

COMPTON ABBAS PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES of
MEETING ON WEDNESDAY 19th September 2018

**In Attendance: Cllr. C McHenry (Chairman), Cllrs C Owen and M Owen
M Wheatley (Clerk), Cllr. C. Langham (District Councillor)**

Prior to the meeting there was a discussion with Jo Witherden Planning Consultant regarding Design Statements and Neighbourhood Plans. In summary Jo Witherden confirmed that the Village could prepare a Design Statement for the Parish to be adopted by NDDC. It would need to be based on the principles in the Local Plan and would be supplementary to that Plan. A design statement would be considered in the context of any planning application but would not form part of the development plan. Currently in accordance with the North Dorset Local Plan Compton Abbas did not have a settlement boundary and therefore any application would be treated under the rules for rural developments. This meant that affordable housing could be built if there was a need for such housing within the village but there was no obligation to build such housing. Existing buildings could be re-developed but there was no requirement to build houses except for Agricultural workers dwellings. Any replacement houses should not be bigger than the original building. If the Parish Council decided to do a Neighbourhood Plan this would have planning status and would have more weight than a Design Statement. The Parish Council would need to find volunteers to do the work on the Plan and it would probably take around 2 years. If the Neighbourhood Plan just sort to give a general overview of how development in the village should be undertaken then there was a grant available for £9000.00 but if it set out sites to be developed then there was a supplemental grant of £8000.00. There were no grants available for a Design Statement. It was agreed that the Parish Council would consider this further at its next meeting in December 2018.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were no Public Questions.

MINUTES

- 19/09/01 Apologies for absence** – There were apologies for absence from Cllr. Trevor Clements, Cllr. Sue Ryan and Cllr Graham Carr-Jones County Councillor.
- 19/09/02 Declarations of Interest** – There were no declarations of interest.
- 19/09/03 Approval of Minutes held on 16th May 2018** - The minutes had been circulated to the Councillors and were unanimously approved and signed by the Chairman.
- 19/09/04 Matters arising from previous minutes that are not dealt with elsewhere on the agenda**
- a. Fingerpost** – The Chairman confirmed he had obtained a grant from the Campaign to Protect Rural England for £400 and the Church has agreed to contribute £300. The total cost will be £1400. The Parish Council had set aside £750.00 in its budget for this year and that together with the grant and the contribution from the Church means that the Parish Council have the full amount. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact DCC Highways to ask whether the fingerpost could be erected on the A350 on the site where the Bed & Breakfast sign had been and whether planning permission was required. The Parish Council would also probably need to buy the pole and pay for the installation.
 - b. Footpath by the Church** – The Clerk had emailed the Rangers but was still waiting to hear when the work was likely to commence.
- 19/09/05 Vacancies** – co-option – there are still two vacancies on the Parish Council.

19/09/06 Reports from County/District Councillors – Reports have been circulated to the Councillors. The District Councillor read from her report which is attached hereto. She also confirmed that houses of multiple occupancy needed to be licenced. Matt Prosser had been appointed as the CEO of the Dorset Council.

The Clerk confirmed she had recently attended the DAPTC Clerk’s seminar where it had been stated that the Dorset Council – the new Unitary Authority – were seeking council Tax harmonisation from day 1 of the new Unitary Authority. Cllr. Langham said she was not aware of this and would check. This would mean that with effect from May next year the residents would probably have to pay more Council Tax.

The Clerk also confirmed that all of the Parishes in Dorset would have elections in May next year at the same time as the elections for the Unitary Authority. As part of the budget next year the Council would have to budget for elections costs. Those costs had not as yet been decided but it was likely that if the election was contested then the Parishes would have to pay 50% of the shared costs e.g. polling booths and 100% of individual costs e.g. ballot papers. If the election was uncontested then there were unlikely to be any costs.

19/09/07 Finance

a. Bills to be paid – It was agreed that the following bills should be paid:

- M Wheatley £315 for salary July to September 2018
- Vision ICT £600 for website to come out of grant

In addition since the last meeting the following bills had been paid:

- £17.26 SLCC renewal
- £3.75 audit course
- £184.74 for the new pole and mirror and the end of Hawkcombe Lane
- £170 for Alex Fairchild for fitting the mirror

b. Bank account – The Clerk confirmed that the current bank and cash balance was £5905.64 which includes the £400 grant from CPRE and the VAT refund for last year of £25. The cost of the website was £500 as the PC will be able to recover the VAT of £100. The grant received from DAPTC for the website includes £125 for the fees for next year and £105 for the Clerk’s time in setting up the website. It was agreed that the sum of £105 should be paid to the Clerk for her time spent on creating the new website.

19/09/08 Fanners Field – The Chairman confirmed that he had spoken to a representative of the family that had donated Fanners Field and that there was no objection to using the field for parking. It was confirmed that the PCC would like to use the field for parking for special church events. The Parish Council confirmed it had no objection to this.

19/09/09 Planning/Tree Works

a. Bere Knap Drones Lane - Demolish and replace existing dwelling with 1 No. dwelling. Demolish and replace existing car port and retain 3 No. parking spaces. (Variation of Condition No. 2 of Planning Permission No. 2/2016/1758/FUL to amend the orientation of the dwelling, the addition of a veranda, amendments to the fenestration and increased roof eaves at the gable ends). The Parish Council had made the following comment:

The proposed large house will be visible over a very wide area. The Parish Council appreciate this is not the initial application however having considered the site it is of the view that the amended design is preferable to the initial design but in order to be less obtrusive and to blend in with other surrounding buildings it would be preferable if the walls were constructed in Shaftesbury reclaimed Greenstone instead of brick.

- b. **Land At St E 387672 N 118910 Church Farm Main Road To Gourds Farm** - Erect agricultural barn (demolish existing barn). The Parish Council had had no objection to this application.
- c. **Tuckers Barton, Lower Lane** - Erect two storey extension (demolish existing bay); install 2 No. dormer windows; erect balcony. The Parish Council had had no objection to this application.

19/09/010 Footpaths/Rights of Way – As above the Clerk was waiting to hear from the Rangers as to when the works on the footpath by the Church are likely to start.

19/09/011 Highways

- a. **Roads through CA** – there was nothing to report.
- b. **A350/C13** – The A350 Community Group had asked the Parish Council to confirm that the Parish Council continues to support the A350 Community Group's mandate namely: "to lobby on behalf of the residents and businesses on or near the A350 and C13 between Shaftesbury and Blandford Forum for improvements to the transport links, road infrastructure and safety in the north/south transport corridors of North Dorset". The Parish Council had confirmed its support. As previously the A350 Community Group will report back to the Parish Councils but will not make any decisions on their behalf. The A350 Community Group had recently circulated draft Terms of Reference which they would like the Parish Council to approve. Some queries have been raised and a revised Terms of Reference would be circulated shortly. The Parish Council approved the Terms of Reference in principle.

19/09/012 Travellers –Cllr. Ryan had reported that the travellers had returned to the Common and had parked in areas where they were not supposed to be. Accordingly the Clerk had written to Paula Clover at the Gypsy and Travellers Liaison Officer and had asked her to move the travellers to the agreed areas. The Clerk was still waiting to hear from whether this had been done.

19/09/013 Website – The new website has now gone live and the new email is now being used. The Clerk asked if she could have the contact details for the individual who was now running the group email for the village so that she could send round an email alerting the residents to the change. Cllr. C Owen confirmed she would send the email address to the Clerk.

19/09/014 Correspondence/A.O.B

- a. **Council Owned Farms** –Cllr. Ryan had raised the issue of their potential sale. Cllr. M Owen confirmed he had spoken to one of the tenant farmers and there were currently 31 farms within Dorset 3 of which were being sold. He believed that the farms would be sold as and when they became vacant and at some time in the future farms might be sold with sitting tenants. The Clerk was asked to contact the County Councillor and enquire what the intention was regarding the farms in Compton Abbas and Twyford. Any enquiries should be made discreetly in order not to draw the Councils attention to these farms.
- b. **Gore Clump** – The Parish Council had been asked to confirm whether it had any objections to the proposed plans for Gore Clump. Cllr. C Owen and Cllr. Langham had both attended the recent Compton Abbas Airfield meeting and the proposals had been discussed. The intention was to make one road through Gore Clump and stop up the road nearest to the airfield. There was then a discussion regarding the need for a footpath on the opposite side of the road so that walkers and riders were safe when crossing from the downs to the new entrance. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to DCC to confirm that the Parish Council had no objection to the proposals in principle but would like a footpath. One of the local

farmers had complained about the recent aerial firework display and the airfield had confirmed they would notify the farmer in advance of any future events.

- c. **Speed Watch** – Cllr. Clements had sent out an email asking for volunteers. Assuming there were sufficient volunteers, the Parish Council had sufficient funds to cover the cost of a Speed Gun which was likely to be in the region of £400. There was then a discussion about the effectiveness of Speed Watch and it was agreed that the Parish Council would discuss this further at the meeting in December once Cllr. Clements had had a response to his email.

19/09/015 **Date of next Meeting** – The next meeting will be on 19th December 2018 at 7.30pm in the Church Hall.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.40pm

Signed.....
Chairman

Dated.....

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

SEPTEMBER 2018

The formation and plans for the new Dorset Council is progressing well. The Shaping Dorset Council programme has been widened and now consists of Officers from the leadership teams of each of the six councils and they are meeting weekly to monitor progress, risks and decisions.

Decisions to date include:

As of 1st April 2019 -

All staff and members will have a new email address from the @dorsetcouncil.gov.uk domain.

South Walks House (currently headquarters of the Dorset Councils Partnership) will be the registered address for the new council for legal, PAYE and VAT purposes although no decisions have yet been made as to where services will be based.

A new Chief Executive and hopefully senior leadership team will be in place. Shortlist interviews for the Chief Executive will take place on 13th September and an appointment should be ratified at the next meeting of the shadow council on 27th September.

The new logo will be in place but will be phased in gradually unless required for legal reasons.

The Boundary Commission has now completed their review in to Parliamentary constituency boundaries and this was sent to the Secretary of State on 5th September. This report will hopefully be published before the Party Conference recess on 13th September and will then go through the Parliamentary process.

Finally a report is going to the Shadow Executive Committee later this month recommending that grants to the voluntary and community sector be rolled over for another year in order to give reassurance to the various organisations currently funded. However, the new Council will undertake a detailed review of all grants for the 2020/21 budget.