Compton Abbas Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF

COMPTON ABBAS PARISH COUNCIL on the 20th of November 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) – Dorset Councillor Jane Somper.

**Public Consultation period –** a representative from the local Airfield Management team thanked the Parish Council for their support in the past year with suppling information on conditions for the approved original planning application for Compton Abbas Airfield. Clarification had been sought that the section original 106 and 52 conditions, which are on the original and subsequent applications are still valid and are still enforceable. It was noted that the group are not against the Airfield’s operations and know that a lot of residents in the village support the Airfield, they just want to ensure the Airfield are compliant with the conditions set out and for the flyers to ensure that they are aware of the conditions of flying over the villages.

24/25. Apologies for absence –there were none

24/26. Declarations of Interest and dispensations – there were none.

24/27. Co-option for New Councillor – there were none.

24/28. To agree the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting dated Wednesday the 14th of August 2024.

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

RESOLVED: that the minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman (24/28 – no budgetary requirements)

**Matters arising**

Update on dog waste bin – waiting for Dorset Waste Partnership to confirm where the bin needs to be, for them to empty – this has now been confirmed – the Clerk confirmed that Dorset Waste Management will install a wheely bin at the entrance to the recreation ground, which will be supplied free of charge and emptied at the same time as the residents bins are, at no cost. The Clerk confirmed that the owner of the property opposite the entrance of the play area had no objection to the bins being put at the entrance to the recreation ground.

Propose to purchase a replacement shelter in Fanner’s Field – a notice was put out on Facebook asking for comments on the proposal to replace the shelter in Fanner’s Field, which was discussed at the meeting in August. There was more support than against, so as stated in the minutes from August meeting the contractor was instructed to install the new shelter, which has now been completed.

Proposal to replace Parish Council Notice Board – the notice board has been replaced. There is another notice board in Twyford that is not repairable that also needs to be replaced. The cost to replace this board is for £772.00 plus delivery and VAT. Cllr R Lower proposed that the notice board is replaced, this was seconded by Cllr Z Ellison-Wright, all in favour.

 RESOLVED to purchase a new notice board for Twyford for the sum as above (24/28a – village furniture)

Proposal to retract agreement to Gore Clump stopping up order and request from British Horse Society regarding revised scheme – the Chairman gave details on the original agreement in 2021 for the stopping order. After debate it was agreed to retract the agreement from the Parish Council for the stopping up order, and discuss a new proposal once received and in principle the Parish Council support the British Horse Society with their concerns.

Proposal concerning Sections 52 and 106 planning agreements with Compton Abbas airfield – the Chairman

tabled information on communication with the Arfield Management Group (AMG) and Dorset Council officers as well as other legal advisories regarding the Section 52 and 106 agreements with Compton Abbas airfield. It was proposed that the Parish Council support the AMG in ensuring all covenants contained within the Section 52 and 106 agreements are valid and enforceable, by paying for an independent lawyer to confirm that this is the case, as Dorset Council enforcement team have not confirmed this to be so. The cost to the Parish Council will be £600.00. The Clerk had not seen the relevant communications regarding this matter, so could not confirm the legal right for the Parish Council to spend public money on donating these funds to the AMG for the use of legal representation. After debate it was suggested for the Clerk to firstly speak to Dorset Council’s planning enforcement team to investigate why they felt the 106 agreement was poorly drafted and much of it can not be enforced. The clerk would confirm the correct procedure for the parish council before the engagement of the lawyer could be made. Action - Clerk

Adoption of village Dark Sky status – Cllr J Crocker confirmed that the Village has now adopted the Dark Sky Village Status. The Village have been given a 4-star award for the Dark Skies.

Update on proposal for safety of the byway – Dorset Council rights of way and highways team are looking into ways to improve the byway – which is registered as an unadopted road.

24/29. Planning and tree application

(Part of Footpath 11, Compton Abbas) Public Path Diversion Order 2024 – the Parish Council objected

P/VOC/2024/05200 – Guys Marsh Prison – erect house blocks and workshop – no objections

P/TRC/2024/06168 - Edelweiss Cottage – various tree works – no objections

P/MPO/2024/06000 – The Old Forge, Twyford – Discharge of planning obligations – no objections

24/30. Receive Chairman and Officers reports:

The Chairman reported the following:

It has been a massive year of progress. The year started with Cllr Ellison-Wright’s Cello recital, at the Church which a sell out and the parish council supported it financially.

Cllr Crocker worked hard or the Dark Skies project, Fanners Field and the Shelter project, obtaining a new grass cutting contractor. Cllr R Lower worked with the AMG and attended meetings at the Airfield as the Parish Councils representative. Elections took place, where a new Councillor joined Cllr B Lower.

The Summer party in the Paddock was a highlight of the year.

New notice board has been erected. The annual Christmas party has been arranged.

All of the above has been achieved through one thing – selflessness. That is why so much has been achieved and also why it is hard to attract and retain Parish Councillors. It has been a privilege to be in the company of the Councillors and had a few things been different, more could have been achieved. Thank you all for all that you have done.

Cllr J Croker reported the following:

Dark Skies - The final part of our application process, the after-dark parish inspection, was carried out on September 17th after which the parish was awarded Dark Sky Friendly Village accreditation of the scheme. The award can be made at a three-, four- or five-star level - we achieved the four-star level based on our meeting the necessary criteria.

There will be a formal presentation early in the new year at a date still to be decided.

In addition, we will host a star gazing evening on February 20th with astronomer(s) from Cranbourne Chase leading, further details to be circulated after Christmas.

Fanners Field - Thanks to Cllr Clements, organising a working party, the eastern edge of the playground was cleared of weeds and levelled in October despite the inclement weather, and new sleepers laid to define the edge of the play area, as required by the recent independent report. This area has now been covered with a weed-suppressing membrane to which bark / wood chips will be added when the site can sustain delivery vehicles. The conclusion of this work enabled our contractors - Poulters of Shaftesbury, to erect the new gazebo adjacent to the cleared area which was finished on November 13th. Work to finish the new fencing along the play area still needs to be done as does possible remedial work to the grass surface alongside the playground.

The anticipated relaying of the northern boundary hedge has not taken place largely due to poor conditions and expense; this is something that will have to be carried over to the next quarter.

Trees - There were two mature trees brought down by wind over the past quarter, one in the field at the end of Watery Lane and another in Twyford at the end of the lane out past the reservoir. Both were dealt with by the landowners. There was also a hazardous bough suspended over the path on Watery Lane which the rangers removed following an intervention by Cllr Lower.

Cllr Z Ellison- Wright reported the following:

Village Hall Report - The Social Hub have provided an update that is that there is a strategy in place for repairs and fuller restoration of the building and that social events are being planned for 2025. They will share plans with residents through the newsletter in due course.

Cllr R Lower reported the following:

Footpath report - No concerns or reports of problems received from members of the public.

We reported a large detached oak branch that was in danger of falling onto the bridleway in Watery Lane. North Dorset Rangers attended the following day and removed it.

Permissive footpath checked and ok.

Airfield report - Cllr Jane Somper arranged a Consultative Committee Meeting on 9th October which I attended on behalf of CA pc. Also in attendance were Graham Duggan from DC, reps from Ashmore, Melbury and Fontmell pcs, Shaftesbury Town Council, Jason Hammond, Airfield Manager and Keith Perkins, owner of Aero Legends. Matters arising from the Airshow were discussed as were the Airfield’s procedures with regard to the Noise Preferential Routes. It was agreed there will be two such meetings next year, one in Spring before the season starts and one in Autumn, at the end. The Airfield’s calendar of events is now published on the website, which includes an Airshow in August. Some organisational changes have been made for this event and Mr Perkins informed attendees that all parking will be offsite next year. The Parish Council received requests from several parishioners to correspond with Dorset Council about possible breaches of some of the Airfield’s legal covenants, which we have done.

24/31 Report from Dorset Council Councillor Jane Somper

Dorset Council are working on their budget for 2025-2026. There are strategic areas that require a lot of budgets, which is Adult Services and Children services, and other strategic services such as roads that need to be covered. There are none strategic services that will be looked at for savings, as Dorset Council have a 5 million pound deficit.

Changes to planning procedure involving the ward members, where as before the ward members were sent applications as a consultee, which enabled Town and Parish Council to request the ward members to ask for applications to be seen by full planning committee if was felt necessary, this is no longer a service the ward member can do. Therefore, if Town or Parish Councils feel that they wish to go against an application and want it to be seen by full committee, the must ensure their objections are detailed and relevant.

Dorset Council have now changed their full council meetings to be held in the evenings, which may clash with Parish Council meetings, so she may not be able to attend on such a regular basis.

Dorset Council made a mistake in not notifying local residents and authorities of their proposal to remove the TPO’s on the trees down Dinah’s Hollow. A public meeting will now be held on the 29th of November at Melbury Village Hall. If you wish to attend, please contact Cllr Somper for the link for the invitation, as there are limited numbers.

Cllr Somper will be requesting temporary speed restrictions along the A350 when the C13 is closed, as it will be closed for many months. This is not happening yet, and Cllr Somper will keep the Parishes updated.

24/32 Finance - to agree Payment schedules

The Clerk had circulated the Payment Schedule for August, September which were agreed via email and tabled October’s the sum of £7928.46. This was proposed by Cllr J Lower and seconded by Cllr J Crocker, 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 £7928.46 (24/32 current account)

The Chairman signed the bank reconciliation for October.

The Clerk had circulated the proposed budget/precept for 2025-2026. Cllr T Clements proposed that the Precept for 2025-2026 will remain the same as 2024-2025 at £15,000.00, this was seconded by Cllr J Crocker, all in favour.

 RESOLVED: to set the Parish Councils precept at £15,000.00 for 2025-2026 (24/32a budget/precept)

24/33. Clerk’s Report – Correspondence. All correspondence has been circulated.

24/34. Items for next agenda and date of next meeting – Update on matters arising

The Parish Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 26th of March 2025 at Compton Abbas Church Hall time 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