Compton Abbas Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF

COMPTON ABBAS PARISH COUNCIL on the 23rd off July 2025

 **6.30PM at Compton Abbas Church Hall**

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

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

**Public consultation period** - Mr John Nelson who is a member of the Shaftesbury Sustainability Co-ordination group introduced himself. He gave details of a consultation on The Dorset Local Nature Recovery Strategy that Dorset Council are asking for comments on. Mr Nelson gave a more detailed report on why he feels it is important for Councils to have their say on the consultation, highlighting Wildlife Corridors to support Biodiversity within Compton Abbas Parish. The web page to view this consultation is dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/nature-recovery-strategy.

**25/14. To receive apologies for absence.**

Dorset Councillor J Somper sent her apologies

**25/15. Declaration of interest and dispensations.**

There were none.

**25/16. Co-option for new Councillor**

There was none present who expressed an interest in joining the Parish Council.

**25/17. Approve the minutes 21st of May 2025 and matters arising.**

The minutes were proposed by Cllr Z Ellison-Wright and seconded by Cllr J Crocker. They were duly signed by the Chairman.

**RESOLVED:** that the minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman (25/17 – no budgetary allocations required)

**To adopt amended Financial Regulations and Standing Orders –** the Clerk had circulated the amended Financial Regulations and Standing Orders to the Councillors. Cllr B Lower proposed the amended documents are adopted, this was seconded by Cllr R Lower, all in favour.

**RESOLVED**: to adopt the amended Financial Regulations and Standing Orders 2025 (25/17 – no budgetary requirements)

***at this point, the Chairman moved Speed Watch up the agenda to allow Dorset Police Speed Watch Co-ordinator to speak***

**Speed Watch –** Cllr Ellison-Wright introduced Maria, Community Speed watch Trainer. It was noted that Dorset Police had completed speed watches along the A350, in Compton Abbas Parish. This resulted in a large number of speed enforcement being sent, as there were a large number of speeding vehicles through the Parish. These figures will now be used as evidence that speed calming measures need to be put in place. The Clerk has spoken to the Road Safety Officer at Dorset Council, who is looking at areas where a pole can be placed, to hold a Speed Indicator Device (SID), to try and help reduce the volume of speeding vehicles. As this has now been highlighted as a serious problem, the Parish Council will take the next steps in applying to Dorset Council for permission to erect a SID device, which involves a speed survey and agreeing the site. The Parish Council will be required to fund the survey, supply, and erect the poles, supply and manage the SID device.

**To agree officer’s roles –** this will be reviewed once new Councillors have been co-opted.

**Party in the paddock –** there has been a lot of work to organise the Party in the paddock for local residents to attend on Saturday the 9th of August from 2-5pm. The flyers have been produced and put up, there will be lots to do and entertainment for all. There will also be food and drink stores. Please come along and bring a chair.

**Gore Clump Safety Project –** Cllr R Lower reported that the Parish Council were consulted on the proposal for a permanent Traffic Regulation Order at the end of June. Clarification was sort on whether the no right turn onto the C13 from the southern spur would apply to all vehicles. It was confirmed this will only apply to vehicles over 3.5 tonnes in the first instance. We also asked whether horse riders would be permitted to use the verges on the northern spur. It was confirmed that full use of the northern spur, including the verges, would remain for horses and pedestrians. Confirmation that the Parish Council support the scheme to be advertised and it is now on Dorset Councils website (see below). It will be open for statutory public consultation at the end of July.

Due to the sensitivity of the landscape, as well as its ecological significance, our engineers have been developing an unintrusive layout design while still achieving significant safety benefits.

Proposed vehicle movement restrictions:

• one-way northern spur (no entry from Boundary Road)

• no right-turn into northern spur

• no right-turn from southern spur onto C13 for vehicles over 3.5 tonnes

Although the Traffic Regulation Order consultation includes a right turn ban from the southern spur for all vehicles, DC have applied to the Secretary of State for a supplementary plate under the no right turn for a 3.5 tonne weight restriction. This would allow vehicles under 3.5 tonnes to turn north or south from the southern arm.

DC starting statutory consultation on the proposed vehicle movement restrictions at the end of July. When live, you will be able to share your thoughts and comment via our <https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/roads-highways-maintenance/traffic-management/traffic-regulation-orders>

If approved, the movement restrictions would be combined with lining and signing improvements:

• double white lines to reduce inappropriate overtaking

• ‘slows’ & rumbles to improve awareness of the junction

• Southern Spur junction markings to ‘square up’ junction

• Boundary Road junction markings to reduce northern spur vehicle speeds; northern spur to give way and priority for southern spur

• speed gateways to emphasise 40mph speed limit

• review of existing road signs and introduction of new warning signs

• vegetation clearance to enhance visibility at southern spur

These improvements would provide the opportunity to be monitored for effectiveness and built-upon as necessary in the future to ensure our aim of improving safety is met.

**25/18. Planning and tree applications**

**P/HOU/2025/03142** Erect two storey side extension with dormer window (Demolish Conservatory). The Reading Room Cottage (supported)

**P/FUL/2025/03788** Erection of agricultural building, Land at Hawkcombe Lane (supported)

**25/19. Officers and Chairman’s report including planning.**

**Cllr R Lower reported on footpaths** - No reports of concerns or complaints had been received to date. Cllr B Lower has strimmed the entrance to Watery Lane. The Parish Council received a request from GLEAM (Green Lanes Environmental Action Movement) to submit evidence to the APPG (All Party Parliamentary Group) for “outdoor recreation and access to nature.” We were asked to report evidence that the recreational use of green lanes in the parish by motor vehicles hinders other users’ access to green spaces.

Cllr R Lower contacted the area NT Ranger to ask whether they had problems or ever received negative feedback about the use of off-road vehicles on Capsditch which runs through NT land. To date Parish Council has not been contacted about this. The Downs are all dedicated open access and there are several alternative routes which do not permit vehicles. Councillors therefore concluded that the use of green lanes by motor vehicles in Compton Abbas parish does not currently hinder access to the countryside by other users.

**Cllr J Crocker reported the following -**

**Dark Sky -** Available dates for dark sky gazing for this winter have been released. Since they are booked up quite quickly, we should definitely decide if we want to try one more time to organise one where the weather cooperates, this is to be decided.

**Fanners Field –** Has been assured that the person who offered to work on the hedge, will be doing so this year.

**Playground -** The extra bark has now been distributed and whilst it does not quite reach to the edge, the general depth of the overall covering is sufficient to spread it completely over the whole site**.**

**Cllr Z Ellison-Wright reported on the Village Hall** - The Social Hub continues to thrive, and Monday mornings are well attended. An application to form a Charitable Incorporated Organisation is being submitted imminently, and a bank account has been set up.

**25/20. To receive a report from Dorset Councillor Jane Somper – Dorset Councillors report will be available on the Parish Council’s website.**

**25/21. Finance - To agree: Payment Schedule.**

The Clerk had table the Payment Schedule for June 2025 for the sum of £1215.34. This was proposed by Cllr B Lower and second by Cllr Z Ellison-Wright, 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 £1215.34 (25/21 current account)



Cllr R Lower signed the bank reconciliation.

**25/22. Clerk Report. nothing to report**

**25/23. Items for next agenda and date of next meeting. Co-option, Christmas Party, Budget, Website – others to be confirmed.**

 The Parish Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 22nd of October 2025 at 6.30 at the Church Hall.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 19.25

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