

Minutes of a Meeting of the Queen Thorne Parish Council held on Monday 7th September 2026 at 7.30pm in Over and Nether Compton Village Hall.

Present: Cllrs Livingstone, Carter, Gordon, Hart, Lowe, McBeath, Phillipson, Symms and Thomas, Dorset Cllr Legg and 4 members of the public.

- 1. Apologies:** Cllrs Chick and Negus, Trent RoWLO Max Snow
- 2. Declarations of Interest and register of interests:** There were no declarations of interest. The clerk reminded councillors to check their own entry on the digital register of interests and make sure it remains up to date. The clerk will check the email addresses on the register.
- 3. Co-option of a new member for Nether Compton, Over Compton and Trent:** Kim Creswell put herself forward and was co-opted as a member for Trent on the basis that she lives within 3 miles of Trent and nobody currently eligible from the parish has come forward since the vacancy was first advertised in November 2025.
- 4. Minutes:** With one alteration to item 7b, the minutes of the meeting on July 6th were agreed as a true record and signed.
- 5. Open Forum:**
 - Planning Application on Land North of Compton Road, Yeovil. P/OUT/2026/04250. Cllr Livingstone reported on a meeting with Edward Morello MP who encouraged residents to submit objections to the proposal, but said there was little he could do to help at this stage. Cllr Legg said that as the ward member and Chair of Bradford Abbas Parish Council he is in the best position to interrogate the planning office and lodge an objection to the application. This will mean that the application will automatically be sent to committee for decision. He has already queried several aspects including applicable policies, emergency services issues on the county boundary and responsibility for/cost of maintenance of green spaces. Cllr Legg invited Cllr Livingstone to join him at a meeting with three Yeovil Town Councillors. A resident whose own land adjoins the development area expressed grave concerns about the effects of increased vehicle numbers and congestion, flooding (the pattern of which has greatly altered in the last two years), maintenance of the proposed country park, school places and blue light services. Prior to the meeting Cllr Livingstone had circulated a copy of the objection to the application by resident Alistair Swinnerton. Those who had looked at it agreed that this is a very comprehensive and well thought out presentation of the reasons the proposal should not go ahead.
 - Queen Thorne Nature Watch Group. From the public area Kim Creswell gave a report on the group's structure and areas of interest which include opposition to badger culling and hunting with dogs, and concern over the shooting of corvids in the area. Another member of the group told the council about their practice of kick testing in two streams in Sandford Orcas. Results have varied over this summer with numbers of May flies etc. decreasing. Kim told the meeting that the group would like to start photometer testing more widely within Queen Thorne and would like to ask the parish council for funding. Cllr Livingstone advised that as this was not on the agenda it could not be discussed at this meeting.
- 6. Report from Dorset Council**

Cllr Legg reported on the following:

 - Hummer road works: Work has started.
 - Community Conversations: Events are taking place on October 13th & November 11th in Leigh.
 - Wessex Internet proposed pole in Stallen: Cllr Legg has been liaising between residents, Wessex Internet and Dorset Council officers. It is hoped that a location which suits everyone has now been found but it is not yet clear whether planning permission is required.
 - Ward boundaries consultation: Cllr Legg is not very satisfied with the changes in the draft report. Councillors were invited to make comments on the consultation which is open until November 9th.

7. Business Items arising from meeting on May 11th 2026

- a. **Nether Compton Recreation Ground:** The committee are planning a tidy up day in the spring.
- b. **Allotments:** Cllr Hart has contacted all plot holders to ask if they wish to continue. There are now 8 active plots and 6 that are overgrown. It was suggested that part of the allotment ground might be put to another use. This will be more fully discussed at the next meeting.
- c. **Neighbourhood Plan:** The clerk passed on an update from Max Snow that the statutory consultation on the Regulation 14 Trent NP pre-submission draft was successfully completed on 31 August, and the neighbourhood planning group is now working through the many comments received.
- d. **Highways Issues, new issues and updates on:**
 - A30 road safety:** Cllr Hart asked if Highways have traffic flow figures for surrounding roads. The clerk was asked to enquire.
 - Sign to the Manor outside Old School House, Sandford Orcas:** The new owners of the Manor will not be opening the house in future and have asked Cllr McBeath about removing the sign. The clerk will write to Highways to let them know.
- e. **Highways Issues, already reported and awaiting works/decision**
 - Hummer Bridge road repairs:** See item 6
 - Glebe Farm, OC, drains and state of road:** No update from Highways
 - Damaged road sign on Western Street:** This has been reported to Highways who have raised a job to repair it.
 - Over Compton Triangle:** Jobs have been raised for the installation of a new warning sign and repair of the wall. No updates on timings.
 - Damaged pavement on Down Lane, Trent:** The clerk has chased Highways about this.
- f. **Environment Issues:**
 - 1. **Water quality in the stream between Sandford Orcas and Rimpton:** No updates from the resident who reported this. The Nature Watch Group confirmed that they have not done any testing on this part of the stream and require a written request with exact locations to consider undertaking testing in such cases.
 - 2. **Polluted water in the stream at Nether Compton Recreation Ground:** This was reported to the Environment Agency who came and tested the water, but the results were inconclusive.
- g. **Wessex Internet fibre broadband connection:** WI held a public meeting in Sandford Orcas on September 2nd. Notice of road closures in November for the installation of infrastructure have been issued.
- h. **Mobile phone coverage Sandford Orcas proposal,** No further update.
- i. **Vehicle parked in the access to Sandford Orcas Village Hall:** A letter giving the owner 3 months' notice to remove the van will expire on October 13th. If the van has not been removed by then, the council will have it removed. The owner has also been informed that Wessex Internet are due to dig up the drive where the van is parked, to connect the village hall. Invoices for parking charges have also been issued.
- j. **Dorset Council side verging contract 2026-27:** Having reduced the amount of work to be done in Adber, Cllr Lowe has obtained a quote from Dorset Council for £9844. This is within budget and was agreed by the council. This year's work will be year one of a three year rolling programme for Trent and Adber.
- k. **Traffic speed through Sandford Orcas, proposal for a 20mph limit and community speedwatch process:** Cllr Phillipson reported that a questionnaire has been agreed and a village meeting planned.
- l. **Proposed DMMO applications in Trent and Over/Nether Compton:** The council confirmed that it will not submit the applications.

8. New Business

- a. **Dorset Council Community Conversation Events:** See item 6. The clerk will forward the details again.
- b. **Sandford Orcas proposed reservoir/changes to stream:** Cllr McBeath reported that the landowner will speak to the farmer about the way this should be done. It was

suggested that the landowner might consult the Environment Agency to ensure compliance with regulations.

- c. **Issue with a fallen tree/fence/bullock in Sandford Orcas:** This has been resolved by the parties concerned.
- d. **Ward boundaries consultation:** See item 6.

9. Financial Matters

- a. **Financial Report and Payment of Invoices** The Council reviewed expenditure against budget year to date.
Payments approved:
Clerk salary £494.83 August and £494.84 September,
HMRC (Employer NIC Aug & September) £23.35
Halcyon Landscapes (Grass cutting) £66 + £13.20 VAT = £79.20
BDO (Audit 2025-26) £210 + £42 VAT = £252
Geosphere (Parish Online subscription) £40 + £8 VAT= £48
Payments made since last meeting approved at this or the previous meeting:
Halcyon Landscapes (Grass cutting July) £150 + VAT = £180, Water2business (Trent Allotments water) £133.84, Water2business (Nether Compton Allotments water) £61.27
DVLA (Vehicle owner check) £2.50
Receipts since last meeting:
Allotments, rent £31 to August 5th
- b. **Completion of audit:** The audit has been completed with no issues for the council to consider. The report has been posted on the parish council website.
- c. **Local Government Services pay agreement 2026-27:** The council agreed to implement a 3.3% pay rise for the clerk backdated to April as per the agreement.
- d. **Internal auditor for 2026-27:** Cllr Lowe offered to speak to a possible candidate.
- e. **Parish Council bank account:** The clerk has made enquiries at Lloyds and it is hoped that an account could be opened using the current account switch service.

10. Planning Matters

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

Name	Reference/Details	Status Parish Council comments Dorset Council decision
Land North Of Compton Road Yeovil	P/OUT/2026/04250 Erection of up to 380 dwellings, including affordable housing, provision of new pedestrian and cycle routes, internal roads, parking, open space, hard and soft landscaping, play areas, surface water drainage, ancillary infrastructure including new and repositioned utilities, and associated engineering works (outline application to determine access only)	The council agreed to object to the application. Cllr Livingstone will draft comments for the consideration of the council. The objection will be submitted before the 21 st of September which is the date of the extension granted by Dorset Council.
Higher Farm Compton Road Over Compton	P/VOC/2026/04573 Change of use and conversion of barns to form 3 no. dwellings. Erect agricultural building and form access (demolish existing barns) with variation of condition no.2 of planning permission P/FUL/2022/03668 to amend approved plans.	After the meeting Cllr Chick liaised with the clerk. Provision for swallows, which was raised at the meeting, was made in the original permission. The council supports this variation.
Higher Farm Compton Road Over Compton	P/VOL/2026/04601 Internal & external alterations to facilitate conversion of barns to form 3 no. dwellings. Erect agricultural building (demolish existing barns) with	See above.

	variation of condition no. 2 of planning permission P/LBC/2022/03669	
Annex at The Hollies Penmore Road Sandford Orcas	P/CLE/2026/04381 Use of the Annex at the Hollies as an independent unit of residential accommodation separate from the main dwelling in breach of occupancy condition	Certificate of lawfulness. No comments expected from the parish council. Statements can be made by individuals who have evidence of the claim.
5 Manor Close Sandford Orcas	P/HOU/2026/03984 Erect single storey rear extension with roof lanterns	Support
Staffords Green Farm Staffords Green Corton Denham	P/PAEW/2026/03768 Excavation to create slurry lagoon	Withdrawn 22.07.26

b. Applications Determined by Dorset Council or awaiting decision

Ridge View Penmore Road Sandford Orcas	P/HOU/2026/03310 Retain works carried out to convert existing garage to a self contained annexe	No comment Granted 13.08.26 CIL liable
4 & 5 Hillside Cottages Sandford Orcas Road Sandford Orcas	P/FUL/2026/02777 Erect garden room to 4 Hillside Cottages, erect car port to 5 Hillside Cottages, and improvement to the shared existing vehicular access and turning area.	Support Granted 30.07.26
Holway Farm Holway Sandford Orcas	P/CLP/2026/02899 Certificate of lawfulness for proposed removal of an internal wall in an existing agricultural building.	No comments Granted 13.07.26
Lower Farm House Western Street Over Compton	P/HOU/2026/02602 Retain installation of external oil tank	No comments Granted 07.07.26
The Manor House Access Road To St Nicholas Church Sandford Orcas	P/LBC/2026/01732 Remove an internal brick partition wall between the west range kitchen and dining room, insert a steel supporting joist. Open up the existing blocked fireplace opening in the kitchen, investigate existing condition and material, and to minimally enlarge to allow installation of electric Aga.	No objection Granted 27.08.26
Jerards Lodge Penmore Road Sandford Orcas	P/FUL/2025/06661 Erect 1no. dwelling (demolish existing dwelling)	Support Granted 04.08.26

- 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.

May 2026: Judge ruled that the judicial review be struck down and the development can go ahead.

11. Dates of Future Meetings 2026-27:

2nd November in Trent

11th January in Sandford Orcas

12. Items for next Meeting: Climate change emergency resilience planning – Cllr Creswell will prepare a written report for circulation prior to the meeting, Nether Compton Allotments future planning.

13. The meeting closed at 9.40pm