

COMPTONS TOLLER AND WYNFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on

Thursday 30th March 2023

7 pm at Compton Valence Village Hall

Present: Councillors:

Charles Sclater (Chairman)(CS)
Jeremy Russell (JR)
Simon Simpson (SS)
John Wynford (JW)
Ashley Stewart (AS) (Vice Chair)

Nicolas Amor (NA)
Vacancy (Wynford Eagle)
Vacancy (Toller Fratrum)

Officer: Mrs Michele Harding, (Clerk)
Dorset Councillor: Anthony Alford (AA)
Members of the Public: 2

23/03-1. Welcome and Chairman's opening address- All welcomed to the meeting.

23/03-2. To receive apologies for absence-no apologies but 3 vacancies at present.

23/03-3. To receive any declarations of interest or grants of dispensation- AS regarding the green laning

23/03-4. To approve the Minutes of the last meeting held on 26th January 2023.

The minutes were approved as an accurate record of the meeting.

Proposed AS Seconded SS

23/03-5. Matters arising for information only- None.

23/03-6. To consider any co-option's to the Councillor Vacancies for Toller Fratrum, West Compton and Wynford Eagle.

Cllrs commented that there is potentially some interest in Toller and West Compton but none for Wynford Eagle at this time. Mr N Amor requested to be co-opted again as Cllr for West Compton. Proposed JR Seconded JW

Mr Amor signed his acceptance of office and joined the meeting.

23/03-7. Democratic Forum- A resident of West Compton attended the meeting regarding Green laning issues, providing evidence and information regarding the issues West Compton. Advice had already been sought from Tony Alford, and the Clerk prior to the meeting on the way forward. Also advice from highways and Rights of way on the options available. A request was made to support the next steps in either closing the route or lowering its status to a Bridleway. This would be further discussed on the agenda item.

23/03-8. Report from our Ward Councillor Tony Alford- the report had been circulated prior to the meeting.

1. Councillors have voted in support of a £2m cost-of-living support fund for residents funded from reserves. The fund will support a range of projects to provide immediate and longer-term support to those residents hardest hit by the cost of living. Examples of projects: Support for low-income households, disabled people and vulnerable older people with measures to improve the energy efficiency of their homes. Off-grid energy discretionary vouchers for households reliant on off-grid energy sources (oil and gas). Additional Discretionary Housing Payment allowance to help prevent residents becoming homeless. Supermarket vouchers for residents in greatest need. Further support for

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Dorset's network of social supermarkets, community fridges and food banks. Additional pre-school hours for 3–4-year-olds, enabling more parents to work. 'Ready to thrive' locality programme to support children with their readiness to start school.

Dorset Council will work closely with partners such as Citizens Advice Dorset, Age UK, the NHS and Jobcentre Plus.

2. The government's Energy Bills Support Scheme Alternative Funding (EBSS Alternative Funding) is now open for applications. The EBSS Alternative Funding is a payment of £400 to households who do not have a direct relationship with an energy supplier and therefore were unable to previously receive it. This includes residents living in park homes, houseboats or off the electricity grid or who pay for their energy through a landlord, housing manager or site owner. Applications can be made through an online form on the government website.

3. Work is in progress on advisory planning guidance on the subject of: Planning for Climate Change. Under 3 main headings: Interim Guidance & Position Statement, Sustainability Checklist and Listed Building guidance. Note – it is not planning policy. It is effectively a checklist for developers/applicants to complete. The Listed Building component promotes what can be done. There will be consultation and briefing for Parish Councils soon.

4. A summary of comments from the consultation of the draft Dorset Council Local Plan is now published. All of the comments received from the 6,000 respondents have already been searchable on the council's website, but they have now been categorised against the draft policies and relevant areas of Dorset. The consultation, which took place in early 2021, resulted in over 50,000 comments on the separate policies, more than all of the most recent former district and borough local plan consultations combined.

5. Celebrate the King's Coronation with a street party

Dorset Council is encouraging residents to start planning their own street parties for The Coronation of The King and The Queen Consort.

Dorset Council is waiving the costs of road closure applications and we welcome residents to apply. You need to apply by 31 March. So far there has been 17 applications for road closures in the Dorset Council area. Holding a small outside event with neighbours, on private land, does not need council permission. National guidance on organising a street party for the Coronation is available on the government website. Meanwhile, the Coronation Big Lunch website is also full of good ideas for making parties go with a swing – more information is on the Eden Project website.

Cllrs asked if we know how many in Dorset are in need regarding the Cost of living crisis, and what powers do Dorset Council have to give these grants, the information on those in need is not readily available but there was a change in constitution to be able to cope with the cost of living crisis for discretionary payments for the roles of local government under the administration of the poor law.

23/03-9. Finance

i. To approve all payments and receipts since the last meeting

Payments		
Mrs M Harding	Salary/Exp Feb/Mar 23	241.91
HMRC	PAYE- Feb/Mar 23	36.80
CVVH	Hall hire Jan 23	20.00
Receipts		
None		

All payments were made in line with internal controls- Proposed CS

Seconded SS

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Bank balance as at 31st January 2023- £5290.25

ii. To approve the opening of the Lloyds savings account with interest

The Clerk had recommended that £3000 is placed into an instant access savings account with Lloyds. This was agreed Proposed CS Seconded JR

iii. To agree the new Internal Auditor 2022-23

It was necessary to engage a new Internal Auditor, the Clerk had suggested Mrs Debbie Wiltshire who is suitably qualified for the role, Cllrs agreed.

Proposed CS Seconded JR

iv. To consider a grant towards the Great Big Dorset Hedge Project

Cllrs discussed the route in question and commented that this project was aimed at connecting hedges along the Jubilee trail. As the line in question is predominantly 'Open Downland' through the parishes, at this time Councillors did not support making a grant towards the project. Cllrs went on to discuss Ash die back in the area.

23/03-10. To consider any planning applications or planning matters.

- i. P/FUL/2023/00953 Proposal: Installation of ground mounted solar photovoltaic array with associated infrastructure, security fence, CCTV, cable route, landscaping and onsite biodiversity net gain Location: Land South West of Wraxall Woods- this is not within the Parish Council boundary but for information. It was noted that there is still no news on the application in Maiden Newton.

23/03-11. To consider any Highways matters

- i. **Update on Green Lane issues-** AS explained the situation and the damage caused to the route and issues of livestock worrying and damage to ground nesting birds on the route. On the 23rd December 72 bikes travelled the route, this is unacceptable for the hamlet. The residents have been gathering evidence and there is support from the other landowners to try to stop this route being used in this way, AS and his partner have also been in contact with Rights of way and the Ward Councillor to gather support and advice on what can be done. After a discussion on the issues and options CS asked AS what he would like the PC to do. AS asked the PC to support the application to either close the route or downgrade it which ever is the best option without incurring any expenses by the PC. This was agreed, AS did not vote on this given his interest in the item. Clerk to gather advice from the Clerks Forum.
- ii. **To confirm the purchase of Grit Bins for Wynford Eagle**
JW explained the difficulties that Wyndford eagle experienced during the recent cold spell and the need for 3 grit bins on this route. The PC had received several email requests for help and support. Cllrs considered the request and agreed to purchase 3 grit bins from Barriers Direct in Black at a total cost of £494.10 inc Vat which can be reclaimed. Delivery to be straight to Manor Farm.
Proposed CS Seconded AS

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23/03-12. To consider Rights of way matters-

- i. To consider any Rights of way matters – No further progress on the DMMO's in the area but advice had been shared from issues in another parish from the DMMO team at Dorset Council, this was to gather historical evidence from residents over the last 10 to 20 years on the use of the routes so that when the cases come to be considered this evidence has been linked to the route.
- ii. **Update on finger posts-** AS is nearing completion of the finger post at West Compton, it was decided not to make changes to the one on the Roman Road. It was also noted that the PC will be informed when volunteers are working on finger posts in the area, so the work is not duplicated.

23/03-13. To consider any correspondences received and previously circulated.

The Tollerford Bridge is due to be repaired between the 9th and 26th May, there will be a road closure.

23/03-14. Date and Items for Annual Parish Assembly and Annual Parish Council meeting on 25th May 2023.

CS and JR will speak to a local metal detectorist to see if he would like to speak at the APA, CS to confirm, this would commence at 6.30pm followed by refreshments and then the Annual PC meeting.

The Clerk notified Cllrs that Chris Loder is speaking at the Toller Porcorum APA on 12th April and it is open to other parishes.

Meeting finished at 8.25pm