Compton Abbas Parish Council

MINUTES OF COMPTON ABBAS PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

on the 19th of April 2023

**6.30PM at Compton Abbas Church Hall, Compton Abbas**

Present: Cllr T Clements – Chairman, Cllr S Myall and Cllr R Lower

In attendance: Mrs N Phillips (Parish Clerk) – Dorset Councillor Jane Somper. There were two members of the public present.

**Public Consultation: There were none.**

22/34. To receive and accept apologies of absence.

Cllr J Low and Cllr Guttridge sent their apologies.

22/35. Declarations of interest and dispensations.

There were none.

22/36. Co-option for new members.

Mr John Crocker expressed an interest in joining the Parish Council. Mr Crocker has lived in the village for a few years and is interested in village matters. Cllr Lower proposed that Mr John Crocker is co-opted on to the Parish Council, this was seconded by Cllr Mayall, all members in favour.

RESOLVED: Mr John Crocker is co-opted on to Compton Abbas Parish Council (22/36 – no budgetary provision)

22/37. To approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting dated Wednesday the 14th of December 2022

The minutes were proposed by Cllr Myall and seconded by Cllr Lower, all agreed that the minutes are a true and accurate record of the meeting. They were duly signed by the Chairman.

RESOLVED: that the minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman (22/37 – no budgetary provision)

Matters arising:

Update on proposals for Church Hall – the Chairman reported that PCC had in principle agreed to give or lease the Church Hall on a peppercorn rent to the Parish Council for them to manage. The Parish Council has had a survey completed on the building, where there were a lot of major issues reported and due to the predicted cost to put these matters right, so that the hall could be rented out to other organisations, the Parish Council are not in a financial position to take responsibility of the building and its ongoing maintenance. The Chairman also reported that a resident in the village had offered to look at selling a piece of land to the Parish Council, to enable the Parish Council to put a temporary building on the land to use for a community meeting place, which could be funded by Grants. Unfortunately, the resident withdrew this offer. Whilst meeting at the Airfield with their manager and other representatives, along with the Chairman, Clerk and Cllr Lower, the Clerk asked if the manager of the Airfield would consider allowing the Parish Council to meet 5 times a year, free of charge, in their new meeting room. The manager agreed to this. The Parish Council will be able to meet at the Airfield and will be open to the public to attend the meetings. A date will be published once the building works have been completed at the Airfield.

To consider Grant applications 2022-2023 – there were none.

Update on King Charles lll coronation celebrations – the Chairman reported that there will be a jazz band, bouncy castle, donkey rides and much more organised for the Sunday on the Coronation. Please come along.

Response to Environmental Protection consultation of special areas of conservation – Cllr Lower had tabled the responses produced for the Environmental Protection consultation of special areas of conservation. The Chairman reported that it is important that the Parish Council respond to try and protect the special areas of conservation within the village and surrounding villages/landowner land. Mr Richie from Compton Abbas Airfield has signed the response, along with Compton Abbas and Twyford Parish Council, Mr & Mrs Parsons and hopefully Melbury Abbas and Cann Parish Council. Concerns were raised of why AONB and Dorset Wildlife Trust had not been sent this consultation, but thanks to the Chairman, they are now aware of it and have stated they will respond.

22/38. Report from Dorset Council Councillor Jane Somper.

Cllr Somper circulated her report, which can be found on the Parish Council website, or a copy can be obtained from the Clerk. Cllr Somper added the following information to her report.

* Due to wildlife surveys and legal process, the dates for the proposed works to Dinas Hollow has not been confirmed.
* There have been a very contentious planning application in a nearby village. The village has a Neighbourhood Plan and within that plan had agreed to development within the village. It has been noted that due to the recent completion of a development, the village has now fulfilled its commitment to housing numbers.
* Dorset Council have asked for landowners to put their land forward for consideration for development, to help them reach their housing requirements in Dorset.
* Iwerne Minster Neighbour Hood Watch team have arranged a pop-up section at the Village Club on Thursday the 20th of April from 10am to 12 noon. The following organisations will be attending, Dorset Police,

Dorset Councillor Jane Somper, Dorset Council Customer Services, Dorset Council Fostering Services,

Healthy Homes Dorset, Local Energy Advice Partnership, Shroton Oil Scheme, Iwerne Minster Defibrillator and First Aid Team, White Hart Link, AONB, Dark Skies, Weldmar Hospicecare. Refreshments will be provided.

22/39. Finance - To agree: Payment Schedule.

The Clerk had circulated payments each month since the meeting held on the 14th of December 2022. The payment schedules were agreed via email for payment.

The Payment Schedule for March 2023 for the total of £1700.80 was tabled. This was proposed by Cllr S Myall and seconded by Cllr Lower, all agreed for the payments on the payment schedule be paid, the schedule was duly signed Chairman.

RESOLVED: to pay the payment on the schedule to the total sum of £1700.80 (22/39 current account)

The following are the list of payment since 14th December 2023 to date.





The Chairman reported that whilst investigating the possibility of a community building, one was designed for the Parish Council for the sum of £250.00, but as the situation changed regarding the land, this was not longer required. The person who supplied the designs has now not sent an invoice. The Councillor agreed that as the Parish Council asked for these drawings and that we are able to keep the designs, the person in question should have his costs covered. It was agreed to pay £250.00 as a donation for the person’s time.

22/40. Planning: Review of applications received and responded to via email (DC=Dorset Council)

• P/FUL/2023/01218 - Compton Abbas Airfield – Erect 2 no workshop buildings – the Chairman, Clerk and Cllr Lower attending a meeting at the Airfield with their manager and other representatives of the owner of the Airfield and after obtaining clarification on concerns that had been raised, the Parish Council have no objection to this application. It was also noted that the Clerk had asked the Airfield’s Manager if they would consider allowing the Parish Council to hold their meetings in the meeting room, free of charge, for 5 meetings a year? The Manager agreed to this. This will now allow the Parish Council to hold their public meetings in a more suitable venue.

• P/FUL/2023/00709 - Incombe Head Blandford Road - Installation of micro solar farm – duly noted.

22/41. Chairmans report

Reiterated the details of the meeting held at the Airfield, Kings Charles III coronations celebration event for the village.

22/42. Officers’ Reports

Play Area – a volunteer to do the weeding ready for the coronation celebration weekend came forward.

Environment - nothing further to report.

Footpaths – Cllr Lower has circulated information on the very poor state of the byway from green lane to Compton Down. The Clerk will report this to Dorset Council, the AONB and National Trust.

Roads/village furniture and monuments – The Parish Council need a Handy Man to help with odds and ends to maintain the village furniture and monuments. Mr J Croker will forward information of a contact he has to the Chairman.

DAPTC – relevant information has been circulated, nothing further to report.

The Chairman reported that the A350 group is no longer running as it is not required due to Central Government confirming that the A350 as the main strategic route for the area for the North/South corridor, would not be approved.

22/43. Items for next agenda and date of next meeting. AGM/APM

*At this point the Parish Council, without public attendance, considered the Clerk wage scale for 2023/2024. Cllr Clements, proposed to award the Clerk a pay scale increase from 25 to 26 using the NALC Clerk wages scale proposals, this was seconded by Cllr Lower, all in favour.*

*RESOLVED; to award the Clerk a pay scale increase from 25 to 26 (Wages/2023)*

The Parish Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 17th May 2023, Compton Abbas Church Hall

There being no further business the meeting closed at 19.32.

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

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

Should you wish to contact any Councillor please

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