

COMPTON ABBAS PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES of
MEETING ON WEDNESDAY 18th December 2019

**In Attendance: Cllrs. C McHenry (Chairman), C Owen, T Clements
and J Low and M Wheatley (Clerk).**

PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were no Public Questions.

MINUTES

- 18/12/01 Apologies for absence** – There were apologies for absence from Cllrs. J Coupe, S. Ryan and Dorset Cllr. Jane Somper
- 18/12/02 Declarations of Interest** – Cllr. Clements declared an interest in the A350 Community Group.
- 18/12/03 Resignation, Co-option and Councillor responsibilities** – The Chairman confirmed that after the last meeting in August 2019 Cllr. Mike Owen had resigned. He thanked Cllr. Mike Owen for all of his help during his time on the Council and in particular for his persistence in trying to get the roads in Twyford sorted. Since the last meeting no-one had come forward to be co-opted and although it had been anticipated that Tony Ingleton might join the Council he had not come to the EGM and the Chairman thought it was unlikely that he would in fact be joining the Council. The Chairman confirmed that Cllr. Low having joined the Council the Councillors' responsibilities should be revisited but suggested that in Cllr. Coupe's and Cllr. Ryan's absence this should perhaps be left until the next meeting. Cllr. Coupe had suggested someone should be appointed to oversee governance and finance and the Council also needed to discuss attendance at DAPTC meetings and the Climate Change Emergency. It was confirmed that the Clerk would circulate a list of the responsibilities as currently allocated and to be allocated. Cllr. Clements then suggested that Cllr. Low might like to take on the responsibility for the Climate Change Emergency. Dorset Council has launched a 'Call for Ideas' to help tackle Climate Change and Cllr. Clements suggested that Cllr. Low might like to have a look at this along with the various grants that were currently available to help with climate change initiatives. Unlike a lot of other areas where there was not any funding available funding was available to help combat climate change.
- 18/12/04 Approval of Minutes held on 28th August 2019 and of the EGM held on 4th December 2019** - The both sets of minutes had been circulated to the Councillors and were unanimously approved. The minutes were signed by the Chairman.
- 18/12/05 Matters arising from previous minutes that are not dealt with elsewhere on the agenda**
- a. Repairs to Bus Shelter and other assets** – The Chairman confirmed he had obtained quotes for the repairs to the brick built bus shelter to include repairing the broken window and removing the moss from the roof in the sum of £192.00. With regard to the timber built bus shelter there were two options one to repair with sleepers in the sum of £760.00 and another to replace the timber with breeze blocks in the sum of £620.00. This was discussed further as part of the budget discussions.

- b. **Footpath by Church** – The Chairman confirmed the Clerk had chased up the Rangers and the new signpost had been erected. The Rangers still do not know when the path would be re-surfaced but the Clerk will continue to chase.
- c. **The Old Barn** – The Chairman confirmed that he had received various complaints recently regarding the continued use of pile drivers at the Old Barn and in particular about the grey water that was flowing down the road from the property. The Chairman had visited the property and had been advised that the pile driving had now finished. The next project would be the construction of a cart shed which should be finished by Christmas. This would only require two people to be on site and therefore there would be no need for anyone to park on the road. In the spring the swimming pool would be finished off. The owner had confirmed that once the work had been completed he would be happy to come along to a Parish Council meeting. Cllr. Clements confirmed that the work on site seemed to have stopped. There was damage to the verges in Lower Lane and he doubted if these would be repaired. In the future he suggested that on any construction projects the Parish Council should press Dorset Council to impose conditions to prevent works being undertaken after 1pm on a Saturday and not at all on a Sunday.
- d. **Website** – The Clerk confirmed that Vision ICT who provide the Parish Council's website had advised that in order to comply with the new Accessibility Regulations the Parish Council needed to have an accessibility statement which would be published on the website confirming the accessibility to the site. Vision ICT will provide the requisite statement for £45.00 plus VAT. The statement did not need to be on the site until September 2020 and this sum had been included in the budget for next year. It had also been suggested that various community links should be included on the website. The Clerk asked the Councillors to provide her with a list of the information they would like to see on the website and she would then investigate the best way of putting the links on the website. It maybe that the best way is to include a general link to the Dorset Council website. Cllr. Low commented that she had some experience with websites and it was agreed that she and the Clerk would liaise in this regard.

18/12/06 Report from Dorset Councillor – A report from the Dorset Councillor had been circulated. There were no matters arising save that Cllr. Low was directed to the paragraph regarding Climate Change.

18/12/07 Finance

a. Bank Account and Income and Expenses to date – The Clerk had circulated the Income and Expenses to 11th December 2019 and the bank statement to that date together with an up to date budget v spend. The reconciled bank balance and available cash balance as at 11th December 2019 was £6357.24. Cllr. Clements asked if in the future he could have an excel version of the cashbook. The Clerk confirmed she would do this.

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

- i. **Clerk's salary for October to December** – in the sum of £321.30 plus 10p which was due to Cllr. Clements in respect of a reimbursement for the play area where the invoice had been incorrectly added up.
- ii. **DAPTC** - £8.34 in respect of the Clerk's seminar.

c. Budget/Precept – The Clerk informed the council that she wished to present a retrospective claim for overtime for consideration by the council. She advised her earlier written advice that the basis of this claim should influence the quantum of the hours and the hourly rate for the coming financial year. After a discussion the Chairman announced that further consideration of the 2020/21 Budget, Precept and the Clerk's claim would be deferred until a later meeting. The Chairman announced that he would like to step down as chair with immediate effect. The Meeting closed at 9.45pm.

Signed:.....

Date:.....

Chairman