

COMPTON ABBAS PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES of
MEETING ON WEDNESDAY 28th March 2018

**In Attendance: Cllr. C McHenry (Chairman), S Ryan, C Owen and M Owen
M Wheatley (Clerk), Cllr. G Carr-Jones (County Councillor)**

PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were no Public Questions.

MINUTES

- 07/03/01 Apologises for absence** – There were apologises for absence from Cllr. Trevor Clements and Cllr Catherine Langham District Councillor.
- 07/03/02 Declarations of Interest** – There were no declarations of interest.
- 07/03/03 Approval of Minutes held on 12th December 2017** - The minutes had been circulated to the Councillors and were unanimously approved and signed by the Chairman.
- 07/03/04 Matters arising from previous minutes that are not dealt with elsewhere on the agenda**
- a. Survey** – the Chairman confirmed he had spoken to the PCC who had decided that no survey would be undertaken as they felt that the only people who would respond would be the same people who contributed to the Parish events in any event.
- b. Trees on Sandpit Lane** – The Chairman confirmed he had spoken to Jude Coupe who had advised him that she was not able to have her roof surveyed or have her gables painted because of the overhanging branches. Cllr. Carr-Jones suggested and it was agreed that the Clerk would email the tree officer and ask them to intervene.
- 07/03/05 Vacancies** – co-option – there are still two vacancies on the Parish Council. Cllr. Ryan commented that she had been approached by Nick Reed who was her neighbour and who had previously been on the Council and she would speak to him to confirm whether he would consider coming back onto the Parish Council. The Chairman confirmed he would speak to Jude Coupe about re-joining the Parish Council and Adrian Wright who in the past had expressed an interest in joining the Parish Council.
- 07/03/06 Reports from County/District Councillors** – reports have been circulated to the Councillors.

Cllr. Carr-Jones confirmed that the most significant event was that the Secretary of State had agreed to the proposed Local Government Re-organization and there would now be two Unitary Authorities in Dorset. He did not expect the Parish Council to notice any great change overnight. The first step was to ensure the legal entity with its bank accounts and with the ability to enter into contracts was set up by the end of March next year. There was still a huge amount of work to be done and there had been over a years delay in getting the decision of the Secretary of State. The first two terms would be 5-year terms. This was intended to allow the new Councils to bed in and was intended to synchronize elections with the other councils in the South West. There will be some redundancies as a result of the re-organization as there was a degree of duplication between the District Councils.

Cllr. Carr-Jones confirmed that Melbury Abbas were attempting to have a judicial review of the Cabinets decision regarding the one-way system on the A350/C13. He did not think

that they would be successful and he thought the DCC legal team had ensured that everything had been dealt with properly. Melbury Abbas had also not shown that they had exhausted all other remedies before they went down this route. Cllr. Carr-Jones confirmed that the signs and linings on the A350 would be completed shortly. The A350 Action group were continuing to pursue a North/South strategic route but this was not going to be a quick process.

Cllrs Ryan and Owen commented about the state of Hawkcombe Lane. Cllr. Carr-Jones confirmed that all potholes should be reported to Highways and the Parish Council should keep asking for the Lane to be repaired. The Clerk confirmed that the rural roads round the Parish were on Highways list to be repaired but she had been told that the Parish would just need to wait until the roads reached the top of the list.

Cllr. Ryan asked what was going to happen to the Livestock market. Cllr. Carr-Jones confirmed he expected it to be sold.

The Clerk confirmed that the main items of interest to Compton Abbas were:

Hospital discharges and Delayed Transfer of Care

DCC have done a lot of work to improve how it records and reports its delays and this has had a positive impact on its performance.

Reducing delays is important as hospitals are not a good place to be if you no longer need acute intervention. In an 18 month study about the association between bed rest and functional decline it was discovered that 10 days in a hospital bed (acute or community) leads to the equivalent of 10 years ageing in the muscles of people over 80. That means these people can lose their independence and may need more social care intervention following a stay in hospital.

Local Government Re-organisation:

On Monday 26th February the Local Government Minister, Sajid Javid, finally gave the go ahead for local government reorganisation. From April 2019 the County Council and all the existing District and Borough Councils will be replaced by two new unitary councils, one covering Poole, Bournemouth and Christchurch and the other, to be known as Dorset Council, covering the rest of the county area. Each new authority will deliver all local government services in their respective areas.

This change, which has wide public support, will protect local service, provide greater efficiencies to help hold costs down and generate further economic growth. DCC now face a tremendous task to complete all the work needed to get the new council in place by April 2019.

A shadow authority with a shadow executive, will be set up to manage the transition. The staff from all the six Dorset Area councils – including the county council – will transfer into the new Dorset Council via TUPE (Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment)). Regular HR and Union meetings are taking place to develop the plans for implementation.

Budget

NDDC have produced a balanced budget with a council tax increase of £5 for a band D property. Further savings of £986,000 will have to be found. It is hoped these will be found from a reduction in the costs of running the council offices at Nordon, funding for Blandford Leisure Centre coming from once-off sources and other savings already agreed. No reductions to services will be necessary.

Home Ownership Register

A new Home Ownership Register has been launched as part of the Council's Opening Doors campaign to encourage more housing, especially for younger working people. House

hunters in North Dorset are being urged to sign up to the new register which will help gauge the type of housing required.

Ban on Sky Lanterns

North Dorset District Council, along with the other councils in the Dorset Councils Partnership, has introduced a ban on the release of sky lanterns and helium balloons on any council property.

The Lodge

The new council services hub at the Nordon Lodge in Blandford is now fully operational. The office is open every weekday from 8.30am to 5.00pm, and residents who drop in will receive help and advice at the Customer Services reception. It is best to make an appointment to speak to an advisor from a particular service, such as housing or planning, because they are not in the Nordon office all the time. However, drop in visitors can be connected by phone from the Hub to the department they need.

Most information and transactions can be found on the Dorset for you website so this is almost always the best starting point for those with access to the internet.

07/03/07

Finance

a. Bills to be paid – It was agreed that the Clerk's salary in the sum of £315 for January to March 2018 should be paid.

b. Bank account – the current bank and cash balance is £5,547.76 which includes £730.76 which is the grant for the new website.

c. Internal Auditor – the Clerk had recently attended an audit course and the new audit regime is essentially the same as the previous regime. However as both the income and expenses for the PC are under £25,000.00 the forms do not need to be submitted to the external auditor and the PC can send in an exemption form. The Clerk had contacted Martin Cross and the Internal audit will be done in time for the May meeting.

07/03/08

Fanners Field – The Chairman confirmed he had met with Basil Lane and he had confirmed that he would continue to maintain Fanners field and would keep on top of the bramble hedge. The Chairman also confirmed that Alec Fairchild had recently contacted him to report that one of the large branches on one of the trees had broken off. The tree needed some work and Alec had quoted £200 to do the work. The Chairman confirmed he would speak to Basil Lane to see if he was able to do the work. The Clerk would review the finances to confirm there was sufficient money to cover the cost.

The Clerk confirmed that she had been sent a letter from the play ground inspection company that the Parish Council had used last year to confirm that the inspection was due. The Parish Council confirmed that they did not think that they needed an inspection at this time as the equipment was due to be replaced. Cllr. Ryan and the Chairman confirmed that they would ensure that the play equipment was taped off and it was made clear that it should not be used.

07/03/09

Planning/Tree Works

There were 3 applications by Gourds Farm to extend various farm buildings, to erect a cover over a slurry tank and to erect a roof extension between farm buildings. Cllr. Clements had visited the site and reported back to the Parish Council. The Parish Council had no objection to these applications.

The Clock House applied to do some tree works including felling an ash and a chestnut tree. The Parish Council had not objected.

Tuckers Lodge has put in an application for Tree works as follows:

Willow - Reduce crown by 20% volume. Shorten all peripheral branches by up to 2.5m. Primary branch extending due south-west, towards house to be shortened by up to 3.5m. Willow - Crown reduce shortening vertical growth by up to 3m, cutting back to a suitable secondary growth point or back to previous pruning nodes but not further than established nodes. Shorten lateral branches by up to 1.5m to establish symmetrical crown. Poplar – Fell. The Parish council confirmed that it had no objection to these works.

2/2018/0363/HOUSE - Longthornes Hawkcombe Lane Compton Abbas Dorset SP7 0NN – Erect first floor extension. Cllr. Clements was due to meet the agents the following day and would report back to the Parish Council. Cllr. Ryan confirmed she had reported her concerns with regard to the cars that parked on the corner and was further concerned that if the garage space was reduced there would be more cars on the road.

07/03/010 Footpaths/Rights of Way – DDC Rangers have confirmed that the footpath by the church has been added to the list for improvements. At the last meeting a contribution of £100.00 for the works was discussed. The cost to the Rangers is likely to be in the region of £1 to £1.5K. The Parish Council confirmed that they would contribute 10% to the costs of the works up to a maximum of £150.00.

07/03/011 Highways

a. A350/C13 Cllr. Clements had attended the A350 Stakeholders meeting on 19th February 2018 the meeting notes had been circulated. The works at Compton Abbas had been completed. Cllr. Clements had also received an up to date drawing showing where the signs and gates were going to be positioned.

The time period for objections to the Speed Limit Traffic Regulation Order for the speed limits on the A350/C13 has now expired and no objections were received. The next steps now that are no objections are:

- Speed limit to be signed off by the Highways Portfolio Holder and DCC Traffic Manager
- Work with the DCC Sign Shop to ensure that we work together on a date for implementation ensuring that the signs are all in place for the speed limit including gateways
- Legal Process of notice informing of the implementation date

It is hoped that the implementation date will be in May to Early June 2018 (if not earlier) Highways want to tie up the implementation date and the new signing/lining. Discussions are ongoing with regard to the enforcement of the new speed limits and Brian Austin who is the Dorset Road Safe Manager and it sounds hopeful for a 'No Excuse' day along the A350/C13/B3081 corridor in the summer after the new speed limits have come in to force.

b. Mirror at end of Hawkcombe Lane – Cllr. Ryan confirmed that she had spoken to Highways regarding the mirror at the end of Hawkcombe Lane and they had confirmed that the mirror had been moved. However this was not the case. It was confirmed that the Clerk would email Highways concerning the mirror, would chase up the repairs to Hawkcombe Lane and the other rural roads and would ask them to do something about the runoff on the Twyford Road which creates a stream in two places which in the recent bad weather became a sheet of ice. Cllr. M Owen confirmed he would send through the information regarding the problems with the roads in Twyford to the Clerk.

07/03/012 Travellers – The Clerk had given the file to Cllr. Ryan. Cllr. Ryan confirmed that she thought that the Parish Council should wait until they were informed that the travellers were coming back to the St. James Common and then write to NDCC to ask them to ensure the travellers parked on the agreed spaces and did not park in the gateways. This was agreed.

07/03/013 Website – The Clerk had received a grant for the new website and has instructed Vision ICT to put the new website together. The Clerk will keep the Parish Council information up to date. Sophie Fairchild has however decided not to continue to do the newsletter and social side of the website.

07/03/014 Correspondence/A.O.B – The Chairman confirmed that the PCC had agreed to contribute £300.00 towards the cost of a fingerpost as part of the 150th anniversary. The Chairman confirmed he would get a final quote from the fingerpost manufacturers. The Chairman also confirmed that the Church was looking at improving the car parking for the Church using some of the Church grounds.

07/03/015 Date of next Meeting – The next meeting will be on 16th May 2018 at 7.30pm in the Church Hall. This meeting will be the AGM. It was agreed that the Annual Parish Meeting would be held at the same time and the Clerk would write to the PCC and CATS to invite them to come to the meeting.

There being no further business the chairman closed the meeting at 8.50

Signed.....
Chairman

Dated.....