

MINUTES of the PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

held at Meadway Hall, Ham Lane, Compton Dundon on **Wednesday 3rd October 2018**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllrs Diane Churches, Tiffany Kearton (Part), Stephen King, Christopher Swain, Hugh Thomas & Geoffrey Walker.

IN ATTENDANCE: Dean Ruddle (SSDC & SCC), Stephen Page (SSDC) and Helen Richardson (Clerk), There were 5 members of the general public present.

Public Participation – A resident asked that Parish Council to confirm that the County Council will no longer be gritting roads due to cost cutting. It was confirmed that the County Council are cutting back on their gritting program. Main roads will still be gritted, however they will no longer be offering grit to Parish Councils. The resident questioned why the Parish Ranger was cutting the grass by the grips in Ham Lane. It was confirmed that the Parish Ranger has been asked to clear the grips, however it has become clear that the Parish Ranger takes great pride in her job and often goes over and above what she has been asked to do. The resident complained about the pot holes in middle drove as they are becoming dangerous – the Parish Council would report the pot holes.

Improving the Youth Provision in the Parish – presentation from Kirstie Brown **SCC Youth & Communities Officer** and Amanda Johnson from **Young Somerset**.

The Parish Council asked Kirstie & Amanda to attend the Parish Council meeting to discuss the opportunities for improving the provision for young people in the Parish. It was agreed that in order to establish an interest in Compton Dundon, SCC Youth & Communities Service and Young Somerset offered to run one off event to meet with young people in Compton Dundon and to consider the type of provision that would be appropriate.

174.1 Apologies for Absence- Greg Jones

174.2 Declarations of Interest –Hugh Thomas declared an interest in 174.8b).

174.3 It was **RESOLVED** to accept the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 5th September 2018 and the Chairman signed them.

174.4 Planning

a) Notifications of district council planning determinations: None

b) Responses to planning and legal consultations: None

c). Other planning consultation issues.

i) The applicant for planning proposals in Ham Lane presented the council with initial drawings of a proposal for 8 new dwellings for a site adjacent to the Village Hall. The Parish Council welcomed the opportunity to discuss these proposals as a pre-application consultation and made it clear that they are not opposed to sympathetic development and are keen to work with applicants to achieve this end. It was agreed that the Parish Council would be more likely to support a greater mix of dwellings to complement the old characterful houses on the other side of the road. The inclusion of some bungalows would be encouraged, and some smaller houses to suit young people from the village. The Parish Council requested a clear buffer between the Village Hall and residential homes, so that residents are not disturbed, or likely to complain about the noise from the Village Hall as this is a valued facility for the village. It was appreciated that the hedge was retained in the initial drawings. Concern was raised about increasing the amount of traffic using Ham Lane and the junction with the main road. It was also felt that the location of the site was not suited to a development of 8 houses and the scale should be reconsidered.

>Cllr Tiffany Kearton joined the meeting

174.5 Accounts

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

Treasurers A/C Statement at 30th September 2018			£ 2,980.44
Less - Unpresented cheques:			
SALC planning training	1159	£ 60.00	
J Parry Grass Cutting	1164	£ 250.00	
			£ 310.00
Plus - Uncleared lodgements:			£ -
Treasurers A/C Adjusted Balance at 30th September 2018			£ 2,670.44
Business Instant Access A/c Balance at 30th September 2018			£ 43,801.47
Overall Bank Balance			£ 46,471.91
Overall Ledger Book Balance			£ 46,471.91
Included in Treasurer's balance as stated above are the following debits:			
(a) Direct Debit: - 16/9 BT Line/Broadband -			£69.02
(b) Direct Debit: - 30/8 Auto-enrolment -			£13.20

(b) The following payments were approved:

Purpose for Expense	Chq No.	Amount	VAT	Recover
sparkford (Bus Shelter Final Instalment)	1169	846.00	141	Y
Clerk salary & expenses CD165	1170	482.53	0	N/A
HMRC (PAYE month 6)	1171	58.40	0	N/A
Mr J Parry - (Grass cutting 06)	1172	250.00	0	N/A
Parish Magazine Printing (Oct)	1173	130.28	0	N/A
Compton Dundon Village Hall	1174	48.00	0	N/A
Total value of cheques		1,815.21		
Transfer from BIA to Treasurer's Account	-	-		

The 6th month review of the accounts was accepted and was agreed that to reduce the Clerks mileage expenses, Tiffany Kearton would assist with the weekly playground checks, thanks were expressed to Tiffany. It was also agreed that when the invoice arrived for electrical works for the Bus Shelter, it should be paid asap, prior to the next meeting.

174.6 Reports

- a) Dean Ruddle confirmed that SCC had agreed immediate cuts to this year's revenue Budget. Services to be cut included Gritting, Hedge Cutting, Verge Cutting, CAB, Road Safety budget inc changes to Speed limits and road markings, Park & Ride, Bus Subsidies, Ditch Cleaning, the youth Care provision will be revisited. Some of these cuts will have a direct and visible impact on residents and it will be likely that Parish Council will need to increase the precept to accommodate the any additional expenses.
- b) Stephen Page reported that SSDC's income generation program meant that he hoped that the District Council were in a better financial position and were able to protect key services. He agreed that it was likely that the Parish Council would need to increase the precept to maintain the current standards. Stephens next surgery is no Saturday 27th October in Somerton. Stephen reported that he had enjoyed a meal in the Castlebrook Inn and was pleased to see it busy and apparently thriving.
- c) The Chairman reported that it has been suggested that the Parish Council support a project to update the Compton Dundon Village Website to include a Village archive, and enhance Social Media platforms to provide news and events. Costs should be explored.
The Chairman reported that he had met the Parish Ranger and found her extremely enthusiastic and motivated to keep the village clean. It was noted that one of the grips is drifting into the ditch (third grip along from the Hayes Road/Ham Lane Junction) and will be reported for remedial works as it represents a hazard in its current state.
The Chairman reported that he had received thanks from Greg Jones for the nomination as he was being presented with the Chairman's Award for Service to the Community. The Charimain had also received a letter of thanks from the Compton Dundon Cricket Club for their grant
- d) The report from the police had been received and circulated.
- e) The Rights of Way Newsletter had been circulated. This weekend volunteers were due to look at the collapsed path by the pink Cottage which had collapsed, fix the bin in the Village Hall Car Park and pick up (and dispose of) the old green noticeboard. The ROW volunteers will also carry out an audit of the ditches to see what needs clearing, when they have time. (174.6c)
- f) The Village Hall report from the August meeting had been circulated.

174.7 Highways Issues

- a) Following the news that SSDC would no longer be providing grit to Parish Councils, it was agreed to purchase 1 ton of bagged grit to fill the grit bins. The Parish council had been informed that County Roads would be writing to Parish Councils to explain further implications of the cuts on Hedge/verge cutting and clearing Gullies, In the meantime the Clerk was asked to collect contacts of possible other providers.
- b) It was reported that the road would be closed at, Sub Lane, Butleigh for 5 days from the 22nd October in road closure notice RCNME10186
- c) SSDC have asked the Parish Council to cut the hedge that runs along Moor Close. The Parish Council had previously paid for the hedge to be cut as a 'one off', however ownership of the hedge needs to be established before the Parish Council will commit to the on-going maintenance. SSDC had no ownership information and initial enquiries to Land Registry was inconclusive. The Clerk is waiting for further information from Land Registry.
- d) It was agreed to purchase 3 packs of 30mph stickers and 3 packs of 40 mph stickers to put on Wheelie bins on the main road.

174.8 Correspondence and items requiring discussion/decision

- a) Following the presentation at the start of the meeting regarding the Youth Provision in the Village, it was agreed that the Parish Council would ask the Youth and Communities Service and Young Somerset to go ahead with a one off event to act as a needs assessment for a possible youth provision. Hugh Thomas to lead on the project, thanks were expressed to Hugh.
- b) The Parish Council approved the grant application from St Andrews Church to contribute towards the expenses for the Big Breakfast event in the Village Hall.
- c) Suggestions/issues were put forward for the 5 year Action Plan / draft budget including:
 - i) New Noticeboards – to replace the existing noticeboards at Littleton and Peak Lane and to install additional noticeboards at the Cricket Club and the Village Hall.

ii)2 new planters – one at each of the Village

iii)The new archive website (174.6c)

iv)The implications of the SSDC cuts and the responsibilities that may now fall on the Parish Council

174.9 Report of ongoing projects/issues

a) Compton Commercials Development. No further update

b) Home Field Close -No further update,

c) Purchase of School Playing Fields. The Parish Council agreed that a 99-year lease should be requested with the option of break clause.

d) Speed Indicator Device (SID) Programme & Littleton Road Safety Concerns. No further update

e) Refilling of Grit Bins. Parish Council to purchase grit as no longer supplies by SSDC

f) Equestrian Trail. No further update

g) Bus Shelter Project. Electrical works to be completed this month.

h) New Bins/ Dog Bins. New bin for Village Hall has been delivered and will be installed by the ROW volunteers. SSDC will be installing dog bins at the Cricket Club and one at Behind Town Lane and will invoice the Parish Council

174.10 It was requested that arrangements for the Christmas Tree be put on the agenda for the next Parish Council meeting.

174.11 The date of the next Parish Council Meeting was confirmed as Wednesday 7th November 2018 at 7pm

There being no further business the meeting ended at 21.30pm.

Signed as a true record
Cllr. Steve King (Chairman)

Date: 7th November 2018