

## **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2024 – RECITED AT EVERY VILLAGE MEETING.**

Thank you for so many of you joining this annual Parish village meeting, it is lovely to see you.

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.

A Local Council 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](http://www.comptondando-parishcouncil.org.uk)). Meetings may also now be filmed or recorded in line with the protocol on the website.

We have one new Councillor following the elections Tom Bartlett of Queen Charlton who replace Chris Willows at the last elections. We also have a new Ward Councillor representing Saltford Ward of which our Parish is part of and that is Alison Streatfield-James who replace Alastair Singleton.

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. 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 17 planning applications (three less than the previous year).

There are several planning enforcements matters that are still being investigated by Bath and North East Somerset Council. There may be some more information coming forward in respect of the old Hinton Organics site shortly.

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 & gulleys, 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. 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.

This year, the Parish Council voted to set the precept at £11,069.01 The Precept and current budget is used to cover the Parish Council's expenditure and including those to assist with the maintenance of the Parish assets.

**B&NES Council budget 2024/25 was considered at their February meeting.**

The General Fund net revenue budget for 2024/25 of **£135.85m**

An increase in Council Tax of 2.99% in 2024/25 (an increase of £49.45 per Band D property or 95p per week).

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

1. The Parish Council is still supporting the PCAA in its challenges against Bristol Airports expansion.
2. The village of Queen Charlton in our Parish has now officially been classed as a Liveable Neighbourhoods programme which has improved the lives of those living within the village.
3. Definitive Map Modification Order (DMMO) for Park Copse (Bluebell Wood) Compton Dando is still being worked on.
4. In the past year, the Parish Council have produced new and reviewed existing policies in order to keep compliant with regulations.
5. The Parish Council has responded to numerous B&NES and WECA consultations throughout the year and is in the process of giving its views on the

B&NES Local Plan Options Document which will form part of the new Local Plan. The Local Plan will establish the planning framework for the district up to 2042. It will contain a vision, strategy and policies to guide and manage how the district grows and changes over the next 20 years, and how planning applications for new development are decided. Parishioners are encouraged go on the B&NES website and look at the numerous housing developments that are proposed for in and around the Parish and to complete the consultation questions.

6. Finally, the Parish Council would like to thank Sue for another year's 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.