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COMPTON DANDO PARISH COUNCIL

(SERVING BURNETT, CHEWTON KEYNSHAM, COMPTON DANDO, QUEEN CHARLTON, & WOOLLARD (EAST))

PRESENT: D Drury (Chair), P Paget, A Dawes (AD), C Willows (CW), T Butler (TD), H Maggs (HM), B ter Haar (BT) + 14 members of the public

IN ATTENDANCE: S Smith (Clerk) and A Singleton (Ward Councillor)

MINUTES OF A PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

held on 16th November 2021

The Chair read out the public notice as members of the public were present.

1. Apologies for absence

None.

2. Notification of any member's personal or prejudicial interest in any item on the agenda:

None

3. Questions on notice by members

None

4. Minutes of the previous meeting held on the 19th October 2021

The minutes were agreed by all to be a true record and had been signed by the chair.

Item 9.1 was brought forward as 2 members of the public requested to speak on the Resourceful Earth Ltd planning application.

A member of Protect our Keynsham Environment (POKE) spoke objecting to the application. A request was made asking for the Parish Council to pay for a consultant to check that all the planning documents were accurate.

Another member of the public made an objection to the planning application.

It was reported that the Parish Council were unable to make donations using the General Power of Competence as the Clerk does not hold the professional clerk's qualification. Parish councils are statutory consultees only and not decision makers, and as such have no obligation to consult.

5. Ward councillor's update

- There is a lot of pressure on the waste collection system at the moment and green waste is not being collected, but it is expected to improve following twenty agency drivers having now qualified to drive the HGV lorries, and eleven loaders are currently being trained as drivers. The crew will increase from two to three employees which should improve the speed of the collections.
- The Queen Charlton Liveable Neighbourhoods initiative is starting on Monday the 22nd November, with the consultation going live at the end of the month. There will be a co-design

phase and any ideas will go to a further consultation. Although this initiative is tied to the Whitchurch Liveable Neighbourhood initiative, it should be treated as a discrete entity. There will be an outdoor public engagement event as part of the process.

- There will be litter collections taking place in Woollard Lane/Charlton Road on the 14 December and on the 21 December along the B3116.
- Changes have occurred in the police hierarchy following the appointment of Mark Shelford as the Police & Crime Commissioner for Avon & Somerset Constabulary.

Concerns were raised that Town and Parish councils are now being asked to contact the police through their website rather than via the Beat Police Officer, which is thought to be a slower process.

Concerns were also raised about the best way to recycle certain items e.g., foil and an update on recycling in general was requested. It was decided to put recycling as an item on the Parish Liaison Meeting agenda via Avon Local Councils Association (ALCA) (ACTION COUNCILLOR DD).

6. Finance

6.1 Finance Report for Compton Dando Parish Council 16/11/2021 Bank Reconciliation for 22/10/2021

The attached Bank Reconciliation was received and noted.

It was reported that parish councils should pay for the Remembrance Wreath for their parish.

It was reported that the bugler at the Remembrance Service has requested that her payment should be sent to the Royal British Legion. This was AGREED and a written request from the bugler requested (ACTION COUNCILLOR HM).

Thanks were given to the bugler and also to Ward Councillor AS for leading the Remembrance Service.

6.2 Schedule of Expenditure for 01/04/2020 to 16/11/2021

The attached Schedule of Accounts was approved.

6.3 Parish Hall Payments for 16/02/2021

The Schedule of Accounts was approved and the payments will be made by the Clerk with delegated power, using internet banking.

Payee	Description	Amount
C Cooper	Bins/cleaning materials	11.66
Mrs J Davis	Remembrance Wreath	£25.00
H Dottridge	Lottery Prizes	£50.00

6.4 To approve the continued use of variable direct debits

Currently there are 2 direct debits, one to YU Energy for the electricity used for street lighting and the second to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) for the Parish Council's data protection certificate.

Continuation of the direct debits was APPROVED.

7. To receive updates on progress of resolutions from the CDPC meeting held on 19th October 2021

7.1 None.

8. Matters for discussion/decision

8.1 To decide on the action to be taken to repair the Coronation Tree traffic island fence in Queen Charlton

Carried forward.

8.2 To review Councillor training

This was discussed as part of item 8.3.

8.3 To discuss the draft budget and set S137 Grant levels for budget approval at the December meeting

Some adjustments were made to the suggested draft budget, which will be amended for the December meeting (ACTION CLERK).

The S137 grant level was kept at £1000 as per the previous year.

8.4 To decide whether to sign a letter of authority for a NALC recommended energy consultant free audit

The following information was provided by nhoyles@utility-aid.co.uk. Utility Aid are now in partnership with The National Association of Local Councils to support 10,000 councils in the UK with all things energy. For further information about the partnership check out the following link:

<https://www.nalc.gov.uk/about/our-partners#utility-aid>

The energy markets are currently extremely volatile and energy prices are rising as suppliers look to recover losses due to the effects of Covid.

They specialise in energy for street lighting and many other services run by councils. They are one of the sponsors for the Society of Local Council Clerks and manage the energy for hundreds of town and parish councils in the UK. They also offer the option of collective purchasing for town and parish councils to hugely reduce costs by bulk buying and can even support you on your journey to net zero with qualified assessors and access to a large variety of green energy suppliers.

As the Parish Council have just changed energy suppliers, we wouldn't be interested in changing but there is an offer of:

Free Energy Audit & Invoice Validation

They will work with the Parish Council to understand what you should be paying now to see if you are being charged too much. They can also offer a historical audit going back several years to check for previous overcharges and if they find we have overspent, then they will recoup the money from the energy suppliers.

- They work closely with the largest provider of green energy in the UK and all of the power suppliers they work with can provide our customers with a green power option.
- Expert Assessors: They have an inhouse Energy Assessor who can help guide the Parish Council on the journey to Net Zero.
- Collective Power: They are the only broker offering collective purchasing to the entire sector. They have over 600 customers with over 4000 meters and more than 180GWH of energy, this creates huge purchasing power.

Next Steps

All that is needed is a recent bill and a signed copy of the letter of authority (LOA), and they will do the rest. The LOA does not grant us any form of exclusivity nor does it allow them to place us in any contracts. It just allows them to make enquires on behalf of the Parish Council.

It was DECIDED not to have the energy audit and invoice validation carried out.

8.5 To decide if the Compton Dando defibrillator should be left unlocked to make access in an emergency easier

It was DECIDED that the defibrillator should be kept unlocked following notification from the resident that monitors it, that South West Ambulance Service recommends that they should be kept unlocked. This is now a countrywide opinion.

8.6 To decide on the required action regarding the dead tree next to Compton Bridge

The Clerk reported that Greenslade Taylor Hunt have confirmed that the person who rents the land from the Diocese of Bath & Wells has contacted a tree surgeon to deal with the dead tree.

8.7 Update on Electric Vehicle (EV) charging point – Councillor BT

Councillor BT has worked with Bath & West Community Energy (BWCE) on this facility and has contacted Charge My Street and is waiting for a reply about the contract.

Charge My Street are a community benefit society which installs and operates community EV charge points, raising money through community shares.

The contract will be with the Parish Hall, who will have no financial benefit. The Compton Inn landlord will have to sign having agreed for the EV point to be accessed from the public house car park. The contract will initially be for 3 years.

The Sole Trustees of the Parish Hall will also need to be informed.

The users buy the electricity via a contract with Charge My Street. If a user does not have a contract the charges will be higher.

9. Planning applications received

9.1 21/00419/EFUL Resourceful Earth Ltd Charlton Field Lane Queen Charlton Bristol Bath and North East Somerset

Proposal: Development of an Anaerobic Digester Facility (including retention of the existing Feedstock Reception Building, Digester Tank (x5), Storage Tank, CHP Engine (x4), Transformer, GRP Substation, GRP Technical Room (x5) and Gas Equipment) to produce both gas and electricity for injection into the local grid networks, alongside the restoration of the former Queen Charlton Quarry Site with ecological and landscape enhancements

BANES has received revised plans and information for this application.

Prior to the decision, it was reported that at the public event held in Compton Dando Parish Hall, it was apparent that the Resourceful Energy Anaerobic Ltd (REAL), were not very knowledgeable being unaware that Bath & NE Somerset Council (BANES) already have a contract for their food waste, so that this would have to be driven in. A pie-chart was on display showing that only one quarter of the material going into the digester would be food waste, the rest being made up of maize (grown to feed the digester and also required for the fermentation process), and farm waste. Also, different members of the REAL team stated different facts about the use of lorries for transport. It was also stated that the digester would supply local homes with electricity which is not true as the energy would go straight to the grid.

It was also reported that the location of the public event in the village of Compton Dando was a very poor choice as it is not easily accessible and this event was not widely publicised. The leaflet that had been distributed door to door, was poorly designed as it did not permit the public to add any comments, just tick boxes which did not allow concerns to be raised.

The Parish Council UNANIMOUSLY OBJECT to the planning application. They reiterate their views submitted in March 2021 as well as the following comments:

The 'new' documents added to the application appear to only have the date changed on them.

There is insufficient justification to demonstrate any 'special circumstances' which would allow this inappropriate development in the Green Belt. The original planning application has lapsed so the site has now reverted to greenfield inside the Green Belt. The sustainability and carbon reduction are questionable as the material fed into the digester will have to be brought in from some distance. The maize that will need to be grown specifically for this process, will cause damage to soil and ecology where it is grown.

There are concerns that the GPS systems used by the lorries will not be monitored and the narrow lanes will be heavily used causing damage to the verges and possibly blocking the lanes. There are also concerns about the large number of vehicle movements including tractors, both on and off site, that will be required. The 'difficult' road junctions in the area and the request for a speed limit reduction along Charlton Road suggest that the road network that will be used for the digester, is not appropriate and there is a possibility of increased accidents.

There needs to be a full review of the landscaping and there are concerns over light pollution in the area.

The size of the anaerobic digester in this application is totally inappropriate for the location.

9.2 21/04836/CLEU Church Farm Cottage Penn Hill Lane Queen Charlton Bristol BS31 2SQ

Proposal: Single dwelling and associated residential curtilage (as outlined in red on the Site Location Plan) (Certificate of Lawfulness of Existing use).

The Parish Council have no new or historic information on this application, so therefore cannot comment.

10. Appeals

10.1 None

11. Decisions

11.1 None

12. Enforcements

Members of the Parish that may have a concern regarding suspected unauthorised building works, retrospective planning or non-permitted change of use to a building may report this directly to the Enforcement Department of Bath and North East Somerset Council by emailing development_management@bathnes.gov.uk or telephoning 01225 394041 (planning department extension) OR alternatively you may report the same in confidence to the Parish Clerk (details below). The matter of enforcement will be held in strict confidence and will not be discussed by the Parish Council until an Enforcement Notice is issued at which stage the matter will be brought to the attention of the Parish Council by the Local Authority.

updates requested on:

12.1 None

13. Items for action

13.1 None.

14. Correspondence for action

14.1 None.

15. Correspondence for information

15.1 None.

16. Reports

16.1 Parish Hall report (appended)

16.2 village updates

16.2.1 It was reported that there is currently a vehicle count equipment set up across the lane in Burnett. No-one was aware of any reason for this. Also, some fresh junction marking white lines have been painted in the village.

16.2.2 It was reported that due to the infrequency of road sweeping in Compton Dando, the drains are now set well back from the edge of the tarmac so the area close to the drains will not be reached by the road sweeper.

It was suggested that this should be reported on FixMyStreet.

16.3 Report from Zoom meeting with Bath & West Community Energy (BWCE) on 8th November (appended)

16.4 Report on Bristol Airport Airspace Change Proposals part 2 of consultation – Councillor PP

It was reported the proposed routes flying into the airport could be directly over Keynsham in the future.

The consultation is still on going.

17. Items of report to be carried forward to the next meeting

None.

Date of next meeting is the 21st December 2021 at 8.00pm

The meeting closed at 9:35 pm

Minutes prepared by: Susan Smith (Clerk)

Agreed as a correct record on.....

Signed (Chairman).....

Statement Date 22/10/2021

Bank Reconciliation

Statement Entries

Date	Cashbook Date	Reference	Description	Debit	Credit	Balance
02/10/2021			Opening Balance			16786.19
06/10/2021	21/09/2021		Replacement lantern outside Eastwood Barn, Queen Charlton	706.87		16079.32
15/10/2021	15/10/2021		Street Light Energy	33.68		16045.64
20/10/2021	20/10/2021		CDPH boiler service		131.67	16177.31
21/10/2021	19/10/2021		Clerk's salary and expenses	433.37		15743.94
22/10/2021	19/10/2021		Tindkneil Fuels boiler service	158.00		15585.94

Outstanding Entries

Cashbook Date	Reference	Description	Debit	Credit	Balance
15/10/2019		PAYE 06 Sep to 5 Oct month 6	9.60		-9.60
22/03/2021		Dog Waste Bin	516.34		-525.94
17/08/2021		S137 Grant payment for bench	224.00		-749.94
21/09/2021		S137 Grant award for thermal camera	395.78		-1145.73
19/10/2021		S137 grant for thermal imaging camera replacement	441.36		-1587.09

Reconciliation

Closing Bank Balance	15585.94
Outstanding	-1587.09
Closing Bank Balance + Outstanding	13998.85
Cashbook Balance	13998.85

Transactions to 16/11/2021

Transactions since Statement

Cashbook Date	Reference	Description	Debit	Credit	Balance
09/11/2021		Street Light electricity	37.56		13961.29
16/11/2021		Remembrance Wreath - JK Davis	25.00		13936.29
16/11/2021		Clerk's salary and expenses	409.37		13526.92
16/11/2021		Parish council websites	180.00		13346.92

Performance against Budget

Name	Description	Budget	Actual	Difference	Variance
AUDIT	Audit Fees	204.00	200.00	-4.00	-1.96%
DONATIONS	Donation	204.00	25.00	-179.00	-87.75%
EXPENSES	Clerk's Expenses	73.44	41.23	-32.21	-43.86%
GRANTS GIVEN	Grants Given	1020.00	921.62	-98.38	-9.65%
GRASS CUTTING	Grass Cutting	918.00	0.00	-918.00	-100.00%
HALL HIRE	Hall Hire	214.20	0.00	-214.20	-100.00%
ICO	ICO	35.70	35.00	-0.70	-1.96%
KIOSKS	Telephone Kiosks	0.00	0.00		
MAINTENANCE	Maintenance	1020.00	90.09	-929.91	-91.17%
MOBILE	Mobile Top Up	40.80	10.00	-30.80	-75.49%
PAYE	Clerk's PAYE	275.40	185.00	-90.40	-32.82%
PH INSURANCE	Parish Hall Insurance	1326.00	663.71	-662.29	-49.95%
POSTAGE	Postage	40.80	20.40	-20.40	-50.00%
SALARY	Clerk's Salary	5712.00	3487.69	-2224.31	-38.94%
SIGNS	Signs Notice boards	510.00	0.00	-510.00	-100.00%
SL ELEC	Street Light Electricity	510.00	261.82	-248.18	-48.66%
SL MAINT	Street Light Maintenance	510.00	935.12	425.12	83.36%
SOLICITOR	Solicitor Fees	0.00	0.00		
STREET FURNITURE	Street Furniture	0.00	107.57		
SUBS	Memberships and Subs	540.60	127.62	-412.98	-76.39%
SUPPLIES	Office Supplies	71.40	24.00	-47.40	-66.39%
TRAINING	Training	489.60	0.00	-489.60	-100.00%
WEBSITE	Website	198.90	190.49	-8.41	-4.23%
TOTAL	Total for year to date	13914.84	7326.36	-6588.48	-47.35%

Parish Hall Report

November 2021

I am pleased to report that bookings continue to improve, with most weekdays now have at least one permanent fixture. The committee is extremely grateful to our bookings manager, Ian Collings, for ensuring the smooth running of this department.

I should also report that we are working on a five-to-ten-year strategy to reduce the carbon footprint and improve the energy efficiency of the hall. An initial thermal survey exposes the high levels of loss through the solid walls of the building and a first and inexpensive step will be to install heat reflectors behind all the radiators. Further developments will be reported as they happen.

John Dottridge
November 2021

Report from Zoom Meeting with Bath & West Community Energy (BWCE) 8th November 2021

BWCE is a not-for-profit organisation established in 2010, with the aim of creating clean local energy which is community owned and for the common good. One member has one vote and the assets are locked.

BWCE projects have involved roof top solar panels and ground mounted solar arrays. These have been partially financed through local people investing and becoming members. Any surplus income is re-invested in community projects.

To date just over £20 million has been raised. There are just over 1000 members and bondholders and 12.35 megawatts (MW) of power (enough to power 4000 homes) has been installed. Over £290,000 has been donated to their community fund. BWCE is underpinned by its growing Supporters Network.

The latest project – Fairy Hill Community Solar Farm

Alex Lockton of BWCE, identifies projects and works with landowners. The latest project is Fairy Hill Community Solar Farm, details of which can be found here:

<https://www.bwce.coop/fairy-hill/>

BWCE emphasise the importance of talking to as many people as possible so that they understand what is trying to be achieved. They are working with Zero Carbon Compton (ZCC) on this project. Some funding has been obtained through a Rural Community Energy Fund (RCEF)

(<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/rural-community-energy-fund>), and a consultant has been appointed to conduct a feasibility study.

The project is at a critical stage with proposals and decisions to be made and one critical component is the Consultation, currently open to the public (<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/2LH5NYN>) and the deadline is the 12th December. BWCE are holding a public event at Compton Dando Parish Hall from 2.30 to 7.00pm on the 23rd November for the public to ask questions about the Fairy Hill project and possibly influence the plans.

Fairy Hill Community Project proposal is for a 2.13 MW solar farm over 4.5 acres consisting of a 4264-panel solar array. The remainder of the 13-acre site is to be a Community Amenity Space, which will have an orchard and pond. This installation should provide up to £5000/year of Community Benefit Fund (CBF). There is the potential to increase the biodiversity of the field by 53%. The electricity produced will equate to the needs of 508 homes and the carbon emissions will reduce by 508 tonnes of carbon dioxide (CO₂)/year, which is the equivalent of 1180 people's average annual emissions.

Habitat surveys have been carried out and the field has been assessed for protected species. An ecological value assessment has also been made. The old oak tree standing on the site will be protected. There will be a biodiversity plan to provide long term benefit. Measures will be taken to mitigate the construction impact. Very little concrete will be used. The solar array will be fenced off. Pollinator strips will be added to the perimeter, along with hedges and a wildflower grassland area and bat boxes.

The project will convert low grade land to one with increased biodiversity. There are 2 styles: larger panels with gaps in between (preferred) and the other style has less panels and they are in blocks without gaps.

The position of the saplings is undecided and BWCE are open to suggestions as they are to other ideas from the residents.

The final feasibility report should be finished in December 2021 and an application for phase 2 of funding from RCEF will also be made in December. If this is successful, final designs will be available in Jan/Feb 2022 and the planning application submitted Mar/Apr 2022.

Fund raising will take place in the summer of 2022. This will allow residents to invest in the project (£100 to £100,000) and become members allowing them to vote. Interest is paid annually. If sufficient funding is raised construction could start Sep/Oct 2022.

At the end of the term which is usually 30 years, the site could be returned to its original state or the solar array could continue to provide electricity. There is a 2nd-hand market developing for solar panels so if the array is removed the panels could still be used, also most elements of the panels are recyclable. BWCE are leafleting the area and door knocking, so that people without the internet can find out what is happening. BWCE are also happy to speak to groups – just ask. BWCE have asked that people spread the word. Also, they are happy to increase the content of the Frequently Asked Questions page if you contact them: <https://www.bwce.coop/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/Fairy-Hill-FAQs-7.11.21.pdf>