

COMPTON ABBAS PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES of
MEETING ON WEDNESDAY 15th March 2017:

In Attendance: Jude Coupe (Chairman), S Ryan, C. McHenry and C. Owen
One member of the public
Catherine Langham - District Councillor
Graham Carr-Jones - County Council candidate

PUBLIC QUESTIONS.

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

MINUTES

1. **Apologies for absence** – There were no apologies for absence.
2. **Declarations of Interest** – The Clerk would check which Pecuniary Interest Forms she had and would circulate the acceptance of office forms and the Pecuniary Interest forms to Cllr. Owen.
3. **Approval of minutes of the meeting held on 14th December 2017.** These were approved.
4. **Matters Arising from previous meeting** – the situation with regard to the cat had been resolved.
5. **Vacancies – co-option/future of the Parish Council**

The Chairman had recently included an article in the Parish Newsletter asking for volunteers to join the Parish Council but to date no-one had come forward. A little while ago Adrian Wright expressed an interest in joining. He is not resident in the village as yet but maybe interested in joining in September. The Parish Council are supposed to have 7 Parish Council members but currently only have 4 and in October Cllr. Ryan mentioned she would like to step down. It was agreed that the Councillors all needed to try and actively recruit some more people to join the PC. In the event that more members are not recruited to join the Parish Council the Parish Council will have to seriously consider whether it is able to continue. Cllr. Langham confirmed she would investigate and report on how to merge and/or group councils.

6. **County/District Councillors Reports** Various reports from the County/District Councillors had been circulated to all of the councillors.

Cllr. Langham confirmed that she did not have anything to add to the reports previously circulated save to confirm that she would circulate an email from Jean Marshall the Head of Planning confirming that if a Parish Council wanted any application to be considered by the Planning committee this needed to be done within the 21 day consultation period.

Graham Carr-Jones introduced himself and confirmed that he would be standing as the conservative councillor for the new ward which incorporated Stalbridge and the old Beacons ward. He then commented on the progress of the unitary authority and confirmed that the relevant submissions had been made to the Secretary of State and they were expecting to hear from the Secretary of State imminently.

7. **a. Payments to be made** – the following cheques had been issued:
 - i) £630 for the Clerk for Oct 2016 to March 2017.
 - ii) £490 for Basil Lane for his work in Fanner's Field in 2016.
 - iii) £100 for Sophie for the work on the website - it was budgeted as £300 but Sophie had pulled back since the appointment of the Clerk.
 - iv) Bookkeepers invoice for 2016/17 in the sum of £29.00.

In addition the Parish Council had received a letter from the PAYE bookkeeper indicating that with effect from 1st April 2018 she would like to increase her fees to £73 per annum. The Clerk confirmed she was keen to retain the services of the bookkeeper and accordingly the increase was agreed. The invoice for 2017/18 will be forwarded shortly and will be in the sum of £58.

The Chairman commented that there would be a surplus on the budget and she was considering ways of spending the surplus.

- b. **Change of bank account** – In October 2016 when the Clerk was appointed the Parish Council wrote a letter to the bank asking them to change the address set up a standing order and allow the Clerk read only access to the bank account. The Chairman also completed the relevant bank mandate forms to change the signatories on the bank account. None of these requests were actioned and the bank has until recently been sending correspondence to the previous Clerk. As a result Cllr. Owen has had to telephone the bank. The correspondence address has now been changed but the Chairman and Cllr. McHenry still need to go to the bank to give their ID's. Cllr. Owen has suggested that the Parish Council should change banks. The Clerk confirmed that she thought the Parish Council should sort Lloyds out first. All of the local Parish accounts are with Lloyds and she was not convinced that any of the other banks would be any more efficient. However once Lloyds has been sorted she will see whether any of the banks are willing to take on the Parish Account and how simple this will be.

8. Fanner's Field

- a. **Play area inspection** –The Clerk will chase up the Play area inspector and ask them to come and inspect.
- b. **Playground committee update** – the Parish Council had not heard anything regarding whether this committee has been set up or what progress has been made. Cllr. Owen confirmed she had received an email from Kate and Matt Bagshaw confirming they would be interested in being involved in the relevant committee. It was agreed that Cllr. Ryan would respond to Kate and Matt and ask them if they were willing to form the appropriate committee. The Chairman suggested that they should be invited to the Annual Parish Meeting and it should be made known that there would be surplus funds available. In this regard there had been a suggestion that a tree should be planted in memory of Mrs Honour who had donated Fanners Field to the village. Mr Honour confirmed that a flowering cherry would be appropriate.

It was also agreed that the Parish Council would investigate whether it was possible to refurbish and move the swings by the church into Fanner's field. The Clerk would ask the play area inspector to have a look at the swings as part of the inspection.

9. Planning/Tree works

- a. The following applications were approved by the Parish Council:
 - i) **2/2016/1758/FUL** Bere Knapp, Drones Lane, Compton Abbas, SP7 0JQ Demolish and replace existing dwelling with 1 No. dwelling. Demolish and replace existing carport and retain 3 No. parking spaces. The Parish Council asked for consideration to be given to the routes to be used by construction traffic through the village and to the repair of any damage to verges but there are no restrictions on the approval in this regard.
 - ii) **2/2017/0200/CATREE** - The Reading Room Cottage Chapel Hill Compton Abbas SP7 0NQ T1- Conifer - Fell and dismantle due to excessive shading in the garden and over grown for its location, Cherry Tree will planted in its place. T2 and T3 - Conifer - Fell and dismantle to allow Yew tree more space and to make more of a feature of the Yew tree in the garden.
- b. The Parish Council objected to the following application and this had been withdrawn: **2/2016/1823/FUL** Tuckers Barton Lower Lane Compton Abbas SP7 0NH Erect stables with tack room and machinery/fodder store.
- c. The following application was considered **2/2017/0172/FUL** The Old Barn Lower Lane Compton Abbas Shaftesbury Dorset SP7 0NH
Erect 1 No. dwelling to include full demolition of existing bungalow (amended scheme to approval 2/2015/1696/FUL and 2/2016/0277/VARIA). The response was due by 23rd March 2017. A member of the public commented that there was a lot of construction in the village that the construction traffic was a problem and that the roads and verges in the village were being destroyed as a result of the amount of the construction traffic. He had listed the names of various lorries that had passed his house and would pass this information onto the Clerk. Cllr. Langham commented that the application could not be refused except on planning grounds but conditions could be attached to any planning consent with regard to the size of lorries and the routes to be used through the village. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to Steve Savage who dealt with Highways issues connected with planning applications. In the interim the Clerk would make the appropriate comments in response to this planning application. With regard to the state of the roads the Clerk would write to Highways.

- 10. **Footpaths/Rights of Way** – there was nothing to report but the Parish Council will follow up the tree overhanging the A350 with the landowner as no tree works application has been received as yet.

11. **Highways – A350/C13 update** – The Chairman confirmed:
- DCC had still not issued the report re the M4 to Poole Strategic Route which had been promised since July 2016
 - Medium term plans have been proposed for the A350 and C13 with consultations to take place with individual parishes during April (reducing speed limit to 50mph but 30mph through the villages to create a recognised standard approach, village gateways, removal of unnecessary signage etc.).
 - The recent DCC Transport email announced that funds were available for the A350/C13. These monies had to be spent during 2017/2018. DCC have outsourced traffic engineering plans to design consultants prior to consultations with PC's.
 - A303 developments being constantly monitored by A350 Community Group – the commencement date for these proposed works was currently 2020.
 - More information was required re the proposed formalising of the HGV One Way system to ensure CAPC are not faced with costly bills if the TRO needs to be reversed
 - Traffic counts are currently being carried out and results will be reviewed by A350 Community Group to establish the efficacy of the one way system in it's current form

The Chairman was in contact with Andrew Brown from Highways regarding measures to be adopted through the village and would put a proposal together which she would circulate.

12. **Travellers** – The Clerk had emailed Paula Clover and was advised that they are planning to evict the travellers in May/June. She will continue to monitor. Cllr. Ryan commented that the cars were still parking on the wrong side of the bend. It was suggested that the best way forward was for concerned residents to write to Paula Clover separately thereby making her aware of the number of complaints.

Cllr. Ryan commented that there had been some fly tipping in Twyford. She would let the Clerk know the location of the fly tipping so that she could report this on the Dorset for You website.

13. **Westminster Memorial Hospital** – Simon Hoare recently held a meeting regarding the proposed closure of the hospital beds. He wrote to the CEO of the CCG and the Parish Council had endorsed that letter. The Parish Council is being kept up to date on what the working group is doing and the Parish Council agreed to provide support as and when needed. A public meeting would be arranged shortly.

14. **Correspondence** –The Clerk has been reviewing the PC Standing Orders, Financial Regulations, Code of Conduct, Freedom of Information policy and Risk Management guidelines. She will finalise these on her return from holiday and circulate them so that you can comment on them in good time for the next meeting. She is proposing to standardize the same across the Parish Councils she works for.

15. **Dates of 2017 meetings** –The Clerk has booked the Church Hall for the following dates 10th May 2017, 20th September 2017, 20th December 2017 and 21st March 2018. The 10th May meeting will be the AGM and the Annual Parish Meeting will be held beforehand. It was agreed that the Annual Parish Meeting would commence at 7pm with a view to starting the AGM at 7.30pm. The Annual Parish meeting is intended to be a meeting of all of the clubs and associations within the village to discuss what they have been doing in the previous year and any plans for the future. The Clerk will provide posters advertising this event. In the interim the Parish Councilors would speak to their contacts within the various village groups and societies and ask them to come along.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.58pm.

Signed:

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Chairman

Date:

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