

Minutes of the Council Meeting of the Queen Thorne Parish Council held on Monday 12th January 2026 at 7.30pm in Sandford Orcas Village Hall.

Present: Cllrs Livingstone, Carter, Chick, Lowe, McBeath, Negus, Symms, Trent RoWLO Max Snow, Dorset Cllr Legg and several members of the public.

1. **Apologies:** Cllrs Hart, Gordon, Phillipson, and Thomas.
2. **Declarations of Interests:** None declared.
3. **Casual Vacancies in Over Compton, Nether Compton and Trent:** The clerk will continue to advertise the vacancies. Cllr Gordon has been out of the country and unable to attend meetings for more than 6 months. The council accepts her reason for absence and as there is already a vacancy in Trent which has not been filled, the council has not declared a vacancy for Cllr Gordon's seat. It is expected that she will attend the next meeting in March.
4. **Minutes:** The minutes of the meeting on November 3rd were agreed as a true record and signed.
5. **Reports from Dorset Council:** Cllr Legg reported that he would shortly be attending an online meeting to determine the positioning of average speed cameras on the A30 between Yeovil and Sherborne. The meeting will also discuss the dual carriageway crossing points and whether any others should be closed. When asked Cllr Legg said he is not aware of any progress on enforcement of the permission refusal for the coach park at Loscombe Cross. He will chase this up. Cllr Legg told the meeting that the works to resurface the road around Hummer Bridge will now start on February 9th. Cllr Symms reported that a blocked ditch next to the road should be cleared to avoid water spilling onto and eroding the road surface again. Cllr Legg will send the plan to the clerk who will inform the structural team. Cllr Chick told Cllr Legg that he had asked Dorset Council to add Compton Road to the gritting network due to increased use. Unfortunately, this does not seem possible. He noted that the Unsuitable for HGVs sign on the roundabout is not in the best position and some articulated vehicles have missed the sign and then been unable to turn around, going on the cause damage to verges, banks and trees. Cllr Legg made a note to ask Highways about this.

Open Forum

The owner of 36 Higher Barton in Trent asked about the current planning application on the property. The council confirmed that its comments have been submitted and the application is under consideration by Dorset Council. The applicant requested that if a fire risk assessment is carried out as requested by the parish council this should extend to the whole of the roof space covering both properties in the building.

A resident of Sandford Orcas told the council that for a long time she has been seeking to have trees on a neighbouring property reduced in size to allow more light into her own garden. An application for this, agreed between her and the owners of the trees, had been curtailed by Dorset Council. Cllr Negus advised that even if a tree has a Tree Protection Order, permission can still be given for meaningful pruning, if it is affecting the Right to Light of a neighbour.

6. **Business Items arising from meeting on November 3rd 2025**
 - a. **Nether Compton Recreation Ground:** Nothing reported except item 5c.
 - b. **Allotments:** There are now one and a half plots vacant at Trent. The clerk will advertise this and vacant plots in Nether Compton in the QT Magazine. Cllr Negus has sent out the annual rent requests.
 - c. **Water Leak at Nether Compton Recreation Ground:** The clerk met the Wessex Water inspector on site in December. He confirmed that there is a leak and that a 14 day Waste Water notice would be issued unless a WW team found a leak close to the meter. A dig around the meter did not uncover the leak. The clerk obtained quotes from 2 of the WW approved contractors and Cllr Chick obtained an estimate from a local contractor. The council agreed to accept the quote from Sherborne Utilities at a daily rate of £950 + VAT. After conferring with Roger Dodd and Peter Hawkins, Cllr Chick has some idea of where the pipes go and where there are electric cables buried in the same area. The clerk has passed this on to Sherborne Utilities. She has also spoken to the inspector and explained that it might not be possible to get the work done within 14 days.
 - d. **Neighbourhood Plan:** Max Snow reported that he had received two quotes for a strategic environmental assessment (SEA) and accepted the lower quote. The council agreed to pledge a further £265 to cover the cost of the SEA and contingency follow on work. This brings the total pledged by the PC to £1265 which is match funded by the Ernest Cook Trust. The money will be taken from the Amenities/Projects section of the budget in either this or the next financial year depending on when the work is invoiced.

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:** The recent wet and very cold weather has created many potholes. Several large examples reported and not yet resolved were described. The clerk will write to Highways.

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 updates
3. **Over Compton Road Signs:** No further news from Dorset Council.
4. **Glebe Farm, OC, drains and state of road:** The clerk has written again to Highways.

g. Environment: Nothing to report.

h. Wessex Internet Fibre broadband connection: Wessex have informed the council they are in the planning process and getting agreements to bring fibre to the Trent area, currently working towards a delivery date of Autumn 2026 subject to no delays. They will also be delivering full fibre to properties in Adber delivered at a similar time. No update on Sandford Orcas.

i. Mobile phone coverage Sandford Orcas proposal: Cllr Legg reported that there have been no further updates from Atlas.

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. Proposed solar farm at Wyke, update: Cllr Legg advised that an application for an extension to another solar farm elsewhere in Dorset has been submitted and could be a cause of delay at Wyke.

l. 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 due to be repaired this month and it is likely that the pavement will be repaired after that. The flags in Sandford Orcas have been relaid but may need pointing. The clerk has asked Highways to check, but Cllr McBeath will also investigate and Cllr Lowe will enquire about getting the work done if necessary.

7. New Business

- a. **Approval of payment for cleaning and clearing around road signs in Sandford Orcas:** Cllr Lowe told the council that the work has been done well and presents good value for the council. It was agreed to reimburse the clerk who paid the relevant invoice before Christmas.
- b. **Maintenance of unstable trees on private land opposite Sandford Orcas Village Hall:** Sandford Orcas Cllrs advised that the land is in the process of being sold. It was thought that the potential buyer will be aware of the required maintenance work. As soon as the sale has been completed the council will contact the new owner.
- c. **Request for funding for new pads for the Sandford Orcas defibrillator :** The council agreed to fund the cost of new pads quoted at £84 plus VAT. As the current pads do not expire until the end of July, this will be paid in the next financial year. The clerk advised that there will be a request for new defibrillator pads and possibly a battery from Trent Village Hall at the next meeting.
- d. **Burst drain/flooding along Down Lane, Trent, at Abel's Lane junction:** Cllr Negus and Max Snow described the problem which has already been reported to Dorset Council. Cllr Legg agreed to contact Highways.

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) £162*
Sandford Orcas Village Hall (Hall hire) £25
Queen Thorne Magazine (S142 Donation) £200. Cllr McBeath will enquire about the financial position of the magazine in case a further donation is required
Clerk (reimbursement of payment of invoice from Edward Page) £110
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 and precept:** The council agreed to the budget drafted by the budget working group in December. The council also agreed to the suggested 3% pay increase for the clerk in 2025-26 and a precept request of £31,447. This leaves the precept at the same level as last year which the council felt was appropriate to ease the burden on households and keep reserves within the recommended levels.
- c. Parish Council bank accounts:** The clerk gave the council examples of alternative banking arrangements with advertised costs and deposit account interest rates. It was agreed that she should do some more research for a decision to be made at the next meeting.

9. Planning Matters

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

Name	Reference/Details	Status Parish Council comments Dorset Council decision
Land North West Of Penmore Road Sandford Orcas	P/PAPA/2025/07626 Form new track	Prior Approval - Private Road For Agricultural/Forestry Use Information only Prior approval not required
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
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
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.
5 Manor Close Sandford Orcas	P/HOU/2025/06659 Formation of new parking and turning area.	Support Granted 10/12/25
Upplebe Crossfields Nether Compton	P/FUL/2025/06314 Conversion of garage to extend kitchen. Erection of home office & outbuilding. Erection of	No objection

	2no. stables	
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

b. Applications Determined by Dorset Council or awaiting 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	Support Granted 21/11/25
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. Granted 14/11/25
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 Refused 11/11/25

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

10. Dates of Future Meetings 2026:

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 9.35 pm