

Minutes of the Meeting of the Queen Thorne Parish Council held on Monday 4th November 2024 at 7.30pm in Over and Nether Compton Village Hall.

Present: Cllrs Livingstone, Biddiscombe, Carter, Chick, Gordon, Hart, McBeath, Negus, Phillipson, Stoddart and Symms

- 1. Apologies:** Cllrs Lowe and Thomas and Max Snow
- 2. Declarations of Interests:** Cllr Carter declared an interest in the planning application at Trencherman's. Cllrs McBeath and Stoddart later declared interests in the funding requests from Sandford Orcas and Trent Village Halls respectively.
- 3. Co-option:** There is still a vacancy for Nether Compton.
- 4. Minutes:** The minutes of the meeting on September 2nd were agreed as a true record to be signed.

Open Forum

Cllr Legg reported on the following issues:

A30: The new 60mph speed limit is now in place. Highways did a speed check on the road before the new limit and will be comparing this with further checks. Discussion on further measures particularly around the Marl Lane junction will be taking place around the end of November. No updates on enforcement at the coach park. Dorset has 12 full time planning enforcement officers, currently dealing with 900 live cases.

Wren Cottage, Trent: The application has been refused despite Cllr Legg's request that it should go to the planning committee for decision. Cllr Legg has written to the planning department and the cabinet member responsible for planning.

Flooding problem at the top of Western Street: Mr Kellaway has reported that the issue has been resolved by the work carried out by Dorset Highways.

Engagement re mobile phone signal: Cllr Legg encouraged the council to be prepared to submit information on all areas within Queen Thorne where the signal is poor.

RWE update: The meeting agreed with Cllr Legg that the update is rather short on content regarding the issues of visibility in the landscape and size of the proposed site.

Mr and Mrs Harris of Barton Farm, Trent spoke to the council in reference to their application for Landpods, and to address the queries raised by the council as part of the consultation. They intend to have a maximum of two pods on the site. Parking will be just inside the gateway with a trolley provided to move baggage. The drive will remain as it is. The compostable toilet is marked with a red dot on the map and will be the type that can be emptied for further composting elsewhere on the farm. The pods will not be visible from surrounding properties. Cllr Stoddart requested that the community be kept informed, with contact details readily available in case of disturbance or other issues. This was agreed to.

5. Business Items arising from meeting on September 2nd 2024

- a. Nether Compton Recreation Ground:** Cllrs Hart and Chick have made a plan to repair the gate at no cost to the council. The council gave the clerk permission to agree a new electricity contract for the changing hut.
- b. Allotments:** Cllr Negus reported that one plot had become vacant, but was immediately taken by someone on the waiting list. A small leak on the water supply had been fixed and the council agreed to pay for the repair.
- c. Neighbourhood Plan:** No report.
- d. Highways Issues:**
 - 1. A30 road safety at the Marl Lane junction and unauthorized coach park:** See open forum above. It was agreed that the clerk should write to Dorset Highways for an update on the public consultation regarding further measures at Marl Lane junction.
 - 2. Street sign replacement in St Michael's Close, Over Compton:** Cllr Chick has installed the sign, for which the council is grateful.
 - 3. Unsuitable for HGVs sign for Compton Road & Penmore Lane/Marston Road:** Dorset Highways have said the Compton Road sign is being considered in

conjunction with the speed limit reduction on the A30. The Penmore Lane sign has now been replaced.

4. **Hummer Bridge, road repairs:** Awaiting works to repair the road which is being undermined by badgers. It was noted that warning signs have been put up.
 5. **Shillers Lane, wall and fallen trees:** Three trees have fallen across the road recently. The clerk will write to the landowner to remind them of their responsibility.
 6. **Mill Lane, Trent:** The clerk has written to the Ernest Cook Trust to request that the other tenant farmer should maintain hedges and ditches along the other side of the lane and also revisit the work done previously in the fields behind the Old Mill, all with the aim of reducing the risk of flooding. ECT has forwarded this to Mr Hohler. The clerk will write again to the trust to ask when both tenant farmers will be doing this necessary maintenance work.
 7. **Damaged road sign at Crossfields, Nether Compton** Highways have said they will repair or replace the sign.
 8. **HGVs in Sandford Orcas:** Two HGVs recently became stuck in the village on the same day. Since then, the "Unsuitable for HGVs" sign has been replaced at the Marston Road/Penmore Lane junction. Cllr Lowe has also spoken to Perrys Recycling who have been very helpful in the past.
 9. **Clearing mud on the roads** One contractor had caused problems in Sandford Orcas recently but this has now been cleared up.
 10. **Hedge and verge cutting in Trent** The clerk has written again to Highways to ask that the verges on the south side of Down Lane are cut by the spring at the latest.
- e. **Environment:** Cllr Gordon reported on the useful Tree Warden course she attended. She was told about a search for native Black Poplars in Dorset and a scheme to create Community Tree Nurseries. Cllr Negus offered to speak to local farmers about the poplars and Ian James and the Ernest Cook Trust about a possible tree nursery. Tree Protection Orders have been placed on three trees around Trencherman's, Over Compton which the parish council has supported. This was instigated by the recent planning application at the site.
- f. **Wessex Internet Fibre broadband connection:** Mr Llewellyn had forwarded an email from Wessex Internet stating that they have a government funded contract which will cover Over and Nether Compton and Trent as well as Sandford Orcas. Under this scheme, it is not necessary to demonstrate demand, nor are vouchers required. Cllr Stoddart will find out if the area includes Adber.
- g. **The Swale, Sandford Orcas:** No further update.
- h. **Drain clearing and side verging contract:** The work was carried out in October and has been very well received by residents in Sandford Orcas and Trent. Councillor Hart would have liked to see more verge removed in Nether Compton and has written to Highways to let them know that water is continuing to flow from, rather than into a couple of the drains. The council is grateful to David Yeoman, Stuart Casely and Cllr Chick for taking the spoil which was more than expected this year and saves the council money, and of course to Cllr Lowe for all the planning and organisation.
- i. **Tree growing in the stream in Sandford Orcas:** Cllr Phillipson will check to see if the tree has been removed when he inspects the stream in a couple of weeks.
- j. **Exposed well at Stallen:** The council considered two quotes for the work to renovate the well. Cllr Chick declared an interest and left the room for the discussion. It was agreed to accept the cheaper quote from Adam Chick for £1550.
- k. **Noticeboards:** Cllr Symms reported that the new board for Over Compton has been made and is almost ready to be installed. Cllr Chick will consider installing it. The board on Spring Lane, Sandford Orcas needs new cork tiles and a coat of preservative on the frame. The clerk's husband will do the work and the council agreed to pay for the materials.
- l. **Rights of Way: DMMO application submissions:** The clerk had written to the Definitive Map Team at Dorset Council to ask about the length of time it is taking to process applications. There is no plan to increase the size of the team at present. The government deadline for submissions to alter the definitive map is still Jan 2031.

6. New Business

- a. **Planned engagement re mobile phone coverage** See open forum above. Cllr Phillipson offered to contact the team at Dorset Council with details of where the signal is poor in Sandford Orcas. Councillors in other villages will also look at this.
- b. **Dorset Council's draft Council Plan review:** The council acknowledged the review. No action needed.
- c. **New defibrillator in Trent:** A new defibrillator has been installed at The Rose & Crown. This is a gift to the community from Eureka Business Solutions at Trent Court. The clerk will write to Andy to thank him for this very generous gesture.
- d. **Governance documentation for village halls:** Cllr McBeath reported on information from an event at Dorset Community Action detailing a list of documents which should be held by village halls pertaining to governance and health and safety. This will be passed to hall management committees.
- e. **Government consultation on remote meetings and proxy voting:** The clerk will submit a response in favour of remote meetings and proxy voting in some circumstances.
- f. **CIL update:** Over Compton has been awarded £977.56 relating to the development at Lower Farm, Weston Street. It was suggested that this could be used for the new noticeboard. The council also holds £1121.76 for Nether Compton which it is planned to use towards the cost of the renovation of the old well in Stallen, and £347.23 for Trent.
- g. **Funding requests:**
 - a. **Donation towards installation of PV solar panels on the roof of Sandford Orcas Village Hall**
 - b. **Donation towards improvements and new shed at Trent Village Hall**

Cllrs McBeath and Stoddart left the room and the council carefully considered and debated the two requests. It was decided to split the £1000 in this year's budget between the two halls: Two thirds to Sandford Orcas and One third to Trent. Life Education Dorset have not yet provided details so their funding request was deferred to the next meeting.

7. Financial Matters

- a. **Financial Report and Payment of Invoices** The Council reviewed expenditure against budget year to date. Invoices approved for payment: Clerk salary £922.67, HMRC PAYE £0, Sandford Orcas Village Hall (replacement cheques) £25, KM Dike £750
- b. **Payments made since last meeting approved at the meeting:** KM Dike £300
- c. **Receipts since last meeting:** £14697 Precept from Dorset Council, £1000 from Over with Nether Compton Fete – donation for maintenance of the play equipment, £977.46 CIL, (Duck race money still expected)
- d. **Budget 2025-26:** It was agreed that Cllrs Livingstone, Gordon, Phillipson and Hart should meet with the clerk to draft a budget before the end of the year.
- e. **Online Banking:** The council agreed that the clerk should start an application for NatWest Bankline for Communities.

8. Planning Matters

a. DC Planning Applications – Approved or decided by Parish Council

Name	Reference/Details	Status Parish Council comments Dorset Council decision
Gable End Compton Road Over Compton	P/LBC/2024/04691 Retain removed internal wall in the kitchen	No objection Granted 07.10.24
Trencherman's, Over Compton	P/PACD/2024/04371 Change of use from retail to 3 dwellings	Permitted development request. Comments re proximity to church & trees/ use of the site and access. Permitted development not allowed as this falls outside use class category.
The Tractor Shed, Agricultural Building North of The Folly Nether Compton	P/VOC/2024/05587 Change of use and conversion of agricultural building to 1 No. dwelling (Class C3), (with variation to Condition No. 1 of	Permitted development Comments on flood risk and lack of provision for heating from renewable energy.

	Prior Approval No. P/PAAC/2023/04097 to amend the approved plans).	
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b. Applications Determined by Dorset Council or awaiting decision

Jasmine Cottage, Trent	P/HOU/2024/04543 Demolish Front Porch and Erect Sun Room with roof lights	No objection Granted 18.09.24
Wren Cottage, Trent	P/HOU/2024/03668 Erect replacement single storey extension (demolish existing) and replace external doors	No objection Refused 24.09.24
Wren Cottage, Trent	P/HOU/2024/03669 Internal and external alterations to restore, renew and repair internally and externally	Listed building consent No objection Refused 24.09.24 (See open forum)
Quest, Harts Lane, Nether Compton	P/HOU/2024/04302 Demolish double garage and erect double garage with ancillary accommodation over with 2 dormer windows	No objection (Comment re size increase) Granted 13.09.24
Patson Hill Farm Patson Hill Lane Trent Dorset DT9 4SY	P/FUL/2023/03662 Demolish 3 No. agricultural barns and erect 3 No. agricultural buildings: a Straw Barn, Cow Barn, Machinery Shed and 1 No. Dirty Straw Bunker.	Support Granted 18.09.24
Higher Farm Compton Road Over Compton	P/FUL/2022/03668 Change of use and conversion of barns to form 3 no. dwellings. Erect agricultural building and form access (demolish existing barns)	No objection, but recommendation that careful consideration is given to the access. Natural England report re phosphorus offsetting. Granted 12.09.24

- c. Somerset Council:** Primrose Lane, Mudford, 14/02554/OUT, Outline application for development of Sustainable Urban Extension to comprise up to 765 dwellings, 65 bed care home, employment land (Use Class B1), retail units (Use Classes A1, A2, A3, A5), primary school, community building, health care facility, landscaping, open space and drainage infrastructure, access and associated highway works (GR 357198/118268) – Still listed as awaiting decision on the Somerset website. Mudford Parish Council reported after the planning committee meeting on October 22nd that the application was essentially approved before the meeting. A local councillor resigned and the result is being investigated by a moderator. The developer now has to provide detailed plans which Mudford is likely to oppose.
- d. Wyke Solar Farm:** Prior to the meeting, RWE had provided a short, written update on the public consultation. They have received 112 items of feedback on the proposal and grouped these into 8 areas. The update included a list of the changes being made to the layout as a result. This will be available on the RWE website with an updated plan.
- e. Application for Landpods certification at Barton Farm, Trent.** See open forum
- 9. Parish council system for commenting on planning applications:** In view of the changes made by Dorset Council re which applications should be decided by committee, it was agreed that the parish council should make its comments more clearly in support or against applications and back comments up with material planning considerations where possible.
- 10. Planning training:** The clerk reminded the council that training on planning is available from DAPTC.

- 11. Dates of Future Meetings: 2025:** 6 January in Trent, 3 March in Sandford Orcas, 12 May in Nether Compton, 7 July in Trent, 1 September in Sandford Orcas, 3 November in Nether Compton.
- 12. Items for next Meeting:** To be sent to the clerk.
- 13. The meeting closed at 10.10 pm**