

Minutes of the Meeting of the Queen Thorne Parish Council held on Monday 3rd March 2025 at 7.30pm in Sandford Orcas Village Hall.

Present: Cllrs Livingstone, Chick, Hart, Lowe, McBeath, Negus, Phillipson, Stoddart, Symms and Thomas, Dorset Cllr Legg, Max Snow (NP Committee) and 4 members of the public.

1. **Apologies:** Cllrs Biddiscombe, Carter and Gordon.
2. **Declarations of Interests:** Cllr Livingstone declared an interest in the planning application at Primrose Lane, Mudford. Cllr Negus declared an interest in the planning application at 34 Higher Barton, Trent. Cllr McBeath asked if he needed to declare an interest in any items concerning Kim Creswell. The chairman informed him that he did not.
3. **Co-option:** There is still a vacancy for Nether Compton.
4. **Minutes:** The minutes of the meeting on January 6th were agreed as a true record and signed.
5. **Business Items arising from meeting on January 6th 2025**
 - a. **Nether Compton Recreation Ground:** Cllr Hart told the council that the play area committee is planning a maintenance day in April and the bank of brambles has already been cut back.
 - b. **Allotments:** The latest water bill for Nether Compton is much higher than expected. Cllr Hart has been unable to discover signs of a leak but he will now search for the meter.
 - c. **Neighbourhood Plan:** Max Snow updated the council stating that over 50 residents from Trent, Adber and Hummer attended a parish meeting in January where a number of draft proposals were presented and views sought. From the feedback received, it has been made very clear that the residents do not wish to see any greenfield development at all. It is planned to hold another consultation on the next iteration of the draft NP at a parish meeting in the summer. If this draft is acceptable to the Trent community, then a Regulation 14 Statutory Draft Neighbourhood Plan would be prepared, and made available to a wide range of statutory consultees, including all the neighbouring parishes to Trent.
 - d. **Dorset Council engaging with parishes: First meeting report:** Cllr Legg reported on the meeting he recently arranged which was attended by over 30 people, including representatives from Dorset Highways, Dorset Council and Sherborne Council, DAPTC and 8 parish councils and parish meetings surrounding Sherborne. The largest contingent was from Queen Thorne. Tony Burden, the head of road safety in Dorset told the meeting that the Marl Lane junction on the A30 is his biggest problem. The new 60 mph speed limit will be assessed by speed monitoring once police and Highways consider sufficient time has passed for it to be fully embedded. In the meantime, the Highways Road Design Team is modelling options to further increase safety. These include the possibility of a speed reduction to 50 mph with average speed cameras and altering the junction to prevent vehicles turning right or crossing the road. It was also reported that the police now inform Dorset Highways about all accidents known to them. This is no longer limited to accidents where someone is injured or killed.
 - e. **Highways Issues, new issues and updates on:**
 1. **A30 road safety at the Marl Lane junction and unauthorized coach park:** See item 5 d. There were no further updates on enforcement at the coach park. Since the meeting a planning application has been submitted for the property.
 2. **Mill Lane, Trent:** Cllr Stoddart reported on feedback he had received from Mrs Herring at the Old Mill. Based on this it was agreed that Cllr Lowe should try to find out when the work to clear the ditch in the fields to the south of the lane will take place.
 3. **Road surface at Moorway Lane, Sandford Orcas:** A meeting with Highways has been arranged for later in the week.
 4. **Fingerposts:** Clive Yendole has offered to maintain the fingerposts in Over and Nether Compton, beginning with the broken finger at Over Compton Triangle. The council agreed to pay for materials. Following safety concerns, the finger post outside Sandford Orcas Village Hall has been raised.
 5. **Deteriorated verges on lanes due to heavy vehicles and farm tractors and trailers.** This is an ongoing problem which is getting worse due to the size of

agricultural machinery and the number of SUVs, exacerbated by heavy rain.

6. **Potholes in Sandford Orcas:** Cllr McBeath told the meeting that he had reported 51 potholes around Sandford Orcas. These have all been repaired by Dorset Highways, but 20 more holes have appeared or reappeared. It was noted that Rolly Skeats has said that Highways do monitor reports of potholes and where high numbers are reported, as at the Coombe between Sandford Orcas and Sherborne, the road will be flagged for resurfacing. It can also happen as outside the Mitre in Sandford Orcas, the problem is too complex for simple repair and further works may be scheduled. Cllr McBeath also raised the issue of the road drain at the junction of Moorway Lane and Sandford Orcas Road being full of scalpings which have washed off Moorway Lane, and a manhole lower down the road has been seeping sewage. It seems that scalpings are getting into the sewer system. Michael Towers suggested that the system has not been properly maintained for many years and a thorough survey by a qualified engineer is now required. Cllr Phillipson agreed to raise this with Ian Styring at the Moorway Lane meeting.
7. **Large tractors & trailers using Compton Road:** Cllr Chick told the meeting that a resident has reported concern that the 17th century roadside cemetery wall on his property is being undermined and damaged by large vehicles. The council agreed that this is a difficult problem to solve.
8. **Over Compton Triangle:** Cllr Livingstone reported that the triangle has been hit three times by vehicles in recent weeks. Each time the same part of the triangle which is the responsibility of Highways has been damaged. The council agreed that there should be signs to warn motorists to reduce speed at the top of the hill and as they approach the triangle. The clerk has written to Highways.

f. Highways Issues, already reported and awaiting works/decision

1. **Unsuitable for HGVs sign for Compton Road:** Still awaiting decision by Dorset Highways.
 2. **Hummer Bridge, road repairs:** No update
 3. **Shiller's Lane wall repair and fallen trees:** No update
 4. **Damaged road sign at Crossfields, Nether Compton** No update
- g. Environment:** The NWG had been invited to submit a report or attend. The clerk has sent them contact details for the Dorset Volunteer Centre who may be able to help with finding new volunteers.
- h. Wessex Internet Fibre broadband connection:** Cllr Stoddart reported that he has been in contact with Christine at Wessex Internet. Trent is on the list, but there is not likely to be any action until 2027.
- i. Noticeboards:** The Sandford Orcas board at Spring Lane has been repaired. The council approved the £25 costs. Cllr Stoddart reported that the boards in Trent are in a poor state. He agreed to ask Ian James about repairing them.
- j. Planned engagement re mobile phone coverage:** Cllr Phillipson reported on a recent meeting with Dorset Council and Atlas. the mobile infrastructure company. Details had previously been circulated to the council. It was unanimously agreed to support this proposal to erect a mast to improve coverage in Sandford Orcas.
- k. Defibrillators:** Cllr Hart is liaising with other volunteers in the area about maintenance programmes. The clerk agreed to send guidelines received from the Volunteer Centre to the relevant people in Queen Thorne.

Open Forum

Cllr Legg reported on issues as they came up on the agenda. Mr and Mrs Rutter contributed to the item on Moorway Lane.

6. New Business

- a. **Litter on lanes and roads. Including fly tipping:** Cllr McBeath showed the council a plastic bin bag of rubbish he had collected from the roadside in Sandford Orcas, one of

many which are being dumped on a regular basis. It is thought that much of this is down to one individual or small business. The council agreed that everyone should be on the lookout for evidence as to the perpetrators and help with clearing up where possible.

- b. **Side verging contract 2025-26:** Cllr Lowe said that she will prepare a schedule for this year's work in Sandford Orcas, which will be Year A of her rolling programme. Cllrs Stoddart and Negus will do the same for Trent and Cllr Hart for the Comptons. It is hoped to gather the information to request a quote by the end of March
- c. **Flood Prevention in Sandford Orcas (the swale behind Brook Cottage / Eastfield / Old Orchard):** Cllr McBeath reported that cows are getting into the Swale and the ditch needs re-digging. Cllr Phillipson agreed to ask Adam if he will re-dig it.
- d. **Removal of copse at Manor Farm, Trent:** Cllr Negus told the meeting that this was a softwood plantation and the landowner/tenant had been granted a licence from the Forestry Commission to fell it. This was given on the condition that he replants the copse with native broadleaf trees by 2032 and maintains it for 10 years thereafter.
- e. **Engaging with parishes :** See open forum.
- f. **To decide on S137 donations 2024-25:** The council agreed to split the budget equally between Sherborne Voluntary Ambulance, Artsreach and Citizens Advice. Rounded up this is £270 each.

7. Financial Matters

- a. **Financial Report and Payment of Invoices** The Council reviewed expenditure against budget year to date. Invoices approved for payment: Clerk salary £1144.06, PAYE £8.35, Water2business £51.98, Sandford Orcas Village Hall £25, Clerk Petty cash £100. The clerk's salary included the £229 annual increase for 2024-25 awarded by NALC in November and approved by the council at the last meeting.
- b. **Payments made since last meeting approved at the meeting:** Dorset Council £9283 (Side verging), Community Heart Beat Trust £318.60 (NC defibrillator), HCI Data £114 (Domain), Water2business £129.63 (NC allotments).
- c. **Receipts since last meeting:** £150 Allotment rents. (Duck race money still expected)
- d. **Online Banking:** The clerk had found out from NatWest that parish councils are no longer being given community accounts and would not be eligible for a free Bankline account. The only option for online banking with NatWest would be a business account with charges. The council decided to take no action at present.

8. Planning Matters

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

Name	Reference/Details	Status Parish Council comments Dorset Council decision
34 Higher Barton Trent	P/LBC/2025/01005 Replacement of single storey rear extension	
Wren Cottage, Trent	P/HOU/2024/03668 Erect replacement single storey extension (demolish existing) and replace external doors	No objection Refused 24.09.24 Appeal by applicant PC detailed comments submitted.

b. Applications Determined by Dorset Council or awaiting decision

White Post Inn, Rimpton	P/FUL/2024/06759 Change of use of public house (Sui Generis and residential use) to 1 No. dwelling (Class C3).	Objection Refused 24.02.25
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5 Bridge Place Nether Compton	P/LBC/2024/07563 Alterations to 1990's Study extension at North End of property to create Boot Room with new window and door arrangements. Replacement of existing Crittal window	No objection Granted 13.02.25
The Tractor Shed, Agricultural Building North of The Folly Nether Compton	P/FUL/2024/06925 Change of use of agricultural land to residential garden	No objection, with note that measures taken to solve flooding issues have not been successful.

- 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) – Awaiting confirmation of decisions.
- d. **Wyke Solar Farm:** No planning application submitted. Cllr Livingstone suggested the council should form a 3 person committee to try and secure the best possible gain from the proposed community fund.

- 9. **Dates of Future Meetings:** 2025: 12 May in Nether Compton, 7 July in Trent, 1 September in Sandford Orcas, 3 November in Nether Compton.
- 10. **Any other business/ Items for next Meeting:** Parish meetings to be arranged.
- 11. **The meeting closed at 9.55 pm**