

Minutes of the Annual Council Meeting of the Queen Thorne Parish Council held on Monday 13th May 2024 at 7.30pm in Over and Nether Compton Village Hall.

Present: Cllrs McBeath, (Biddiscombe), Carter, Chick, Gordon, Hart, Livingstone, Lowe, Negus, Phillipson, Stoddart, (Symms), Trent RoWLO Max Snow and several members of the public. (Names in brackets are councillors who were co-opted at the meeting).

1. **Apologies:** Dorset Cllr Legg
2. **Election of chairman and Chairman's Announcements:** Outgoing chairman, Cllr McBeath congratulated councillors elected at the recent election. He also commended Kim Creswell for her gracious messages after not being elected for Sandford Orcas. Cllrs Livingstone and Chick stood for election and after a vote Cllr Livingstone was elected by a margin of one vote. Cllr McBeath was thanked for his excellent service during more than a decade in the post and presented with two bottles of wine.
3. **Election of vice chairman:** Cllr Hart was unanimously elected.
4. **Declarations of Interests:** There were no declarations of interest.
5. **Declarations of any conflict of interest with the parish council auditor, BDO:** There were no declarations.
6. **Co-option of new members for Trent and Nether Compton:** David Symms was co-opted as a member for Trent and Sharon Biddiscombe was co-opted for Nether Compton. There remain two vacancies for Nether Compton.
7. **Acceptance of office forms:** Completed forms were received by the clerk for every member of the council.
8. **Planning Representatives:** The following councillors agreed to act – Nether Compton: Cllr Hart, Over Compton: Cllr Chick, Sandford Orcas: Cllrs Phillipson with Lowe, Trent:, All Trent Councillors lead by Cllr Gordon.
9. **Village Hall Representatives:** The following councillors agreed to act –Sandford Orcas: Cllr McBeath, Nether Compton: Cllr Carter, Trent: Cllr Stoddart.
10. **Other Representatives:** Nether Compton Recreation Ground/Play Area: Cllr Hart, Trent Allotments: Cllr Negus, NC Allotments: Cllr Biddiscombe. Environment: Cllr Negus.
11. **Minutes:** The minutes of the meeting on March 4th were agreed as a true record and signed
12. **Business Items arising from meeting on March 4th 2024**
 - a. **Nether Compton Recreation Ground:** Cllr Hart reported that work is ongoing to cut back brambles around the boundaries and play area. The skip at the allotments has now been removed, but there are still brambles to clear in this area. The banks around the football pitch require cutting and the clerk will ask the contractors to do this. Security (door lock and windows) at the changing hut is being improved. A very successful duck race was held and the play area committee intend to use the proceeds to replace some of the play equipment. Cllr Hart thanked the council for the payment of rent to the Poors Land Trust.
 - b. **Allotments:** Cllr Negus reported that there is a vacant plot in Trent. He may have someone interested, though so far he has been unable to contact them. Cllr Biddiscombe gave the clerk £30 plot payment. All plots in Nether Compton are taken and have now been paid.
 - c. **Neighbourhood Plan:** Max Snow reported that the NP Committee are waiting for several technical reports. These include a viability assessment and a strategic environment assessment. If these arrive within the next two months as anticipated, it is hoped to hold a referendum of residents in September.
 - d. **Trees on Gore Lane and Western Street:** As agreed at the last meeting, the trees on Western Street have been mulched with wood chip on top of membrane. The council approved an invoice for the work. It was reported that all the trees are now looking healthy on Gore Lane and Western Street. Cllr Negus advised that the Gore Lane trees are unlikely to require any maintenance this year.
 - e. **Fingerposts Maintenance and Repairs:** The anonymous volunteer will shortly repair the sign at the bottom of Holway Hill, Sandford Orcas. The broken signs in Trent, near Glebe Farm and at Adber Cross have been repaired by the clerk's husband. Cllr Chick confirmed that more oak offcuts are available for future repairs. The council agreed to a quote for cutting back around signs in Sandford Orcas twice a year.
 - f. **Highways Issues:**

- i. **Water on the road/flooding:**
 - 1. **Top of Western Street** Ian Styring has been trying to contact the farmer to arrange a meeting, so far without success. He has been put in touch with the Ernest Cook Trust about a separate issue of flooding In Trent by the railway bridge.
 - 2. **Over Compton Triangle** Cllr Livingstone had noticed flooding around the telephone/broadband cabinet. This has been reported to Dorset Council and Ian Styring has confirmed that he is aware.
 - 3. **Stallen:** Mr Arthur Llewelyn told the council that several months after he first reported the problem, Dorset Highways have issued a road closure notice to carry out drainage investigation and repair works next week. He thanked Cllrs Chick and Legg for their efforts in chasing Dorset Highways.
 - 4. **Folly Lane, Nether Compton** Cllr Hart reported that the stream is overflowing and flooding the road. The council agreed that the cause needs to be fully investigated before work is initiated. It was agreed that Cllr Hart should report the flooding on the Dorset Council website as a first step.
 - 5. **Adjacent to the Mitre Inn, Sandford Orcas** Cllrs McBeath and Phillipson have met with Justin Neely from the Dorset Flood Management Team. He is due to report back with a suggested plan to resolve the issue. Cllrs McBeath and Phillipson will chase this up.
 - ii. **Street sign replacement in St Michael's Close, Over Compton:** The council approved a quotation of £214 from Dorset Sign Shop. This was cheaper than similar products available on the internet. Unfortunately, it is cheaper to buy a sign with legs attached than without. Cllr Chick will install the new sign.
 - iii. **Unsuitable for HGVs sign for Compton Road & Penmore Lane/Marston Road:** The clerk has written twice to Highways about this but received no reply. She is compiling a list of issues to write again.
 - iv. **Hummer Bridge, road repairs:** After emails from Cllrs Legg and Lowe, Highways have agreed to schedule work to repair the road.
 - v. **Shillers Lane, tree and retaining wall:** The council is grateful to the Sandford Orcas villagers and Cllr Phillipson who moved the fallen tree from the road. Dorset Council have cordoned off the wall prior to repairing it.
 - vi. **Moorway Lane, surface:** Dorset Council is aware of the situation. No action required.
- g. **Damaged Noticeboard in Over Compton:** The Council accepted a quote from Symms Fabrications for a double metal noticeboard with legs to be erected for a price of £850. This is cheaper than all other options found. Cllr Symms left the room whilst the council discussed and voted on the quote. Cllr McBeath asked that quotes be sought for repairs to or replacement of the notice board in Sandford Orcas at the junction between Sandford Orcas Road and Spring Lane.
- h. **Wessex Internet Fibre broadband connection:** See open forum

Open Forum

Tom and Anne Newman from Trent spoke about their concerns over the pop-up campsite in Trent that is due to open again shortly. Cllr Negus had invited Edward Hohler, who leases the land from the Ernest Cook Trust, to the meeting, but he was not present. When the parish council spoke to Mr Hohler last year about the concerns of neighbours, he said that this year there should be better communication with neighbours, including provision of contact details in case of disturbance etc. So far, this has not happened. Mr and Mrs Newman were encouraged to keep a record of any disturbances.

Arthur Llewelyn of Stallen recounted his dealings with fibre to the premises broadband supply companies. Wessex Internet has won the contract for the area including Nether and Over Compton, Trent and Sandford Orcas. They are now in the planning stage. Residents are being encouraged to formally express interest in the scheme, which will allow WI to

move forward more quickly. The council agreed that it can support encouraging people to do this, as expressing interest does not entail a commitment to sign up, but will accelerate the implementation of the scheme. Mr Llewelyn will promote it in the Comptons and Cllr Stoddart agreed to do the same in Trent. Cllr Lowe has already done this in Sandford Orcas.

13. New Business

- a. **Quotes for grass cutting:** The council agreed to the quote for the coming year received from KM Dike, which was cheaper than the other quote obtained. The council agreed that the work may be supplemented by ad hoc work by local residents.
- b. **Problem of dog waste in Nether Compton and request for bins:** The council decided that it should not pay for the ongoing cost of having dog waste bins emptied. It was noted that all the notices provided by the dog warden about this issue have been taken down. It was suggested that dog owners should take the waste home to dispose of. Cllr Carter may contact the dog warden again or put a notice in the QT Magazine.
- c. **Replacement paediatric pads for Trent defibrillator:** The council agreed to a request from the village hall committee to cover the £102 costs.
- d. **Maintenance of the drainage ditch (swale) in Sandford Orcas:** Responsibility for maintenance has still not been settled between Dorset Council and Sandford Orcas Manor, the landowner. Cllrs McBeath and Legg are liaising with Dorset Council Flood Management.
- e. **Pop-up campsite in Trent:** See open forum.
- f. **Sandford Orcas flood plans:** Cllrs Phillipson and Lowe have written a flood report for the village and asked residents to adopt drains to look after. This has been very well received.
- g. **Drain clearing and side verging contract:** The council agreed that Cllr Lowe should once again organize the work and request a quote. Cllr Stoddart offered to prepare a plan for areas to be covered in Trent. The clerk will check on which areas of Adber are covered by Dorset Highways and Nether Compton Councillors will do the same for their area.
- h. **Sandford Orcas Manor open to the public sign:** The sign which is redundant has now disappeared.
- i. **Training:** The clerk will send details of upcoming training available from DAPTC. Councillors are encouraged to participate.

14. Financial Matters

- a. **Reappointment of the internal auditor:** The council approved the reappointment of Mr Daniel Baker as the internal auditor for the financial year 2023-24 as per the terms agreed by the clerk and chairman in April.
- b. **Risk Assessment and Assets** The risk assessment and list of assets were approved
- c. **Insurance** The clerk had previously circulated quotes from Clear and Zurich Insurance. The council agreed to accept a 3 year agreement from Clear Insurance.
- d. **Internal Audit** The Clerk reported that the internal audit had been carried out by Mr Daniel Baker and the annual review completed with no issues. The council reviewed and approved it
- e. **The Annual Governance Statement** was considered, approved and subsequently signed.
- f. **The Annual Accounting Statement 2023-24** was considered, approved and subsequently signed
- g. **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, Ernest Cook Trust £ 180.00, DAPTC £383.48, Adam Chick £170, Trent Village Hall £102.
Payments made since last meeting approved at the meeting: Poors Land Trust £250, Water2business £35.92 + £80.90, Trent PCC £1000 (to replace lost cheque). Dorset Planning Consultant (NP) £691.20; Groundwork: Neighbourhood Plan grant repayment £1875.60
Receipts since last meeting: Precept £14,657

- h. Financial Regulations:** The clerk suggested a review of the financial regulations based on the new NALC model regulations. It was decided that Cllrs Livingstone, Phillipson and the clerk will meet before the next meeting to draft the new document.

15. Planning Matters

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

Name	Reference/Details	Status
Agricultural Building North of The Folly Nether Compton	P/FUL/2024/01680 Demolition of existing agricultural building and erection of dwelling with associated landscaping	Objection on grounds of the risk of flooding at the property.
1 Meadow View Compton Road Over Compton	P/HOU/2024/01607 Demolish existing rear extensions, erect side and rear extensions with rooflights	No objection
High Pavement, Down Lane, Trent	P/HOU/2024/00848 Erect 1 No. single storey side extension. Alteration of rear two storey extension. Erect replacement garage to include first floor annexe. (1 1/2 storey extension approved under Appeal No. APP/D1265/W/22/3301326, split decision).	No objection Granted 22.04.24
High Pavement, Down Lane, Trent	P/LBC/2024/00849 Carry out internal and external alterations associated to erection of 1 No. single storey side extension, alteration to porch, alteration of rear two storey extension. Install 3 No. roof lights, conversion of roof voids, install and replacement of windows and doors. (1 1/2 storey extension approved under Appeal No. APP/D1265/W/22/3301328, split decision).	No objection Granted 22.04.24

Applications Determined by Dorset Council or awaiting decision

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
Dairy House Gore Farm Junction To Road Junction Below Church Farm Trent	P/HOU/2024/00457 Alterations to byre. Create vehicular access & parking area. Remove pedestrian gate and block up opening by extending stone boundary wall. Associated landscaping.	No objection. Granted 11.04.24
Dairy House Gore Farm Junction To Road Junction Below Church Farm Trent	P/LBC/2024/00335 Internal renovation of property	Support Granted 26.03.24
Alvon, Adber Road Adber	P/HOU/2023/07354 Erect side extension to form garage with accommodation over. Erect two	No objection Granted 12.04.24

	storey rear extension. Erect pitched roofs over existing garage and store, and erect single storey front and rear extensions to form additional accommodation. Erect single storey front entrance extension. Install front and rear dormer windows, roof lights and replacement windows. Form new vehicular access and parking. Carry out landscaping works.	
Patson Hill Farm, Patson Hill Lane Trent	P/FUL/2023/03661 Erect a Brewery, form carparking and associated infrastructure	Support subject to access being appropriately configured. Granted 03.05.24
Trent School, Trent	P/LBC/2023/02500 Replace existing timber fencing with new metal fencing	Comments- recognise the need for higher fencing but consider the material is out of place here Application withdrawn
High Pavement, Down Lane, Trent	P/HOU/2021/05420 Erection of 1 No. one and a half and 1 No. single storey side extensions , alteration of rear two storey extension, erection of garden walls, erect replacement garage (demolish existing garage and shed), relocate greenhouse.	Appeal APP/D1265/W/22/3301326 Split decision
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. Pending decision

16. Dates of Future Meetings 2024: 1 July in Trent, 2 September in Sandford Orcas, 4 November in Nether Compton.

17. Items for next Meeting: Financial regulations review.

18. The meeting closed at 10.30 pm