

**COMPTON ABBAS PARISH COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES of**  
**MEETING ON WEDNESDAY 27<sup>th</sup> September 2017:**

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

**One member of the public**  
**Catherine Langham - District Councillor**

**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 Apologies for absence** – There were apologies for absence from Cllr Graham Carr-Jones.
- 27/09/02 Election of Chairman** – The Clerk confirmed that Jude Coupe had resigned as Chairman. The Parish Council thanked her for all her hard work for the Council and wished her every success in her new job. Colin McHenry had kindly been acting as the Chairman. Cllr. Clements proposed Colin McHenry should be elected as the Chairman. Cllr. Owen seconded this proposal. Colin McHenry was elected unanimously.
- 27/09/03 Declarations of Interest** – Cllr. Clements declared a declaration of interest in the planning application at Barn Cottage.
- 27/09/04 Approval of Minutes held on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2017** - The minutes had been circulated to the Councillors and were unanimously approved and signed by the Chairman.
- 27/09/05 Matters arising from previous minutes** – Cllr. McHenry asked if the proposed village survey to be compiled jointly by the Parish Council, CATS and the Parochial Parish Council had been progressed. It had not and it was agreed that Cllr. McHenry would raise this with the PPC.

Cllr. Owen confirmed she would ask Martin Cross if he would be willing to act as the Internal Auditor.

Cllr. McHenry also asked if the ownership of Fanner's Field had been investigated. The Clerk confirmed she had not done this but would try and locate the deeds which she believed were with the solicitors.

Cllr. McHenry confirmed he would speak to Tim Kerridge regarding moving the swings. The Clerk confirmed she had asked Basil Lane for a quote for next year for doing the mowing, weeding and trimming the hedges in Fanners Field but had not heard back. Cllr. Ryan confirmed she would speak to Basil's wife. In the interim Cllr. McHenry would ask Alex Fairchild to provide a quote for the work.

Cllr. McHenry confirmed that the footpath through Mr Cayford's copse had been cleared and the tree works were proceeding. The Clerk confirmed she would ask Jude Coupe whether the trees encroaching onto the electricity cables had been cleared.

**27/09/06 Vacancies/Co-option** – Jude Coupe having resigned there were now 3 vacancies on the Council. The quorum was 3. Mike Owen was in attendance with a view to possibly joining the Parish Council. Cllr. McHenry would phone Adrian Wright to see if he was still interested in joining and Cllr. Clements would ask Steve Parsons if he would be willing to join.

**27/09/07 Reports from County/District Councillors** – reports had been circulated to the Councillors. The main items of interest to Compton Abbas were:

**Unitary Authority** – DCC and NDDC were still waiting to hear whether the proposals for the unitary authorities had been accepted by the Secretary of State.

**A350/C13** - DCC have now ratified the funding of the maintenance works and improvement schemes on the A350 and C13. Most of the community suggestions have been incorporated and work will be commencing in the next few weeks. Regular monthly update meetings are going to be held with Highways. Cllr. Clements has agreed to go to the first of these on 9<sup>th</sup> October 2017. The consultation with regard to the HGV one-way system will be completed shortly. In this regard the A350 Community Group are opposed to this one-way system becoming mandatory as they are concerned that it will then be designated as a freight route and will cause an increase in the number of HGV's using the route. The A350 Group are meeting with Highways and the County Councillors to discuss the north/south strategic route which is currently at a standstill following the change of the Bath MP who is opposed to any traffic going anywhere near Bath and the one-way system.

**School Buses** – As part of the new contracts for school transport, which come into effect this year, the responsibility for designing routes, allocating school children to vehicles and providing bus passes has been taken on by the operators.

**North Dorset's Five- Year Housing Supply** – North Dorset no longer has the "five year housing land supply" that is essential if we are to control planning applications that are not in line with the adopted local plan. There are various reasons why this has dropped but essentially it is because developers are not building. Therefore it will now be harder to refuse planning permission for housing development. Planning permission can only be refused if the harm "significantly and demonstrably" outweighs the benefit.

Cllr. Langham also confirmed that there were currently grants available to small businesses to help with apprenticeships. She reported that following the delegation of the powers of the Planning Committee the last 4 meetings of the Planning Committee had been cancelled because there were no matters referred to it. The matters had been dealt with by the Planning sub-committee which included the Head of Planning and the Chairman of the Planning Committee. The Chairman had commented that the 8 applications which it had considered were minor and the concern was that the Planning Committee could make the wrong decision leading to costly appeals. A leaflet had been forwarded regarding Community Led Housing – the Clerk confirmed she had circulated this to the Councillors.

**27/09/08 Finance**

**a. Audit** – the audit has now been completed and no charge was incurred.

**b. Bills to be paid** - M Wheatley £315 for July to September 2017. The Clerk may have already received this cheque but as the Clerk still does not have access to the bank account she has not been able to do a bank reconciliation but would check once the access to the bank account had been sorted.

**c. Update on bank account** –The Clerk arranged for the Bank Mandates to be signed and had sent these to the bank. The bank has confirmed that they have received the mandates and the Clerk now needs to go to the Bank with her proof of

identity. Once that is done the account should have appropriate signatories on the account. A standing order for the Clerk's pay can then be set up and the Parish Council can arrange for the Clerk to have read only access to the account.

**d. Precept Planning** – at the meeting in December the Clerk will be asking for approval of the budget so if there is anything that needs to be included in the budget for next year please let the Clerk know. Cllr. McHenry suggested that as part of the Church's bi-centenary celebrations the Parish Council might purchase a fingerpost showing where the Church and Fanners field are. He would obtain a quote for this.

**27/09/09 Fanners Field** –The Clerk had approached the company who prepared the latest inspection report. They do not do repairs accordingly she sent the report to the company who are installing new equipment for Stourpaine Parish Council. She has now heard back from them and essentially they have said that the equipment which is moderately risky i.e. the balance beam, the sand play area and the activity equipment need to be replaced and a local contractor should be asked to repair the rest. Cllr. Ryan suggested that the way forward might be to remove all of the equipment and then if the village wanted to replace it they could raise the funds to do so. Cllr. McHenry suggested that the Parish Council should make one last effort to try and sort the equipment and he would speak to Tim Kerridge about repairing the same.

As reported above the Clerk had asked Basil Lane for a quote for continuing to undertake the mowing of Fanner's Field for next year. She has asked for the quote to include weeding the play area and the borders of the field.

The CATS shed has been bought and installed.

WW1 Centenary 2018 Cllr. McHenry confirmed he would ask the Church whether they were interested in doing anything. Cllr. Clements confirmed he would speak to Bill Honour regarding the tree to be planted in memory of Margaret Honour.

**27/09/010 Planning/Tree Works** - On checking the Dorset for You planning website the Clerk had come across an application by Tucker's Barton to remove the conditions regarding the removal of trees and the materials to be used. Trevor has looked at this and having reviewed the application the Applicant has in fact submitted a tree protection plan and samples for approval and the application was to discharge the conditions the plan and samples having been approved.

The Parish Council had received an application in respect of Hawkcombe Cottage to convert a studio/workshop/storage building to form an annex/holiday accommodation and erect a single storey extension. Cllr. Clements is going to have a look at this application and will report back to the Parish Council.

Cllr. Clements confirmed that he had been asked to raise the matter of the building that had recently been put up by Barn Cottage. The original plan was for a oak garage/carport. What seemed to have been erected was a summer house. The Clerk confirmed she would ask the planning enforcement team to look at this.

**27/09/011 Footpaths/Rights of Way** – Cllr. McHenry asked whether DCC might consider purchasing gravel for the path through the copse to the church. The Clerk confirmed she would contact the Rangers in this regard and see if there was anything they could do.

**27/09/012 Highways** – The Clerk confirmed she would email Corrine Holbrook about repairs to the rural lanes including Hawkecombe Lane and Gourd's Lane. The Clerk also confirmed she would email Highways regarding the mirror at the top of Hawkcomber Lane which did not work. Cllr. Clements would also ask about this at the A350 meeting on 9<sup>th</sup>

October 2017. All of the signs were going to be cleaned and the trees cut back as part of the improvements.

- 27/09/013 Travellers** – the travellers should all now have been moved on. Cllr. Ryan confirmed she would ask Paula clover what was going to be done to prevent the travellers coming back to the part of the common where there were not entitled to be.
  
- 27/09/014 Westminster Memorial Hospital** –the campaign had been successful and the community beds in Shaftesbury have been saved.
  
- 27/09/015 Compton Abbas Airfield** –Cllrs Owen and Langham had attended the meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> September 2017. The trees which had been obscuring the flight path had been lopped and therefore the question of moving the flight path was no longer an issue. Following the recent crash all Tiger Moth flights had been stopped and there would be no more.
  
- 27/09/016 Website** – The Clerk had applied for a grant to set up a new Parish Council website and email. She will keep the Parish Council advised as to progress. Essentially she finds the current website difficult to use and would like the email to be accessible by more than one person. Assuming a grant is available she will liaise with Sophie regarding the website.
  
- 27/09/017 Correspondence/A.O.B** – Cllrs. Ryan and Owen agreed they would speak to David Bew about the Parish Council filing cabinet to ascertain what was in it.
  
- 27/09/018** The next meeting is due to held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2017. The Clerk will confirm that the Church Hall has been booked.

Signed.....

**Chairman**

Dated.....