

COMPTON ABBAS PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES of
MEETING ON WEDNESDAY 20th December 2017

**In Attendance: Cllr. C McHenry (Chairman), S Ryan, T Clements, C Owen
and M Owen**

PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were no Public Questions raised save as set out below in relation to the construction within the village.

MINUTES

- 27/09/01 Apologises for absence** – There were apologises for absence from Cllr Catherine Langham District Councillor, Graham Carr-Jones County Councillor, Marianne Wheatley Clerk and Adrian Wright. In the absence of the Clerk Cllr. Caroline Owen agreed to take the minutes.
- 27/09/02 Declarations of Interest** – Cllr. Clements declared a declaration of interest in the application for tree works at his home Oak Cottage, Lower Lane, Compton Abbas.
- 27/09/03 Approval of Minutes held on 27th September 2017** - The minutes had been circulated to the Councillors and were unanimously approved and signed by the Chairman.
- 27/09/04 Matters arising from previous minutes**
- a. PCC** – Cllr. McHenry confirmed that the PCC were meeting on 6th January 2018 and he would ask them about the proposed village survey. At present there were no plans to mark the WW1 Centenary.
 - b. Trees on the A350** – Cllr. McHenry had met with the Dorset County Ranger who had confirmed that he thought the trees overhanging the A350 should come down. With regard to the trees on Sandpit Lane Cllr. McHenry would check with Jude Coupe what was happening regarding these trees.
 - c. Footpath** – The Dorset County Ranger had confirmed that the Rangers would put gravel down on the path through the wood behind the church. The cost would be approximately £1000.00 and the Rangers would like a contribution of £100 from the Parish Council. Cllr. McHenry confirmed he would speak to Philip Cayford regarding access to the path in order to put the gravel down.
- 27/09/05 Vacancies/Co-option** – Mike Owen was present and confirmed he would like to join the Parish Council. The Parish council unanimously agreed to co-opt Mike Owen and he was welcomed to the Council.
- 27/09/04 Reports from County/District Councillors** – reports had been circulated to the Councillors. The main items of interest to Compton Abbas were:
- Unitary Authority** - The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government announced that he is minded to support the Future Dorset plans which proposed to

replace Dorset's nine councils with two new unitary authorities. Joint Committees have been established, in which all nine councils are actively participating. They will be responsible for all necessary plans to ensure that both new councils are created by and operational in April 2019.

Local Plan Consultation - The Local Plan review consultation is to take place over the Christmas period from 27th November 2017 to 22 January 2018. There have been various roadshow events but if you have missed these the documents can be found on the Dorset for You website: <https://www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/planning/north-dorset/planning-policy> and hard copies can be viewed at the Council offices in Blandford or at the various public libraries.

Digital Champion - To help people access online services Dorset County Council is developing a Digital Champion network. Digital Champions will be recruited to help and support people in their local community to use the Internet and gain basic online skills. If you would like to know more about becoming a digital champion then you can find more information at <https://www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/broadband/get-online-form>

It was commented that two potential development sites had been identified in Fontmell Magna. At present no sites had been identified in Compton Abbas. It was queried whether Compton Abbas needed a Neighbourhood Plan or at least a Design Statement. It was agreed that in the new year the PC would discuss whether to organise a questionnaire which could then be circulated through the village.

27/09/06 Finance

a. Bills to be paid - M Wheatley £315 for October to December 2017 and £100 in respect of the hire of the village hall. The Parish Council have also raised cheques for:

- £220 which has been paid to Alex Fairchild to cover the cost of a digger and associated expenses which was hired to sort the Play Area in Fanners Field. A further £250.00 had been requested. There had been two weekends work on the playground and the result was amazing. It was proposed that there would be a fundraiser in the summer.
- £29.00 which was due to the PAYE bookkeeper a cheque had been raised previously but has been cancelled.

b. Update on bank account – The signatories on the bank account have now been changed and all of the current Councillors are now signatories. Marianne has finally sorted the online access. She has received £216.30 in compensation for the initial delays in changing the signatories and an additional £75 in compensation for the delay in giving her online access to the account. The Clerk had prepared a bank reconciliation however the PC would like to see the bank statement.

c. Precept Planning – the Clerk had prepared and circulated a draft budget for 2018/19. The Parish council considered what expenses might be incurred in 2018/19. Cllr. McHenry had looked at the cost of fingerposts and would ask the PCC whether they would be prepared to contribute to this. Two quotes had been received for cutting Fanner's Field Basil Lane's quote was £790.00 however this included £200.00 in respect of clearing the play area which had now been done. So the cost would be £590.00. Alex Fairchild had quoted £1000.00 to cut and maintain Fanner's Field. Cllr. McHenry confirmed he would go back to Basil Lane to confirm exactly what was included in the quote. The draft budget should be amended to earmark £500.00 for

Fanners Field and £750.00 for the fingerpost. Otherwise the budget was agreed. The Parish Council agreed that the precept would remain at £3000.00 for 2018/19

d. Internal Auditor – Martin Cross had agreed to act as the Internal Auditor. The Parish Council agreed his appointment.

27/09/07 Adoption of Financial Regulations, Standing Orders, Freedom of Information Policy and Risk Management Procedures – the Clerk had reviewed and amended the Financial Regulations, the Standing Orders, the Freedom of Information Policy and the Risk Management Procedures. The revised documents had been circulated to the Council and the Parish Council confirmed that the revised documents should be approved and adopted. The Clerk would confirm where these can be seen.

27/09/08 Fanners Field – this had been discussed as above.

27/09/09 Planning/Treeworks - The Parish Council had no objection to the application in respect of Hawkcombe Cottage to convert studio/workshop/storage building to form annexe/holiday accommodation and erect single storey extension. There was also an application from Cllr. Clements for works to trees in his garden. Cllr. Clements had declared an interest and did not comment and there was no objection from any other member of the Parish Council. The Clerk had asked the Enforcement Team to look at the Summerhouse at Old Barn, Lower Lane. The Enforcement Officer had looked at the Summerhouse and has confirmed that the only reason the summerhouse would require planning permission is because it is in front of the house. He looked at other properties in the road and there are several with outbuildings in front of the dwellings. So whilst this building technically requires planning consent the Enforcement Officer confirmed that it was doubtful that planning permission would be refused. It is not out of character in the area, it does not block any sunlight or overlook any other property and is partially screened from the road by walls, a bank and some planting. The Planning Enforcement Officer was therefore not going to pursue the matter. That said the owners were going to apply for retrospective planning permission and will move the summerhouse to the back of the property.

27/09/010 Footpaths/Rights of Way – as referred to above the Dorset Rangers had agreed to put down gravel on the footpath through the wood behind the church. Hopefully this would be completed by the summer. Cllr. Ryan had spoken to Brach Farm about the crop not obstructing the footpath round the field. Cllr. Clements confirmed he would investigate the possibility of having a permissive path through Manor Farm to Fontmell.

27/09/011 Highways
a. A350/C13 Update - As set out in various emails circulated to the Parish Council Cllr. Clements had attended the A350 Stakeholders meeting on 9th October 2017 at that meeting he asked if the speed limit between Compton Abbas and Fontmell Magna could be reduced to 30mph. He then followed this up with Highways and they agreed that the proposed speed limit would be reduced from 50mph to 40mph. South of the Village the existing 30mph sign is to be relocated 60m south, gates will be installed and there will be road markings indicating the start of the village. North of the Village the village sign will be relocated to the current 30mph sign and again gates will be installed and there will be appropriate road markings. Cllr. Clements had also managed to get Cattle warnings and appropriate road markings north and south of Drones lane. The traffic management measures and road surfacing has commenced in Stourpaine and the Parish Council will advise when the works are due to start in

Compton Abbas. It is anticipated that the works will be done during the night so that the road is open during the day but there will be access at all times.

In addition to the Traffic Management discussions DCC Highways proposed various options with regard to the current advisory one-way system on the A350. The A350 group had concluded that the only acceptable Option was for the one way system to remain as an advisory system. The other options would mean an increase in the traffic on the A350.

At the Cabinet meeting on 6th December 2017 various representations were made by the A350 Group and representatives of the various villages along the A350 and the Cabinet voted to maintain the status quo i.e. to retain the current advisory one-way system with HGVs travelling north on the A350 and south on the C13. The Parish Council thanked Cllr. Clements for his sterling work in this regard.

b. Rural Lanes/Mirror at end of Hawkcombe Lane – the Clerk had contacted and chased the relevant Highways Officer the rural roads will not be done in 2018 but have been included in the 1 to 3 year list. When they get to the top of the list Highways will decide what works need to be done. In the interim any potholes that need filling should be reported on the Dorset for You website. The Clerk is happy to upload the information onto the website but she will need to know the exact location of any pothole and its approximate width and depth. Apparently the hedges obscuring the mirror at the end of Hawkcombe Lane have been cleared and the mirror has been cleaned. Highways have said however that this mirror is only an aid and should not be relied upon. It was agreed that the mirror at the end of Hawkcombe Lane was in the wrong place and needed to be moved. Hawkcombe Lane was also in need of repair. Cllr. Clements confirmed he would arrange for Cllr. Ryan and him to meet with Highways.

27/09/012 Travellers – Cllr. Ryan confirmed she would investigate what permissions the travellers had.

27/09/013 Website – the Clerk had applied for a grant to set up a new Parish Council website and email. She had not heard back as yet but she is expecting to hear shortly. This would be discussed further at the next meeting.

27/09/014 Correspondence/A.O.B – nothing else was raised.

27/09/015 Date of next Meeting – the Clerk is going on holiday towards the end of March 2018 accordingly she has asked for the March meeting to be moved to 7th March 2018. So the next meeting will be at 7.30pm in the Church Hall on 7th March 2018. The Clerk had confirmed she has booked the Church Hall for 7th March 2018, 16th May 2018, 19th September 2018 and 19th December 2018.

Signed.....
Chairman

Dated.....