

Minutes of the Meeting of the Queen Thorne Parish Council held on Monday 6th January 2025 at 7.30pm in Trent Memorial Hall.

Present: Cllrs Livingstone, Biddiscombe, Gordon, Hart, Lowe, McBeath, Negus, Phillipson, Stoddart, Symms and Thomas, Max Snow (NP Committee) and 3 members of the public.

1. **Apologies:** Cllrs Chick and Carter
2. **Declarations of Interests:** Cllr Livingstone declared an interest in the planning application at Primrose Lane, Mudford.
3. **Co-option:** There is still a vacancy for Nether Compton.
4. **Minutes:** The minutes of the meeting on November 4th were agreed as a true record to be signed.
5. **Business Items arising from meeting on November 4th 2024**
 - a. **Nether Compton Recreation Ground:** Cllr Hart told the council that the play area committee is planning to make improvements next year which may involve altering the layout of the hut to better meet the needs of the community. The council approved a new three year electricity contract for the changing hut with Tomato Energy.
 - b. **Allotments:** The council agreed that the £170 underspend in this year's budget could be spent on compost to improve the soil. The clerk will make enquiries about compost available from Dorset Council.
 - c. **Neighbourhood Plan:** Max Snow told the meeting that on January 18th residents of Trent, Hummer and Adber are invited to a meeting where the contents of the draft Neighbourhood Plan will be revealed.
 - d. **Highways Issues, new issues and updates on:**
 1. **A30 road safety at the Marl Lane junction and unauthorized coach park:** Since the last meeting, Dorset Highways have said that the Highways Improvement Team are actively looking at options to improve safety at the junction. Cllr Legg is chasing them to find out which options they are considering. He has been told that the Head of Enforcement has now taken control of the coach park case.
 2. **Mill Lane, Trent:** Max Snow told the meeting that after a report he made to Dorset Highways, 30 to 40 metres of the ditch on the north side of the lane has been cleared to a depth of 1 to 1.5 metres. The council agreed that the fields on the south side of the lane still require work to stop water running onto the road. The clerk will write to the Ernest Cook Trust about the latter and to Ian Styring to ascertain the ownership of the verge on the south side of the lane.
 3. **Road surface at Moorway Lane, Sandford Orcas:** Residents of the two properties on Moorway Lane had written to the council about the poor state of the lane surface. Cllr Legg is arranging a meeting with Highways, residents and councillors. The council agreed to support residents request for whichever improvements to the road surface are possible within Dorset Highways restrictive budget. Councillors suggested that residents contact the Monarch's Way Association for advice as the lane forms part of the route.
 - e. **Highways Issues, already reported and awaiting works/decision**
 1. **Unsuitable for HGVs sign for Compton Road:** Still awaiting decision by Dorset Highways. The sign is being considered alongside the possible changes at the Marl Lane junction.
 2. **Hummer Bridge, road repairs:** Councillors noted that the road has deteriorated so much that vehicles are mainly keeping to just one side of the road. Cllr Negus advised that it will be a major undertaking to relocate the badger colony which is living underneath the road and which must happen before repairs to the road can take place.
 3. **Shiller's Lane wall repair and fallen trees:** The clerk will remind Highways about the wall and ask for an update. After three trees had fallen onto the highway from the north side of the lane, the parish council wrote to the owners of the land (Sandford Orcas Manor) to remind them of their duty to maintain the trees along the

road. There has been no reply or signs of works. This will now be passed to Highways.

4. **Damaged road sign at Crossfields, Nether Compton** The damaged sign is still there.
 5. **Hedge and verge cutting in Trent** Dorset Council has recently cut all areas.
- f. **Environment:** Kim Creswell of the Nature Watch Group was asked for an update on the results of water testing. She told the council that of the three trustees, she is the only one currently active. The results of testing have not been put on the website because of the shortage of available volunteers. Water testing using the photometer (funded by the parish council) has been on hold since February 2024, as they did not have anywhere to keep the equipment. A suitable place has now been created at By the Ford. Unfortunately, the chief tester is unable to drive from the village street to the property and this is now preventing testing from taking place (see paragraph 5.d.3). Two members of the group have done some kick testing in the stream in Sandford Orcas. The council asked Kim to send all the water testing results in whatever form she has them to the parish council. This was done immediately after the meeting.
 - g. **Wessex Internet Fibre broadband connection:** Cllr Lowe reported that Wessex Internet has confirmed that Sandford Orcas is still part of the planned area for connection.
 - h. **Tree growing in the stream in Sandford Orcas:** This has now been resolved.
 - i. **Exposed well at Stallen:** The work has been completed by Adam Chick.
 - j. **Noticeboards:** The new board in Over Compton has been installed. The council thanked Cllr Symms. The Sandford Orcas board is still in the pipeline.
 - k. **DMMO applications, repeal of the deadline:** The meeting noted that the government has repealed the 2031 deadline for submissions.
 - l. **Planned engagement re mobile phone coverage:** A meeting between Atlas the mobile infrastructure company, Cllr Legg and representatives from the affected parishes is soon to be organized.

Open Forum

Cllr Legg reported on the following issues:

Proposal for a Heart of Wessex Strategic Mayoral Authority. The government has issued a white paper on devolution encouraging the creation of large strategic authorities. In the case of Dorset early discussions have started with Wiltshire and Somerset Councils. Dorset Council has issued a briefing which will be followed up with a meeting for Dorset Councillors later in January.

Engaging with parishes: Cllr Legg has received about 20 replies and intends to organize meetings in February, April and June. He expects that two issues will be covered at each meeting, with relevant council officers present. Parish councillors can attend meetings with topics which interest them.

Wyke Solar Farm: So far, no planning application has been submitted.

6. New Business

- a. **Nether Compton defibrillator:** Cllr Hart explained that the power supply in the phone box only covers the green light which does not indicate a functioning battery. It was agreed that this could be misleading. The council agreed to pay the cost of replacement pads and battery.
- b. **Parish Council Domain:** The clerk reported that the current domain host is not on the CDDO list of approved registrars for parish councils moving to gov.uk. The domain subscription is due for renewal in February and the clerk had circulated quotes. Cllr Stoddart agreed to look into this.
- c. **Temporary road closure in Sandford Orcas:** Cllr Lowe reported that this has now been arranged so that access for residents will be adequate.
- d. **Heart of Wessex Strategic Authority:** See open forum.
- e. **Engaging with parishes :** See open forum.

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, Adam Chick £1550, Queen Thorne Parish Magazine £200, Trent VH £43, Dorset Planning Consultant £1886.88 (NP), Trent VH £88 (NP), Dorset Council £618.37.
- b. **Payments made since last meeting approved at the meeting:** James Smith £30.04, Dorset Planning Consultant £1886.88 (NP)
- c. **Receipts since last meeting:** (Duck race money still expected)
- d. **Budget 2025-26:** The council agreed to the budget drafted by the budget committee and a precept request of £31,447 which represents a 2.6% increase for a Band D property, matching the current rate of inflation.
- e. **Online Banking:** The clerk had contacted NatWest about accessing Bankline for Communities. The online feature is not currently available for existing community account holders but is available for new accounts. It was therefore agreed that the clerk should apply for a new account.

8. Planning Matters

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

Name	Reference/Details	Status Parish Council comments Dorset Council decision
White Post Inn, Rimpton	P/FUL/2024/06759 Change of use of public house (Sui Generis and residential use) to 1 No. dwelling (Class C3).	Objection: The pub is of historical significance and could be a viable business.
5 Bridge Place Nether Compton	P/LBC/2024/07563 Alterations to 1990's Study extension at North End of property to create Boot Room with new window and door arrangements. Replacement of existing Crittal window	No objection
The Tractor Shed, Agricultural Building North of The Folly Nether Compton	P/FUL/2024/06925 Change of use of agricultural land to residential garden	No objection, with note that measures taken to solve flooding issues have not been successful.

b. Applications Determined by Dorset Council or awaiting decision

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 Prior Approval No. P/PAAC/2023/04097 to amend the approved plans).	Permitted development Comments on flood risk and lack of provision for heating from renewable energy. Granted 06.12.24
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- 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) – Awaiting confirmation of decisions.

d. Wyke Solar Farm: Subsequent to the PC meeting, RWE sent an update with revisions to the plan and proposal. There will be another public consultation event on Friday 17th of January.

9. Dates of Future Meetings: 2025: 3 March in Sandford Orcas, 12 May in Nether Compton, 7 July in Trent, 1 September in Sandford Orcas, 3 November in Nether Compton.

10. Any other business/ Items for next Meeting: Cllr Lowe reported that works have been undertaken to repair and maintain field entrances and road edges along Winter Lane and Great Pit Lane, Sandford Orcas. The clerk will write to thank those responsible for the work.

11. The meeting closed at 9.55 pm