

Minutes of a meeting of the Queen Thorne Parish Council held on Monday 11th September 2023 at 7.30pm in Sandford Orcas Hall.

Present: Cllrs McBeath, Biddiscombe, Carter, Chick, Harris, Livingstone, Lowe, Morgan, Phillipson, Two members of the QTNWG, Deborah Gordon and Sam Negus (co-option candidates) and six members of the public.

- 1. Apologies:** Cllr Hart, Dorset Cllr Legg, RoWLO Max Snow and Cllr Symms
- 2. Chairman's Remarks:** The chairman reminded the council of the importance of making declarations of interest when appropriate. The chairman and others expressed sorrow at the sudden passing of Cllr Steve Goodden and a minute's silence was observed in his memory.
- 3. Declarations of Interests:** None
- 4. Co-option of a new member for Trent:** Following the resignation of Roger Kipling who, during his years as a Trent Councillor, had overseen the renovation of Trent Allotments, the planting of trees in the parish and the annual verges and gullies maintenance programme in Trent, a casual vacancy had been advertised. Two candidates whose statements had previously been circulated, explained why they would like to join the council. A paper vote was held and Sam Negus was co-opted.
- 5. Minutes:** The minutes of the meeting on July 3rd were agreed as a true record and signed.
- 6. To elect a new representative for Trent Allotments:** Sam Negus was elected.
- 7. Business Items arising from meeting on July 3rd 2023**
 - a. Nether Compton Recreation Ground:** Cllr Livingstone explained that the deeds of the recreation ground make it clear that the council has no obligation to maintain a stock proof fence on the boundary, rather that this obligation lies with the adjacent houses. The council has no objection to the property owners replacing the fence. The clerk will write to Mr Legerton, who had enquired, to explain the situation.
 - b. Allotments:** The clerk noted that the water bill for Trent Allotments is higher than the same time last year. This may be as a result of a leak earlier in the year or the works that have been carried out. Cllr Negus agreed to bear this in mind. Cllr Biddiscombe reported that the area has been tidied up and the skip is almost full, so she will soon ask for it to be removed. £20 rent for NC plots was handed to the clerk.
 - c. Neighbourhood Plan:** The clerk reported that the change of designated area has been requested and the consultation process is almost over. An interim grant of £1140.60 has successfully been applied for.
 - d. QTPC Environment Lead:** Cllr Negus agreed to take on the role.
 - e. Trees on Gore Lane and Western Street:** It was reported that the trees on Gore Lane are doing well but at least one of the trees on Western Street appears to have died. The clerk will look at the guarantee from the supplier. It was agreed that the trees do not require any maintenance at the moment.
 - f. Fingerposts maintenance and repairs:** Clive Yendole has very kindly repaired a damaged post next to Nether Compton defibrillator. He is also repairing a post in Over Compton. The council asked the clerk to thank him and agreed to pay for the materials. Cllrs Lowe and Chick will this week go to select wood for repairs elsewhere.
 - g. Side verging and gully clearing contract 2023** Cllr Lowe reported that the Dorset Council team had done an exceptionally good job this year. Thanks are also due to Mr Yeoman who has taken the spoil.
 - h. Highways issues:** The clerk told the meeting that the new Community Highways Officer, Ian Styring has started work but has a backlog of issues to deal with. He will be introduced to the parishes in due course.

Open Forum

Queen Thorne Nature Watch Group announced that they are now fully registered with the charity commission with the purpose of undertaking research into the environment and its biodiversity and disseminating the results for the benefit of the public. A list of recommendations for the role of parish council environmental lead was read out. The meeting was told that kick sampling in Sandford Orcas stream by the pub, village hall and

at Moorway Lane showed a depletion in aquatic life. Some of the land bordering the stream belongs to QT Agri and Cllr Harris who is a director of QT Agri, declared an interest. As this was the open forum, he was allowed to take part in the discussion from the public area. The NWG would like to hold a meeting with relevant land owners and asked the parish council to facilitate such a meeting. The chairman agreed that a meeting would be arranged and Mr Rutter said that he would be willing to attend.

A resident of Nether Compton spoke about a proposal to install gates to prevent off road vehicles accessing bridleways and green lanes. Permission has already been obtained from Dorset Council. The parish council agreed to consider a request for funding at the next meeting in November.

Two residents of Sandford Orcas told the meeting of a distressing incident whilst walking their Labrador along the road in Sandford Orcas. Two lurchers came from the vicinity of the Manor and attacked their Labrador. Fortunately, the dog was not injured, but the incident has been reported to the Dorset Council dog warden.

A resident of Trent told the meeting about a pop-up campsite in Trent, which is causing disturbance to the occupiers of houses close by. It was confirmed that the new government permitted development rules for campsites allow large numbers of tents and campervans over an extended period. The clerk will write to the Ernest Cook Trust to express concerns over the site in Trent and to the MP about the policy.

8. New Business

- a. **Wessex Internet proposed connection in Sandford Orcas** Wessex Internet has informed Cllr Lowe that Sandford Orcas is on the map for fibre broadband connection. Bidding is now open for the contract from the government. Result of the bidding should be announced in early 2024.
- b. **Inappropriate parking on the highway in Nether Compton** It was reported that there is a frequent problem arising from parking in the passing place and outside The Old Forge, Stallon which is causing the road to be blocked. The clerk will write to Dorset Highways.
- c. **Unreliable bin collections and wall damage at Homecroft** Cllr Lowe has been in touch with Dorset Council and suggested a course of action to the owners.
- d. **Open Reach work on Dark Lane and Penmore Lane, Sandford Orcas** Cllr Lowe reported that the work has now been delayed until November. Warnings will be given to parishes that could be affected in advance.
- e. **Standing orders review** Cllrs Phillipson, Carter, Livingstone and McBeath agreed to be part of a committee to draft an revised version before the next meeting.
- f. **QTPC Chairman & 2024 elections** Cllr McBeath said that he does not want to continue as chair after the election and asked the council to consider who might take over.
- g. **Dorset Council housing strategy consultation** The clerk will forward the link again so that councillors may fill in the questionnaire individually.
- h. **DEFRA consultation on Hedgerows** The clerk will forward the information to Cllr Negus and liaise over a response.
- i. **Pop-up campsites** See open forum
- j. **Damaged notice board in Over Compton** Cllr Chick is getting a quote to remake the board and the clerk will look for prices for an off the shelf one.
- k. **Street sign on St Michael's Close, Over Compton** The clerk will ask the advice of Highways about how to get a replacement for the missing sign.
- l. **Documents for storage in the Dorset History Centre** It was agreed that old minutes and important documents should be stored at the centre with an index of contents kept.
- m. **Parish Council website** The council agreed to pay the new subscription charge of £9.99 per month.
- n. **Clerk's conference** The council agreed to pay expenses if the clerk is able to go and the agenda looks useful.
- a. **Financial Report and Payment of Invoices** The Council reviewed expenditure against budget year to date. Invoices approved for payment: Clerk salary £865.67, KM Dike £508.32, Sandford Orcas Village Hall £25, Parish Online £48, Water2business £154.74 Trent and £57.98 NC, Anthony Yendole £39.54, Trent PCC £1000, Sandford Orcas PCC £1000, Over and Nether Compton PCC £2000, Clerk for Yeovil skip hire £397.20, Petty cash £30.
- b. **Payments made since last meeting approved at the meeting:** Steve Rose £65

Receipts since last meeting: None reported

9. 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/PAAC/2023/04097 Change of use and conversion of agricultural building to 1 No. dwelling (Class C3)	Comments submitted on sustainability of the building and run off into the stream. Prior approval granted 18.07.23 CIL

Applications Determined by Dorset Council or awaiting decision

Batsons Farm, Adber	P/FUL/2023/03223 Erection of a dual purpose barn for the storage of agricultural equipment, feed and bedding and the housing of youngstock	No material objection, but concerns over pollution from light, noise, smell etc. Building must be better screened from neighbouring houses.
Holway Farm Holway Sandford Orcas	P/CLP/2023/03224 Certificate of lawfulness for the creation of a new means of access	Support Granted 11.07.23
Holway Farm Holway Sandford Orcas	P/PADM/2023/03225 Demolition of agricultural building	Support Granted 03.07.23
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
Flamberts Rigg Lane Trent	P/LBC/2023/02271 Remove section of kitchen wall to increase opening between kitchen and utility room. Remove wall between hall and Larder room to make a larger entrance lobby area. Increasing size of upstairs WC by building a new wall and opening a doorway into bedroom 3 to create a small en-suite shower room.	No objection Granted 18.07.23
Rosedown Farm, Penmore Road Sandford Orcas	P/VOC/2023/01757 Erect extension to warehouse and form parking areas. Create a holding wildlife pond. (with variation of condition 2 of planning permission P/FUL/2022/06821 to amend approved plans)	No objection Pending decision Granted 01.09.23

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
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
Lower Farm, Over Compton	P/FUL/2021/01334 Conversion & extension of agricultural building to create 1no. dwelling, including change of use of land to create residential curtilage. Erection of car port & boundary wall	No objection Pending decision

10. Dates of Future Meetings 2023: 13th November in Nether Compton (changed from 6th).

2024: January 8 in Trent, March 4 in Sandford Orcas, May 13 in Nether Compton.

11. Items for next Meeting: Conduct at meetings.

12. The meeting closed at 10 pm.