Compton Abbas Parish Council

MINUTES OF AN ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF

COMPTON ABBAS PARISH COUNCIL AND THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING on the 17th of May 2023

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

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

In attendance: Mrs N Phillips (Parish Clerk) - There were 5 members of the public

23/1. Election of Chairman and signing of Declaration of Office

Cllr Myall proposed Cllr Clements for Chairman 2023-2024 this was seconded by Cllr Lower, all members were in favour.

RESOLVED: for Cllr Clements for Chairman for Compton Abbas Parish Council for 2023-24 (23/1, no budgetary provision required)

23/2. To receive and accept apologies of absence.

Cllr J Guttridge and DCC J Somper

23/3. Election of Vice Chairman.

Cllr Myall proposed Cllr Lower for vice-chairman, this was seconded by Cllr Crocker, all members were in favour.

RESOLVED: for Cllr Lower for Vice-Chairman for Compton Abbas Parish Council 2023-24 (23/3, no budgetary provision required)

23/4. Parish Council legal documents.

To confirm there have been no changes to the adopted policies and procedures for 2021.

This was agreed.

23/5. To approve the minutes of the AGM 3rd May 2023

The minutes were proposed by Cllr Clements and seconded by Cllr Lower. They were duly signed by the Chairman.

RESOLVED: that the minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman (23/5 – no budgetary allocations required)

23/6. Approval the governance statement and annual accounts.

The Clerk tabled the following:

• The annual governance statement 2022/23

• The end of year accounting statements 2022/23

• The Asset Register 2022/23

• The Bank reconciliation 2022/23

Confirmed: There were no conflict of interest with BDO LLP

These were proposed by Cllr Myall and seconded by Cllr Lower, all members agreed to approve the end of year accounts and the governance statement for the external auditor. The Chairman duly signed the governance statement. The Clerk confirmed that the internal audit has been completed with no actions required.

RESOLVED: to approve the governance statement and annual accounts for 2022-2023 (23/6 no budgetary requirements).

*At this point the Chairman closed the AGM and opened the Monthly Meeting.*

Members of the public expressed their concerns that the Parish Council are not in a financial position to take responsibility of the Church Hall building and its ongoing maintenance at this time. The members of the public suggested that they could try and get the word around that if the hall is not used, it maybe lost for the Parish for public use. Ideas of what the Hall could be used for was tabled and also to look into fund raising ideas for the necessary repairs needed. It was also suggested that members of the Parish could look at a committee hall committee, which could approach the Church to see if they would mind renting the hall out to the committee at a peppercorn rent. The Parish Council supported these ideas and look forward to an update at the next meeting.

A question was raised of when the AONB Dark Skies representative will be visiting the village, as a previous Councillor was going to arrange this. The Councillor in question has now left the Parish Council and another Councillor will be asked to take this over to ensure that the village has a visit for the AONB Dark Skies representative.

23/7. Declaration of interest and dispensations.

There were none.

23/8. Approve the minutes 19th May 2023 and matter arising

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 (23/8 – no budgetary allocations required)

No matters arising that had not been previously resolved.

23/9. Officers and Chairman’s report

Chairman’s Report – The Parish Council started and ended the year with 5 councillors we may soon be able to co-opt towards our maximum allowance of 6. This is a very good record for any parish council but particularly to be welcomed in these financially challenging times. My thanks to those who served during the year and to those who came on board and still plan so to do.

During the year we reviewed 14 major planning applications including the first from the airfield under its new ownership. We reached a permanent solution on the future of the A350 as a strategic road route which was achieved in partnership with numerous other parishes and the assistance of our MP Simon Hoare. We made a detailed response to the consultation by the Office of Environmental Protection into protected areas to which we have received their thanks and acknowledgment that we were one of 60 replies nationally. The Special Area of Conservation and the Sites of Specific Scientific interest within and around the parish are what makes Compton Abbas so very special, and we should do all that we can to conserve them for future generations.

Within a twelve-month period, we have held Jubilee and Coronation Picnics in the Paddock in partnership with the PCC and both were well attended. We were incredibly lucky with the weather on both occasions.

We recently decided not to progress with the responsibility for the Church Hall and as a result we have made arrangements that future parish council meetings are likely to be held at the airfield, Our thanks to the management for this kind offer.

Cllr Lower reported the following: Watery Lane - Rather overgrown, and the gully/ditch adjacent to The Clock House is congested with weeds and flowing onto the path. Further along, there is a detached oak limb balanced on smaller branches across the path. For safety reasons, this should be removed in case it fall. The Clerk will report these issues to Dorset Council’s ranger’s department. The Clerk also confirmed that the concerns raised over the very poor state of the byway from green lane to Compton Down, was reported to Dorset Council, the AONB and National Trust. Dorset Council have responded and forwarded the concerns on to the relevant department for their action. The Chairman confirmed that some scheduled works are to take place in Watery Lane in the very near future.

Planning -

P/HOU/2023/02499 – Lower Lane House – Erect Lean-to – no objection.

The officers’ roles will be confirmed at the next Parish Council meeting once, a new member has been co-opted on to the Parish Council. In the meantime, the following was agreed:

Play Area – Cllr Myall

Footpaths – Cllr Lower

Environment – Cllr Crocker

Planning – Full Council

23/10. To receive a report from Dorset Councillor Jane Somper – the report had been circulated in April.

23/11. Finance - To agree: Payment Schedule.

The Clerk had table the Payment Schedule for April 2023 for the sum of £988.66. This was proposed by Cllr Lowers and seconded by Cllr Myall, 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 £988.66 (23/11 current account)

23/12. Clerk Report.

The Clerk asked if the Parish Council agree to put the grass cutting for the village, out to tender, offering a 5-year contract and to ensure the contractor holds the relevant insurances. This was agreed. A schedule of works will be produced and an invitation for local organisations to quote for the contract will be put up on the notice boards. Action - Clerk

23/13. Items for next agenda and date of next meeting. Consider power supply to Fanners Field

*At this point the Chairman closed the Parish Council meeting and opened the Parish Meeting*

23/14. To receive reports or comments from local organisations and resident of the Parish

* Request for more play tools to be available for the children to play in the sand pit. It was agreed to look into purchasing a box and play tools for the children. Cllr Myall will liaise with the resident for what tools would be suitable.

The Parish Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 16th August, venue to be agreed.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 19.23.

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

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

Should you wish to contact any Councillor please

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