

Minutes of the Council Meeting of the Queen Thorne Parish Council held on Monday 2nd March 2026 at 7.30pm in Trent Memorial Hall.

Present: Cllrs McBeath (in the chair), Chick, Gordon, Lowe, Negus, Phillipson, Symms, Thomas, Dorset Cllr Legg, Trent RoWLO Max Snow and David Walden from Trent Village Hall Committee.

1. **Apologies:** Cllrs Livingstone, Carter and Hart.
2. **Declarations of Interests:** None declared.
3. **Casual Vacancies in Over Compton, Nether Compton and Trent:** The clerk will continue to advertise the vacancies.
4. **Minutes:** The minutes of the meeting on January 12th were agreed as a true record and signed.
5. **Reports from Dorset Council:** Cllr Legg reported on the following issues:
 - Average speed cameras on the A30: Specialist contractor are deciding locations of the cameras. Cllr Legg has informed Highways that the proposed location on Babylon Hill may not be appropriate.
 - Unauthorised coach park: The enforcement officer has confirmed that the owners have until the end of March to lodge an appeal.
 - Hummer Bridge: During a meeting on site with Cllrs Legg and Symms, the highways officer, who has recently taken over the case, realized that the badger sett under the road must first be investigated before works can take place. This has led to a delay whilst guidance is sought from the Dorset Council Senior Ecologist. Cllr Gordon stressed that the state of the road is currently causing dangerous conditions for drivers. Cllr Legg agreed to request that warning signs should be installed.
 - Over Compton Triangle: Since the last meeting Cllr Legg has received confirmation from Dorset Council that the whole triangle is their responsibility. Highways have issued a works notice to repair the wall
 - Drainage works in Trent: Work has been carried out to unblock road drains, but the problem will not be solved until a field sinkhole has been resolved. Dorset Council are waiting for dry weather so they can take the necessary machinery into the field.
 - Potholes: Most of the large holes reported to Cllr Legg have already been fixed, thanks to Max Snow photographing and reporting them. Several smaller ones below the reporting limit remain.
 - Dorset Council has recently allocated £5m for the repair of roads damaged by flood water and a further £250k for a team who will move around the county proactively clearing blocked gullies.

Open Forum

Representing Trent Memorial Hall, David Walden suggested that the council keeps a log of the expiry dates of replaceable parts for village defibrillators. The clerk agreed that she will keep a note of expected dates, though variation will arise should the defibrillators be used. It was also noted that battery life is not always predictable.

6. **Business Items arising from meeting on January 12th 2026.**
 - a. **Nether Compton Recreation Ground:** The clerk reported that the company supplying electricity to the changing hut has taken excessively large amounts in direct debits from the council bank account. It is not clear whether the smart meter is working and the company, Yu Energy has used its own high estimated figures instead of the meter readings submitted by the clerk. The clerk is awaiting the outcome of a case raised with Yu Energy. If they do not quickly issue a refund, Cllr Legg will take this up with Ed Morello. Cllr Thomas offered to look at the contract and advise the clerk about cancelling the direct debit.
 - b. **Allotments:** Cllr Negus had met with potential new plot holders. He asked the clerk to send him a record of payments received when the next bank statement arrives.
 - c. **Water Leak at Nether Compton Recreation Ground:** Sherborne Utilities has located and repaired the leak. The council approved their invoice for one day's work, with 50% already paid in advance and the rest for payment now. The clerk has applied for a water leak allowance from Water2business.
 - d. **Neighbourhood Plan:** Max Snow reported that the Dorset Planning Consultant Ltd has been commissioned to prepare the SEA, to be paid jointly by the parish council and the Ernest Cook Trust.
 - e. **Highways Issues, new issues and updates on:**

1. **A30 road safety at the Marl Lane junction and unauthorized coach park:** See report from Cllr Legg above.
 2. **Potholes:** Cllr Lowe has reported a very large hole on Penmore Road which has now been repaired. She has also reported the many holes on Great Pit Lane to Somerset Council, but at the time of the meeting these had been marked but not repaired.
- f. **Highways Issues, already reported and awaiting works/decision**
1. **Hummer Bridge, road repairs:** See update from Cllr Legg.
 2. **Shiller's Lane wall repair and fallen trees:** No repairs undertaken and warning signs removed.
 3. **Over Compton Road Signs:** The sign at the top of Compton Road has been installed but no news on the requested sign approaching the triangle from Trent.
 4. **Glebe Farm, OC, drains and state of road:** No response from Highways and the road surface is getting worse. The clerk will write again to Highways.
- g. **Environment:** Nothing to report.
- h. **Wessex Internet Fibre broadband connection:** A representative of Wessex Internet has met with Cllr Chick to discuss cable and poles crossing the Nether Compton Recreation Ground. The council will receive a wayleave payment of some £200. The council agreed to sign the wayleave agreement provided that the question of a pole close to the northern gate to the ground can be agreed with Cllr Hart, who was not present.
- i. **Mobile phone coverage Sandford Orcas proposal:** Nothing to report.
- j. **Repair to the wall at Over Compton Triangle:** See Cllr Legg's report
- k. **Damaged pavement on Down Lane, Trent and by the Old School House, Sandford Orcas:** The clerk has spoken to Ian Styring about both areas. The garden wall along this part of the pavement in Trent is being repaired in stages and it is expected that the pavement will be repaired after that. The flags in Sandford Orcas have been re-laid but will need pointing. The clerk has informed Highways.
7. **New Business**
- a. **Request for funding for new pads for the Trent defibrillator :** The council agreed to pay the Memorial Hall £102 for new pediatric pads already purchased and to order new adult pads at a cost of £59 + VAT.
 - b. **Request for funding from Friends of Mudford Action Group:** The council decided that more information is needed as to how much money is needed and how it will be spent. Cllr Negus agreed to speak to Stephen Bartlett and report back at the next meeting.
 - c. **To decide parish council S137 donations for 2025-26:** The council agreed to donate £220 each to Artsreach, Sherborne Voluntary Ambulance and Citizen's Advice Sherborne.
 - d. **Repair of stiles around Nether Compton:** The council was pleased to hear that a stile has recently been repaired by a volunteer. It was noted that the maintenance of stiles and gates on public rights of way are the responsibility of landowners, who can claim 25% of costs from Dorset Council. The Ernest Cook Trust has recently installed metal kissing gates in Trent.
 - e. **SORN out of date car parked outside Sandford Orcas Village Hall:** The car has been left untaxed on the public highway for a considerable time. It was agreed that this should be reported to the relevant authority.
 - f. **Dorset Council side verging contract 2026-27:** Cllr Lowe is preparing for next year's schedule. The Trent Councillors agreed to send her details of work required in Trent and Adber.
 - g. **Noticeboards:** Ian James has repaired one of the boards in Trent to a high standard. His invoice of £250 was in line with the quote agreed at the last meeting. This leaves £100 funds available for the repair of the other board. The clerk reported that bolt on the PC board in Sandford Orcas is no longer working. It was agreed that the council will cover the cost of a new one to be fitted by a volunteer.
8. **Financial Matters**
- a. **Financial Report and Payment of Invoices** The Council reviewed expenditure against budget year to date.
Payments approved:
Clerk salary £1127.04 (This includes the 3% increase for 2025-26 backdated to April agreed at the last meeting).
PAYE £6.87
Trent Memorial Hall (Hall hire) £46

Sherborne Utilities (Leak repair Nether Compton Recreation Ground) £570*.

Clerk petty cash £60

Poors Trust (Rent Nether Compton Recreation Ground) £250

Payments made since last meeting approved at this or the previous meeting:

Sherborne Utilities (Deposit for Leak repair Nether Compton Recreation Ground) £570*.

Ian James (Noticeboard repair) £250

*These payments include VAT which will be reclaimed.

Receipts since last meeting:

Trent allotments rent £201.50 (received up to 04.02.26)

- b. Parish Council bank accounts:** The clerk asked that a change of bank account should be delayed until after the year end accounts have been completed.

9. Planning Matters

a. DC Planning Applications – Decided or comments previously submitted approved

None

b. Applications Determined by Dorset Council or awaiting decision

Sunnyside Sandford Orcas Road Sandford Orcas	P/HOU/2025/07271 Conversion of a barn into a small annex. Replacement of an agricultural structure with a new annex	Support
4 Hillside Cottages Sandford Orcas Road Sandford Orcas	P/HOU/2025/06863 Erection of wooden workshop/summerhouse to replace dilapidated wooden building	Support Withdrawn 16.01.26
Jerards Lodge Penmore Road Sandford Orcas	P/FUL/2025/06661 Erect 1no. dwelling (demolish existing dwelling)	Support
Batsons Farm Road To Batsons Farm Adber	P/FUL/2025/07339 Extension of existing agricultural building	No objection Granted 10.02.26
The Old Rectory Crossfields, Nether Compton	P/HOU/2025/07272 Demolish garden room and erect extension, reinstate verandah to The Old Rectory. Convert The Coach House to provide home gym and multi-use space. Convert and extend The Stables to form annex accommodation.	No objection
The Old Rectory Crossfields, Nether Compton	P/HOU/2025/07273 Internal and external alterations to The Old Rectory including demolition of garden room and erection of extension, internal alterations, and reinstatement of verandah to south elevation. Restoration and conversion of The Coach House to provide a home gym/multi-use space. Restoration, conversion and extension of The Stables to provide annex accommodation..	Listed Building Consent No objection

36 Higher Barton Trent	P/LBC/2025/05717 Relocation of ground floor bathroom to first floor. Installation of hot water cylinder in loft. Replace side door.	No objection subject to satisfactory fire safety assessment. Granted 30.01.26
Upplebe Crossfields Nether Compton	P/FUL/2025/06314 Conversion of garage to extend kitchen. Erection of home office & outbuilding. Erection of 2no. stables	No objection Granted 02.02.26
Lower Farm House Western Street Over Compton Sherborne	P/LBC/2025/07108 Erect single storey rear extension and carry out internal & external alterations (including roof lights)	Support Granted 09.02.26

- 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
December 2025: Permission granted to Mudford Parish Council to pursue a judicial review of the decision.

10. Dates of Future Meetings 2026:

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

11. Items for next Meeting: Swale, Sandford Orcas

12. The meeting closed at 9.20 pm