Somper undertook that Parish Council will be involved at every relevant stage in the road development.

Cllr Jane Somper maintained that the use of shortcuts by local traffic will be inevitable and that she will be requesting that money put aside for villages to mitigate damage that will be caused to the small road, lanes, hedges and houses whilst the these works take place. There will be huge disruption and it will be an unpleasant time she commented. Her concern was the work that was being done was the right work being done and everything has been looked at to see if there are other forms of mitigation which do not take as long.

Cllr Jane Somper undertook with Cllr Sherry Jespersen to ensure that both councillors will be doing as much as they can to ensure parish councils are brought along the whole way and that council officers are made aware of concerns.

Cllr Jane Somper returned to the subject of Gore Clump and stated that the good news is that there is only one final piece of information required before booking the Magistrates Court hearing which will hopefully take place in the New Year. The Chairman asked that the parish should be consulted on any representation made to magistrates on behalf of the Parish Council. Cllr Jane Somper advised the council that they should communicate any concerns directly to the officers and portfolio leaders dealing with the matter.

The Chairman stated that he had now got the distinct impression that the landowner has got an objection to this. We therefore cannot as a council decide until we have contacted that landowner. He did not want it minuted that the council has agreed to this. The Clerk confirmed his instruction.

29/20. Finance

To agree: Payment Schedule

The Clerk tabled the financial statement to the Councillors, with the Payment Schedule for October, November and December 2020 for the sum of £1685.33. It was proposed by Cllr Low and seconded by Cllr Warren, all agreed for the payments on the payment schedule be paid, the schedule was duly signed by the Clerk on behalf of the Chairman.

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RESOLVED: to pay the payment on the schedule to the total sum of £1685.33 (29/20 current account)



* To consider appointment of internal auditor – the Clerk will obtain a price for having the internal audit completed for 2020/2021.
* To sign statement of Clerks Salary review – the Parish Council agreed to increase the Clerk’s wage to Nalc scale Pay scale 27 = £16.29 an hour from April 2021 = £244.35 a month.

**RESOLVED**: to increase the Clerks salary to Nalc pay scale 27 as from April 2021 (29/20-wages).

* The Clerk had circulated the bank reconciliation to all Councillors. The bank reconciliation was agreed.
* To agree an additional saving account for money to be held for future projects. This was agreed and the Clerk will organise this with Lloyds Bank. **ACTION - CLERK**
* The Parish Council agreed to give the following donations from 2020/2021 budget. £100.00 donation to the Church Hall and £200.00 to Royal British Legion. The Clerk will arrange for the funds to be sent to the relevant persons. **ACTION - CLERK**

30/20. Planning: review of working group recommendations via emails and at this virtual meeting:

2/2020/1231/HOUSE – Oak Cottage - extension to garage – No objections

2/2020/1130/HOUSE - Old Tuckers High Street – single storey extension – No objections

2/2020/1119/HOUSE - Old Church Farm – erect one storey pool house – No objections

2/2020/1148/HOUSE - Glyn Farm – replace dormer windows – No objections

31/20. Chairman’s report.

There has been a lot of good progress in projects within the Parish and have achieved most of the projects in the first part of the financial year and within the funds available.

There are still a few projects that are being looked at in the New Year, which include a footpath from Compton Abbas to Fontmell and to make the Parish records digital. Dorset Council rangers have cleared the footpath next to the Church and fell that it does not require re-surfacing at this moment in time. The Parish Council are also looking into supplying Wi-Fi in the Telephone Box.

The Chairman wishes everyone a Happy Christmas.

32/20. Officers’ Reports

There was nothing further to report.

33/20. Clerk Report

A poster has been put on the Parish Council’s website, to remind people that the NHS will be in contact with people regarding having their vaccination against Covid.

Drones Lane from the junction with A350 Main Road into Compton Abbas, for about 120 meters will be closed on the 6thJanuary from 9.30 to 15.30 for up to 5 days, to allow BT safe working areas.

34/20. Items for next agenda and date of next meeting - Matters arising before the next meeting.

The Parish Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 17th March 2021- Via Zoom at 6.30pm.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 19.44

Signed…………………………………………………………………………………………

Website address http//: www.comptonabbas.org.uk

Should you wish to contact any Councillor please us the address

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