Compton Abbas Parish Council

Minutes of the recorded virtual meeting of the Parish Council

on Wednesday the 17th of March 2021 at 6.30pm

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

In attendance: Mrs N Phillips (Parish Clerk), Dorset Councillor Jane Somper and Keri from this is Alfred.

There were no members of the public present on Zoom.

*At this point, the Chairman asked if anyone present was going to record the meeting. The Clerk and Keri from This is Alfred will be recording for their records.*

*The Chairman reminded the Councillors that anything recorded at the meeting is available for public to view.*

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

The Clerk reported that Cllr Jude Coupe resigned from the Parish Council at the end of December. The Councillors and Clerk whished Jude all the very best for the future.

**35/20. Apologies for Absence**

There were none.

**36/20. Declaration of interest and dispensations**

There were none.

37/20. Co-option for new members.

There were none.

38/20. Approve minutes from 16th December 2020 and matters arising.

The minutes were proposed by Cllr Warren and seconded by Cllr Low, 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 (38/20 – no budgetary allocations required)

Matters arising:

Update on Parish records archives: The Chairman tabled costs involved in archiving the Parish’s records on to the Parish Council’s website. The national archives have agreed for the records to be made public as long at the website has a secure area that can only be accessed by giving members of the public a password. There are also a lot of records to be put on the website and Vision ICT have quoted a price of about £200.00 to do the work necessary on the site. Cllr Warren proposed that Vision ICT are instructed to do the necessary works on the website, this was seconded by Cllr Low, all member in favour.

RESOLVED: to instruct Vision ICT to do the necessary works on the website to ensure the Parish records are made available to the public and saved in a secure way.

Update on the phone box & the walking project:to consider adopting the power supply, providing lighting to the bus shelter and church approach and getting the BT contract for Wi-fi: The Chairman tabled the following proposals which will convert the phone box into a Wi-Fi hub for the Parish:

1. For BT to fit a telephone line for the sum of £140.00
2. To agree the quote for the electrician for the power supply to the bus shelter for the estimated sum of £250.00
3. To agree BT contract for Wi-Fi connection and agree contract with Green Energy for the electric supply.

Cllr Low seconded the proposal and all in favour.

RESOLVED: to agree the three proposals to convert the phone box into a Wi-Fi hub and to supply lighting to the bus shelter and church approach.

Cllr Warren is in discussions with a local artist who may be able to help with the mapping for the walks in the phone box.

To discuss Gore Clump: The Chairman reported that he had attended a meeting with local Parish Councils and Dorset Council officers, which Dorset Council Cllr Jane Somper had arranged, to discuss matters arising regarding Gore Clump. It has been suggested that the right-hand fork of the clump could be closed off for traffic. Dorset Council are working on solutions for the junctions and will arrange further meeting to the one held on March 10th to discuss their suggestions.

39/20. 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 a notice board.

COVID Update: as from February, the case rate in Dorset continues to fall, though we remain above the average for the South West and at the time of writing there are 68 people in hospital in Dorset with Covid. Dorset saw more deaths from Covid in the first five weeks of 2021 than in the whole of 2020 and during February we passed the sad landmark of 1,000 Covid deaths in Dorset. All of which confirms that we still have a way to go and a tough few week ahead.

Digital Hotline: A special hotline set up to help people with digital enquiries has seen the number of calls it received almost triple during the latest lockdown.

Operated by volunteer Digital Champions the hotline has helped people in the last month with a wide range of enquiries from using Zoom, to what device they can buy.

The hotline was set up by Dorset Council in March last year during the first lockdown when the Digital Champions were no longer able to help people face to face in libraries. The hotline – 01305 221048 is open Monday-Friday from 10am-midday.

National Census: Residents across Dorset have received a post card telling them about National Census Day on 21 March. All households will receive a letter with a code to enable them to complete the census online. If people prefer a paper copy, they can request one by phone; details will be in the letter. Support teams will be available to help residents complete the form and after 21st March a Census Field Team will follow up households which have not completer the questionnaire.

Dorset Council Budget for 2021-22: The council has increased its budget for next financial year to £313 million (from £304 million last year). The annual budget pays for all the services the council provides to residents, communities, and businesses.

How the budget will be funded

* Council tax increase – increasing council tax by just under 5%\* (just under 2% increase in general council tax, and just under 3% to fund adult social care – known as the ‘adult social care precept’). This will generate an additional £12m.
* Pay freeze for staff - 0% pay award for staff. For illustration, a 1% cost of living increase would have cost £1m.
* Further efficiencies and savings, while protecting essential services. This will save £27.7m.

\*This equates to the rate for a Band D property increasing from £1,694.79 to £1,779.39 - an increase of £84.60 for the year, or £1.62 per week.

Dorset Council - are providing £30.00 per child, food vouchers for Children in Dorset that have free school meals, over the Easter Holiday. The vouchers can be redeemed at local supermarkets. Dorset Council have also supplied activities over the Easter Holiday’s. Details can be found on Dorset Council website link:<https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/children-families/holiday-activities-and-food-programme/easter-in-dorset.aspx>

Recycling Centres – the local recycling centres have been inundated with visitors, if you can, please keep your rubbish until the Covid restrictions have been removed so that the centres are able to allow more people in at one time.

40/20. Finance

To agree: Payment Schedule

The Clerk had circulated financial statement to the Councillors in the month of January and February 2021 which were agreed by all Councillors via email. The Clerk tabled the Payment Schedule for March 2021 for the sum of £1242.15. It was proposed by Cllr Warren and seconded by Cllr Low, 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 £1242.15 (40/20 current account)

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

P/HOU/2020/00416 - Old Church Farm Chapel Hill – hard surface for tennis court – No objection.

P/HOU/2021/00038 – Netherdown - Erection of detached two bay garages with plant room, WC & home office above and an open-air swimming pool – No objection.

42/20. Chairman’s report.

The Chairman thanked Jude Coupe for all her hard work on the Parish Council and wished her and her family all the very best for the future. She will be missed on the Parish Council, but she continues to help within the village as a resident.

The Parish Council have continued to work in lockdown, working towards making history archies digital for everyone to enjoy, the walks project. Cllr Low stated that she is looking at routes to walk from the village to Fontmell Magna without having to walk on the main road. A landowner has been contacted to ask if they would consider a walkway across their land. Further discussions with the landowner will be arranged.

The Parish Council did not submit a response to Dorset Council’s local plan as there were no specific area referring to the Parish. The Chairman did submit his personal response.

The Chairman confirmed that the Parish Council had not increased their precept for 2021-2022, but on the brake down of Council Tax for residents it looks as if Parish Council had increased it. The increase is due to the tax base, which is produced from Dorset Council, which considers household that no longer pay Council Tax of any specific reason, therefore the loss off those households is put on to the households that pay Council Tax.

The Chairman asked Dorset Councillor Jane Somper to ask Dorset Council’s accounts department if they can submit the tax base rate to Parish Councils before December, as a lot of Parish Councils have already set their budget as they do not meet every month.

43/20. Officers’ Reports

There was nothing further to report.

44/20. Clerk Report and correspondence:

The Clerk asked for a Councillor in volunteer to do the play area inspections. Cllr Low volunteered to do the play area inspections. The Clerk will forward the relevant forms for completion.

All correspondence had been circulated to Councillors and actioned accordingly.

45/20. Items for next agenda and date of next meeting - Matters arising before the next meeting.

AGM - End of Year accounts – Co-option – Parish Walks

The Annual Parish Meeting, Annual General Meeting and Parish Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 19th May 2021- Via Zoom at 6.30pm.

There being no further business the meeting closed at

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

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

Should you wish to contact any Councillor please us the address

clerk@comptonabbas.org.uk