

COMPTON DANDO PARISH COUNCIL

(Serving Burnett, Chewton Keynsham, Compton Dando, Queen Charlton and Woollard (East))

Present: D Drury (Chair), T Butler (TB), B ter Haar (BT) & T Bartlett (TBt)

Notes on the Annual Meeting of the Parish of Compton Dando

Held on the 7th May 2024 at 7.45pm

1. **Apologies for absence:** Councillors Paget, Maggs and Dawes and Ward Councillor A Streatfeild-James
2. **To receive the notes of the previous annual meeting held on Tuesday 16th May 2023 – minutes were not produced as they do not belong to the Parish Council, so cannot be approved by the Parish Council**

Received and noted.

3. **Matters arising**

None.

4. **Chairman's report (appended)**

Received and noted.

5. **Parish Hall report (appended)**

Received and noted.

6. **Presentation of the 2023 to 2024 accounts (appended)**

The Clerk reported that the accounts were currently with the internal auditor and therefore could be subject to change.

Received and noted.

7. **Annual neighbourhood watch report**

Received and noted.

8. **Summary of issues raised at the village meetings (appended)**

Received and noted. Individual items will be dealt with throughout the year at Parish Council meetings.

Chairman's report – recited at every village meeting

Thank you for so many of you joining this annual Parish village meeting, it is lovely to see you.

For those of you who have not attended an Annual Parish meeting previously, I will just explain about this meeting and format of our Parish Council meetings and for those of you that have heard this before, I apologise.

A Local Council must hold an Annual Parish Meeting between March and June (May in Compton Dando). The Parish Meeting is a meeting of the parishioners (anyone on the electoral register of the Parish). Because our parish includes several villages, which may have differences in their points of interest, we also hold meetings in each of the five villages in March to collect their opinions. A summary of these will be added to the minutes recorded for the Annual Meeting of the Parish in May. The Parish Council will take note of the Parishioners' wishes expressed in these meetings and take matters forward to the full Parish Council to be discussed further and if required these matters will be acted upon. Items must be placed as an item on the agenda of the monthly Parish Council meeting in order that they can be discussed. Any parishioner can come along to a Parish Council meeting, and they can speak for 3 minutes before the meeting opens, on whatever they wish to bring to our notice. Minutes of the Parish Council meetings are available to all parishioners who would like to see what is discussed and what decisions are reached. These are available on village notice boards, from the Parish Clerk, or on the parish council website (www.comptondando-parishcouncil.org.uk). Meetings may also now be filmed or recorded in line with the protocol on the website.

We have one new Councillor following the elections Tom Bartlett of Queen Charlton who replace Chris Willows at the last elections. We also have a new Ward Councillor representing Saltford Ward of which our Parish is part of and that is Alison Streatfield-James who replace Alastair Singleton.

Throughout the year we have several standing items which we oversee. These include:

1. Planning matters (applications, appeals, enforcements): planning applications are considered by the Parish Council before they are decided by BANES. We discuss our recommendation (we can support, object, or make comments). The recommendations are based on our understanding of the local environment and planning policies, not on personal preferences. In the past year, the Parish Council has considered 17 planning applications (three less than the previous year).

There are several planning enforcements matters that are still being investigated by Bath and North East Somerset Council. There may be some more information coming forward in respect of the old Hinton Organics site shortly.

2. The Parish Council has reported to the BANES Council (through Council Fix My Street B&NES) local issues such as potholes, fly tipping, flooding, water leaks, blocked drains & gulleys, damage to verges and damaged road signage. The Parish Clerk monitors the action or progress of these reported matters. Members of the Parish may also report problems via Fix My Street B&NES. They can also check that matters have been reported and follow the progress of a reported problem via this platform.
3. As Trustees of the Parish Hall the Councillors attend regular meetings with members of the Parish Hall Committee to ensure all that is well.
4. Our Parish Precept is used by the Parish Council to pay for local services including: -

Streetlighting, grass cutting, maintenance and running of the Parish Council website and the services of a Parish Clerk.

This year, the Parish Council voted to set the precept at £11,069.01 The Precept and current budget is used to cover the Parish Council's expenditure and including those to assist with the maintenance of the Parish assets.

B&NES Council budget 2024/25 was considered at their February meeting.

The General Fund net revenue budget for 2024/25 of **£135.85m**

An increase in Council Tax of 2.99% in 2024/25 (an increase of £49.45 per Band D property or 95p per week).

Some of the issues that the Parish Council have dealt with include: -

1. The Parish Council is still supporting the PCAA in its challenges against Bristol Airports expansion.
2. The village of Queen Charlton in our Parish has now officially been classed as a Liveable Neighbourhoods programme which has improved the lives of those living within the village.
3. Definitive Map Modification Order (DMMO) for Park Copse (Bluebell Wood) Compton Dando is still being worked on.
4. In the past year, the Parish Council have produced new and reviewed existing policies in order to keep compliant with regulations.
5. The Parish Council has responded to numerous B&NES and WECA consultations throughout the year and is in the process of giving its views on the B&NES Local Plan Options Document which will form part of the new Local Plan. The Local Plan will establish the planning framework for the district up to 2042. It will contain a vision, strategy and policies to guide and manage how the district grows and changes over the next 20 years, and how planning applications for new development are decided. Parishioners are encouraged go on the B&NES website and look at the numerous housing developments that are proposed for in and around the Parish and to complete the consultation questions.
6. Finally, the Parish Council would like to thank Sue for another year's service as Clerk to the Parish Council.

Thank you for your time and for listening to this Parish Council report and we would welcome any questions that you may have.

Compton Dando Parish Hall

Chairman's address

2023 / 2024

Looking back at the Chairman's, somewhat irregular, monthly reports for the last year, the outstanding observation is that it has been a relatively uneventful year. After the previous two years of Covid hiatus, this is, of course, a great relief to your Hall Management Committee.

Nevertheless, the routine travails of looking after the Hall continue: the flood risk is always present, there are a multitude of routine maintenance jobs that need organising and completing and there is, of course, bureaucracy to satisfy. So, for all of this and as ever, I must thank all the members of the Hall Management Committee who have worked long and hard to maintain and ensure the smooth running of the Hall and this is very much supplemented by other members of the wider parish; particularly those

who serve on the “flood watch” rota and others who help out on a regular basis.

Our new Treasurer, Charlotte Turner, notwithstanding producing a new addition to her family, is settling splendidly and seems unfazed by the complications of the Hall's finances. Similarly, Christel Rees has worked wonders with our bookings system and promises more upgrades as time allows. At the same time as welcoming our new members, thanks is due to Ken Webb and Ian Collings who left during the year after years of hard graft. We are extremely grateful.

We continue to review our energy consumption, making improvement whenever sensible but it is quite a challenge when the building uses as little energy as it does at present and when the manner of that usage is very irregular.

I will close this report with much the same words as last year, with thanks to our cleaning team: they were flexible and understanding in adapting to the irregularities of our bookings and are industrious and adaptable as those bookings continue to increase. They are very much appreciated and the frequent compliments we receive about the cleanliness and welcome of the Hall bears testimony to their hard work.

John Dottridge
10th April 2024

Bank reconciliation

This reconciliation should include all bank and building society accounts, including short term investment accounts.

It must agree to Box 8 in the column headed “Year ending 31 March 2024” in the Accounting Statements of the AGAR - and will also agree to Box 7 where the accounts are prepared on a receipts and payments basis. Please complete the highlighted boxes, remembering that unpresented cheques should be entered as negative figures.

Name of smaller authority: Compton Dando Parish Council

County area (local councils and parish meetings only): Bath & NE Somerset

Financial year ending 31 March 2024

Prepared by (Name and Role): Susan Ellen Smith Clerk/RFO

Date: 04/04/2024

		£	£
Balance per bank statements as at 31/3/24:			
	current ac	18,240.6	18,240.6

[add more accounts if necessary]

18,240.6

Petty cash float (if applicable)

-

Less: any unpresented cheques as at 31/3/24 (enter these as negative numbers)

item 1
item 2

(250.00)
(80.00)

(330.00)

Add: any un-banked cash as at 31/3/24

£0

-

Net balances as at 31/3/24

17,910.6

What is the figure in Box 8 in the Accounting Statement?

17,910.6

Does the bank reconciliation above agree to Box 8?

Yes

Annual Return 2023-24

Description	2022-23	2023-24	Difference	Variance
1. Brought Forward	10968.78	12750.84		
2. Precept	13615.35	14318.48	703.13	5.16
3. Other Receipts	2456.16	5867.95	3411.79	138.91
4. Staff Costs	6210.14	6074.65	-135.49	-2.18
5. Loan Repayments	0.00	0.00	0.00	
6. Other Payments	8079.31	8952.02	872.71	10.80
7. Carried Forward	12750.84	17910.60		

3. Other Receipts – CiL (Community Infrastructure Levy) funding of £2351.06 was received and VAT refunds totalling £663.74, which reduces the variance to 8.8%

Summary of the issues raised at the village meetings

Burnett

B3116

- Concerns over speed on the B3116 and would like traffic calming measures.
- Visibility needs improving.
- Drains opposite Whitson Lodge need clearing more frequently to stop flooding.

Local Plan

- Concerns over the number of houses proposed for building (up to 3000), spoiling the atmosphere of the village; increasing the amount of traffic and the increase in concrete adding to flooding.
- Need to balance housing need with protecting the environment.

Chewton Keynsham

Redlynch Lane/Charlton Road Junction

- a question was asked if the reduction of the speed limit on Charlton Road was going to be reduced to 40mph. PC Evans reported that there is currently a check on car numbers and their speed taking place.

The Clerk reported that improving the safety for users of the junction was being considered as part of the Queen Charlton Liveable Neighbourhood.

Uplands Lane

This is still in a very poor condition and unpassable after heavy rain - the Clerk will contact BANES – response that Public Rights of Way is responsible for part of it and the rest to be reported on FixMyStreet. The PROW Team have been contacted to look at their part of the lane and asked if they can take any action and a resident of Chewton Keynsham asked if they can submit Photos on FixMyStreet.

Resourceful Earth Site

- a question was asked as to what is happening with the site. It was reported that the company is now in liquidation and BANES have stated that it is the landowner that is responsible for carrying out the enforcement requirements.

The Clerk reported that the liquidator has sought to disclaim ownership of the land. It is likely that as a consequence of that, the land will revert to the Crown. Once ownership has been established then BANES can consider their options.

PC Evans reported that there is no security on the site.

- **Strimming of the Millennium Stones** – The stone at the bottom of Redlynch Lane was tended by a resident, who has now confirmed that this will continue.

It was asked if the Parish Council could consider making a donation to the tending of the stone next to the horse trough and the horse trough itself. Currently, the gardener of a resident tidied the trough and stone. The cost was £40 per time, which was usually twice per year.

A resident said that it was important to keep the trough clear of vegetation as this helped prevent flooding.

Compton Dando and East Woollard

- **Extension of the pavement on Court Road to where it joins Vicarage Lane** – a request was made that this extension did not go ahead since few cars parked on the pavement and if it was extended, it would be more dangerous for cyclists and horse riders.

The Chair responded that she had contacted BANES and they said that there would need to be a full feasibility study for which there was no funding, so this would not be going ahead.

- **Ward Councillors' Empowerment Fund** – a question was asked if there was any funding left and if so, was it worth applying to this fund for money towards replacing the heating in Marksbury School. Although the school was outside the Parish, many of the children from the Parish attended the school.

The Ward Councillor responded that as yet no funding had been allocated and she would look into this request.

- **Surveys** – a concern was raised about surveys circulating in the Parish that did not provide enough information on which to base your answers and also not every resident was receiving the survey. The survey concerning changing the street lights to solar powered ones was mentioned in particular.

The Chair responded that surveys did need to be thought out carefully and it was important to make sure that every person received one. It was reported that a decision had been made not to go ahead with solar powered lighting.

- **Tree Planting** – concern was raised about the possibility of more trees being planted in the village. It was stated that a few trees had been planted on the Millennium Green and were causing flooding on the path to the church and blocking views.
- It was stated that the course of the stream had been altered and could this be looked into.

Timing of receipt of agenda - the fact that it could be difficult to ask to speak with 4 days' notice, because of when the agenda was received.

The Chair responded that any request would be considered regardless of the time received.

Reading information in depth – a resident stated that care should be taken to read any information in depth to make sure all the facts were understood.

Queen Charlton

- **Signage on the entrance to Queen Charlton Lane from Charlton Road**

This needs to be improved as traffic still enters the village and then realises that the vehicle needs to turn round.

It was reported that BANES were waiting for the next block of funding to be received from WECA for this work to be carried out.

It was reported that £100,000 has been allocated to making the Redlynch/Charlton Road junction safer and it was in the next financial year's budget.

- **Clearing of closed off section of road required**

The sides of the closed off section are now very muddy and need draining, because both cyclists and pedestrians are walking down the middle of the road which is dangerous.

It was suggested that residents take photos and send to BANES via FixMyStreet.

- **Damaged fence around the Coronation Tree**

Posts are missing but they have been retained. Damage is still being caused by 4x4 vehicles and scramble bikes.

Also, a lot of litter particularly nitrous oxide canisters are being left behind.

It was said that costings should be obtained for replacing the fence posts but also consider alternative ideas for protecting the land.

If the Parish Council Minutes are not available on the notice board – you may request a copy by contacting the Parish Clerk.

Any non-confidential documents can be requested from the Clerk:

Tel: 07746930582

comptondando-parishcouncil@outlook.com