Compton Abbas Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF

COMPTON ABBAS PARISH COUNCIL on the 16th of November 2023

 **6.30PM at Compton Abbas Airfield, Compton Abbas**

Present: Cllr T Clements – Chairman, Cllr R Lower, Cllr F Keene, Cllr Z Ellison-Wright, and Cllr J Crocker

In attendance: Mrs N Phillips (Parish Clerk) - There was one member of the public.

Public consultation – A member of the public asked the Parish Council if they are aware of any programme of events scheduled for the Airfield for the next year and will the Airfield be able to give any assurances that there will not be an increase in aircraft flying over the village? Cllr Lower reported that she had attended a meeting with representatives from the Airfield and other local Parish Council. Cllr Lower reported that the Airfield have not advertised their dates yet, but Aero Legends are advertising that they will have the Spitfire or Harvard aircraft flying 32 days at Compton Airfield, these will 8 four-day weekends, from April to October, weather dependent. An Airshow is also being discussed. Cllr Lower asked if any members of the public that have any concerns over the aircraft flying over the village, to please report these to the Clerk at Clerk@comptonabbas.org.uk or Cllr Lower at cllr.lower@comptonabbas.org.uk , so that they can be discussed with the Airfield.

23/29. Apologies for absence – Cllr S Myall and Dorset Council Councillor J Somper

23/30. Declarations of Interest and dispensations – there were none.

23/31. To agree the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting dated Wednesday the 16th of August 2023.

Cllr Lower proposed that the Minutes were a true and accurate record, this was seconded by Cllr Keene, all in favour. The Chairman duly signed the minutes.

RESOLVED: to agree the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting dated the 16th of August 2023 (23/31 – no budgetary provision required)

Matters arising.

Update on Church Hall – Cllr Keene reported that the Church Hall is being used on a Monday from 11.30am to 1pm for coffee morning and has been used for an Italian evening, which was very successful.

23/32. Report from Dorset Council Councillor Jane Somper

The report is available on the Paish Council website, or a copy can be obtained by the Clerk.

23/33. Finance - to agree Payment schedule for October 2023

The Clerk had tabled the Payment Schedule for October for the sum of £1095.64. This was proposed by Cllr Keene and seconded by Cllr Lower, all agreed for the payments on the payment schedule be paid, the schedule was duly signed Chairman. The Payments for August and September had been authorised by email.

 RESOLVED: to pay the payment on the schedule to the total sum of £1095.64 (23/33 current account)

 

Agree precept and budget – the Clerk had circulated the proposed precept and budget. The Parish Council have agreed not to increase the Parish Council precept for 2024/2025. Cllr Lower proposed that the precept be set at £15000.00 this was seconded by Cllr Ellison-Wrights, all were in favour.

 RESOLVED: to keep the precept at £15000.00 for 2024/2025.(budget/precept)

23/34. Planning: Review of applications received and responded to via email (DC=Dorset Council)

P/HOU/2023/05269 – Lower Lane House – replace roof lights and chimney – DC have approved this application.

P/HOU/2023/06116 – Lower Lane House – construct drive – erect workshop/garage buildings/single storey side extension –The proposed new workshop building includes three 'conservation' rooflights which will increase the overall number at the property and concerns were raised over an additional vehicular access, as there are matured hedges that will need to be removed.

P/TRC/2023/04932 – Glyn House – various tree works – DC have approved this application.

P/FUL/2023/05597 – Gourds Farm – replace roof on agricultural building – concerns were raised over the protentional light pollution caused in a dark sky area from the skylights that are proposed to be used. It was suggested that the applicant consider blinds to prevent this. The Chairman and Cllr Lower to arrange a site visit.

23/35. Chairman’s Report – the Chaiman reported the following:

It is usual at the last meeting of the calendar year to reflect on what has been achieved in the previous months. In general, we have had an excellent year. Highlights include:

* The redevelopment of the airfield and the establishment of constructive communication sources.
* The making of a considered response to the Government consultation on protected areas including the AONB.
* We made a major contribution to the welcome result on the potential development of the A350 as the main North South strategic route.
* We carried out a survey of the Church Hall and investigated alternatives.
* We negotiated the refurbishment of Watery Lane (with thanks to Clock House)
* Hosted a successful Summer Coronation party,
* We are beginning to achieve wider community engagement,
* We suffered no detrimental planning issues,
* We have a full Parish Council
* The grass mowing contract has been tendered and awarded,
* The Phone box internet has been repaired (cleaning is still outstanding)
* The finances are in a healthy state,

Challenges for 2024 will include:

* A decision by the PCC on the Church Hall and its ongoing role
* Cleaning and maintenance of the village assets
* Airfield air-day and other events
* A potential general election

23/36. Officers’ Reports

Cllr Crocker reported the following.

Playground: The site and equipment is due its annual re-treatment of wood preservative - this should have taken place in the late summer / early autumn. Materials have been purchased and are stored on site and the hedging that was obstructing access to the surrounding fence has been cleared. It has proved difficult to find available labour to carry out the task, and quotes from those who were interested have been unrealistic. (£920.00). However, someone has now been found willing to carry out the work for a more realistic price, (£490.00) but recommends that it's not carried out till next Spring due to the wet weather. A decision needs to be taken at the meeting if this is acceptable and whether or not to accept the quotation. This was agreed by all Councillors.

There is also an official inspection due of the site in the coming months, and this may lead to further work required plus additional expense and may highlight the need to replace the site surface with rubberised flooring.

Dark Sky: Steve Tonkin the advisor to the International Dark Skies Reserve has been booked to come and give a talk at the village hall on January 11th. Weather permitting, this will be followed by some assisted star gazing in Fanners Field. The AONB are helping to produce the flyers which will be distributed door-to-door after Christmas. Hopefully Steve will be able to provide some educational material regarding lighting etc that we can upload to Facebook to let people know what they can do to maintain / enhance our status.

Church Hall: The Chairman confirmed that a Christmas Party will be held for the Parish at the Church Hall on the 20th of December.

Footpaths – The access from the road to the Melbury Hill bridleway at Gourds Farm is constantly under muddy water. Apparently, there was a rainwater drainage gulley in this location that was covered in tarmac by Highways when they last resurfaced the lane. The Clerk will speak to Dorset Council Highways department. Action – Clerk

Trees – Cllr Ellison-Wright will be monitoring the trees in the village with TPO’s on and report any concerns.

DAPTC – The Clerk has circulated all information from DAPTC and a new login information for Councillors will be sent.

Watery Lane - muddy but hopefully will be sorted out when the Clock House works are complete. The rainwater gully at the side of the lane is blocked and now under water again. After clearing it in August, the Highways Officer thought there is probably an old collapsed culvert under the road.

Green Lane to Spread Eagle Hill car park. Surface remains very degraded, uneven, and slippery. Cllr Lower has a couple of conversations recently, with walkers and cyclists, who have observed that when they meet motor cyclists, they appear unwilling to slow down or stop. Dorset Council have agreed to look at the surfacing.

Footpath N60/7 from village to Main Road. Local resident (who use the path daily) have done a lot of pruning in order to maintain access. They have left the branches at the bottom of the path in front of the garages. The Clerk has asked for these to be collected by Dorset Rangers.

Downs. After speaking to local resident, a couple of weeks ago, they have an arrangement with the National Trust to graze cattle on the Downs from May to end of October annually. Unfortunately, there have been a number of incidents of dogs chasing the cattle this year. This obviously is very dangerous and can lead to injury or death. This is not acceptable and people walking their dogs must take responsibility by keeping their dogs on leads. The Chairman and Cllr Lower will discuss this matter with the relevant parties to consider producing notices. Action – Chairman and Cllr Lower

Village furniture and monuments – The Chairman looking into getting the phone box and bus shelter cleaned inside. Action – Chairman

DAPTC- Nothing further to report

23/37. Clerk’s Report – Correspondence. All correspondence has been circulated.

Cllr Crocker asked the Clerk to chase Royal Mail regarding replacing the damaged post box. Action - Clerk

23/38. Items for next agenda and date of next meeting. Information on Elections

The Parish Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 27th March 2024 at the Church Hall.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 19.57.

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

Website address http//: [www.comptonabbas.org.uk](http://www.comptonabbas.org.uk). Should you wish to contact any Councillor please

 use this address: clerk@comptonabbas.org.uk