

Minutes of a meeting of the Queen Thorne Parish Council held on Monday 4th March 2024 at 7.30pm in Sandford Orcas Village Hall.

Present: Cllrs McBeath, Carter, Chick, Gordon, Harris, Livingstone, Morgan, Negus, Phillipson, Symms, RoWLO Max Snow and several members of the public.

1. **Apologies:** Cllrs Biddiscombe, Hart, Lowe and Dorset Council Cllr Legg.
2. **Declarations of Interests:** None
3. **Minutes:** The minutes of the meeting on January 8th were agreed as a true record and signed (see also open forum).
4. **Business Items arising from meeting on January 8th 2024**
 - a. **Nether Compton Recreation Ground:** Cllr Hart was unable to attend the meeting due to a delayed train, but reported via the clerk: The boundaries of the play area and football pitch have been trimmed back to allow the contractors to cut the full area of the pitch. The play area committee has inspected the play equipment and will be considering how to ensure it remains safe, and possibly upgrade and replace specific items. It is also planning to tidy up the hut / improve the configuration. Special thanks to parishioner Phil Bridger for his help with hut repairs and the new key safe. The council agreed to a request from the Poors Land Trust for £250 annual rent.
 - b. **Allotments:** Plot holders have been paying by bank transfer. Cllr Negus reported that there is a vacant plot but he may have someone interested.
 - c. **Neighbourhood Plan:** Max Snow reported that the NP Committee has received the first of the technical reports.
 - d. **Trees on Gore Lane and Western Street:** It was agreed that the trees on Western Street should be mulched with wood chip on top of membrane and the hedge carefully cut back behind. As this needs doing before the next meeting, the council agreed a budget of up to £500. Cllrs Chick and Negus will find a contractor and organize the work.
 - e. **Fingerposts Maintenance and Repairs:** The previous anonymous volunteer is currently busy elsewhere. Therefore, broken signs in Trent, near Glebe Farm and at Adber Cross are being repaired by the clerk's husband.
 - f. **Highways Issues:**
 - i. **Water on the road in Over Compton** See open forum.
 - ii. **Stones along the highway outside Sandford Orcas Church** The clerk will contact Highways for an update. Cllr McBeath will speak to other residents in Sandford Orcas.
 - iii. **A30 speed/safety consultation** Since the most recent fatal accident at the Marl Lane junction, councillors and residents are calling for Dorset Council to take urgent action to make the road safer. Suggested ideas are a 50 mph limit, average speed cameras, traffic lights/roundabout or closing the crossing. It was agreed that Cllr McBeath and others will attend one of Chris Loder's upcoming surgeries to discuss the issue and ask that he attends a joint meeting with Dorset Council Highways, Robin Legg and representatives of Queen Thorne and Bradford Abbas Parish Councils. Post-Meeting Note: Cllrs McBeath, Chick and Carter attended a meeting of Bradford Abbas Parish Council on Tuesday, 5th March. After much useful discussion, a joint action team including Cllrs Chick and Carter was formed. Cllrs Hillier (BAPC Chairman) and McBeath will attend Chris Loder's next available constituency surgery after consulting Dorset Cllr Robin Legg.
 - iv. **A30 unauthorised coach park** No progress to report. This will be part of the safety discussions.
 - v. **Old Mill Lane, Trent** Claire McIntosh of the Ernest Cook Trust is aware of the problem and is looking at work to alleviate it.
 - vi. **Street sign replacement in St Michael's Close, Over Compton, update** The clerk is still waiting for a quote from the Dorset Sign Shop. The council asked the clerk to find out if another supplier would be possible.
 - vii. **Rowbarrow Hill** Dorset Council has confirmed that the planned work is to

recover a jetter nozzle that has been lost, stuck in the pipe system. The road was closed for a few days in January but the work was not completed.

- viii. **Unsuitable for HGVs sign for Compton Road** Cllr Chick proposed that the council request a new sign at the top of the road. It was agreed to do so and specify a pictorial plus text sign.
- g. **Damaged Noticeboard in Over Compton** The clerk had circulated a quote which the council deemed to be too expensive. Cllr Symms said that his company might be able to make a new board for less. He will prepare a quote.
- h. **Overgrown Bridleways in Nether Compton / Trent:** Cllr Chick has spoken with the executors of S. Goodden's estate. Maintenance will not be done before the autumn or next spring.
- i. **Environment Report** Cllr Negus's report and answers provided by the NWG to the council's questions on the water testing equipment had previously been circulated to the council. Cllr Negus offered to write to Chris Loder to ask him to do all he can to ensure the regulations on hedgerows are brought into law as quickly as possible.
- j. **Dorset Community Tree Project** Cllrs Gordon and Hart have volunteered to become tree wardens and will undertake training after the May elections.
- k. **Elections 2024** The council thanked Cllrs Morgan and Harris who will be standing down in May. Cllr Phillipson kindly agreed to deliver nomination papers for the rest of the council to Dorset Council Elections Office.
- l. **Fibre broadband connection in Nether and Over Compton** In answer to enquiries by Mr Llewelyn, Gigaclear has confirmed that it has no plans to move forward with work to connect the villages in the next 6 months. Wessex Internet have said that they are now tendering for the contract and should that be successful, work may begin in 2025.
- m. **Hummer Bridge, update** The temporary traffic lights have been removed. No explanation has, as yet, been received.

Open Forum

Mr Simon Drury referred the council to item 5Fi in the draft minutes of January 8th. He told the council that he considered the account regarding water on the road in Over Compton gave a false impression. The council agreed to amend the minutes accordingly. Mr Drury said that he would like to see a resolution to the frequent flooding on the road alongside his land and will allow Dorset Highways access to investigate the problem. The clerk will pass this information to the Community Highways Officer.

Kim Creswell, speaking as a resident and not on behalf of the NWG, told the council that the cross-compliance rules protecting hedgerows have now ended and new rules are yet to replace them. The RSPB is asking people to write and press the government to bring the necessary legislation forward as quickly as possible. On behalf of the NWG, Kim reported monthly water testing has been reinstated and there are hopes to expand this across Queen Thorne. Preliminary results have revealed problematic amounts of nitrates and phosphates in all the waterways tested.

Mr Stephen Bartlett of Mudford Parish Council told the council about recent amended documents submitted for the Primrose Lane, Mudford development application. There has been little change apart from to the boundary of the attenuation pond. None of the questions posed by Mudford Council have been answered. Mudford PC has spent £3,000 to update the landscape report. The planning inspector said there should be 40% green space and 30% affordable housing. It is feared that, like the Wyndham Park development, the green space and landscaping will end up being much reduced. The developer is requesting to build only 15% affordable housing. Mudford PC is still concerned about the possibility of anthrax being present on the land and is demanding that the developer addresses this issue at the beginning. The PC is also concerned about flooding and sewage.

5. New Business

- a. **King Charles portraits for village halls** The clerk has ordered a free portrait for each of the village halls.

- b. **Proposed postcode change for Penmore Road** The council agreed that Cllr McBeath and the clerk should request the change on behalf of a group of householders on Penmore Road in order to avoid confusion by delivery drivers.
- c. **Village meetings** The chairman reminded councillors that meetings should be held in March, April or May. Sandford Orcas has arranged its meeting for April 13th.
- d. **Rural bus services in Dorset and Somerset** The council agreed that this is a difficult issue, with many bus services proving to be unviable due to lack of users, and communities then left without services.
- e. **Request for funding for the installation of PV solar panels on the roof of Sandford Orcas Village Hall** Quotes and details of the project had previously been circulated and Mr George Lossius explained the proposal to the council. An officer from Low Carbon Dorset had visited and endorsed the project. The hall committee are hoping to obtain grants including up to 50% from LCD. The council agreed to ring fence the £1000 remaining in this year's budget for village hall grants, to be made available for the project next year, subject to the committee receiving further grants to make the project viable. This money would not affect Sandford Orcas Village Hall requesting grants from next year's budget.

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 £1211.49 (this includes a pay rise back dated to April as proposed by NALC and approved by the Council in January), PAYE £18.16, Sandford Orcas Village Hall £43, Clerk £50 (Petty cash)
Payments made since last meeting approved at the meeting: Dorset Council ££9476.40 (side verging and gullies), Dorset Planning Consultant £1279.44. **Receipts since last meeting:** £90 Trent Allotments, £105 Nether Compton Allotments

8. Planning Matters:

DC Planning Applications – Approved or decided by Parish Council

Name	Reference/Details	Status
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.
Dairy House Gore Farm Junction To Road Junction Below Church Farm Trent	P/LBC/2024/00335 Internal renovation of property	Support
Patson Hill Farm, Patson Hill Lane Trent	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
Alvon, Adber Road Adber	P/HOU/2023/07354 Erect side extension to form garage with accommodation over. Erect two 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	No objection

	extension. Install front and rear dormer windows, roof lights and replacement windows. Form new vehicular access and parking. Carry out landscaping works.	
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Applications Determined by Dorset Council or awaiting decision

Land and Buildings at Lower Farm Western Street Over Compton	P/PAAC/2023/07129 Change of use and conversion agricultural building to form 1 No. dwelling (Class C3).	Prior approval. Comment re possible over intensification of the site. Prior approval not required.
Holway Farm Holway Sandford Orcas	P/FUL/2023/05986 Engineering works to facilitate access	Support Granted 31.01.24
The Chantry Gore Farm Junction To Road Junction Below Church Farm Trent	P/LBC/2023/06481 Internal alterations to existing fireplaces. Removal of floor covering	No objection subject to Historic England approval Granted 13.02.24
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.
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. Granted 21.02.24
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
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

SSDC

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).

See open forum. The council agreed to submit comments in line with those being prepared by Mudford PC.

8. **Correspondence:** Two further letters from Mr P. Churchill of Adber concerning Rowbarrow Hill, the Adber Cross junction and the temporary traffic lights on Hummer Bridge had been previously circulated. A letter from Mr H. Gosling about the decline in the local postal service. The council agreed that as this is a national problem and a private company, the letter should be forwarded to Chris Loder.
9. **Dates of Future Meetings 2024:** 13th May in Nether Compton, 1st July in Trent, 2nd September in Sandford Orcas and 4th November in Nether Compton.
10. **Items for Next Meeting:** Climate emergency
11. **The meeting closed at 9.50 pm.**