

COMPTON DUNDON PARISH COUNCIL

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MINUTES of the PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

held at Meadway Hall, Ham Lane, Compton Dundon on **Wednesday 2nd March 2016**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Councillors Diane Churches, Greg Jones, Tiffany Kearton, Stephen King, Vicki Olivier, Geoffrey Walker and Hugh Thomas.

IN ATTENDANCE: Dean Ruddle (SCC and SSDC), Stephen Page (SSDC), Stanislaw Berkieta (Parish Clerk)
There were 9 members of the general public present.

Public Participation

144.1 Apologies for Absence

None required. Cllr Jones advised he would be arriving late due to a prior commitment.

144.2 Declarations of Interest -

Cllr Olivier declared a pecuniary interest in agenda item 144.4 (c)/1 and Cllr Thomas declared a personal interest in agenda item 144.8 (a).

144.3 Minutes of the previous Meeting

It was **RESOLVED** to accept the minutes of the Parish Council meetings held on 3rd February 2016 and 10th February 2016 and Cllr Hugh Thomas signed both sets of minutes as a true record.

144.4 Planning

(a) Notifications of district council planning determinations - None received

(b) Responses to planning and legal consultations

1. 16/00178/FUL: Mr A Smith, Manor Farm Barns, Littleton, TA11 6NP (GR: 349064/130541). Erection of a polytunnel in a small agricultural field. AMENDED PLANS.

Following a brief presentation of the applicants' intents for the smallholding and polytunnel the Council reviewed a letter of objection and discussed the size and location of the polytunnel and the screening that would be given to it. The Council unanimously **RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL.**

- 2. 16/00656/FUL: Mr D Taylor, Land At Lockers Farm, Peak Lane, Compton Dundon. The erection of four polytunnels.

► At this stage Cllr Olivier declared a personal interest in the item and did not take part in discussions

Councillors discussed the size of the polytunnels and their location which was as presented in the outline longterm plan for the site. With one abstention the councillors present **RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL.**

- (c) Other planning related issues

1. Planning consultation re: Decoy Farm - revised development proposal.

► At this stage Cllr Jones declared a personal interest and left the meeting

The applicant's agent advised that since the refusal on the original application a fresh approach had been taken with a proposed much smaller footprint of development, merged into the landscape. Councillors discussed some of the previous objections that had been raised relating to materials and access and there was general support for the development design.

► Cllr Jones rejoined the meeting

144.5 Accounts.

(a) The Clerk gave the following report on bank account reconciliation:

Treasurers A/C Statement at 1 st March 2016		2,780.83
Less - Unpresented cheques:		0
Plus - Uncleared lodgments:		0
Treasurers A/C Adjusted Balance at 1 March 2016		2,780.83
Business Instant Access A/c Balance at 1 March 2016		29,704.68
Overall Bank Balance		32,485.51
Overall Ledger Book Balance		32,485.51

(b) The following cheques and transfers were tabled for approval

SSDC Parish Ranger inv 27161	000962	150.96
Playdale Playgrounds – balance of invoice	000963	2,256.01
Parish Magazine Printing – newsletter inv 1133	000964	100.20
LGRC Ass. Ltd – Transparency Act Course inv 59	000965	72.00
Wham Ltd inv 160210 – web/domain hosting	000966	140.00
G A Doble (Civil Eng.) Ltd – Storm Water work	000967	22,376.26
Clerk salary & expenses CD133	000968	273.98
HMRC – Paye month 11	000969	57.80
Total value of cheques		25,427.21
Transfer from BIA to Treasurer A/C	-	25,000.00

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the payments and transfer and for the cheques to be signed.

144.6 Reports

(a) Report from the County Councillor

Cllr Ruddle explained that there was currently a consultation on the Community Infrastructure Levy. He felt strongly that the proposals unfairly treated rural communities like Compton Dundon that had no Neighbourhood Plan and the cost of which would probably never be recovered. He urged the Council to formally respond to the consultation.

(b) Reports from District Councillors

Cllr Page reported on meetings held at Council to discuss proposals for combining Devon and Somerset administrations under devolution plans for England. Discussions are continuing but serious concerns have been raised. He also reported on the SSDC/Sedgemoor discussions which appear to be heading towards a strategic alliance in certain areas rather than a merger.

(c) Report of the Chairman –

The Chairman advised that a document had been received updating the Connecting Somerset and Devon broadband service project with a voucher scheme for areas not covered by progress to date. He advised of vacancies on a SALC Chairman's course in March and noted that 11th May is Somerset Day.

(d) Report from the Police – None received

(e) Rights of Way report

Mr Shears reported that the Parish volunteers met on 14 February and replaced a hinge for the Kissing Gate at the junction of Footpath L7/11 and L7/23 and cleared vegetation around the allotment fence at Peak Lane. The next session is on 13th March when the Compton/Dundon sign post will be re-erected.

(f) Report of the Village Hall Committee

The Committee's report was noted and the Clerk reported that he had received a copy of the hiring terms and conditions and the accident report used by the VH.

144.7 Highways Report

It was noted that SCC Highways have amended their systems and a report on the on-line system of a pothole etc. is now automatically responded to and updated. It was agreed that a site meeting would take place next week at Brook View Farm to review the traffic issues as well as drainage issues. The Clerk will advise date and time.

144.8 Correspondence and items requiring discussion/decision

a) Grant request for repair work to the stone floor of St Andrew's Church

► At this stage Cllr Thomas left the meeting

Following a brief discussion regarding other sources of financing such work the Council **RESOLVED** to approve a £500 grant

► Cllr Thomas returned to the meeting

b) Data Transparency Act Compliance - Cllr Jones discussed the compliance summary circulated and advised that the Council had, as previously agreed, submitted a request to NALC for funding of necessary equipment and software.

c) Flood warden/volunteer training courses - noted

d) Dates and locations of MP's Surgery Dates - noted

e) Renewal of broadband service provider at Meadway Hall – Cllr Jones reported that BT had offered a £10/month reduction in current terms for a new 12 month contract. Cllr Kearton advised she had received various supplier terms in line with BT's but that EE offered a slightly lower fee on an 18 month contract with a £90 set-up fee. It was **RESOLVED** to sign a new contract with BT.

f) Review of the Financial Regulations – Cllr Walker reported that he had reviewed the regulations and was recommending minor changes: (a) reference to new regulations in an annotation and (b) incorporation of changes made to Standing Orders re: contracts. The Clerk was asked to present the revised document at the April meeting.

g) PC Emergency Plan – deferred to the April meeting.

h) The Annual Parish Meeting – The date was confirmed as 4th May 2016 and the agenda agreed.

i) The Queen's 90th Birthday celebrations – It was agreed that there would not be a Beacon Fire. Councillors agreed that the Hog Roast on 11th June should incorporate some form of acknowledgement of the anniversary. It was **RESOLVED** that the Council would fund a commemorative medal for each child under 18.

144.9 Correspondence for information

Area North Agenda and Minutes -24 February; SWP-February Briefing; St Margaret's Hospice community engagement programme; SSDC Garden Waste Collection Service; Fields in Trust; Somerset Wildlife Trust – Nature Reserve Appeal; Rural Spotlight on Young People; SSVCA Newsletter; Rural services Network (Rural opportunities Bulletin, Weekly digests)

144.10 Councillors' requests for agenda items for the next Parish Council meeting

- Emergency Plan
- Affordable Housing (rural letting policy)

144.11 Date of the next meeting of the Parish Council was confirmed as scheduled for 7pm, 6 April 2016.

There being no further business the meeting ended at 21:00

Signed as a true record

Cllr. Greg Jones (Chairman)

Date: 6th April 2016