

COMPTON DANDO PARISH COUNCIL

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

Present: D Drury (Chair), P Paget (PP), A Dawes (AD), T Butler (TB), Chris Willows (CW),
B ter Haar (BT) and 1 member of the public

Notes on the Annual Meeting of the Parish of Compton Dando

Held on the 4th May at 8pm (virtual)

- 1. Apologies for absence:** Councillor H Maggs
- 2. To receive the notes of the previous annual meeting held on Tuesday 21st May 2019 – 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.

The Parish Council wish to thank the Chairman and Secretary and all the people involved in taking care of the hall during the pandemic.

- 6. Presentation of the 2020 to 2021 accounts (appended)**

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

The variances of 15% difference to the previous tax year were explained as follows:

Receipts - £1000 had been received from Tesco Bags for Help in the financial year 2019 to 2020.

Staff costs – there had been a pay grade rise for the Clerk plus a National Pay Award.

Payments – During the financial year 2019 to 2020, S137 Grant payments had been made (£589); fencing had been put up around the Coronation Tree traffic island in Queen Charlton (£1067.80); hall hire (£200); a repair to the Millennium Green fence (£240); finger post restoration costs (£600) and PAT testing in the Parish Hall (£472).

The Clerk reported that the end of year bank balance of £7680.10 was approximately half of the Precept, which is the aim of the budget to have available such an amount for emergencies.

7. Annual neighbourhood watch report

A report was not available this year but the Parish Council wish to thank the NHW representative for her hard work in co-ordinating information and organising individuals to carry out litter picking during the pandemic.

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

Received and noted.

The items that have not already been addressed by the Clerk will be discussed in future Parish Council meetings.

The Clerk reported on the following items:

The lorry speed on the B3116 was considered by the police to have been sufficiently monitored and the signage was adequate. Many of the offenders were delivery drivers from out of the area who would not be returning.

Blocked culverts and poorly positioned drains in Compton Dando had been reported to Bath & NE Somerset Council (BANES), but as yet no reply had been received.

Blocked drains in Chewton Keynsham had been reported to BANES and the response was that there was a programme of works that is followed and to please report any issue through FixMyStreet.

Poor repair of Uplands Lane – no response received as yet from BANES.

Red Ditch Lane – the polystyrene had been cleared.

Speed on Charlton Road – the Clerk and Ward Councillor Singleton had written to BANES requesting action and a petition has also been submitted to reduce the speed limit.

The Parish Council have written to BANES requesting a speed limit of 40mph.

Pulling out of Queen Charlton Lane danger - the grass cutting concern has been passed to the Parks & Green Spaces team.

The member of the public raised concerns over, in particular, information of important planning applications not being circulated to all residents in

Compton Dando village. He also reported that the various different distribution lists in the village were confusing.

It was reported that Councillors have their own distribution lists and that the Clerk forwarded all planning information from BANES to all Councillors.

It was reported that a Communications Strategy is on the June agenda and the distribution lists would be discussed as part of this item.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2021 – RECITED AT EVERY VILLAGE MEETING

Welcome to all whether, it is your first time at an annual village meeting, or you are a regular attender. What a difficult year it has been for all and how swiftly life can change. The Parish Council has had to adapt rapidly in response to COVID pandemic with undertaking its business via virtual zoom meetings. Initially, there were a few concerns amongst our Councillors in respect of technical abilities, but all have managed well unlike some other Parish Councils, you may have seen Handforth Parish Council in action – showing how not to hold a Parish Council meeting.

We are hoping that now that vaccinations are becoming more available, we will soon once again be able to hold physical meetings in our Parish Hall.

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.

Local councils 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) and a précised version in the Parish News United Benefice of Publow with Pensford Magazine. Meetings may also now be filmed or recorded in line with the protocol on the website.

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. COVID restriction permitting we arrange site visits to see for ourselves the proposed development before 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 9 planning applications. We also looked at 6 tree notifications.

One of the planning applications considered was withdrawn. All but one of the Parish Council decisions agreed with the final decision made by BANES.

There are several planning enforcements matters that are still being investigated by Bath and North East Somerset Council.

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 & gullies, 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. The Parish Hall has had to remain closed for the majority of 2020 up until now which has had a financial impact due to loss of income as a result of no lettings, but they were lucky enough to receive a funding support grant to cover the deficit. 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.

We have also used some of the Precept for essential training for Councillors.

This year, the Parish Council voted to increase the precept from £12,641 to £13,290.72, (2%). This increase was felt necessary due to increases in our costs and to assist with the maintenance of the Parish assets.

The Parish Council has, with external funding now completed the restoration of all the finger posts in the Parish and these are looking very smart. A contribution was made towards the installation of a new traffic island at the top of Chewton Road. The installation of this island has been in place for several months now and is preventing lorries using this route and getting stuck on the bridge near Chewton Place and to protect cottages and property in this area from damage.

A shortfall in coronavirus funding has caused a sudden £53 m hole in the budget for B&NES Council.

B&NES Council budget 2021/22 was considered at their February meeting.

❖ A 1.99% general Council Tax rise and a 3% rise in the Adult Social Care precept (tax)

The Parish Council will be considering s137 grants that are to be submitted during the next few months.

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

1. Installation of bins including dog waste bin. A second dog waste bin is to be installed in Chewton Keynsham shortly and this will be emptied free of charge by Keynsham Town Council grounds maintenance staff.
2. Footbridge and footpath maintenance. Culvert clearance, Grass and sapling cutting.
3. Discussions are still being undertake in respect of improvements of traffic problems in Queen Charlton.
4. The Parish Council is supporting the PCAA in legal challenge against Bristol Airports appeal to expand.
5. The Parish Council is part of a collective of other local Parish Councils looking at rural transport issues.

6. The Parish Council continues to support Zero Carbon Compton in respect of their Climate Change Emergency initiatives including the installation of a public electric vehicle charging point in Compton Dando.
7. In the past year, the Parish Council have produced new and reviewed existing policies in order to keep compliant with regulations.
8. The Parish Council has responded to numerous consultations including the B&NES Partial Review of the Local Plan, The Government Future of the Planning System consultation, the (West of England Combined Authority) WECA survey on the Future of the West of England and more recently a consultation in respect of the new recycling facility at Pixash Lane.
9. Finally, the Parish Council would like to thank Sue for her 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
2020 / 2021

The dominant feature of the last twelve months has been, of course, the arrival of the corona virus, Covid 19 and the Hall committee's efforts manage the building in line with the demands of a global pandemic.

The twelve months in question commenced during the first period of national lock down and plans were made for what we, overly optimistically, thought would be a brief interruption to the normal routine of the Hall. Chris and Cheryl Cooper filled their time deep cleaning the Hall in preparation for re-opening, whilst the availability of an unused building gave others the time to effect other running repairs. Not a running repair but a definite upgrade was the installation of LED lighting in the main body of the Hall. This courtesy of a Ward Community Event Fund grant from Councillor Alistair Singleton. For which we are very grateful.

In fact, we were not allowed to re-open until the end of the summer but, even then, in a very restricted fashion. That we opened at all was thanks to the hard work of the committee in making the building Covid compliant and the willingness of the Coopers to work flexibly, cleaning either side of bookings, as the new rules dictated as well as whenever else necessary.

Then and in case we became complacent, we were ordered to close again in November this lasting until December when we were rewarded for being in a relatively low infection area (Remember the tiers?) and allowed to re-open, yet again. Of course, it didn't last and we were closed again for the New Year and have been ever since.

What would otherwise have been a perilous financial state has been mitigated by the award of Local Restrictions Support Grants from Government but those will stop and we still have to rebuild our occupancy levels to where they used to be.

I will finish by thanking, again, all those who have been so generous with their help and assistance throughout the year: the committee, of course, those on the Flood Watch Rota who watch the state of the stream in front of the Hall and make sure the building doesn't flood as well as all the rest of the villagers, young and old, who casually clear gratings whilst walking/washing a dog or returning from the pub if you can remember that latter, happy, state of affairs!

In thanking people, I should single out Greg Drane for managing our bookings whilst he and Natalie were in the village. Greg, of course, revolutionised our bookings and settlements systems, so necessary in a post Covid world. The other half of the singling out for special thanks is Ian Collings who has generously stepped into Greg's shoes and taken over the Bookings Manager's role. We are, again, very grateful.

I have no intention of trying to predict how the ensuing year will evolve but, rest assured, we will do our best to be prepared for all eventualities.

John Dottridge
27th March 2021

The table below is the end of the financial year 2020 to 2021 Bank Reconciliation for the Parish Council

Name of smaller authority:	Compton Dando Parish Council		
County area (local councils and parish meetings only):	Bath & North East Somerset		
Financial year ending 31 March 2021			
Prepared by (Name and Role):	Susan Smith Clerk/RFO		
Date:	18/04/21		
		£	£
Balance per bank statements as at 31/3/21:			
current account		7,739.7	
			7,739.7
Petty cash float (if applicable)			-
Less: any un-presented cheques as at 31/3/21			
1458		(9.60)	
1564		(50.00)	
			(59.60)
Add: any un-banked cash as at 31/3/21			
0		-	
			-
Net balances as at 31/3/21 (Box 8)			7,680.1

The table below is the Annual Return for the Parish Council from 01 April 2020 to 31 March 2021

Annual Return 2020-21

Description	2019-20	2020-21	Difference	Variance
1. Brought Forward	6725.79	6066.49		
2. Precept	12233.45	12641.00	407.55	3.33
3. Other Receipts	3023.67	2198.59	-825.08	-27.29
4. Staff Costs	5217.12	6022.53	805.41	15.44
5. Loan Repayments	0.00	0.00	0.00	
6. Other Payments	10699.30	7203.41	-3495.89	-32.67
7. Carried Forward	6066.49	7680.14		

Summary of issues raised at the village meetings

Burnett

- **Traffic speed on the B3116** and the number of large **lorries exceeding the weight** limit still using the road.
- **The speed warning 'flashing' light are no longer working.** The one nearest the village had been reported to BANES and they said it would not be repaired due to technical issues/cost.
- **Airbnb – concerns over possible camping facilities/shepherd's huts in 2 paddocks**
- **Aircraft Noise** over the village. Concerns were raised over the Metro Mayor overriding the objection to Bristol Airport's expansion application.
- **Conservation village** - a request to look into making the village a conservation village again was made.
- **Wessex Water** - asked to clean the road following works that have caused mud on the road between Burnett and Compton Dando.

Compton Dando and Woollard East

- Concerns were raised by a parishioner that very few of the residents of Compton Dando were aware of the **Resourceful Energy anaerobic digester planning application** that had been submitted.
- **Blocking of drains by pothole/resurfacing repairs** is particularly bad on Slate Lane, which should have been resurfaced last year but wasn't, and the top of Peppershells Lane is a complete mess.
- **Field run-off** was leading to flooding of lanes which becomes a sheet of ice in cold weather. This was especially bad on Rankers Lane.
- **Blocked culverts and poorly positioned drains** are causing surface water to stay on the road from the junction of Court Hill with Cocker's Hill.
- **Local footpaths** are in a poor condition of the local footpaths due to more people accessing them during the pandemic.

Chewton Keynsham

- **Location of the new dog bin?** This was positioned following a discussion with the landowner who has been dealing with the bags of dog waste.
- **Blocked drains** in 2 different positions in the village. When heavy rain falls the drive of one house is flooded. Water also flows down Redlynch Lane causing flooding due to a blocked drain.
- **The horse trough**, which is an Ancient Monument, has not been cleaned out for some time.

- **Run off from the stables** was still happening.
- **Uplands Lane is in a poor state of repair** due to speeding motorbikes and 4x4 vehicles.
- **Speeding** It was reported that BANES Highways were refusing to accept the confusing speed signage in Compton Dando village (Bathford Hill/Court Hill) even though the police say it is confusing. (Chewton Keynsham and Compton Dando have asked the Police for a shared Community SpeedWatch)
- **There are more cars taking a short cut through the village** as a result of the new builds on Charlton Road combined with the one-way system through Keynsham High Street.
- **The lane width is increasing** due to damage by cars passing one another.
- **Resourceful Earth**

The site is causing a deterioration of the environment local to the site. Leakage from the site resulted in ice on Charlton Road leading to 7 accidents in the winter. (Highways were unable to prove it had come from the site.)

- **Red Ditch Lane** close to the RE site has lots of polystyrene in the lane which has blown from the site.
- **Fly-tipping in Red Ditch Lane** occurs on a regular basis.
- **Speed on Charlton Road** is on the April Agenda with the aim to get it reduced to 50mph. Redlynch junction is very dangerous and the road marking on Charlton Road have faded and are also probably inadequate.

Queen Charlton

- **The no-left turn out of the Whitchurch Development** – this is still not working as it has been poorly designed.
- **Pulling out of Queen Charlton Lane danger** – visibility of traffic coming from the right is poor due to length of the grass. Request for it to be cut more regularly and closer to the hedge.
- **Airport Expansion** – the appeal will run for 40 days from the middle of August. CPRE are being helpful and the PCAA have raised approx. £50,000 for legal fees to fight the appeal. Most passengers come from Cardiff so the expansion wasn't for local needs.

31 parishes have joined the PCAA and most have objected to the expansion.

Keynsham Town Council have challenged the airport over their recording of decibels, which have been inaccurate.