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www.comptondandopc.org.uk

COMPTON DANDO PARISH COUNCIL

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

PRESENT: P Paget, A Dawes (AD), C Willows (CW), T Butler (TD), H Maggs (HM), B ter Haar (BT) and 3 members of the public

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

DRAFT MINUTES OF A PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

held on 19th April 2022

1. Apologies for absence (Local Government Act 1972, s 85 (3))

Councillor DD.

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

Councillor HM and BT declared an interest in item 8.5.

3. Questions on notice by members

None

4. Minutes of the previous meeting held on the 15th March 2022

Councillor CW arrived at 20.05

It was agreed that item 16.5 should be amended to clarify that the paragraphs "The solar park would be in the Green Belt and not appropriate for the setting", and "The screening for the development is to be a fence as there is the need to keep out the deer but this would not be fitting for the Green Belt" was the opinion of Councillor CW and not the opinion of the Parish Council.

The minutes were amended to read "Councillor CW stated that the location of the solar park in the Green Belt may not be appropriate for the setting and the screening for the development is to be a fence as there is the need to keep out the deer, but this may not be fitting for the Green Belt either".

It was also decided to add an item of 16.6 to the last paragraph of item 16.5, to clearly separate it from the report by Councillor CW.

The minutes were then agreed by all to be a true record and were signed by the vice-chair.

Item 8.1 was brought forward and a member of the public spoke of concerns of losing access to a popularly used footpath (undesignated) and also loss of the Public Right of Way (PROW), because access has now been blocked to the designated route by an

electric fence to keep horses in a different area, and 3 acres of the land is now in new ownership and any fencing that may be erected might affect usage by walkers.

The Parish Council was asked if they could negotiate with the land owner to permit access for walkers.

Item 8.2 was brought forward and 2 members of the Church Farm Equestrian Centre asked for help and suggestions to progress the idea of creating a new pathway along land adjoining Charlton Road for the use of pedestrians, cyclists and horse-riders.

5. Ward councillor's update

- The West of England Combined Authority (WECA) Spatial Development Strategy covering the next 20 years, is coming together and should go to statutory consultation later this Spring. Bath & NE Somerset Council (BANES) Local Plan will be developed in parallel with it.
- BANES have started a new initiative within the Neighbourhood Services. Teams are being resourced to work on local projects such as litter picking and road sign cleaning. More information will be available by the end of April, but each Ward will be allocated weeks or days when the teams will be available for local projects, ideally working with local volunteers.
- The BANES-supported litter and waste initiative #NoPlaceforLitter has hubs in Bath, Keynsham and Midsomer Norton, where equipment for litter picking is held for use by local groups and volunteers. There are plans to expand the scheme to include hubs at some village halls, where there is support for volunteer litter picking, and Compton Dando would seem an ideal location as this transpires.

6. Finance

6.1 Finance Report for Compton Dando Parish Council 19/04/2022

Bank Reconciliation for 01/04/2022

The attached Bank Reconciliation was received and noted.

6.2 Schedule of Expenditure for 01/04/2022 to 19/04/2022

The attached Schedule of Accounts was approved.

6.3 Parish Hall Payments for 19/04/2022

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

Payee	Description	Amount
Dustin Time	Clean gutters	£40.00
H Dottridge	Broom head and handle	£10.48
H Dottridge	Lottery Prizes	£75.00

6.4 To minute that Paulley's Accountancy Ltd are no longer able to carry out the audit for last year's financial year Audit

Received and noted.

6.5 To minute that it was agreed by email, to employ Perpetual Business and Tax Advisors Ltd (PBTA) (formerly Chartax) to carry out the audit. www.pbta.co.uk

Received and noted.

6.6 To approve and sign the self-exemption certificate as an exempt authority

Compton Dando Parish Council is classed as a smaller council as its income is below £25,000, therefore it will come under the title of an exempt authority when it comes to the external audit in 2022.

If it is felt that there is a sound, effective system of financial control in place, an effective internal audit and the Code of Transparency is followed, then it is possible to self-certify as an exempt authority.

The self-exemption certificate was APPROVED and DULY SIGNED by the Clerk as Responsible Financial Officer (RFO) and the Vice-Chair.

6.7 To receive notice that a VAT refund of £284.82 has been received from HMRC

Received and noted.

7. Clerk's Report

7.1 Simon de Beer has been asked to consider creating a Solar Farm Planning Policy. This has been passed to Richard Daone whose response is item 15.5 on the agenda.

7.2 Tim Rawlings, Strategy & Contracts – Campaigns, Technical Support and Project Officer of BANES has agreed to speak to the Parish Council and residents on recycling on the 21st June at 7.30pm before the Parish Council meeting.

7.3 A request to progress with the Enforcement Notice on Resourceful Earth Ltd has been sent to Planning Enforcements. No response has been received yet.

7.4 Events at BANES have received a Transport Management Plan for the 'Pig Uncut Festival' on the 9th of July. This has been forwarded to Councillor Maggs for comment.

7.5 The Parish Hall AGM will commence at 7.15 pm on Tuesday the 17th May. This will be followed by the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council at 7.30 pm and then by the Annual Meeting of the Parish at 7.45 pm. The main Parish Council meeting will follow on from that at 8 pm.

7.7 The road sweeper has been out again and has swept the lanes in Compton Dando.

7.8 Some stones have fallen out of the wall near the bottom of Bathford Hill and this has been reported on FixMyStreet. BANES have put bollards around the fallen stones as a safety measure.

7.9 Verge encroachment in Court Hill and Rankers Lane, Compton Dando had been reported on FixMyStreet. It has now been reported as fixed.

8.0 The report concerning the coping stones that had fallen from Compton Bridge on FixMStreet, now reads: We've passed this report to the Building Control team in the council. They will carry out any further work needed. Sometimes it can take a little longer as a result. We'll update this report once we've decided what action to take. State changed to: Internal referral

8.1 A resident of Burnett village sent thanks to the Parish Council for their part in the outcome of the planning application for a solar park in the village.

8. Matters for discussion/decision

8.1 To decide on action following a discrepancy between the mapping and usage of the footpath in fields adjacent to Smallbrook Lane (map appended)

It was reported that there is a discrepancy between the OS map of the area and that designated by the PROW, and the route that walkers have been using. The Clerk was asked to contact the relevant officer in BANES to investigate and clarify (ACTION CLERK).

Councillor AD will contact the landowner with regard to future use of the land by walkers (ACTION COUNCILLOR AD).

8.2 To decide on action regarding the possible development of a combined cycle/pedestrian/horse-rider pathway along the right-hand side of Charlton Road from the housing development roundabout to the junction with Charlton Lane

The Parish Council suggested contacting WECA as such a sustainable transport development was on their agenda.

It was reported that the Queen Charlton Liveable Neighbourhood application would hopefully address the dangerous junction where Redlynch Lane joins with Charlton Road.

The Parish Council unanimously SUPPORTED this in principle and Councillor AD would contact the landowner to ask if they would allow development of this route (ACTION COUNCILLOR AD).

8.3 To decide if the Parish Council should add details of their CiL expenditure to Parish Online

This action was suggested at the Parish Liaison Meeting (see appended notes).

It was UNANIMOUSLY AGREED that the Parish Council could contribute this information to Parish Online (ACTION CLERK).

8.4 To decide whether to support Chewton Keynsham's residents' application to be connected to the main sewerage system

It was UNANIMOUSLY AGREED that the Parish Council would support any application by the residents of Chewton Keynsham.

8.5 To decide whether to approve the grant application by the Compton Dando Community Association (CDCA) for 2 picnic benches

The amount requested is £800.

It was UNANIMOUSLY AGREED that the Parish Council would donate the full amount of £800.

A cheque will be raised when the invoice(s) are received by the Clerk.

8.6 To decide if an application for an S137 Grant can be made by (Protect our Keynsham Environment) POKE after the 31 March

The request would be for funds to fight the appeal that Resourceful Earth Ltd are making against their planning application refusal.

It was decided that an extension to the deadline would not be made.

8.7 To decide if a donation can be made to POKE if it is too late for a S137 application

Advice sought from the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) stated that donations to pressure groups was open to challenge and therefore risky and that Compton Dando Parish Council would be unable to use the General Power of Competence (GPC), to make the donation as the Clerk does not hold the Certificate in Local Council Administration (CiLCA) qualification.

It was therefore DECIDED not to make a contribution to POKE.

8.8 To decide on any comments to submit to the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) regarding what the Parish Council would like addressed (suggestions circulated with pre-meeting documents)

It was DECIDED that the Parish Council was satisfied with the suggestions that NALC have made and do not wish to add any more.

The Clerk will inform NALC (ACTION CLERK).

8.9 To decide on comments on the Parish Councils Airport Association (PCAA) draft response to North Somerset Council's Local Plan 2038 consultation

It was DECIDED that the Parish Council was satisfied with the draft response and had no further information to add.

The Clerk will inform the PCAA (ACTION CLERK).

9. Planning applications received

9.1 22/01166/COND Chewton Place, Chewton Road, Chewton Keynsham, Bristol

Proposal: Discharge of conditions 3,4 and 5 of application 20/04913/FUL (Construction of small coach house, modify the cottage and landscape former walled service yard following demolition of existing conference centre).

It was DECIDED not to comment.

9.2 22/01185/ADCOU Barn East of Ivy Cottage, Queen Charlton Lane, Queen Charlton, Bristol.

Proposal:

Prior approval request for change of use from Agricultural Buildings to Dwelling (C3) (1no dwelling) and associated operational development.

The Parish Council UNANIMOUSLY OBJECT to the application as it was mainly unchanged, and will resubmit the same reasons:

The barn and land associated with it is still in use for agricultural purposes. It is not redundant.

There will be an adverse impact on the Green Belt (Policy GB2, LP148) and it will also have as adverse impact on the setting of the Conservation Village of Queen Charlton (Policy C1, LP 48).

There are traffic and highways safety implications (Policy D2, LP28).

The proposal is visible from Public Footpaths (Policy SR9, LP69).

The amenity of neighbours' will not be preserved and there will be an impact on the natural environment (Policy D2, LP28).

The materials and design are not satisfactory (Policy D2, LP28).

It was thought that the track and hard standing should be removed and replaced with grass and native trees/planting.

**9.3 22/01448/FUL Mill Farm Vicarage Lane Compton Dando Bristol BS39 4LA
Proposal: Erection of timber orangery**

The Parish Council UNANIMOUSLY SUPPORT the application for the following reason:

There will be no adverse impact on the Green Belt (Policy GB2, LP page 154).

The effect on the neighbours' amenity is acceptable and the scale, height and degree of the structure is acceptable (PolicyD2, LP page 28). Though it was noted that there would be additional light and effect on local ecology.

**9.4 22/01449/LBA Mill Farm Vicarage Lane Compton Dando Bristol BS39 4LA
Proposal: Erection of timber orangery**

The Parish Council UNANIMOUSLY SUPPORT the application for the following reason:

There will be no adverse impact on the Green Belt (Policy GB2, LP page 154).

The effect on the neighbours' amenity is acceptable and the scale, height and degree of the structure is acceptable (PolicyD2, LP page 28). Though it was noted that there would be additional light and effect on local ecology.

10. Appeals

10.1 None

11. Decisions

**11.1 21/03965/FUL Manor House Watery Lane Burnett Keynsham Bristol
Proposal: Installation of solar PV panels and ground source heat pump pipe work to eastern paddock to provide renewable energy sources for manor house. Connection of pipework to existing lower ground floor plant room. (CDPC object Sept 2021)**

REFUSE

**11.2 21/03966/LBA Manor House Watery Lane Burnett Keynsham Bristol
Proposal: Internal and external alterations for the installation of solar PV panels and ground source heat pump pipe work to eastern paddock to provide renewable energy sources for manor house. Connection of pipework to existing lower ground floor plant room. (CDPC object Sept 2021)**

REFUSE

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 Chew Valley Plants Trees, a local voluntary organisation working with landowners, farmers and those interested in planting trees with a vision of doubling the tree cover in the Chew Valley are interested in talking to groups or having a stall at a fete

<https://www.chewvalleyplantstrees.co.uk/>

“Maybe your Parish would like to plant trees in the Autumn to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee? Maybe you have another project for your area and want some inspiration and information to help you. We can work with projects large and small and with private land around houses or with those farming the land. We see our role as helping make the links between local people with land, those who would like to engage in tree planting and various organisations who can offer funding or expertise to see a project through to completion.”

Received and noted.

15.2 Email received from BANES informing of the re-opening of Legal Line of Public Footpath BA8/22, Allen's Brake, Compton Dando (Map appended)

The official legal line of public footpath BA8/22 runs through the Allen's Brake woodland. This is in contrast to the current, physically-walked route along the edge of the fields which border that woodland and which is marked with a black dashed line on the plan appended. Works are currently taking place to re-open the official legal line, which has been blocked for some time. The route through the woodland has been cleared and a footbridge and steps are being installed to facilitate access.

Following the completion of these works, it is the intention of the landowner to close the route around the edge of the woodland in late April/early May.

Received and noted.

A concern was raised that the Parish Council should have been warned of the changes prior to the work being carried out and also the signs now point in the wrong direction.

It was requested that the footpaths officer for BANES be asked why the Ordnance Survey (OS) map shows the 'old' route, that has been used by walkers in recent times for the pathway, and not the route of the PROW (ACTION CLERK).

15.3 Email received from Graeme Stark, Principal Officer: Public Rights of Way for BANES updating on the Public Right of Way (PROW) application for Park Copse

The process is now at the Investigation stage. There has been a problem in contacting some of the people who have completed user evidence form. If, contact cannot be made by the end of the week commencing 4th April, then the Consultation stage will be started without being able to clarify the ambiguities in their evidence. The Parish Council will be consulted as part of this process along with other interested parties and the Council will then make a decision whether a Definitive Map Modification Order should be made to record the route as a public right of way.

Received and noted.

15.4 Email received from BANES Planning responding to queries concerning the sending out of notifications of planning applications to applicants and neighbours

"We have not changed the way we consult however since working from home, we use a hybrid mail system (postal print and delivery). We ensure the mail is sent each morning.

1. Chapel House Burnett Hill Burnett Keynsham Bristol BS31 2TQ
Proposal: Removal of condition 6 of application WB 04258/A
The next-door neighbour in Chapel cottage was not notified.

Site notice not required
Consulted adjoining neighbours (Chapel Cottage and 1 Park View)

2. 22/00207/FUL 1 Culverhay Compton Dando Bristol BS39 4LQ
The neighbour was notified on the day of the PC meeting (15th March)

Site notice not required
Consulted adjoining neighbours (2 Culverhay, Claytiles and High Croft)

3. 22/00960/FUL Manor Farm Old Burnett Lane Burnett Bristol BS31 2TF
Applicant only received the notice to display on the 15th and the neighbour had no notification.

Site notice sent
Consulted adjoining neighbours (Stable Barn, Manor Barn, Burnett House and The Annexe)

4. 21/03965/FUL Manor House
The neighbour received no notification.

Site notice sent
Consulted adjoining neighbours (Whitson Lodge and Manor House Lodge)

Received and noted.

It was DECIDED to monitor receipt of planning notifications.

15.5 Email response received about the request for a planning policy specifically addressing solar farms

As you will be aware planning applications are determined in accordance with Development Plan policies, unless material considerations indicate otherwise. In relation to renewable energy and specifically ground-mounted solar energy proposals there are a number of policies in the adopted Core Strategy and Placemaking Plan that are relevant. These include Core Strategy Policy CP3 on renewable energy and Placemaking Plan Policy SCR3 on ground mounted solar arrays. [Policy CP3: Renewable Energy](#) - This sets the target for renewable energy generation in B&NES by 2029 and sets out overarching or high-level criteria against which renewable energy proposals will be assessed.

[Policy SCR3: Ground-mounted Solar Arrays](#) - This policy supports Policy CP3 and sets out in greater detail the factors which proposals for ground mounted solar energy installations should seek to achieve, including being on non-agricultural or lower grade agricultural land, being sensitive to nationally/locally protected landscapes and minimising visual impact. Supporting paragraph 117 also states that, “*where ground-mounted arrays are proposed in the Green Belt, reference will also need to be made to relevant Green Belt policies. Policies for the historic environment and landscape will also apply to proposals for ground-mounted arrays.*”

The Council has also prepared and published a [guidance note](#) relating to renewable energy in the Green Belt.

Relevant sections of the [National Planning Policy Framework](#) will also be relevant in determining planning applications, in particular paragraphs 157 and 158.

Local Plan Partial Update (LPPU):

As the Parish will be aware, we are currently reviewing and updating the Core Strategy and Placemaking Plan through the Local Plan Partial Update (LPPU). Through the LPPU we are proposing to revise [Policy CP3](#). The revised Policy CP3 will set out the criteria for all standalone renewable energy projects, as well as specific criteria for wind energy and ground mounted solar (previously shown in and therefore, replacing Policy SCR3). The policy seeks to focus proposals in those areas with greater landscape potential to accommodate such development and also seeks to ensure they are directed to lower grade agricultural land and minimise harm to or loss of habitats of higher ecological/biodiversity value. Where energy generation types are proposed in the Green Belt, reference will also need to be made to relevant Green Belt policies.

As part of the LPPU, and linked to the revised wording for Policy CP3, an evidence base study has been undertaken to assess the Landscape Potential for solar energy of different scales of solar farm within the district. The study can be viewed as a [report](#) and also [interactive map](#)

The LPPU is currently at examination and as such is not given full weight in determining planning applications at this stage. Further details on the LPPU can be [found on our website](#).

Received and noted.

It was DECIDED that having this information to hand during planning decisions could be helpful.

Councillor HM left the meeting at 9.52 pm

16. Reports

16.1 Parish Hall report (appended)

16.2 Village updates

16.1 Queen Charlton are holding their village fete on the 8th June and it is to be the Platinum Jubilee fete in commemoration of Queen Elizabeth’s reign of 70 years.

16.2.1 Compton Dando are holding their village fete on the 2nd July.

16.2.2 Over the Platinum Jubilee weekend of the 4th to the 7th June, there will be 7 flower displays in the church at Compton Dando, one commemorating each decade of Queen Elizabeth's reign and teas will also be served.

16.3 Report from the Parish Councils Airport Association (PCAA) meeting on the 24th March – Councillor CW

Hilary Burn is retiring as the Chair of the PCAA and currently there is no replacement, so the future of the organisation is unknown.

The PCAA will not be funding any further challenges to the Inspector's report which resulted in Bristol Airport's successful appeal challenge; however, Bristol Airport Action Network (BAAN) will be challenging it.

16.4 Report from the Parish Liaison meeting on the 23rd March (appended)

16.5 Report from a talk on 'The Health of the Chew' at the CDCA's coffee morning on 5th April – Councillor BT (appended)

It was reported that Paul Sims from Keynsham, is setting up an action group to liaise with Wessex Water.

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

None.

Date of next meeting is 17th May 2022 at 8.00pm

Preceded by the Annual Meeting of the Parish at 7.45 pm and the Annual Parish Council meeting at 7.30pm

The Parish Hall Management Committee are holding their annual meeting at 7.15pm

The meeting closed at 10 pm

Minutes prepared by: Susan Smith (Clerk)

Agreed as a correct record on.....

Signed (Chairman).....

Bank Reconciliation

Statement Entries

Date	Cashbook Date	Details	Description	Debit	Credit	Balance
17/02/2022			Opening Balance			12174.85
07/03/2022	07/03/2022		HMRC VAT refund		284.82	12459.67
08/03/2022	08/03/2022		YU Energy February electricity charge	37.83		12421.84
14/03/2022	15/02/2022	001805	SLCC Clerk training (agnedas and minutes)	72.00		12349.84
16/03/2022	15/03/2022	001810	Clerk's salary and expenses + extra £10 for ALCC	493.50		11856.34
22/03/2022	15/03/2022	001809	PAYE months 10, 11 & 12	82.20		11774.14
23/03/2022	15/03/2022	001807	CDPH hire 15/8/2021 to 15/03.2022 inv 004 and 005	140.00		11634.14
01/04/2022	01/04/2022		ICO certificate	35.00		11599.14

Reversed Entries

Cashbook Date	Details	Description	Reason	Debit	Credit	Balance
17/08/2021	001579	S137 Grant payment for bench	incorrect payee	224.00		-224.00
19/10/2021	001591	S137 grant for thermal imaging camera replacement	Accidentally destroyed	441.36		-665.36

Outstanding Entries

Cashbook Date	Details	Description	Debit	Credit	Balance
15/03/2022	001808	S137 Grant Payment for Thermal camera & bench - reissue	665.36		-665.36

Reconciliation

Closing Bank Balance	11599.14
Outstanding	-665.36
Closing Bank Balance + Outstanding	10933.78
Cashbook Balance	10933.78

Transactions to 19/04/2022

Transactions since Statement

Cashbook Date	Reference	Description	Debit	Credit	Balance
19/04/2022		S137 Grant for bug hotel	46.95		10886.83
19/04/2022		Queen Charlton village hall hire	9.00		10877.83
19/04/2022		ALCA annual subscription	136.21		10741.62
19/04/2022		Clerk's salary and expenses	521.66		10219.96

DRAFT

Performance against Budget

Name	Description	Budget	Actual	Difference	Variance
AUDIT	Audit Fees	210.00	0.00	-210.00	-100.00%
DONATIONS	Donation	52.50	0.00	-52.50	-100.00%
EXPENSES	Clerk's Expenses	75.60	6.03	-69.57	-92.02%
GRANTS GIVEN	Grants Given	1050.00	46.95	-1003.05	-95.53%
GRASS CUTTING	Grass Cutting	950.25	0.00	-950.25	-100.00%
HALL HIRE	Hall Hire	224.70	9.00	-215.70	-95.99%
ICO	ICO	36.75	35.00	-1.75	-4.76%
KIOSKS	Telephone Kiosks	52.50	0.00	-52.50	-100.00%
MAINTENANCE	Maintenance	1050.00	0.00	-1050.00	-100.00%
MOBILE	Mobile Top Up	31.50	0.00	-31.50	-100.00%
PAYE	Clerk's PAYE	388.50	0.00	-388.50	-100.00%
PH INSURANCE	Parish Hall Insurance	714.00	0.00	-714.00	-100.00%
POSTAGE	Postage	31.50	0.00	-31.50	-100.00%
SALARY	Clerk's Salary	5785.50	499.01	-5286.49	-91.37%
SIGNS	Signs Notice boards	210.00	0.00	-210.00	-100.00%
SL ELEC	Street Light Electricity	478.80	0.00	-478.80	-100.00%
SL MAINT	Street Light Maintenance	1050.00	0.00	-1050.00	-100.00%
SOLICITOR	Solicitor Fees	0.00	0.00		
STREET FURNITURE	Street Furniture	115.50	0.00	-115.50	-100.00%
SUBS	Memberships and Subs	693.00	152.83	-540.17	-77.95%
SUPPLIES	Office Supplies	52.50	0.00	-52.50	-100.00%
TRAINING	Training	157.50	0.00	-157.50	-100.00%
WEBSITE	Website	204.75	0.00	-204.75	-100.00%
TOTAL	Total for year to date	13615.35	748.82	-12866.53	-94.50%

Parish Hall Report April 2022

The Hall continues to function with bookings gently increasing as Covid fears recede in hirers' minds. That said, the Hall committee are very aware of their on-going commitment to ensuring the safety of the premises by extra thorough cleaning, the continued provision of hand antiseptics and keeping the building well ventilated.

Like all buildings, whether domestic or commercial, our costs are increasing quite severely. To counter this, our charges have increased slightly but the charging structure has been simplified and parishioners still benefit from a discounted rate. New rates are available from all the usual places.

As winter draws to a close, our formal flood watching rota comes to an end, so thanks to all who are part of that and all the others who contribute unofficially. I don't want to tempt fate by saying what a dry winter it has been and that rota duties have been quite light this last winter because, of course, we can and have had, heavy flooding in the summer so, please, do keep an eye on the state of the stream running through the village and help when you can. Thank you!

John Dottridge
April 2022

Notes on the Parish Liaison Meeting 23rd March 2022

'Homes for Ukraine'

Offers have been received by the council. Details on how to offer a home can be found by clicking on the link below:

<https://homesforukraine.campaign.gov.uk/>

If you are unable to help via this scheme, please donate to one of the following organisations:

British Red Cross or UNICEF or the Disasters Emergency Committee

Queen's Platinum Jubilee

Picnics in parks, bandstand concerts, trees being planted in schools and illuminated council buildings are part of a host of celebrations being planned across Bath and North East Somerset to celebrate Her Majesty the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Most of this will take place over the long bank holiday weekend 2-5th June.

- There is a 'toolkit' available for activities to aid the organisation and a webinar recorded in February to view:

<https://mailchi.mp/55571cde7f93/jubilee-events-toolkit>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=14DTr1fW6Mk>

And residents who want to hold a street party on the historic jubilee weekend should apply to the council for any **road closure before the closing date of April 22**.

West of England Combined Authority (WECA)

A presentation was given on the role and function of WECA. WECA is involved in transport, planning and housing, skills, employment and finance.

Saltford Parish Council complained about the lack of communication and response from WECA regarding the A4 consultation. It is hoped that WECA will respond to this complaint in the next couple of weeks.

The 8th April is the date of the next WECA meeting.

Parish Online

They are now mapping climate related data because parish councils are struggling to follow up with geography specific climate plans due to lack of expertise, data and tools. As a result, in liaison with BANES, will be addressed by the following aspects on Parish Online (<https://www.parish-online.co.uk/>):

- Provide data layers
- Build action plans
- Communicate action plans via public maps
- Plot and report progress
- Share layers as built

Layers will include information on energy, transport, trees and biodiversity and sustainability.

Energy Performance Certificates (EPC) scores have been added under Climate & Energy and those houses that could improve their rating to C are highlighted. This would enable the council to know where to offer grants on insulation, where they would have the most benefit.

Parish Online are working with Energeo, who use Artificial Intelligence (AI) algorithms that look at solar potential. Again, this would highlight the areas where any grant funding would make the most improvements.

Electric Vehicle (EV) charging points are another potential layer to aid council funding decisions as is an analysis of ground source heat pump suitability.

Parish Online hopes to develop some template layers to aid individual parish councils.

Parish Online have offered the free use of their software to local non-profit organisations.

Update from Chew Valley Area Forum

They have recently carried out an analysis of parishes that are interested installing EV points.

Peasedown St John Showcase

Kathy Thomas presented a Showcase of what their parish council has done to improve access to open spaces. They have added equality gates so everyone can now enter fenced off open spaces and made proper pathways around the open spaces; created a Multi-use Games Area (MUGA); a playground; a cemetery as the churchyard was full, and allotments.

Local Community Funding Projects

These projects are funded by Community Infrastructure Levy (CiL) money or the Ward Councillor's Empowerment Fund (WCEF).

The Parish Charter is about to be reviewed and it is hoped that a mapping system is to be included to show where the CiL funding locations are.

Parishes are asked to add in information as to where and on what CiL funds have been spent.

Anyone interested should contact Dave Dixon:

dave.dixon@bathnes.gov.uk

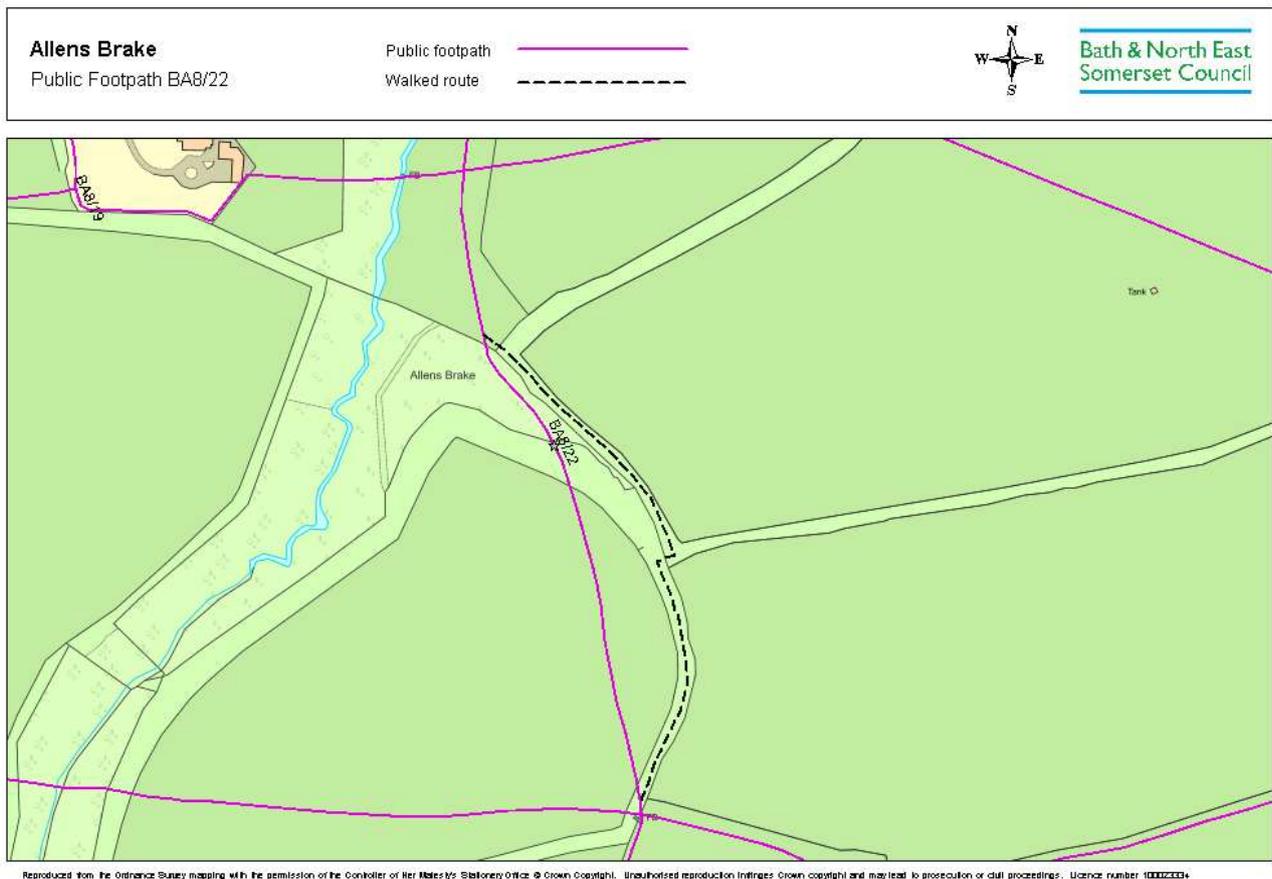
Parish Charter Review

This is due for a review and it is hoped to get people from the parishes involved in delivering the next version. There will be a need to factor in the Climate Emergency.

Anyone interested in getting involved with this should contact Sara Dixon:

Sara_Dixon@BATHNES.GOV.UK

Map of Allen's Brake footpath (item 15.2)



Map of footpath in fields adjacent to Smallbrook Lane (item 8.1)



The River Chew in Ecological Trouble

The River Chew runs for 17 miles from its source in the Mendips to where it joins the Avon in Keynsham, in part running through Chew Lake, with further tributaries joining downstream. Surveys over recent years have shown that the Chew, and the surrounds we enjoy so much (like most rivers in England) are in ecological trouble. For example, at Pensford, fish numbers (Grayling, Brown Trout, European Eels) had dropped by 62% between 2016 and 2019.

Dr Amy Wade, Community Engagement Officer for Bristol Avon Rivers Trust (BART), addressed 60 residents from villages along the Chew, at the Compton Dando Community Association's monthly coffee morning on the 5th of April. Amy, a zoologist and ecological conservationist, briefed the audience on the causes of the Chew's deterioration, and then covered work that was being done, and could be done, to improve matters along the river.

Causes

The problems along the Chew arise from, and in no particular order:

- Too much sediment - which affects invertebrate and fish breeding since they require clear gravel beds. This arises from:
- Degraded river banks where cattle have come down to the water to drink
- Slowed flows due to longer periods without rain, and less water being released from Chew Lake
- Rain washing soil off fields
- Rain, when it comes, is often heavier than it used to be, leading to flooding and further soil erosion
- Heavy rain leads to sewage farms overflowing, and untreated sewage getting into the river – in 2021 the Compton Dando sewer storm overflow spilled 47 times, for a total of 662 hours
- Concreted and tarmacked areas adding to run-off
- Agricultural pollution – such as agrochemicals and slurry washing into the river

What's being done?

BART received a grant from the Green Recovery Challenge Fund last summer for river restoration, wetlands creation, sustainable water usage, and drainage, for the Chew Reconnected project. Activities carried out within this project have included:

- Sites upstream of Pensford, and in Woollard: the digging out of seasonal ponds to catch heavy run-off water before it gets into the Chew
- Surrounding these ponds by deciduous trees and shrubs (which can catch 40% of rainfall before it reaches the ground, stabilize the soil, and provide carbon capture)
- Near Winford Brook creating a catchment area for soil washed off fields where the farmer collects the sediment and returns it to the field
- Adding fencing and hedging to limit access by cattle to the river edge, and other tree planting to stabilize the soil
- Encouraging us to carry out better rain water management – such as collecting water into water butts, providing gravel surfaces rather than concrete or tarmac to absorb rain over larger surface areas
- Measuring phosphate and nitrate concentrations in the river water, monitoring pollution, carrying out river fly counts

What can I do?

- Use less water (shorter showers, fewer baths, check for toilet cistern leaks, turn off tap when brushing teeth, flush toilets less often – “if it's yellow let it mellow, if it's brown wash it down”) so that there is less pressure on our water supply and our sewage farms, and leave more water in the river for aquatic life
- Capture more household rainwater for use in dry periods and reduce pressure on our sewerage system
- Encourage river-edge landowners to take part in the Chew Reconnected project

- Landowners: trap more run-off before it hits the river
- Plant more vegetation and have fewer hard surfaces in gardens and around houses to slow the flow of rain water entering rivers and streams and help reduce flood risk
- Volunteer to help with BART's Chew monitoring and habitat creation projects (contact Amy at amy@bristolavonriverstrust.org)
- Campaign for more water to be released from Chew Lake
- Campaign to stop the spillage of untreated sewage by Wessex Water – Paul Sims and Jonathan Foyle are interested in running an action group: contact Paul at paulsims@blueyonder.co.uk

Every little helps. Lots of small-scale actions add up to make a big difference.
Barend ter Haar. April 2022.

DRAFT