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PARISH COUNCIL AGENDA

A meeting to be held on the 6th February 2024

To all Parish Councillors

**You are summoned to attend a meeting of the Parish Council on Tuesday 6th February 2024
at 8.00pm in Compton Dando Parish Hall**

Susan Smith – Clerk to the Parish Council

Date 29th January 2024

The public are welcome to attend.

Public participation:

Please note that prior to the official business of the meeting; members of the Parish are welcome to raise any Parish issues. Additionally, planning applications may be verbally presented by the applicant or their agent.

Members of the Public are welcome to speak on 2 items on the agenda per person. Please inform the Parish Clerk **4 clear days** prior to the meeting if you wish to arrange a speaking slot. Please keep your speech to a maximum of 3 minutes.

This meeting may be filmed or recorded (please refer to the Parish Council protocol on the filming and recording of meetings, adopted 16th September 2014, available at [http://: www.comptondando-parishcouncil.org.uk/docs_publications/](http://www.comptondando-parishcouncil.org.uk/docs_publications/)).

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

Chairman's Announcements

- 2. To receive notification of any members personal or prejudicial interest in any item on the agenda**
- 3. Questions on notice by members**

Members may ask the Chairman any question concerning the business of the Council, provided that notice of the question has been given to the Parish Clerk in writing at least 4 clear days before the meeting where possible, and in any case to the Chairman, in writing, before the meeting.

- 4. To confirm the minutes of the previous meeting held on the 2nd January 2024**
- 5. Ward Councillor's update**
- 6. Finance**

6.1 To receive a report of parish council finance

6.2 To approve and sign cheques for payment for the parish council

6.3 To approve payments for the parish hall

6.4 To approve the setting up of a Direct Debit for payments to HMRC for the Clerk's PAYE

7. Clerk's report (circulated prior to meeting)

To receive a report from the Parish Clerk outlining actions taken following the meeting held on 2nd January 2024.

8. Matters for discussion/decision

8.1 To discuss the creation of a Health & Safety Policy into which recommendations for actions required for any infectious disease, would be included

Following discussions at several meetings concerning the wording of an Infectious Disease Policy, I sought advice from the Avon Local Councils Association (ALCA), the Chief officer of which, recommended including detail into a Health & Safety Policy.

8.2 To decide if the Parish Council will organise the planting of trees on the Millennium Green

I have obtained consent, through Greenslade Taylor Hunt, for the planting of trees on the Millennium Green.

Prior to planting any trees, Greenslade Taylor Hunt should be provided with a plan, proposing the location and number of trees, together with tree species.

It will be necessary to consider the right tree in the right place and obtain advice from BANES Senior Tree Officer in respect of the right type of tree and how many for the location.

There will also be a need to consider onward maintenance as tree works are costly and it would be necessary to create a budget account for this purpose.

Also, for consideration, would be to ask BANES for a Service Level Agreement (SLA) to inspect trees and advise on any necessary works in the future.

8.3 To discuss possible projects for future funding applications (document sent out with pre-meeting documents)

8.4 To confirm the dates for the annual village meetings

Woollard East and Compton Dando village meetings will be held at 7.45pm before the 5th March Parish Council meeting.

Chewton Keynsham's village meeting will be held on Thursday the 14th March at 7pm

Queen Charlton's meeting will be held on the Monday the 18th March at 7pm to be followed by the Burnett meeting.

8.5 To decide if applications for S137 funding from churches will be acceptable (details of the latest advice from the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) is appended)

8.6 To receive an update on solar powered street lighting – Councillor BT and Clerk

8.7 To review the finance policy

8.8 To discuss care of the Millennium Stones

8.9 To decide on what action should be taken following a fatal accident on the B3116 on 21st January 2024

8.10 To consider a CiL request for £1400 for new church railings in Compton Dando

The request is to restore the Churchyard railings which face the village. They are leaning badly and some of the upright rails are rusted away. A quote of £1400 for this work has been received.

8.11 To receive notice that there have been 2 interests registered for S137 Grants

- Compton Dando Church railings
- New path for Burnett's Church

9. To consider responses to the following Planning Applications:

9.1 None

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 Email received from Beat Manager PC James 3803 asking if we would like him or his colleague PC Sarah Birth 1512, to attend a meeting

15. Correspondence for information

15.1 None.

16. Reports

16.1 Parish Hall report (appended)

16.2 Village updates ('for information only at the meeting. matters for discussion will be carried forward to next meeting' (maximum of 2 items per Councillor unless considered urgent and previously agreed with the Clerk).

16.3 Report from BANES/ALCA Group meeting on the 23rd January (appended)

16.4 Report from 'Avon Needs Trees' presentation on the 30th January – Councillor BT

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

Date of next meeting is the 5th March at 8.00pm

Preceded by the Woollard and Compton Dando annual village Meetings at 7.45pm

Appendix for 8.5

20 DECEMBER 2023

L02-23 | POWER TO FUND WORKS TO PROPERTY RELATING TO AFFAIRS OF THE CHURCH OR HELD FOR AN ECCLESIASTICAL CHARITY (ENGLAND ONLY)

Introduction

On 26 October 2023, the Levelling-up and Regeneration Act (the 2023 Act) received Royal Assent. Section 82 of the 2023 Act amends the Local Government Act 1894 (the 1894 Act) by inserting a new section 19A into the 1894 Act. Section 19A comes into force on 26 December 2023. The Appendix at the end of this briefing contains the wording of section 19A.

The government's view is that its amendment in the form of section 19A clarifies that the 1894 Act does not affect the discretionary powers of parish councils in England to fund church repairs or improvements or property held for an ecclesiastical charity. NALC recommends that its members adopt the government's view when they receive requests for funding. This means that

councils can use their discretionary powers to fund such property, including that of other Christian denominations and non-Christian faiths. It applies in the case of:

- Specific powers to fund works - for example, repairs to clocks fixed to church property (section 2 of the Parish Councils Act 1957) and the maintenance of open churchyards (section 214 of the Local Government Act 1972 (the 1972 Act)).
- General powers to fund works where works are not covered by a specific power - section 137 of the 1972 Act and the general power of competence

can also be used by councils to fund requests for works not covered by specific powers.

What will parish councils need to consider when receiving funding requests?

Councils need to consider requests in respect of church property or property held for an ecclesiastical charity as they would any other funding request. Funding powers further to section 19A of the 1894 Act coming into force are discretionary.

Parish councils are not under any additional duties as a result of the 2023 Act and the insertion of section 19A to the 1894 Act.

The issues that councils would need to consider when seeking to rely on a general power are set out within our Legal Topic Note 31E. This includes the direct benefit of expenditure accruing to a council's area or residents being commensurate with the expenditure incurred in respect of section 137.

NALC publications

NALC's view (as set out in Legal Briefing L01-18 – financial assistance to the church) was that only explicit local council powers could override the prohibition in the 1894 Act to fund churches. We will be withdrawing Legal Briefing L01-18 further to the Government's amendment as per section 19A coming into force on 26 December 2023. We will also update and reissue Legal Topic Note 31E to remove references to the prohibition, which will no longer apply when section 19A comes into force.

Appendix

19A Powers under other enactments

- (1) Nothing in this Part affects any powers, duties or liabilities conferred on a parish council by or under any other enactment (whenever passed or made).
- (2) This section does not apply in relation to community councils (see section 179 (4) of the Local Government Act 1972).

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Parish hall Report February 2024

Our new treasurer and bookings manager are both settling effectively into their posts and bringing welcome improvement in doing so. We very much hope that these improvements will also improve the efficiency and availability of the hall.

We pleased to welcome new, regular hirers broadening the user group spectrum as well as the diversity of our hirer base.

More mundanely, we have had our usual battle with the mid-winter elements and are grateful, as ever, for the help of several villagers in keeping our anti-flooding gratings clear. The amount of wooden debris that gets carried down the short distance from Wick Farm drive to the large grating in the wood is quite astonishing. We are always alert to the weather at this time of year: wondering if we should be erecting our flood guards and ensuring our trash gratings are clear, ready for particularly heavy rain, but this year our concern is exacerbated by frequent messages from the Environment Agency, usually late in the evening, warning us that the River Chew is at risk of flooding. To start with we were out at all hours trying to mitigate the risk but learnt, with time, to moderate our concern. Nevertheless, these warnings cannot be ignored.

We are very fortunate that our caretakers/cleaners are managing around their busier schedule and we thank them. They recently took a well-earned holiday and we are most grateful to the Hall committee members who stood in as cover.

John Dottridge
February 2024

Notes on the ALCA/BANES meeting on 24th January

- NALC are working with Barclays and Unity Banks to see if they can provide banking that is more suited to a parish council. Unity Bank received positive comments and was reported as being helpful although limited in digital features compared with other banks. They had good interest on savings accounts.
- Some have reported having serious issues with changing to BT Broadband.
- BANES will not be financially supporting Christmas lights, although this has to pass the budget. It was mentioned about councils forming a group to make the cost more affordable.
- The Parish Liaison meeting on the 28th February will consist of 3 World Café tables for discussion on Support for Children and Young People; Crime in the Community, particularly anti-social behaviour and Vehicles and Roads.
It was felt that more people would want to talk about issues connected to roads, so maybe this arrangement could be a bit unbalanced.
- It was reported that the BANES Budget consultation didn't permit a response to one section on line. You couldn't send comments by email either. Printing the whole consultation out and posting it, was what was required. This was thought to be making it very difficult for people without printers. The postage had cost £8.
- It was also reported that the Government's Consultation on Street Votes was about planning decisions being taken by the street(s) that are located where the application is.