

Minutes of the Council Meeting of the Queen Thorne Parish Council held on Monday 1st September 2025 at 7.30pm in Sandford Orcas Village Hall.

Present: Cllrs McBeath (chair), Biddiscombe, Carter, Chick, Livingstone (by Face Time), Lowe, Negus, Phillipson, Stoddart, Symms, Thomas, Dorset Cllr Legg and Trent RoWLO Max Snow. There were also around 18 members of the public present.

1. **Apologies:** Cllrs Hart and Gordon
2. **Declarations of Interests:** None declared.
3. **Casual Vacancy in Over Compton:** No one has come forward as yet.
4. **Minutes:** The minutes of the meeting on July 7th were agreed as a true record and signed

Open Forum

A resident of Over Compton spoke on behalf of the members of the public in attendance. There is great concern about the Dorset Highways decision to close the barrier on the A30 dual carriageway at the Marl Lane (Loscombe) junction. This stems from a belief that speed on the road is the most significant road safety issue and closing the barrier here may cause traffic to cross the road at other openings where visibility is less good. Further, there is widespread concern that closing the barrier will cause congestion on village roads, in particular on Compton Road which is very narrow and unsuitable for large vehicles. It was suggested that better signage and lighting at the junction would be a more effective solution in addition to speed limit enforcement measures. Cllr Chick explained that the parish council and Cllr Legg had the same concerns and had repeatedly voiced them to Dorset Highways in writing and at a meeting held in August where Bradford Abbas Councillors and Ed Morello were also present. Cllr Thomas explained that the Temporary Traffic Order was an emergency measure and did not require consultation, but there will be consultation during the temporary order. The parish council has requested that this takes place after 6 months, but the order may last up to 18 months. Cllr Legg pointed out that not only is the TTO in response to a letter from the coroner following the inquest on a fatality close to the junction, but also in anticipation of the next inquest on another fatality in the same area which will take place soon. Dorset Highways said at the meeting that they also intend to install average speed cameras from Sherborne to Yeovil, but the process may take up to two years.

Report from Dorset Council: Cllr Legg updated the council on the following:

- a. **Unauthorised coach park at Loscombe Junction:** Cllr Legg was greatly surprised and disappointed to see the Highways report concluding they have no objection to the current planning application. This is contrary to what was said at the meeting with Highways in August and seems to be based on the report by a consultant on behalf of the applicant focused on access to Old Compton Road and not the A30. Cllr Legg has contacted Cllr Shane Bartlett who has previously been to look at the coach park and its access to the A30.
 - b. **Compton Road planning application for 400 houses:** This site was judged to be unsuitable for housing in the last local plan and again rejected when put forward as an opportunity for the current plan. The owners have subsequently decided to submit a planning application. At this stage they are awaiting Dorset Council's decision on an Environmental Assessment screening. Cllr Legg has sent relevant information from the previous local plan consultation to the planning officer dealing with the application.
5. **Business Items arising from meeting on July 7th 2025**
- a. **Nether Compton Recreation Ground:** Yu Energy the new electricity supplier is due to install a new smart meter in October.
 - b. **Allotments:** There is a half plot now vacant at Trent. Cllr Negus is taking care of it and hopes to find a new holder in the winter. The council has received an unexpectedly high bill for water at the Nether Compton Allotments. So far there is no indication of a leak or fault with the meter. It has emerged that a hose pipe has been connected from the changing hut to the allotments and used over the dry spring and summer. The allotment agreement states that a hose should only be used to fill water butts for the purpose of watering with cans. Cllr Biddiscombe has asked plot holders for their comments. Ellen Hughes who has an allotment was at the meeting and offered to recheck for leaks and meter function and speak to the other plot holders. She also agreed to disconnect the hose pipe. It was agreed that the council will pay the bill and wait to decide about asking for contributions from plot holders dependent on what else is discovered.

c. **Neighbourhood Plan:** Max Snow reported that following the government's decision not to issue NP preparation grants this year, he has been in further discussions with Dorset Council who have agreed to fund most of the remaining requirements including the statutory pre submission consultation. However, the cost of a strategic environmental assessment (SEA) will not be covered, which is estimated will cost in the region of £2000. The parish council agreed to contribute £1000 from the parish projects budget towards the SEA.

d. **Highways Issues, new issues and updates on:**

- i. **A30 road safety at the Marl Lane junction and unauthorized coach park:** See notes from the August 11th meeting with Dorset Highways and open forum and Cllr Legg's report above. It was agreed that the parish council will write a joint letter with Bradford Abbas PC to the police requesting that there be weekly speed checks on the dual carriageway until the average speed cameras are in operation. The letter will be copied to the coroner, Edward Morello and the Yeovil MP. It was also proposed that the council and Bradford Abbas Council write to the two MPs to convey the concerns raised at the meeting.
- ii. **20 mph Schemes:** The clerk had looked into this following an enquiry from Trent at the last meeting. A high level of public support and at least 12 month's evidence from a community speed watch would be required before an application could be considered. The council did not feel that it would be appropriate to pursue this.

e. **Highways Issues, already reported and awaiting works/decision**

1. **Unsuitable for HGVs sign for Compton Road**
2. **Hummer Bridge, road repairs**
3. **Shiller's Lane wall repair and fallen trees**
4. **Mill Lane, Trent**
5. **Damage to listed wall at Hill House on Compton Road.**
6. **Glebe Farm, OC, drains and state of road**

The clerk has written to Highways since the last meeting on all the above, but received no update so far. She will contact Highways again.

f. **Environment:** No issues reported.

g. **Wessex Internet Fibre broadband connection:** No further updates

h. **Mobile phone coverage Sandford Orcas proposal:** Cllr Legg reported that he had spoken to Atlas who are still speaking to landowners about a site for a mast.

i. **Flood Prevention in Sandford Orcas:** Cllr McBeath reported that Dorset Council has now agreed to carry out the necessary work with permission granted to access the land by the tenant Richard Horsington. He thanked Cllr Legg for his efforts to bring this about. A meeting will be held on site on Friday to discuss fencing the area.

j. **Repair to the wall at Over Compton Triangle:** The clerk had written to John Goodden, the landowner but received no reply. Cllr Chick noted that this situation was unlikely to change. The clerk has written to the Community Highways Officer about the repair. She has also written to Highways Road Safety Team about a further sign approaching the triangle from Trent. Highways have agreed to consider this in the wider evaluation of the alterations taking place on The A30.

k. **Verge cutting in Trent:** The previously uncut verge on Down Lane has now been cut and added to the cutting list for next year.

6. **New Business**

a. **Response to the Local Plan consultation:** Cllr Legg referred councillors to section 5 on flexible settlement policy. Cllrs will send any comments for inclusion in a PC response to the consultation to the clerk by the end of September.

b. **Potential development on land at Babylon Hill:** See Cllr Legg's report above.

c. **Possible development on Great Pitt Lane, Sandford Orcas:** Cllr Lowe told the meeting that she has concerns that the advertised sale of an area of woodland on the Somerset side of the road could result in development and set a precedent for ribbon development along the road. It was agreed that the clerk will write to Somerset Council and Rimpton Parish Council asking to be informed of any planning applications on the road.

d. **Parish Council domain, to approve a new provider:** The current provider will no longer be certified to host gov.uk domains from December. The clerk told the council that it will be possible to switch to Hugofox for £2.49 a month. The council agreed to this change.

- e. **Councillor contact details on the website:** Councillors confirmed that they are still happy to have their contact details on the website unless they have informed the clerk otherwise.
- f. **DAPTC Small Council survey:** The clerk will complete this on behalf of the council.
- g. **Blackberry Solar Farm, update:** Marengo Communications have contacted the council to say that they are postponing submission of a planning application to the end of the year when they hope to have clarity on the timeline and process for connecting to the network, following the government's reform to the grid system.

7. Financial Matters

- a. **Financial Report and Payment of Invoices** The Council reviewed expenditure against budget year to date.

Payments approved:

Clerk salary £960.96,

KM Dike Nurseries (Grass cutting) £324*

Water2business (Allotments supply, Trent) £153.07

Water2business (Allotments supply, Nether Compton) £531.07

Parish Online (Annual subscription for NP) £48*

BDO (Audit) £252*

Sandford Orcas Village Hall (Hall hire) £25

Trent PCC (Donation to burial ground maintenance) £1000

Sandford Orcas PCC (Donation to burial ground maintenance) £1000

Over and Nether Compton PCC (Donation to burial ground maintenance) £2000

Payments made since last meeting approved at this or the previous meeting:

Over & Nether Compton Village Hall (Hearing loop donation) £500, Life Education Wessex

(Donation S137) £145, Symms Fabrications (Noticeboard, from CIL budget) £1020*, Wessex

Computers (IT support) £23.40*, KM Dike (Grass cutting) £324*

*These payments include VAT which will be reclaimed.

Conclusion of Audit: The auditors have issued a limited assurance review for 2024-25 with no issues found. The required documents have been published on the PC website.

8. Planning Matters

a. DC Planning Applications – Approved or decided by Parish Council for approval

Name	Reference/Details	Status Parish Council comments Dorset Council decision
Glebe House Gore Farm Junction To Road Junction Below Church Farm Trent	P/LBC/2025/04691 Replacement of two pairs of glazed doors with fan lights.	Support
Land North Of Compton Road Yeovil	P/ESC/2025/04939 Request for EIA Screening Opinion under Regulation 6 of the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 for a residential development of up to 400 homes and associated infrastructure	Not notified to the PC
3 Meadow View Compton Road Over Compton	P/HOU/2025/03848 Erect Single Storey Rear Extension with Rooflights (Demolish single storey flat roof extension and conservatory).	Support Granted 29.08.25
Nether Valley Barn, Nether Compton	P/HOU/2025/03833 Retention of works to south elevation and formation of steps.	No objection Granted 21.08.25

b. Applications Determined by Dorset Council or awaiting decision

The Old Tractor Shed, The Folly, Nether Compton	P/VOC/2025/03077 Change of use and conversion of agricultural building to 1 No. dwelling (Class C3), (with variation of condition 2 of P/VOC/2024/05587 to amend the approved plans)	Support Granted 06.08.2025
Seven Gates Western Street Over Compton	P/HOU/2025/03211 Erect single storey rear extension.	No comment Granted 14.07.25
Mill House, Sandford Orcas	P/HOU/2025/03381 Convert detached garage to stand alone annexe.	Support Granted 24.07.25
Patson Hill Farm Patson Hill Lane Tren	P/FUL/2025/02046 Erection of extension to the south-west of the building. Change of use of part of the building .. to accommodate an ancillary sampling room, to include toilets, bar & keg store. Alterations to north-west elevation. Creation of additional parking area.	Support subject to consideration of roof lights No longer on website
Loscombe House Old Compton Lane Bradford Abbas	P/FUL/2024/07616 Continue use of land as Commercial Car Storage (Class B8).	Objection

- c. **Somerset Council:** Primrose Lane, Mudford, 14/02554/OUT, Outline application for development of Sustainable Urban Extension to comprise up to 765 dwellings, 65 bed care home, employment land (Use Class B1), retail units (Use Classes A1, A2, A3, A5), primary school, community building, health care facility, landscaping, open space and drainage infrastructure, access and associated highway works (GR 357198/118268
Objection posted 16.03.24 ,
Approved 15.07.25

9. Dates of Future Meetings 2025: 3 November in Trent (changed from NC), 2026: 12 January, 2nd March, 11th May, 6th July, 7th September, 2nd November

10. Items for next Meeting: Send to clerk

11. The meeting closed at 9.10 pm