

COMPTON ABBAS PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES of
MEETING ON WEDNESDAY 20th March 2018

**In Attendance: Cllr. C McHenry (Chairman), Cllrs T Clements, S Ryan, C Owen
and J Coupe
M Wheatley (Clerk), Cllr. Langham (District Councillor)**

PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were no Public Questions.

MINUTES

- 20/03/01 Apologies for absence** – There were apologies for absence from Cllr. M Owen.
- 20/03/02 Declarations of Interest** – There were no declarations of interest.
- 20/03/03 Approval of Minutes held on 19th December 2018** - The minutes had been circulated to the Councillors and were unanimously approved and signed by the Chairman.
- 20/03/04 Matters arising from previous minutes that are not dealt with elsewhere on the agenda**

The Chairman confirmed that it had been decided to deal with Fanner's Field at the start of the meeting. The Chairman confirmed that the Parish Council needed to consider whether the play area should be repaired in which case a timetable needed to be agreed for the repairs or whether the play area should be decommissioned. Cllrs. Coupe and Clements had circulated a risk assessment to the Cllrs. In this regard Basil Lane who undertook the maintenance of Fanner's field had offered to decommission the equipment. The Chairman had recently replaced the signs telling people not to use the equipment. The Chairman and Cllr. Clements had recently checked the play area and the membrane that had been put down was in good order. The seat of the chair was rotten. Two planks needed to be replaced on the boat and one piece of wood at the end was rotten. The bow needed to be capped and the timbers that went into the sand were distressed. The walk board needed to be secured. The tyres on the steel poles seemed to be very secure. The slats from the chain walkway that had been removed could be replaced.

Cllr. Coupe confirmed that she had recently spoken to the resident who had offered to take on the project and she was still keen. The resident still had £100.00 in the kitty she had raised for the repairs. Alex Fairchild had a lot of wood chippings that could be used to re-surface the play area. The Chairman also confirmed that the mound that had been created was now covered with grass. Basil Lane could be asked to cut the whole of Fanner's Field. With the hedges cut back it would be easy to cut all of the grass. A digger would probably need to be used to take away the equipment as some of the supports were well dug into the earth.

Cllr. Coupe and Cllr. Clements suggested that a six month time limit should be set for the repairs and if they were not completed within that time the play area should then be decommissioned. They proposed that initially the pieces of equipment that should not be used would be fenced off. The brambles should be sorted and the 4 pieces of equipment that were repairable should be repaired. If the last inspection report was considered none of the equipment was thought to be high risk. Some of the repairs were trivial and could probably be done within 3 months. The gate at the entrance to the field also needed to be replaced and this was likely to be the most expensive item. Cllrs. Coupe's and Clements' proposal was that the tower should be removed and everything else should be made good.

Cllr. Coupe commented that money had been set aside in the budget for the play area. The Clerk queried this and would check the current budget and precept plan. There seemed to be a lot of support in the village to maintain the play area and at least one resident had offered to make a contribution which should now perhaps be followed up. Cllr. Ryan expressed her concern that nothing had been done for 10 years and that the play area should be made safe. Cllr. Clements commented that if they took up Basil Lane's offer to decommission the play area the Parish Council would need an indemnity from him that the area was safe. The notices that were supposed to keep people off the equipment were not really sufficient and the equipment should be properly fenced off whilst the repairs were taking place. Cllr. C. Owen queried whether the amount of work required to keep the play area going was worth it. There were no children in Twyford and she was not sure how many children would actually use it. She also commented that something needed to be done to promote Fanner's Field as at the moment it was not obvious that it was not just someone's back garden. The resident present commented that he agreed that it was not obvious that this facility belonged to the village. Over the last 18 months there had been a number of new residents moving into the village with children. The field never looked good and was not maintained in a good state. The Chairman commented that the field was not immaculate but that it was cut and kept in a reasonable state.

Cllr. Clements confirmed that he thought that they would need £800.00 to repair the play area. He and Cllr. Coupe would report what progress had been made at the next meeting. It was agreed that subject to checking the figures £800.00 would be allocated to the project. The Parish Council agreed to adopt option 2 in the risk assessment namely that the play area would be repaired. Cllr. Clements commented that he thought significant progress could be made within 3 months. The works should however be completed within 6 months and if not then the equipment would be decommissioned.

Action: Cllrs. Coupe and Clements to organise for the repairs to the play area and to report back at the next meeting. The Clerk to check the budget.

- a. **Survey** – The Chairman confirmed that the survey had not been circulated to the residents as yet. It was not in fact a survey but was instead a leaflet. He would add some words regarding Fanner's Field. The leaflet would be circulated by way of a paper drop through the residents letter boxes and would hopefully encourage residents to get involved. Cllr. Coupe confirmed that the leaflet should perhaps be used to advertise the Annual Parish Meeting which was an informal meeting of the residents to discuss what was going on in the village. This could be held separately from the Annual Parish Council Meeting. The Clerk confirmed she did not need to attend the Annual Parish Meeting which could be called by the Chairman or at least two of the Parish Councillors. The Chairman confirmed that he would try and have the final version of the leaflet ready the following week. It would then need to be printed and hopefully would be circulated before Easter.

Action: The Chairman to finalise the leaflet and to arrange for this to be circulated.

- b. **Fingerpost** – Cllrs. McHenry and Clements had stood on the verge where it had been suggested the post should be erected. The proposal was to have 3 arms on the post however they thought that the arm pointing into the road might not be permitted. The suggestion was therefore to only have two arms and that the sign should only say St. Mary's and Twyford. The Chairman confirmed he would try and progress the matter and would go back to Highways to see if traffic lights would be needed. He would also look at getting a sign for Fanner's Field. If the Parish Council decided not to proceed with the fingerpost there would of course be more money available for the play area and the Parish Council would have to give back the £400.00 grant it had received from CPRE. The Chairman thought however that the fingerpost could be purchased and erected within budget.

Action: The Chairman to contact Highways to see if traffic lights would be required.

- c. **Footpath by the Church** – There is still no news as to when this will be done. The Clerk would continue to chase. Cllr. Coupe asked whether some of the wood chippings that Alex

Fairchild had could be used for the footpath. The Chairman confirmed he did not think that the Parish Council should go down this route as if they were to do this they might then have to remove them before the Rangers could lay any scalplings.

Action: The Clerk to continue to chase the Rangers.

d. Neighbourhood Plan – It was confirmed that at the present time the Parish Council were not going to proceed with a Neighbourhood Plan.

e. Speed Watch – Cllr. Clements reported that the vetting process had been completed and he hoped that the speed watch would be up and running in the spring. The next step would be to purchase a speed gun. The speed gun would cost approximately £400.00. He had looked at the budget and if the Parish Council decided to go ahead with this and the play area this would mean that at the end of the next financial year the reserves would be in the region of £2500.00 instead of £3500.00. There was then some discussion about the location of the speed watch. Cllr. Clements confirmed that from the Church car park cars could be seen coming from Shaftesbury but there was nowhere to see cars coming in the opposite direction. Cllr. Clements also said that he thought that the speed watch was a good idea as it would provide a visible presence and would show that the village were trying to do something. He confirmed that if a car was flashed they did slow down and only 7% of people were caught speeding in the same place again. It was agreed that the Parish Council would purchase the speed gun for £400.00.

20/03/05 Vacancies – co-option/May 2019 Election – There is still one vacancy on the Parish Council. The Clerk would be delivering the nomination papers to the Council offices in Dorchester on 22nd March 2019. The election is on 2nd May 2019 and assuming the Compton Abbas Parish Council election is uncontested i.e. 7 or less councillors apply for election then the results will be out by 6th May 2019. In the interim business goes on as usual.

20/03/06 Reports from County/District Councillors – reports had been circulated to the Councillors. There were no particular matters arising. Cllr. Langham confirmed that the final meeting of NDDC had taken place and the transition to the new Council was ongoing. She was not going to be standing in the May election. She had enjoyed working with the Parish Council. The Chairman thanked Cllr. Langham for her help over her period in office. Cllr. Langham confirmed that the conservative candidate for the ward was Jane Somper who lived in Sutton Waldron and had been a Councillor for a long time.

20/03/07 Finance

a. Bills to be paid – It was agreed that the Clerk's salary for January to March 2019 in the sum of £315.00 should be paid.

b. Bank account – The Clerk confirmed that the bank and cash balance as at 11th March 2019 was £5480.37.

c. Assets – The Clerk had checked the insurance documents and essentially what it says is that all property and equipment should be maintained in a good state of repair. It was agreed that the Councillors would inspect the Bus Shelter and grit bins in the near future and that they would be checked every quarter before the Parish Council meetings so that any action could be decided on at the next meeting.

20/03/08 Fanners Field – this had been discussed at the start of the meeting.

20/03/09 Planning/Tree Works – There have been no applications which the Parish Council had been consulted on since the last meeting. Cllr. Clements had however received various complaints about the construction works at The Old Barn. The Clerk had sent a letter to the owner who has apologised for the inconvenience. He had confirmed that the heavy construction work had now been completed and he had cleared the site so that there is more

space to park. Cllr. Clements commented that he intended to speak to the project manager as they were still using sledge hammers and nail guns early in the morning and on weekends.

20/03/010 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 were likely to start.

20/03/011 Highways

a. Roads through CA – It was confirmed that the works on Hawkcombe Lane and Drones Lane had been completed and it would appear that more works were going to be done on the road from Bedchester.

b. A350/C13 – The A350 Community Group were going to meet with Shaftesbury Town Council. The date of the completion of the works on the C13 had been extended to 31st May 2019 and works on Durweston Bridge were due to commence shortly.

20/03/012 Travellers – Cllr. Ryan commented that the parking and use of the site was not too bad at the moment.

20/03/013 Correspondence/A.O.B – The Chairman commented that he had received an email regarding the muck on the road at the bottom of Chapel Hill and the damage to the verges by the heavy machinery which crossed the road. It was confirmed that if any damage was done the Parish Council would ask Highways to repair the road.

20/03/014 Date of next Meeting – Annual Parish Meeting/Annual Parish Council Meeting. The Annual Parish Council meeting will be on 15th May 2019. It was agreed that the Annual Parish Meeting would be held on a different date which could be on any date between 1st March 2019 and 1st June 2019. Cllr. Coupe agreed that she would check when the Church Hall was available.

Action: Cllr. Coupe to check when the Church Hall was available and a date was to be agreed for the Annual Parish Meeting.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.55pm

Signed.....
Chairman

Dated.....