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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), T Butler (TD), B ter Haar (BT) and T Bartlett (TBt) + 5 members of the public

IN ATTENDANCE: S Smith (Clerk) and Ward Councillor Alison Streatfeild-James (ASJ)

MINUTES OF A PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

held on the 6th February 2024

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

Councillor HM.

Chairman's Announcements

The Chair expressed condolences, on behalf of the Parish Council, to the family of the person who died in the accident on the B3116 on 21st January 2024.

Following the meeting on the 2nd January where a contentious planning application was discussed, 2 complaints were received. One complaint was anonymous and the other has been addressed internally through the Chair. The outcome of this is that any Councillor wishing to speak should do so through the Chair, by raising their hand.

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

Councillor DD regarding item 8.9 as she is a resident of Burnett.

3. Questions on notice by members

None

4. Minutes of the previous meeting held on the 2nd January 2024

The minutes were agreed by all to be a true record and were signed by the Chair.

Items 8.9 then 8.2 were brought forward for members of the public to speak on them

5. Ward councillor's update

The BANES Local Plan consultation commences 12 February and will end on 8 April. Responses should be sent (preferably) via the website: <https://beta.bathnes.gov.uk/local-plan>

The Postal address: Local Plan consultation, B&NES, Lewis House, Manvers Street, Bath BA1 1JG

Bath Half Marathon will be held on Sunday 17 March.

Local Nature Action Plans:

New guidance to help parish and town councils plan the action they can take to help protect nature in their areas has been published by B&NES.

The step-by-step guide will help town and parish councils develop, consult on and deliver their own local Nature Action Plans so they can identify their existing nature assets as well as any opportunities for restoring nature in their towns and villages.

Guidance for Parish and Town Councils can be downloaded:

[Local Nature Action Plans | Bath and North East Somerset Council \(bathnes.gov.uk\)](http://bathnes.gov.uk)

PS Lisa Allerton-Baldwin has been seconded to a new role in the Avon and Somerset force. PS Mark Goff will be covering our area in the short term.

Received and noted.

6. Finance

6.1 Finance Report for Compton Dando Parish Council

Bank Reconciliation for

The attached Bank Reconciliation was received and noted.

6.2 Schedule of Expenditure for

The attached Schedule of Accounts was approved.

6.3 Parish Hall Payments for

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

Payee	Description	Amount
H Dottridge	Hire overpayment	£90
CDPC	Electrical Works	£200.41
H Dottridge	Lottery Prizes	£100
H Dottridge	Repair boiler room door	£10

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

The direct debit set up was APPROVED and SIGNED by the Clerk and the Chair.

7. Clerk's Report

7.1 Comments on Graeme Starck's comments on our appeal to the Park Copse Definitive Map Modification Order (DMMO), have now been submitted to the Planning Inspectorate. The Inspectorate have given the Council and the interested party 2 weeks to send in their final comments.

7.2 The Greenslade Taylor Hunt Health & Safety Annual Questionnaire on the Millennium Green Land, was filled out as previous years, and submitted.

7.3 A report has been made to Graeme Starck that at the top of the DMMO (Park Copse), related foot path, there is a kissing gate into the field at its entrance on Peppershells Lane.

The work that was carried out to create an access to the converted barn involved tarmac the entrance past the gate in question on the DMMO and to the PROW. The raised level for this tarmac area is now diverting the water coming down the road directly into the PROW gateway, and now is making that entrance very dangerous since it is full of slurry and for quite a large area around it. I have had a reply that Tim Haynes will check it out.

The Clerk reported that there were no further updates to her report.

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, the Clerk sought advice from the Avon Local Councils Association (ALCA), the Chief officer of which, recommended including detail into a Health & Safety Policy.

It was DECIDED to take the advice from ALCA and create a Health & Safety Policy which incorporates information related to infectious diseases (ACTION CLERK).

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

The Clerk has 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.

A member of the public spoke with concerns that the agenda had implied a decision to plant trees on the Millennium Green had been taken without consultation with residents. It was confirmed that no decision had been taken and the agenda was just listing everything that needs to be considered by the Councillors.

It was DECIDED to email the resident who had suggested applying for funds from UKSPF (UK Shared Prosperity Fund), for planting trees on the Millennium Green, asking him to attend a meeting to listen to his suggestions of which trees could be planted. Following on from this, all residents would need to be consulted before a decision could be taken (ACTION CLERK)

8.3 To discuss possible projects for future funding applications (a list of suggestions is appended)

At this time, it was DECIDED to investigate extending the footpath on Court Hill to where it joins Vicarage Lane.

Councillor DD is to contact BANES Highways and Traffic Safety Team to seek their thoughts in respect of this proposal and whether it would be achievable. She will report back at the next meeting. This

project will only be taken forward following a thorough residents' consultation in respect of any road change proposals (ACTION COUNCILLOR DD).

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 via Zoom.

Queen Charlton's meeting will be held on the Monday the 18th March at 7pm to be followed by the Burnett meeting at 8.15 pm.

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)

It was DECIDED that applications from churches should not be accepted for S137 funding as the clarification is still not clear.

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

The results of the street light survey and the comments submitted were discussed and it was DECIDED to continue replacing sodium bulbs, when necessary, with LED ones, as is currently done.

Any change in the charges with the contract renewal at the end of August would be reviewed and the source of energy for street lights could be considered again in the future.

8.7 To review the finance policy

The policy was reviewed and SIGNED.

8.8 To discuss care of the Millennium Stones

It was reported that vegetation growing around the stones was becoming too high. It was AGREED that the grass cutting contractor should be asked to quote for 2 strims per year around the stones (ACTION CLERK).

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

Three residents spoke on their concerns over the road safety and the speed of the traffic on the B3116 particularly as the volume of traffic has increased in recent years. It was stated that these concerns had been raised repeatedly with BANES over many years and now there had been 3 deaths in total and many more accidents.

Suggestions made were:

- Reduce the speed to 30 mph
- Install speed cameras
- Install chicanes
- Alter the road layout to improve visibility
- Traffic calming measures
- Plastic bollards along the white line replacing the cats' eyes
- Road narrowing to slow traffic

The Parish Council were urged to take these concerns forward.

It was reported that the Police have funding that could be used for speed cameras.

It was suggested that the Parish Council could contribute financially.

It was suggested that expert help was needed to take this forward

Councillor DD PROPOSED that the Parish Council encourage urgent action from BANES, which was APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

It was DECIDED that initially, the Ward Councillors would meet with the appropriate departments in BANES and the Police.

This would be followed by some meetings being organised with experts and Police that Burnett residents would be invited to, allowing them to input their thoughts and ideas to resolve the traffic safety issues on the B3116.

The Clerk would liaise with the Ward Councillors (ACTION ASJ, WARD COUNCILLOR DUNCAN HOUNSELL AND CLERK)

8.10 To consider a Community Infrastructure Levy (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.

It was DECIDED that the 2 people who had stated an interest in applying for a S137 Grant for church projects (see item 8.11), should both be asked to apply for funding through CiL for which the Power S214 to maintain Burial Grounds and Cemeteries would be used.

The Clerk will ask the applicants for 2 quotes (addressed to the Parish Council), and also if there may be any 'match funding' and help (ACTION CLERK).

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

It was DECIDED that these two applications should be considered for CiL funding and not S137 as it was felt there was still uncertainty around funding churches through S137. See item 8.10.

Although the date for registering an interest for applying for S137 funding had now passed, it was reported that the Parish Council would consider other projects for S137 funding in 6 months' time.

9. Planning applications received

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

It was DECIDED to inform PC James of the Parish Council meeting dates and say they are welcome to attend any meeting (ACTION CLERK).

15. Correspondence for information

15.1 None

16. Reports

16.1 Parish Hall report (appended)

Received and noted.

16.2 Village updates

It was reported that Compton Dando's Annual Litter Pick will take place on Sunday the 25th February.

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

Received and noted.

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

It was reported that Avon Needs Trees were in the process of purchasing Wick Farm, most of whose land is in Compton Dando Parish, and their intention was to plant up to 60% of the land with trees.

It was DECIDED that the Parish Council should be included in any consultation that takes place. The Clerk will contact the charity with this request (ACTION CLERK).

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

None.

**Date of next meeting is the 5th March at 8.00pm
Preceded by the Woollard and Compton Dando annual village Meetings at 7.45pm**

The meeting closed at 9:47 pm

Minutes prepared by: Susan Smith (Clerk)

Agreed as a correct record on.....

Signed (Chairman).....

Compton Dando Parish Council

Bank Reconciliation

Statement Date 21/12/2023

Statement Entries

Bank Date	Cashbook Date	Details	Description	Paid Out	Paid In	Balance
18/11/2023			Opening Balance			20234.49
06/12/2023	06/12/2023		CDPH radiator bleeding		74.00	20308.49
08/12/2023	05/12/2023	001517	Clerks salary and expenses	680.73		19627.76
08/12/2023	08/12/2023		YU Energy for November	39.40		19588.36
11/12/2023	11/12/2023		CDPH new chair seats		720.00	20308.36
13/12/2023	05/12/2023	001518	PAYE under paid for months 4 & 5	51.03		20257.33
21/12/2023	06/12/2023	001519	PH Hire for July Aug Sept	52.00		20205.33

No Reversed Entries

Outstanding Entries

Cashbook Date	Details	Description	Paid Out	Paid In	Balance
05/12/2023	001516	SLCC annual membership	144.00		-144.00

Reconciliation

Closing Bank Balance	20205.33
Outstanding	-144.00
Closing Bank Balance + Outstanding	20061.33
Cashbook Balance	20061.33

Transactions since Statement

Transactions to 06/02/2024

Cashbook Date	Date Reversed	Details	Description	Paid Out	Paid In	Balance
02/01/2024		001520	Clerk's salary and expenses	450.28		19611.05
02/01/2024		001521	Under payment Aug PAYE	30.00		19581.05
02/01/2024		001522	under payment Sep PAYE	30.00		19551.05
02/01/2024		001523	PAYE months 7,8 and 9	186.97		19364.08
02/01/2024		001524	ALCC membership	50.00		19314.08

Cashbook Date	Date Reversed	Details	Description	Paid Out	Paid In	Balance
02/01/2024	02/01/2024	001525	Payment of 5137 grant awarded for noticeboard repair in CD - Reversed by: a payment not a receipt on 02/01/2024	250.00		19064.08
02/01/2024			a payment not a receipt - Reverses: Payment of 5137 grant awarded for noticeboard repair in CD on 02/01/2024		250.00	19314.08
02/01/2024		001525	5137 Grant given for noticeboard in CD repair	250.00		19064.08
12/01/2024			VAT Reclaim for period to 30/11/2023		0.00	19064.08
06/02/2024		001651	Donation to Chew Valley Nature Recovery Network	150.00		18914.08
06/02/2024		001652	PH hire for Oct, Nov, Dec & Jan	80.00		18834.08
06/02/2024		001653	PH flickering light repair	240.49		18593.59
06/02/2024		001654	Clerk's salary and expenses	549.52		18044.07

Compton Dando Parish Council

Performance against Budget

For year beginning 01/04/2023

Name	Description	2023-24 Budget	Actual at 06/02/2024	Difference	Variance
AUDIT	Audit Fees	315.00	320.00	5.00	1.59%
DONATIONS	Donation	26.25	175.00	148.75	566.67%
EXPENSES	Clerk's Home Expenses	105.00	131.12	26.12	24.88%
GRANTS GIVEN	Grants Given	1050.00	1000.00	-50.00	-4.76%
GRASS CUTTING	Grass Cutting	974.40	984.00	9.60	0.99%
HALL HIRE	Hall Hire	201.60	210.00	8.40	4.17%
ICO	ICO	36.75	0.00	-36.75	-100.00%
KIOSKS	Telephone Kiosks	52.50	0.00	-52.50	-100.00%
MAINTENANCE	Maintenance	1050.00	750.00	-300.00	-28.57%
MOBILE	Mobile Top Up	42.00	0.00	-42.00	-100.00%
PAYE	Clerk's PAYE	599.55	666.48	66.93	11.16%
PH INSURANCE	Parish Hall Insurance	892.50	685.88	-206.62	-23.15%
POSTAGE	Postage	42.00	33.20	-8.80	-20.95%
SALARY	Clerk's Salary	6766.90	4969.81	-1797.09	-26.56%
SIGNS	Signs Notice boards	210.00	0.00	-210.00	-100.00%
SL ELEC	Street Light Electricity	472.50	308.85	-163.65	-34.63%
SL MAINT	Street Light Maintenance	3150.00	0.00	-3150.00	-100.00%
SOLICITOR	Solicitor Fees	0.00	0.00		
STREET FURNITURE	Street Furniture	262.50	0.00	-262.50	-100.00%
SUBS	Memberships and Subs	735.00	492.90	-242.10	-32.94%
SUPPLIES	Office Supplies	78.75	34.10	-44.65	-56.70%
TRAINING	Training	315.00	325.00	10.00	3.17%
WEBSITE	Website	231.00	220.00	-11.00	-4.76%
TOTAL		17609.20	11306.34	-6302.86	-35.79%

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Printed 31/01/2024 15:10:29

Suggested projects for Compton Dando

- 1. Extending the footpath on Court Hill to around the corner into Vicarage Lane.** Currently cars are often parked along this small stretch of road which means that pedestrians, often with children, dogs, etc, have to walk well into the road to get around the vehicles. This small piece of extra pavement would make that stretch much safer for the pedestrians, and the absence of parked cars on this short stretch would make that bend safer for motorists as well.
- 2. Turning the mud patch north of the bridge into a layby.** When the works were done to improve the drainage etc, this area was supposed to have been reseeded, but never got done. BANES had proposed placing bollards to stop parking, but feedback from the villagers at the time was that the parking was welcomed and so BANES has indicated that a layby would be more appropriate, but would not have a budget to implement this for quite some time.

3. **Creating EV parking bays in the pub car park next to the Hall.** Paul, the pub landlord, has said he would be happy for this, and surveys have been done that indicate that up to 4 bays could be produced, each supplying a 22kW charging point.
4. **Creating EV parking bays on Fairy Hill.** Few houses in this spot have parking places which give direct access to the house's electricity supply, and currently there is no other option for these houses. There is a government grant being applied for by BANES to provide on street EV charging points, and Fairy Hill could be a suitable site for inclusion.
5. **Move the electricity transformer from the centre of the village.** A survey has been done by Western Power, and this could be either next to the river, or into a box near the phone box.
6. **Replace the street lights by solar powered/battery supplied power.** Further information can be found in the minutes of the Parish Council December meeting and the agenda for the January meeting. One village covered by the Council has suggested that they would be better off without street lights. One solution being suggested involves LED lights which only come on when movement activated, thereby giving longer lighting hours from a charged battery.
7. **Plant a couple of appropriate trees on the Millenium Green** - for walkers to sit in shade and enjoy the view of the Church.

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.