Compton Abbas Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF

COMPTON ABBAS PARISH MEETING on the 21st of May 2025

**6.30PM at Compton Abbas Church Hall**

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

In attendance: Mrs N Phillips (Parish Clerk) - There were no members of the public - Dorset Councillor Jane Somper

**Annual Parith Meeting**

1. **Apologies for absence – there were none**
2. **Retiring Chairman to convene the meeting – Cllr R Lower convened the meeting**
3. **Annual reports of the Councils officers and local organisations**

**Dorset Council Councillor report: Cllr Jane Somper tabled her report, which can bee seen on the Parish Council’s website or request a copy with the Clerk.**

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

**Village Hall Report:** The social hub on Mondays continues to be well attended, especially the plant sale last week. There are also regular pizza nights, yoga and sounds for the soul. Fiona Keene organised a very successful concert in the church in May. Quotes have been obtained for necessary renovations to the hall. It was also noted that the recent plant sales raised £190.00.

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

The existing equipment area has now been covered with BS Standard bark chippings. In addition, the new railings alongside the edge of the new area are being worked on. Our thanks to Alex Fairchild should be recorded for his help and assistance in both these tasks.

There still remains approximately half of the newly exposed area uncovered by chippings. It's estimated it would take three more bags to complete this task at a cost of £462.00. Cllr J Crocker proposed to purchase the additional chippings required, this was seconded by Cllr Ellison-Wright and all in favour. This resolution will be forwarded to the Parish Council meeting.

**Footpaths –Cllr R Lower reported the following -** No reports of problems. I have trimmed back some overhanging growth. The permissive footpath is clear. It was also noted that it looks like someone has been putting down weedkiller along Watery Lane.

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

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

Cllr Ben Lower and I attended the Press launch of the Airfield’s new ‘Lore of the Air’ smokehouse restaurant on Friday 16th May. The weather was lovely, there were several vintage aircraft to view, and the restaurant and bar were well attended by visitors.

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

The ruts alongside the play area will be filled in with topsoil and seeded with grass when rain can be expected.

There are no issues with the grass cutting contract.

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

'Trees for Dorset' will be back in touch with us in mid to late summer to let us know how many black poplar cuttings will be available. We've currently expressed an interest in taking two, but we may increase this when we publicise the scheme later in the year.

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

**Village Furniture – Nothing to report.**

**Dark Skys – nothing to report.**

**Speed Watch – this matter will be discussed under the Parish Council meeting**

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

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

**25/1. Election of Chairman and signing of Declaration of Office**

Cllr Z Ellison-Wright proposed Cllr R Lower for Chairman 2025-2026 this was seconded by Cllr J Crocker all members were in favour. The acceptance of office was signed.

**RESOLVED**: for Cllr R Lower for Chairman for Compton Abbas Parish Council for 2025-26 (25/1, no budgetary provision required)

**25/2. To receive and accept apologies of absence.**

There were none

**25/3. Election of Vice Chairman.**

Cllr R Lower proposed Cllr J Crocker for vice-chairman, this was seconded by Cllr B Lower, all members were in favour. The acceptance of office was signed.

**RESOLVED:** for Cllr J Crocker for Vice-Chairman for Compton Abbas Parish Council 2025-26 (25/3, no budgetary provision required)

**25/4. 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, except for the Financial Regulations, which has been updated regarding digital payments. This was agreed.

**RESOLVED**: That Compton Abbas Parish Council have met the conditions of eligibility for the General Power of Competence and to adopt the amended Financial Regulations. (25/4 – no budgetary requirements)

**25/5. To approve the minutes of the AGM 7th May 2024**

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

**RESOLVED**: that the minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman (25/5 – no budgetary allocations required)

**25/6**. **Approval the governance statement and annual accounts.**

The Clerk tabled the following:

• The annual governance statement 2024/25

• The end of year accounting statements 2024/25

• The Asset Register 2024/25

• The Bank reconciliation 2024/25

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

These were proposed by Cllr J Crocker and seconded by Cllr Z Ellison-Wright, 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 2024-2025 (25/6 no budgetary requirements).

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

**25/7. Declaration of interest and dispensations.**

There were none.

**25/8. Approve the minutes 26th of March 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 (25/8 – no budgetary allocations required)

**Update on Play area – this was not on the agenda, but was agreed to be approved from the Parish Meeting –**

Cllr J Crocker proposed to purchase the additional chippings as required, to the sum of £462.00, this was seconded by Cllr Ellison-Wright and all in favour.

**RESOLVED**: to purchase the additional chippings as required for the sum of £462.00 (25/8 – Play Area)

**Update on Summer Party in the Paddock –** Cllr Z Ellison-Wright confirmed that the date for the Summer Party is the 9th of August 2025, and flyers will be delivered around the Parish. There will be a bouncy castle, music, pizza van, Jenga, and lots more.

**To consider changing BT and Electric supply to the phone box.** Concerns had been raised over the increasing cost for providing WIFI, just for the pull in area outside the phone box and to supply electric to the bus shelter. After debate it was felt that public money should not be used to provide such a small service for the village. Cllr R Lower proposed so to cancel the BT line rental/broadband and electric supply, this was seconded by Cllr J Crocker, all in favour. Future discussions will take place to look at how to supply lighting in the bus shelter, using solar.

**RESOLVED**: to cancel the BT and Electric supply for the phone box (25/8 – village furniture)

**To consider SID for the Parish.** The Clerk confirmed that Dorset Council will charge £295.00 plus VAT for a road survey, which needs to be done before they will consider the Parish Council providing a SID (speed indicator device) Dorset Council Road Safety officer will also look at where it will be possible to erect the pole to house the SID. The road survey has been asked for and the Clerk will keep the Councillors updated on reports from the Road Safety officer. **Action - Clerk**

**25/9. Officers and Chairman’s report including planning.**

Officers reports were given at the Annual Parish Meeting

**Planning**

**P/FUL/2025/01749** Gourds Farm, Main Road, Compton Abbas. Erect self-supporting cover for an existing above ground slurry store – waiting Dorset Council decision

**P/PABA/2025/02389** Land at E 386310 N 118181 Hawkcombe Lane Compton Abbas. Erect agricultural barn. Dorset Council have approved this application under permitted development.

**25/10. To receive a report from Dorset Councillor Jane Somper – nothing further to report**

**25/11. Finance - To agree: Payment Schedule.**

The Clerk had table the Payment Schedule for April 2025 for the sum of £1557.34. 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 £1557.34 (25/11 current account)



Cllr R Lower signed the bank reconciliation.

**25/12. Clerk Report.** Reported that the Parish Council’s laptop is not repairable and funds are needed to be allocated to purchase a new laptop and small printer in case a new Clerk is appointed, the Parish Council have a duty to supply a working laptop and small printer. It was agreed to add this to the Parish Council expenses heading on the budget.

**25/13. Items for next agenda and date of next meeting. Officers’ roles – SID – others to be confirmed.**

The Parish Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 23rd of July 2025 at 6.30 at the Church Hall.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 19.42

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