

**COMPTON ABBAS PARISH COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES of**  
**MEETING ON WEDNESDAY 28<sup>th</sup> August 2019**

**In Attendance: Cllrs. C McHenry (Chairman), S Ryan, C Owen, T Clements  
J Coupe, M Wheatley (Clerk) and 2 members of the public.**

**PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

There were no Public Questions.

**MINUTES**

The Chairman welcomed Jess Low and Tony Ingleton who were present at the meeting and had expressed an interest in joining the Parish Council.

- 28/08/01 Apologies for absence** – There were apologies for absence from Cllr. M Owen and Dorset Cllr. Jane Somper
- 28/08/02 Declarations of Interest** – Cllr. Clements declared a non-pecuniary interest in the problems with the parking around The Old Barn which would be discussed under planning.
- 28/08/03 Statement by Clerk concerning the approval of the Statutory Accounts and Statements for 2018/19.** The Clerk confirmed that the Accounts and Statements were approved at the meeting in May. The S1 Governance Statement had been read out and all of the other documents were available to be seen at that meeting. It subsequently came to light that notwithstanding that the PC approved these documents they had not been circulated to the PC prior to the meeting. The Clerk had circulated the accounts after the meeting and she had not received any comments save from Cllrs. Clements and McHenry approving the same.
- 28/08/04 Approval of Minutes held on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2019** - The minutes had been circulated to the Councillors and were unanimously approved save that Cllr. Coupe confirmed she had not agreed to be responsible for the Parish Council's Assets in Compton Abbas. This was noted and accordingly Cllr. McHenry would be responsible the Compton Abbas assets. The minutes were signed by the Chairman.
- 28/08/05 Matters arising from previous minutes that are not dealt with elsewhere on the agenda**
- a. Fanners Field** – Cllr. Clements confirmed that Bill Honour was currently in hospital and it was hoped that the tree in memory of his wife which it had been agreed some time ago should be planted in Fanners Field would be planted by the time he was able to walk again in late September. It was proposed that the tree should be a Royal Burgundy flowering cherry tree. The wording on the plaque would be in memory of Margaret Honour. A hole would had been dug and a timber frame has been be put up. Cllr. Clements understanding was that the best time to plant the tree would be in September. It was agreed that Cllrs C and M Owen would plant the tree. Cllr. McHenry asked how big the tree would grow and confirmed that one of the residents had asked whether there was going to be another large tree in the field. Cllr. McHenry had thought the tree would be an ornamental tree. Cllr. Clements confirmed it should be relatively easy to maintain the tree at a reasonable height. It was confirmed that the tree would not be paid for by the Parish Council.
  - b. Fingerpost** – The Chairman explained that the Parish Council had been considering the erection of a fingerpost by the verge where the Old Forge bed and breakfast sign

used to be. The initial proposal was for the post to have 3 arms but the village now had a nice picket fence with the Compton Abbas sign on it so it was now being proposed that the finger post would have 2 arms one pointing to the Church and one pointing to Twyford. The roundel at the top would however say Compton Abbas. The Chairman had spoken to Highways and they would erect the pole. It was hoped that traffic lights would not be needed as this would increase the cost prohibitively. The cost of a 2 arm fingerpost with installation by the manufacturer was £1560.00 and without installation which would just be fitting the arms to the pole would be £1310.00. The Campaign for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE) had given the Parish Council a grant of £400.00 and the Church had agreed to contribute £300.00. The cost of erecting the pole would be in the region of £350.00. Cllr. Ryan confirmed that she did not think that Twyford would want to be signposted. There was already a sign on the turning to Twyford. It was agreed that a decision would be made at the December meeting and the Parish Council would consider if there were sufficient funds to proceed. If they decided not to proceed they would have to give the money back to the CPRE. It was agreed it would be nice to have a sign pointing to the Church. Cllr. Coupe suggested the Parish Council should consider putting signs on either side of the bus shelter opposite the Church pointing to the Church. These could be flat signs affixed to the bus shelter. It was agreed that a formal proposal would be put forward at the December meeting and a decision would be made then.

**c. Speed Watch** – Cllr. Clements confirmed that the first speed watch had now taken place in the layby outside the Church and they had identified four culprit vehicles exceeding the speed limit. They had used the equipment loaned to them by the Police. There were currently 8 people in the group but only 3 of them had been trained. More people needed to be trained. When the leaflets had been sent out earlier on in the year there had been a large number of comments regarding the road. If the village wanted more speed and safety features such as a Speed Indicator Device (SID) throughout the village then the village has to demonstrate need. The speed watch was a gateway to other things that the village wanted. Cllr. Clements suggested that they do the main road first and then look at the rest of the village. What was needed was for other people to be trained and for more people to volunteer. The training was very straightforward. At some stage the equipment that they currently had would need to be returned to the Police and the Parish Council would need to purchase a speed gun. The speed gun they currently had on loan costs around £400.00 however suitable equipment could be purchased from the internet for about £140.00. The speed watch team needed to notify the police that they were going to undertake a speed watch but they did not need to put up signs advertising they were doing a speed watch. Cllr. Clements confirmed he would get some more dates for training from the Community Police Officer. It was also confirmed that another leaflet would be circulated asking for volunteers. Cllr. Owen confirmed that she was proposing to put a flyer through the doors in the village advertising the defibrillator training.

**d. Repairs to Bus Shelter and other assets** – Cllr. Coupe commented that now the leaves had been cleared out from the wooden bus shelter it was clear that the wooden base of the bus shelter was rotten. She had not been able to see the extent of the rot but it was below the seat and it was a risk that needed to be sorted. The bus shelter was used by the school children and the Parish Council could be liable if anything happened to them as a result of the damaged shelter. The Chairman commented that he thought this could be fixed by digging away the soil and then with a bit of carpentry. Jess Low suggested that a volunteers group could be set up. The stone shelter was secure but the branches on either side needed to be cut back. A small task force could be organised to do this. It was also suggested that pictures and other village memorabilia could be put up in the bus shelters. Cllr. Coupe suggested that the Parish Council had contributed to the Parish Map and maybe they could get something like this for the bus shelters. The Parish Council was responsible for the bus shelters and the grit bins. The bus going north dropped people off at the concrete shelter on what was a very fast road. It was not actually a bus shelter as it was difficult to get into and was not very nice. This bus shelter also needed to be sorted. It was agreed that a task force

would be formed to sort the wooden bus shelter and that the Parish Council would come up with some ideas as to how to sort the concrete bus shelter. The noticeboards also needed to be looked at.

- e. **Footpath by Church** – The Chairman confirmed that the Dorset Rangers had agreed to properly gravel the path by the Church. The Clerk was chasing them but as yet they did not know when this would happen. Jess Low suggested that they should not have small gravel as this would be tramped through to the Church. She also stated that it should be suitable for people with pushchairs. The Rangers had also said they would put up a sign showing where the footpath was. They had confirmed that they would be doing this shortly.

**28/08/06 Playground Project** – [item 7 below was dealt with before this item] – Cllr. Clements commented that the playground had been in a state of disrepair and that he and Cllr. Coupe had devised a plan to repair the playground with a substantial amount of the work to be done by May and the project to be completed by August. This had been done with the help of various volunteers and with some donations from residents. They had recently had the playground inspected and there had been 2 or 3 things that were of moderate risk. Cllr. Clements had now sorted these. The net cost to the Parish Council was in the region of £650.00. The roof of the tower had been repaired by Kavanagh Roofing as a gift, bark had been donated as had the membranes and some preservative. The playground was wooden and would probably need to be replaced in the next 5 years or so. It had been installed some 20 years ago. The Chairman commented that he thought that this was a triumph and the Parish Council and the volunteers should be very pleased with themselves. He suggested that maybe they should launch the playground on Apple Day. Cllr. Low confirmed she thought that the volunteers were thinking of organising something for the 1<sup>st</sup> weekend in September. She would confirm this. The Chairman expressed the Parish Council's thanks to everyone who had contributed to this project.

**28/08/07 Vacancies – co-option** – Jess Low and Tony Ingleton confirmed they were both still interested in joining the Parish Council. The Clerk explained that there was currently only one vacancy on the Parish Council which could be filled by co-option. Cllr. C Owen confirmed that if both Jess Low and Tony Ingleton wished to join then Cllr. M Owen had agreed to resign. It was agreed that Jess Low would join the Parish Council now and following the resignation of Cllr. Owen and after putting up the appropriate notices assuming no-one else came forward Tony Ingleton could be co-opted at the December meeting. The Parish Council unanimously agreed that Jess Low should become a member of the Parish Council.

**28/08/08 Dorset Councillor Report** – Cllr. Somper had circulated reports for July and August 2019 there were no matters arising.

**28/08/09 Defibrillator** – Cllr. Clements confirmed that Mrs. Fuller of Milestones had donated a defibrillator and cabinet. It had not as yet been installed as they were waiting for the electrician. Cllr. C Owen had been organising the training and had arranged training to take place in the Church hall on the evening of 24<sup>th</sup> September 2019 and the afternoon of 26<sup>th</sup> October 2019. The training was not really appropriate for people who could not kneel down or children under 10 to 12. The most important thing was CPR training using the training material supplied by BHF. However when she sends the leaflets round she would encourage everyone to come along because even if they could not participate they could watch so they could tell other people what to do. The places were limited to 15 people for each session. The defibrillator was to be located in the car park of Milestones and was fully automatic.

**28/08/010 Reports from Councillors**

- a. **Community Matters including meeting with SPAB re: East Compton Church** – Cllr. C Owen confirmed that she and the Chairman had attended the meeting at the Old Church. There was some concern expressed by the residents present that the trees had recently

been cut down without anyone being told they were planning to do this. The SPAB wanted to make the site more visitor friendly. Some of the residents present were happy to have signs erected, some were not because they did not want an increase in visitors or parked cars at that end of the village. The Chairman commented that concerns had also been raised that they were intending to turn the trees into totem poles. It had been confirmed that the proposal was to make seats with a view to creating a rest area for walkers. It was also proposed that they would make a wild garden with footpaths mown into it and a mown out line of the footprint of the Church. They were also proposing to put up a sign explaining the history of the Church. The Parish Council could not take on responsibility for the Old Church. Tony Ingleton said he thought the sign would also be an audio sign. The meeting had taken place some 2 to 3 weeks ago and had been attended by 25 to 30 people. The Chairman though everyone was happier when they left the meeting than they had been beforehand. He thought that the SPAB were going to fund the sculpture. Tony Ingleton said he had spoken to them at the end of the meeting and they did not seem to be sure about what they were going to do.

**b. Planning/Tree works including 2/2019/0973/FUL – Melbury Farm Business Park, Buddens Lane, West Melbury** – Cllr. Clements confirmed that if this application went ahead this would affect some of the homes near the Business Park because of people commuting to the park. This was a planning application for 6 workshop units which was an increase in the number that were burnt down. There was a presumption in the planning policy in favour of such development and this would be weighed against the small number of vans and small lorries using the site. Cllr. Ryan confirmed that there was already a big problem coming out onto the A350 here. Cllr. Coupe confirmed it was not just the junction with the A350 but the junction of the two lanes. Cllr. Clements said he did not think if Highways did not comment on this it was something for the Parish Council to comment on. Cllr. Coupe commented that Melbury Stone had recently been taken over and the access had been changed. There would be two sets of businesses opposite each other. The application says they are going to be agricultural and small business units. When the fire happened it was discovered that chemicals used for the military and cleaning materials were being stored on the site. During the fire the road was closed for a considerable period of time. Cllr. Clements confirmed that the road was not in the Parish but was in the Parish of Melbury Abbas and Cann. He did not see why the plans would not be dealt with on delegated powers. He did not see how this Parish Council could object but obviously any of residents could go along to the Melbury Abbas Parish Council meeting.

Cllr. Clements then confirmed he had again received complaints about parking near Old Barn. There had been various variations to the development to which the neighbours objected. They were now building a swimming pool which meant they were taking out a lot of spoil. They were using the onsite parking area to extract the spoil and accordingly the contractors working on the site were not able to park on site and were once again parking on the verges and on other people's land and were blocking the footpaths and on occasion the road. Cllr. Clements had spoken to the project manager and the owner had written into the Parish Council. The Planning permission had specifically dealt with parking by putting on a condition that the onsite parking and a turning area should be available at all times. Cllr. Coupe commented that these works had been going on for 4 years and that the footpath by the bottom of the Church had recently been blocked by 2 cars and a van. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to the owners once again asking them to use the onsite parking asking them not to park on other people's land and asking them not to block the footpaths.

**c. Footpaths/Rights of Way** – there was nothing to report save for as above regarding the footpath by the Church.

**d. Highways – including Drones Farm, A350 Community Group and SID** – Cllr. C Owen explained that the run of from Drone Farms made the lane very slippery and in the winter this became an ice rink. She confirmed that Dorset Council kept saying they were going to sort the problem by Drones Farm but to date this had not happened. The Clerk confirmed that apart from chasing Highways she did not know what else could be done.

Cllr. C Owen confirmed that Cllr. M Owen was happy to continue dealing with this even after he had resigned. Cllr. Coupe had circulated a report on Highways and the A350 Community Group. There were no matters arising. Cllr. Coupe confirmed that the cattle sign on the end of the road with the farm at the end was due to be put up on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2019. She explained that the A350 Community Group was a collection of 13 Parishes who have a combined interest in the A350 and C13. There were four people on the operations committee and they were moving along issues of road safety. Cllr. Clements confirmed that a Speed Indicator Device would cost in the region of £3000.00 and if the village wanted a SID this would need to be put into the next budget. They could however borrow mobile ones from Dorset Council. The small old mirror opposite the end of Hawkcombe Lane needed to be taken down. Cllr. Low suggested that the volunteer group could do this. Cllr. Clements confirmed this might be possible but they would need to ensure they had the right kit and were safe. It might be possible to just swing it around and then a new mirror for the end of Drones Lane could be purchased.

**e. Travellers** – Cllr. Ryan confirmed that they were not causing any major problems at the moment but she thought the Parish Council should consider at the next meeting whether they should write to Dorset Council to get them moved on again.

**f. Assets** – these had been discussed as above.

#### 28/08/011 Finance

**a. Bank Account and Income & Expenses to date** – The Clerk had circulated the Income and Expenses to date and the spend v budget to date. The current bank and the available balance was £5132.74. The Clerk then also went through the Spend v Budget which was as anticipated considering the costs of the play area which had not been budgeted for.

**b. Bills to be paid** – It was agreed that the following bills should be paid:

- i. Clerk's salary for July to September 2019 - £321.30
- ii. Reimbursement to Cllr. Coupe for the play area sign - £22.80
- iii. Playground Inspection - £102.00

The Parish Council also agreed to reimburse Cllr. Clements in the sum of £16.20 spent on a sign for the defibrillator and to include the £3.00 previously under paid.

Cllr. Coupe confirmed she would provide the relevant information to the Clerk so that the Asset Register could be updated.

**c. Budget** – It was agreed that the Chairman, Cllr. Coupe and the Clerk would meet prior to the next meeting to discuss the budget which needed to be approved at the next meeting. Cllr. Clements commented that the experience of the playground demonstrated that the Parish Council had insufficient funds and he therefore thought the precept would need to be increased significantly. The Parish Council could not take on everything and could not do everything themselves but they should look at employing people to take on various tasks but they could not do this without having the funds.

#### 28/08/012 Correspondence/A.O.B

**a. Strategic North Dorset Area Strategic Landscape and Heritage Sensitivity Assessment Study** – There was a reference to Compton Abbas under the section which related to Fontmell Magna. It said:

“Compton Abbas Conservation Area, several scheduled monuments (Melbury Beacon and a number of cross dykes) and grade II listed buildings lie in the wider vicinity. These are unlikely to have a significant relationship with the assessment area that would be affected by development.”

Given the above the Parish Council agreed they did not need to comment.

Cllr. Coupe confirmed that when the A350 Group had looked at the Statement of Community Involvement they had made a point that where development in one area affects another area that area should be consulted. Dorset Council also does not have a policy on Community Infrastructure Levy and they wanted small communities who are affected by a development to get a portion of any Community Infrastructure Levy. She also wanted to encourage people to comment on the Shaftesbury Neighbourhood Plan particularly in terms of the infrastructure which includes doctors schools etc. Shaftesbury is the nearest town where most of the residents go for such services. Any comments can be made via the Shaftesbury website.

Cllr. Clements asked the Clerk is she was aware of the new accessibility requirements for the website. She confirmed she was aware and was waiting for the website designer to confirm what the requirements were. She had this in mind for the budget.

Cllr. Owen confirmed she would find out when the next airfield meeting was to take place.

Cllr. Low asked who cleared the footpaths. It was confirmed that this was the Dorset Rangers.

The Chairman suggested that a Christmas card should be sent out to the residents outlining what the Parish Council had done this year.

**28/08/013 Date of next Meeting** – The next Parish Council Meeting will be on 18<sup>th</sup> December 2019.

There being no further business the meeting the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.10pm.

Signed:.....  
Chairman

Date:.....