

Minutes of the Council Meeting of the Queen Thorne Parish Council held on Monday 3rd November 2025 at 7.30pm in Trent Memorial Hall.

Present: Cllrs Livingstone, Carter, Hart, Lowe, McBeath, Negus, Phillipson, Symms, Trent RoWLO Max Snow and David Walden from Trent Memorial Hall Committee.

1. **Apologies:** Cllrs Chick, Gordon, Thomas, and Dorset Cllr Legg
2. **Declarations of Interests:** None declared.
3. **Casual Vacancies in Over Compton, Nether Compton and Trent:** Since the last meeting Sharon Biddiscombe and Gene Stoddart have stepped down due to other commitments. The council was sorry to see them go and hopes to co-opt new members soon.
4. **Trent Village Hall Representative:** Cllr Negus agreed to take on the role for the time being, and it was agreed that Mr Walden will inform him before committee meetings of any items relevant to the parish council.
5. **Minutes:** The minutes of the meeting on September 1st were agreed as a true record and signed
6. **Business Items arising from meeting on September 1st 2025**
 - a. **Nether Compton Recreation Ground:** Cllr Hart reported that there are plans to hold another "Tidy up Day" following last year's successful event.
 - b. **Allotments:** There is a half plot now vacant at Trent. Cllr Negus suggested that the council acquires a plastic sheet to cover empty plots and thereby prevent weed growth. Cllr Symms offered to see if a silage sheet could be found for this purpose. Following last meeting's discussion about the unexpectedly high water bill at Nether Compton, the supply has been turned off at the meter by Roger Dodd. This was done after investigation appeared to show evidence of a leak in the pipe from the meter to the recreation ground. The clerk has contacted Wessex Water who are going to come and search for the leak. Cllr Hart will check the meter again soon. It was agreed to increase allotment annual rental charges from £30 to £31 and £15 to £15.50 for full and half plots respectively. The increases will apply when fees are paid for the coming year in January 2026. Cllr Hart agreed to take on responsibility for the NC allotments and has contacted Sharon Biddiscombe to ask for the records.
 - c. **Neighbourhood Plan:** Max Snow reported that the Ernest Cook Trust has been asked to donate £1000 towards the cost of a strategic environmental assessment (SEA) to match the funding agreed by the parish council.
 - d. **Highways Issues, new issues and updates on:**
 1. **A30 road safety at the Marl Lane junction and unauthorized coach park:** Dorset Highways has completed the work to close the barrier at the junction. It was reported by councillors that there have been several minor accidents during the roadworks on the A30 and subsequently along Compton Road.
 2. **Over Compton Road Signs:** Highways has informed the clerk that warning signs on the approach to the triangle will be considered as part of the wider evaluation of the alterations on the A30. The clerk will find out if it would be an option for the parish council to install the signs and how much this would cost.
 - e. **Highways Issues, already reported and awaiting works/decision**
 1. **Hummer Bridge, road repairs:** No updates
 2. **Shiller's Lane wall repair and fallen trees:** No updates
 3. **Mill Lane, Trent:** No updates
 4. **Damage to listed wall at Hill House on Compton Road:** No updates
 5. **Glebe Farm, OC, drains and state of road:** An attempt was made to clear these drains as part of the side verging and gully clearing programme, but it appears the culvert is still blocked. The clerk has written again to Highways.
 - f. **Environment:** Cllr Negus reported on the work party at Trent Millennium Pond organized by Max Snow. A large amount of reed vegetation was removed and the water inlet unblocked, with the result that the pond is now full of water again and in a much better condition.
 - g. **Wessex Internet Fibre broadband connection:** Cllr McBeath reported that Wessex Internet have been doing some initial works in Sandford Orcas in preparation for connection in about 12 months' time. Cllr Lowe will contact them for further information.

- h. **Mobile phone coverage Sandford Orcas proposal:** The clerk had contacted Atlas who reported that two of the landowners approached are unwilling to host a mast site. Another option is still being pursued.
- i. **Flood Prevention in Sandford Orcas:** Cllr McBeath reported that Dorset Council has now carried out the necessary work with permission from the tenant Richard Horsington. The ditch has been re-dug and a new fence erected, all to a very high standard. The clerk will write to Cllr Legg, Andy Proberts and Nigel Dibden at Dorset Council to thank them for bringing this about. It is hoped that responsibility for maintenance will be passed to the new landowner once the land has been sold.
- j. **Repair to the wall at Over Compton Triangle:** The clerk has written to the Community Highways Officer again, also enquiring about safety / road closure if the parish council were to undertake the repairs.
- k. **Parish Council laptop and domain:** The clerk updated the council on the laptop which will receive security updates for one more year. The domain will be switched to HugoFox before the end of the year.
- l. **Proposed solar farm at Wyke, update:** The clerk has been informed that the environmental impact assessment is on hold until the position with connection to the grid is known.

7. New Business

- a. **Tree planting and maintenance:** Cllr Negus advised that the council should not plant any more road side trees and should wait for an alternative location to be found. He did not think any maintenance is currently needed for the trees already planted on Gore Lane and Weston Street.
- b. **Repairs to village notice boards in Trent:** The council agreed to pay for the required repairs and accepted a quotation of between £250 and £350.
- c. **State of pavement on Down Lane, Trent:** The Blue Lias stone flags have been damaged in places by large vehicles, which is causing a trip hazard. It was agreed that the clerk should write to the Ernest Cook Trust requesting repairs. It was also noted that the old wall outside the Manor Farmhouse is bowing. The clerk will write to the property owner. It was reported by Cllr McBeath that a similar situation exists on the flagstone pavement outside the Old School House in Sandford Orcas. Since the meeting the property owner has confirmed that the pavement is the responsibility of Dorset Council.
- d. **Nether Compton Defibrillator:** The council considered whether it should hold a spare set of pads, but decided against this in view of their limited life span. It was suggested that it would be better to buy new pads a month before the existent ones expire.
- e. **Bradford Abbas Neighbourhood Plan consultation:** The council agreed to follow the advice of Max Snow and support the plan.
- f. **Roadside hedges and verges:** It was agreed that the clerk should put some information in the Queen Thorne Magazine on the responsibilities of residents for hedges and verges adjoining footpaths and roads.
- g. **Sandford Orcas Manor:** Cllr McBeath told the council that the manor has been sold.

8. Financial Matters

- a. **Financial Report and Payment of Invoices** The Council reviewed expenditure against budget year to date.
Payments approved:
Clerk salary £960.96,
KM Dike Nurseries (Grass cutting) £324*
Trent Memorial Hall (Hall hire) £46
Payments made since last meeting approved at this or the previous meeting:
KM Dike (Grass cutting) £162*
*These payments include VAT which will be reclaimed.

- b. **Budget Preparation:** Cllrs Livingstone, Philipson, Hart and Symms agreed to be part of the working group which will meet to draft a budget in December.

9. Planning Matters

- a. **DC Planning Applications – Approved or decided by Parish Council for approval**

Name	Reference/Details	Status Parish Council comments
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		Dorset Council decision
The Chantry Gore Farm Junction To Road Junction Below Church Farm Trent	P/LBC/2025/05770 Proposed internal alterations & installation of Air Source Heat Pump	The parish council supports.
Holway Farm Buildings Holway Sandford Orcas	P/PAAC/2025/05625 Change of use and conversion of 2no agricultural buildings to form 5no dwellings (demolition of agricultural buildings)	Notified to the PC for information only.
Ridge View Penmore Road Sandford Orcas	P/CLE/2025/03816 Certificate of lawfulness for works to outbuilding to be used as ancillary accommodation	No comments

b. Applications Determined by Dorset Council or awaiting decision

Glebe House Gore Farm Junction To Road Junction Below Church Farm Trent	P/LBC/2025/04691 Replacement of two pairs of glazed doors with fan lights.	Support Granted 09.10.25
Land North Of Compton Road Yeovil	P/ESC/2025/04939 Request for EIA Screening Opinion under Regulation 6 of the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 for a residential development of up to 400 homes and associated infrastructure	Not notified to the PC EIA not required 03.09.25
Loscombe House Old Compton Lane Bradford Abbas	P/FUL/2024/07616 Continue use of land as Commercial Car Storage (Class B8).	Objection Refused 24.09.25

- 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
Objection posted 16.03.24 ,
Approved 15.07.25

10. Dates of Future Meetings 2026:

12th January in Sandford Orcas,
2nd March in Trent,
11th May in Sandford Orcas,
6th July in Nether Compton,
7th September in Nether Compton,
2nd November in Trent

11. Items for next Meeting: Send to clerk

12. The meeting closed at 9.10 pm