Compton Abbas Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF

COMPTON ABBAS PARISH MEETING on the 7th of May 2024

**6.30PM at Compton Abbas Church Hall**

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

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

The Chairman congratulated his fellow Councillors on being elected member for the Parish Council.

1. **Apologies for absence – Dorset Councillor Jane Somper**
2. **Retiring Chairman to convene the meeting**
3. **Annual reports of the Councils officers and local organisations**

**Church Hall representative** - **Cllr Z Ellison-Wright reported the following:**

The Social Hub continues to be well attended on Monday mornings. The septic tank has been replaced, so the toilets are now in use again. The next PCC meeting, when the Church Hall is likely to be discussed, is May 16th. Thanks went out to the Parish Council for supplying the Church with mobile toilets for an event, due to the Church Hall’s toilets not working at the time.

**Play Area** – **Cllr J Crocker reported the following:**

The work to treat the wooden structures in the play area is now due to go ahead but not until after June 24th when our contractor is available - later than hoped certainly but still prior to the school summer holidays.

Once the treatment has been completed the Parish Council can look to replace the sand in the pit and possibly the carpet of wood chippings. It is also being looked at to remove the weedy mound alongside the play area before the summer holidays which will need covering at least temporarily to prevent the weeds from re-colonising the area.

Maintenance will be carried out on the items listed in the recent inspection report before the summer holidays at a date to be agreed.

**Footpaths - Cllr R Lower reported** that the Clerk has chased up the broken latch on the gate at the end of Watery Lane bridleway

**Planning – will be covered under Parish Council meeting**

**Airfield representative – Cllr R Lower reported the following:**

Following the last meeting and at Parishioners’ request, Cllr R Lower wrote to Ben Perkins at Aero Legends but received no reply to date. Cllr R Lower subsequently wrote to Peter Peers-Johnson, Head of Flight Safety Standards at the Airfield and received a reply by return. The points were addressed:

* Without fail, the Aero Legends pilots (Spitfire and other aircraft) have always adhered to the published noise abatement procedures. As you know, the airfield monitors for strict compliance.
* To alleviate some of the Spitfire and Harvard noise production, we are talking to Aero Legends with a different type of procedure (in instances when both aircraft depart in formation).
* The runway departure is based on wind direction. There is a significant flight safety risk should aircraft depart with the wind on their tail. Therefore, we cannot mandate any departure that does not adhere to operational and flight safety requirements.
* The Harvard always operates at a reduced power setting (as a good neighbour) and no further reduction is operationally possible.
* Aerobatics performed over the village are illegal and they would also be in breach of airfield regulations. If identified this activity would not be tolerated.

The Airfield needs real time reporting in order to identify and deal with any non-compliant behaviours. If the observer contacts the airfield at (or close to) the time of the alleged infringement, we can execute a timely action. Historic anecdotal reports, lacking verifiable data, are very difficult to investigate. The Airfield has GPS data at its disposal and the village is clearly visible to the Ops staff when in their seating position. It was also suggested that the Parish have their own WhatsApp group which can be used to report issues and [flightradar24.com](http://flightradar24.com) tracks aircraft leaving the Airfield and flightpath taken. It will also give the registration number so could be used as a real time aid. Members of the public have agreed that a working party should be formed and Cllr R Lower agreed to be the Parish Council’s representative on the said working party.

**Fanners Field – Cllr J Crocker reported the following:**

Following publicity that Dorset CC were offering ongoing grants for tree and hedge planting / maintenance, Cllrs Lower and Crocker met with Anthony Brown, a professional hedge layer with a view to regenerating the hedge along the northern boundary of the field. This has been neglected for some time and has grown too tall to be cut by the contractor along most of its length. The quotation for the work is due shortly and will be circulated on arrival at which point a decision can be made on a future course of action.

**Trees - Cllr J Crocker reported the following:**

Will be working as a volunteer on a scheme run by Dorset Council with the support and assistance of The Tree Council and the Dorset National Landscape as the Tree Officer for the Parish. This will ensure that the Parish Council has access to the latest council legislation, policies and procedures regarding trees and hedges for dealing with planning applications.

**DAPTC – the Clerk circulates information from DAPTC that is relevant to the Parish Council**

**Village Furniture – Cllr T Clements,** asked Cllr J Crocker to ask the contractor who is doing the wood treatment at the play area to also treat the bus shelter.

**Dark Skys – Cllr J Crocker reported the following:**

There's been a disappointingly slow response to our application for Dark Sky Friendly status, however the village lighting inspection will now take place during the late evening of May 21st, 2024. In addition, a request for a star gazing event last month was turned down due to the later sunsets and we were recommended to apply again in the Autumn.

**4. Any matters arising – nothing to add**

**At this point the Clerk opened the AGM**

**24/1. Election of Chairman and signing of Declaration of Office**

Cllr J Lower proposed Cllr Clements for Chairman 2024-2025 this was seconded by Cllr J Crocker all members were in favour.

**RESOLVED**: for Cllr Clements for Chairman for Compton Abbas Parish Council for 2024-25 (24/1, no budgetary provision required)

**24/2. To receive and accept apologies of absence.**

DCC J Somper

**24/3. Election of Vice Chairman.**

Cllr T Clements proposed Cllr R Lower for vice-chairman, this was seconded by Cllr Z Ellison-Wright all members were in favour.

**RESOLVED:** for Cllr Lower for Vice-Chairman for Compton Abbas Parish Council 2024-25 (24/3, no budgetary provision required)

**24/4. Parish Council legal documents.**

To confirm that having met the conditions of eligibility as defined in the Localism Act 2011 and SI 965 The Parish Councils (General Power of Competence) (Prescribed Conditions) Order 2012 will be agreed. It was confirmed that the Clerk holds the Cilca qualification and that all of the Parish Councillors are elected members.

To confirm there have been no changes to the adopted policies and procedures for 2023.This was agreed.

**RESOLVED**: That Compton Abbas Parish Council have met the conditions of eligibility for the General Power of Competence. (24/4 – no budgetary requirements)

**24/5. To approve the minutes of the AGM 17th May 2024**

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

**RESOLVED**: that the minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman (24/5 – no budgetary allocations required)

24/6. **Approval the governance statement and annual accounts.**

The Clerk tabled the following:

• The annual governance statement 2023/24

• The end of year accounting statements 2023/24

• The Asset Register 2023/24

• The Bank reconciliation 2023/24

Confirmed: There were no conflict of interest with BDO LLP and the publication of public rights will be advertised

These were proposed by Cllr T Clements and seconded by Cllr R 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 2023-2024 (24/6 no budgetary requirements).

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

**24/7. Declaration of interest and dispensations.**

There were none.

**24/8. Approve the minutes 27th March 2024 and matters arising.**

**Update on Speed watch –** Cllr Z Ellison-Wright reported that the speed watch locations are being finalised and then training will be underway. A suggestion was raised for the Parish to have a Speed Indicator Device (SID) the Clerk reported that there is a cost for a survey which needs to be completed before putting up a SID device and that Dorset Council will not supply the SID, the Parish Council will have to purchase it and be responsible for it upkeep and moving it on a regular basis. It was agreed for the Clerk to supply cost and information for the next Parish Council meeting. **Action - Clerk**

**Update on Summer Party in the Paddock –** after debate, it was agreed to hold the Summer Party in the Paddock on the 10th of August 2024. The Chairman and Cllr Z Ellison-Wright will lead this project.

**Update on Post Box –** the Clerk confirmed that Royal Mail have confirmed that the broken post box will not be replaced, as there are other post boxes in the village.

**To agree a decision on Dog Waste Bin Fanners Field to purchase and empty –** The cost to purchase a large mulit purpose green bin is £292.42 plus vat and for Dorset Waste Partnership to empty it £7.00 each empty(so depends on how many times it is emptied, weekly for fortnightly. After debate, Cllr T Clements proposed to purchase the bins and get it in place, outside Fanner Field, this was seconded by Cllr R Lower, all-in favour.

**RESOLVED:** for the Clerk to order the multipurpose bin for Fanner Field and deliver to the Chairman. The Clerk will liaise with the Councillors of how many times the bin should be emptied for the SLA with Dorset Waste Partnership (24/8 – Village Furniture Project)

**Update on Special Educational Needs Centre in Twyford –** Cllr Z Ellison-Wright and Cllr J Crocker attended a meeting at the up-and-coming Special Educational Needs Centre in Twyford. The Centre is supported by Dorset Council by and run by an independent company. It will be available for children from primary school age up to 16 years old. At any one time, there will only be the maximum of 12 children in the centre, which will be open during the day only. There may be special events where the grounds maybe used for overnight camping, but these will be a one off. The drop off times are staggered which will help with traffic flow through the village. It is hopeful that it will reach those children who are not able to attend mainstream school to ensure they get some education and support.

**Update on real time monitoring of airfield activity over village –** This was covered under the Parish Meeting, but in addition, it was agreed for Cllr R Lower to obtain the risk assessments for the events at the airfield.

**Update on proposal for shelter in Fanner’s Field –** Cllr J Crocker reported that he has been looking at cost for a suitable shelter in Fanner’s Field. The cost are coming up rather high, around ten to twelve thousand pounds. The Clerk will double check with Dorset Council planning team on what can be put in place without planning permission and suggested that the shelter could be included in the over all project for the Play Area refurbishment project rather than trying to obtain grants of them separately. This was agreed.

**24/9. Officers and Chairman’s report including planning.**

**•P/HOU/2024/01230** – Lower Lane House – New Drive, workshop/garage building – Objected as there does not seem to be any changes from the previous application, where the Dorset Council refused it.

**•P/HOU/2024/01476 –** Willow Cottages – side extension and solar panels **–** support it with notes to comply with East Compton Conservation Area Appraisal.

**•P/LBC/2024/02285/6** – 18 Sandpit Lane – convert garage for living accommodation – no objection but comments were noted.

**24/10. To receive a report from Dorset Councillor Jane Somper – nothing to report.**

**2411. Finance - To agree: Payment Schedule.**

The Clerk had table the Payment Schedule for April 2024 for the sum of £1683.07. This was proposed by Cllr T Clements and second by Cllr R 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 £1683.07 (25/11 current account)



Cllr R Lower agreed to be added to the Parish Council Bank Account as a signatory.

**24/12. Clerk Report.** Nothing to report

**24/13. Items for next agenda and date of next meeting. TBA**

The Parish Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 14th August 6.30 at the Church Hall.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 19.52

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