Compton Abbas Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF

COMPTON ABBAS PARISH COUNCIL on the 14th of August 2024

**6.30PM at Compton Abbas Church Hall**

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

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

A minute silence as observed for Dean McCormack who was killed in the village on 6th June 2024.

24/14. Apologies for absence – Dorset Council Councillor J Somper

24/15. Declarations of Interest and dispensations – there were none.

24/16. Co-option for New Councillor

24/17. To agree the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting dated Wednesday the 7th of May 2024.

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

RESOLVED: that the minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman (24/17 – no budgetary allocations required)

**Matters arising**

**Update on Summer Party in the Paddock –** it was felt the Summer Party was a successful and all enjoyed the day. Funds raised from the Party will be donated to Social Hub, Air Ambulance and the Church. This is a slight variation from the arrangement agreed in advance of the party. A note would be sent to the PCC. **Action – Clerk**

**Update on the Church Hall funding for repairs –** The Social Hub group are obtaining a report for works that is necessary to keep the Church Hall up and running.

**Update on dog waste bin –** the Clerk has a meeting with Dorset Waste Partnership on the 29th of August to confirm the siting of the new bin, to be on the verge next to the entrance of the recreation area.

**Update on Air Show, Aero Legends activities and Compton Abbas Airfield –** Cllr R Lower gave the following detailed report on the Airfield.

Cllr Clements and Cllr R Lower attended a meeting at the Airfield in late January where we met Ben Perkins from Aero Legends. The Parish Council were promised safety mitigations on the Downs and regular updates relating to any event planning that affected the parish. This didn’t happen and we received no further consultation or communication. I understand the overall event organisation did not run smoothly from Dorset Council’s perspective.

Applications to Dorset Council for the traffic management plan and temporary traffic regulation orders were received long past the required deadline and no stakeholder consultation by the event organiser took place. DC Traffic did not approve the first application following negative feedback from parish councils and residents. A second application was submitted, which was approved. We were later informed that the signage we requested for the village would be included as part of the traffic management plan and no longer have to be paid for out of our precept.

On the 7th of June Cllr R Lower wrote to the CAA outlining the parish council’s concerns regarding the safety of the proposed event and lack of communication from the organiser and received a reply from the Display Lead for General Aviation. He confirmed that the CAA permission for the Airshow had been granted to the Flying Display Director in April. The FDD was copied in and forwarded a response to address the issues raised. Dorset Councillor Jane Somper organised a Teams meeting on 8 of July with John Newcombe, Chair of SAG, which Cllr R Lower attended along with neighbouring parish council representatives. At this time there were still matters outstanding that concerned the Safety Group. The Airshow went ahead on 10 and 11 August. It is strongly believed the Parish should have had, through prior consultation, an understanding of the circuit and how, what and where aircraft would be flying and the level of speed and noise, so we could have forewarned our villagers and possibly had the opportunity to ask for some mitigations. Given the amount of activity that took place over the village, it is Cllr R Lowers opinion that the Emergency Plan and Risk Assessments should have been shared with the parish council beforehand. Those residents most impacted were overflown at low level repeatedly throughout the event. Some of our most vulnerable elderly residents were very distressed at the level of noise and duration of the event. Others did enjoy watching the aircraft from their gardens. As far as we are aware, there were no incidents involving aircraft, traffic, spectators or damage to the Downs. It is evident that the modest size of this airfield means that any aircraft displays inevitably spill out well beyond their own footprint and take place within and beyond the village boundary. Because of the impact of the Airshow on the village, the Parish Council would expect to be invited to contribute to the post event debrief with Dorset Council in whatever format it takes, meeting or written submission. Cllr R Lower will liaise with DC Cllr Jane Somper to provide feedback for this, date tbc. There has been much correspondence and work over the last couple of months and Cllr R Lower is grateful to DC Cllr Jane Somper for liaising with DC officers and keeping me regularly updated and forwarding information to the relevant officers on my behalf. Cllr R Lower is also grateful to Cllr T Clements for his guidance and support and to the AMG for their valuable input. DC officers across multiple statutory departments were required to put in many hours of additional work to ensure the Airshow and wider event ran as safely as possible. Included in this were multiple submissions from the parish council. The members of the public present and fellow Councillors thanked Cllr R Lower for all her hard work.

***At this point the Chairman withdrew standing orders***

Cllr R Lower reported on the general matters with the Airfield. Various maters were discussed with the new General Manager on the 30th of May, which included concerns raised by residents and Compton Abbas Airfield Monitoring group regarding the Spitfire Events and the lack of communication regarding the Air Show. There have been further meetings held and a future meeting is to be scheduled to raise more concerns, especially why complaints from residents have not been responded to~~o~~. Cllr R Lower wrote again to the CAA on 2 August to enquire whether the Spitfire events held regularly at the Airfield require similar permission to the Airshow. Aero Legends, who operate the aircraft which take passengers on experience flights, promote aerobatics above the Airfield (which also spill over the village) as part of the experiences. A replay confirming that, although not the same as a multi display airshow event, the fact that the Spitfire events are advertised and open to the public, means that they are flying displays **and they should have** **Air Navigation Order Article 86 Permission from the CAA was received**. It was confirmed that the relevant department will follow up with Aero Legends.

Following a request from residents in March the parish council have obtained information on planning applications, section 52 and 106 agreements which have been checked and the following statutes seem to have been breached.

1. Section 52 Planning Act 2008 (weight restriction conditions) – Dorset Council enforcement team have dealt with an aspect of this breach.

2. Section 106 Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (unauthorised change to a Noise Preferential Route)

3. Section 15 Equalities Act 2010 (Disabilities discrimination)

4. Section 86 Air Navigation Order 2016 (flying displays)

5. Section 132 Highways Act 1980 (unauthorised marks/signs on the highway)

6. Section 14 Road Traffic Regulations Act 1984 (unauthorised use of a closed road)

The Chairman suggested that the Compton Abbas Airfield Monitoring group should decide whether to use the evidence given to them to report the lack of enforcement by Dorset Council to the ombudsman for their attention and action. In this matter a private individual has no more weight than a parish council. As the absence of enforcement by Dorset Council was unfair to Compton Abbas residents who must abide by planning and other statutes he would step down at the end of the financial year.

**Propose to purchase a replacement shelter in Fanner’s Field –** It has been confirmed that planning permission is not required to replace the shelter in Fanner’s Field. Quotes and pictures had been circulated to the Councillors who in principle, agreed that a replacement shelter should be erected in the recreation area. The cost will be no more than £9370.00. It was agreed that a notice is put on the Village Facebook page asking for resident’s comments. **Action – Clerk and Cllr Crocker**

**Proposal to replace Parish Council Notice Board –** The chairman had circulated details of cost and designs for a replacement noticeboard for the village. After debate, Cllr R Lower proposed that the replacement noticeboard is purchased, this was seconded by Cllr Ellison-Wright, all in favour.

**RESOLVED:** to purchase a replacement noticeboard for the sum of £1038.54. (24/17 – village furniture)

**Proposal to support Parish Newsletter –** a proposal has been put forward for the Parish Council to contribute towards the cost and support distributing a newsletter for the Parish. After debate, it was agreed the Councillors would be able to produce information for the newsletter and held distribute. The Parish Council would donation cost towards the production of the newsletter.

**RESOLVED**: to support a Newsletter for the Parish, and to allocate, as a donation, towards the cost of producing the newsletter. (24/17a – grants/donations)

**Proposal for safety of the byway –** Cllr Lower raised concerns over the safety and condition of the Capstich byway in the Parish and suggested a traffic regulation order should be placed on the byway. After debate, it was agreed to arrange a site meeting with the rights of way officer to discuss this proposal in more detail. **Action-Clerk**

**Discuss the post box that was removed from the village by Royal Mail –** The Clerk had confirmed that Royal Mail will not be replacing the post box that was removed due to damage. It was agreed for the Clerk to ask again, as it is felt that the post box needs to be replaced as one post box in the village is not sufficient.  **Action - Clerk**

**To consider Christmas Party for the Parish –** Cllr Ellison-Wright asked if the Parish Council would consider supporting a Christmas Party for the Parish. After debate it was agreed that if a Christmas Party is arranged, the Parish Council would donate funds toward the costs.

A*t this point the Chairman introduced Christine O’Grady and Venessa Stokes from Wessex Internet*

*Christine O’Grady -Community Engagement Manager – Wessex Internet, introduced herself and gave the following information to the public:*

*• Wessex Internet is a local company based in just outside Iwerne Minster who have been awarded the contract from Central Government to supply the fibre to rural areas, to try and ensure that all rural areas have access to broadband.*

*• Works are under way organising fibre around the village using small trenches to lay the fibre to a connection point, which will be later linked to properties that sign up for Wessex Internet. This should be started later in the year and if anyone is interested in a faster broadband connection, please put your name down, either at the public meeting on the 2nd of November or on their website. They are also happy to come out and see residents that are not able to attend the public meeting.*

*• Wessex Internet can provide broadband to the Village Hall and the Church, at massively reduced cost as a gesture of goodwill for the village, for at least 10 years. Wessex Internet will also consider supporting small community benefit projects.*

24/18. Planning and tree application

• P/TRC/2024/02606 – Meadow View – tree works – noted

• P/LBC/2024/02285/86 – 18 Sandpit Lane – convert garage – comments were sent to Dorset Council Planning

24/19. Report from Dorset Council Councillor Jane Somper

Dorset Councillors full report is available on the Parish Council website. The following are bullet points:

Dinah’s Hollow Slope Stabilisation: A report with a recommendation on works to be carried out at Dinah’s Hollow will be put to the Cabinet on July 9th. Link to report. Dinah’s Hollow Slope Stabilisation final.pdf dorsetcouncil.gov.uk)

A question has been put forward to Cabinet and specifically the Cabinet Member for Highways, Cllr Jon Andrews who I also met on site very recently.

‘QUESTION FOR AGENDA ITEM 8 CABINET MEETING 9th JULY, 2024 – Councillor Jane Somper – Beacon Ward

Should Cabinet give approval for the works at Dinah’s Hollow, Melbury Abbas in the Beacon Ward as outlined in the report, the shift in all vehicles using the A350 while the C13 is closed will be serious and require some important mitigations along the A350, a road classified as a strategic route that runs through the Beacon Ward. This will need addressing before the works begin at Melbury Abbas. The surrounding road network will also need careful consideration in any diversions as well. There is an advisory one-way system for HGV’s along the C13 and A350 and in places along the A350 the road is narrow with sharp bends and unsuitable for HGV two way traffic. There are several particular pinch points along the route on the A350 where I request to meet with highways officers and the Cabinet member on site to ensure that measures are put in place, such as temporary traffic lights and/or other highway reliefs to prevent collisions and unnecessary jams where if two HGV’s meet they cannot pass. Cllr Andrews witnessed such a potential collision on his recent visit to my ward. I also request that funding is ringfenced for repairs to the A350 that may well be required due to the significant increase in vehicle usage once the works at Dinah’s Hollow are completed and that a schedule of these works is published and prioritised. Along with this we know that local residents will use their own know diversion routes but there is also likelihood of HGV’s and lighter vehicles using these ‘side roads and back routes’ which will also need some mitigation to prevent blockages and may also need repairs carried out once the works are completed. These roads are Tower Hill in Iwerne Minster, Sutton Hill in Sutton Waldron, Mill Street in Fontella Magna. It may also be necessary to consider Foots Hill at Cann, and I request that officers assess the other possible routes that may be used by local residents. Also important is a requirement to confirm that all signage, including the weight activated sign at Cann is in full working order and that large signage at Blandford roundabout and in Shaftesbury have very clear messages on the routes and diversions.

It will be essential to me as the ward member to have regular updates from the highways team in order to keep residents and parishes up-to-date with a single point of contact within the highways team to deal with any problems that arise from the closures and diversions. As the impact of any road closures over a long period of time will clearly have a disruptive impact on the wider area of my ward, I request a public meeting in order for residents to have their questions answered from expert highways officers. Due to the serious disruption to the area and all the villages that sit along the A350 it is my responsibility as Beacon Ward member to ensure that everything is done to allow free flow of traffic so residents can continue to go about their lives safely on this road and that the requests made today are secured and confirmed. ‘There has also been a recent planning application to allow trees with TPO’s within the hollow to be removed in order for the safety works to be carried out. Planning application: P/TRT/2024/03586 - dorsetforyou.com (dorsetcouncil.gov.uk)

Compton Abbas Airfield Air-Show 10-11th August 2024

Meetings have been held with residents who have concerns around the safety of the event to be held at Compton Abbas Airfield and run by outside organisers Aero Legends (AL). Meetings have also been held with the manager of the airfield between myself and Cllr Lower from Compton Abbas Parish Council to discuss these concerns.

Dorset Council has made changes to some library opening hours. Link here with the details Library opening hours from July 2024 - Dorset Council

Trial Reduction in Car Parking Charges in SOME Dorset Council Car Parks

Reporting Any Highways Related Problem - Highways problems can be reported on the link below. You will receive a reference number so the report can be tracked. You can also upload photographs of the issue concerned and pinpoint on the interactive map. Some of the reporting you can do as follows; pothole, blocked drain, flooding, abandoned vehicles and fly-tipping Report a problem on a road or pavement - Dorset Council <https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/roads-highways-maintenance/report-a-problem-on-the-road-or-pavement>

24/20 Finance - to agree Payment schedule for July 2024

The Clerk had circulated the Payment Schedule for May, June which were agreed via email and tabled July’s for the sum of £1487.83. This was proposed by Cllr Clements 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 £1487.83 (24/20 current account)

24/21. Chairman’s Report – nothing to report.

24/22. Officers’ Reports

Play Area - Cllr Crocker reported the following:

The wood treatment of the equipment and fencing has been completed. In addition, the following items raised in the inspection report have been addressed:

- lump of concrete removed - signage replaced- site weeded - furniture repaired - bolt head covers obtained (to be fitted) - fence posts secured- rubber matting attached to boat - new wood chip applied.

Environment - Cllr Crocker reported the following regarding Dark Skys

* Have written to Steve Tonkin on several occasions enquiring as to the status of our application and for confirmation that it will actually be processed. To date have not received a reply and Steve Tonkin is currently on leave till August 20th.
* Have also made a complaint in a feedback form which was asked to be completed as to the way our application has been handled. If no progress is made by the end of August Cllr Crocker will make a more formal complaint to Linda Nunn, the director of Cranborne Chase.

Trees – Cllr Crocker reported the following:

* A fallen branch was removed from blocking the road in Twintown and DCC contacted regarding the damaged tree. They responded to say that the tree was the responsibility of the housing association that administered the properties and was not under their care. One of the residents spoke to the housing association on this matter and was informed that they no longer maintain the trees but will replace it if it becomes diseased.
* Cllr Crocker attended a course for volunteer tree wardens with DCC on Sept 19th.

Footpaths – Cllr Lower reported the following:

* Broken latch at end of Watery Lane remains outstanding.
* Cllr B Lower and Cllr R Lower removed a tree branch that had fallen across the footpath on Watery Lane and have regularly cut back foliage along the length of the bridleway but there remains quite a lot of overgrowth on either side towards the road.
* With the leaf canopy making the east-west bridleway quite dark, historic badger activity, including a large hole on the path, is less visible. Cllr B Lower has volunteered to fill this one in with soil to make it less of a hazard.

DAPTC- Nothing further to report

24/23. Clerk’s Report – Correspondence. All correspondence has been circulated.

24/24. Items for next agenda and date of next meeting. TBC

The Parish Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 20th of November 2024 venue to be agreed.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 19.50.

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