

Minutes of the Council Meeting of the Queen Thorne Parish Council held on Monday 7th of July 2025 at 7.30pm in Trent Memorial Hall.

Present: Cllrs Livingstone, Carter, Chick, Lowe, McBeath, Phillipson, Stoddart, Symms, Dorset Cllr Legg and Trent RoWLO Max Snow.

1. **Apologies:** Cllrs Gordon, Negus and Thomas
2. **Declarations of Interests:** The following were declared: Cllr Carter item 8e.b; Cllr McBeath item 7k; Cllr Phillipson planning item: Mill House, Sandford Orcas.
3. **Casual Vacancies:** Mr Stephen Carter was co-opted as a new member for Nether Compton. Cllr Lynn Carter told the meeting that due to other commitments she would be resigning from the council following the meeting.
4. **Appointment of Representative to DAPTC:** Cllr Livingstone agreed to fulfil this role for the time being.
5. **Minutes:** The minutes of the meeting on May 12th were agreed as a true record and signed
6. **Reports from Dorset Council:** Cllr Legg updated the council on the following:
 - a. Sandford Orcas Swale: The Estates Dept has received legal advice that the freeholder needs to grant an easement to allow access to the field in perpetuity. Cllr Livingstone advised that a temporary easement might be issued with permission from the tenant, Richard Horsington.
 - b. Hummer Road: Cllr Legg has been liaising with Highways to find out when the roadworks are to be scheduled.
 - c. Proposed mobile phone mast: Cllr Legg is expecting an update from Gary Littleddyke, Senior Technical Officer for Telecoms at Dorset Council.
 - d. A30: It is expected that the retrospective application for the coach park will shortly be refused and the legal team are looking into a stop order. Following the recent coroner's report, Dorset Council is looking at issuing a Temporary Traffic Regulation Order to close the gap at the Marl Lane junction. Cllr Legg will ask for a proper traffic flow analysis at the upcoming Dorset Council Meeting and request a meeting with Tony Burden and parish councillors.
 - e. Plan to introduce a booking system at Sherborne Waste Disposal Centre: Cllr Legg told the meeting that the software for the booking system has already been purchased and the scheme is more or less certain to go ahead.
7. **Business Items arising from meeting on May 12th 2025**
 - a. **Nether Compton Recreation Ground:** The electricity supply at the hut has been switched to Yu Energy.
 - b. **Allotments:** All the plots at Trent are taken. No issues reported. There is at least one new plot holder at Nether Compton.
 - c. **Neighbourhood Plan:** Max Snow reported that following the government's decision not to issue NP preparation grants this year, he has decided to carry on with the plan on a self-help basis for the time being. Dorset Council has suggested writing as simple a plan as possible. The parish council agreed to cover the cost of the Parish Online subscription this year.
 - d. **Highways Issues, new issues and updates on:**
 - i. **A30 road safety at the Marl Lane junction and unauthorized coach park:** Following Cllr Legg's update the council agreed to await the expected update/meeting with Tony Burden
 - ii. **Mill Lane, Trent:** The clerk has written to ask Highways about plans to make more permanent repairs to the surface but received no reply.
 - iii. **Damage to listed wall at Hill House on Compton Road.** Cllr Chick reported Mr Kaye has not heard from Highways even though the clerk has requested they contact him about the potential damage to the listed ancient wall at Hill House.
 - iv. **Glebe Farm, OC, drains and state of road:** The blocked culvert under the road has been causing flooding and damage to the road surface for several years. The clerk will write again to Highways and this will also be added to the side verging and gully clearing programme.

e. 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:** See report from Cllr Legg.
- 3. Shiller's Lane wall repair and fallen trees:** No update
- 4.** The clerk has written to Highways since the last meeting on all the above, but received no update so far.

f. Environment: No report

g. Wessex Internet Fibre broadband connection: No further updates

h. Mobile phone coverage Sandford Orcas proposal: See Cllr Legg's report

i. Fly tipping including food waste bags in Marston Road area: This had dropped off a little but it was reported that it has increased again lately.

j. Side verging contract 2025-26: Cllr Lowe talked the council through the schedule. The quote for £6960 (which is lower than last year because there is less work in Trent) was agreed. It is hoped the work will be done in October. Cllr Lowe was thanked for all her work.

k. Flood Prevention in Sandford Orcas: See Cllr Legg's report.

8. New Business

a. Dorset recycling centres, plan to introduce booking system: There was a consensus that this is a bad idea and likely to increase fly tipping. However, following Cllr Legg's report that preparations for implementation are already underway it was felt there would be little point in submitting an objection.

b. Repair to the wall at Over Compton Triangle: It was agreed that the clerk should write to John Goodden to inform him about the damage. It was noted that slow signs have been painted on the road at each approach to the triangle. The council still felt that a further warning sign on the road from Trent would be helpful and the clerk will write again to Highways about this.

c. Verge cutting in Trent: Part of the verge on Down Lane has been left off the cutting list by Dorset Council again this year. The clerk has written to get this rectified.

d. Litter on the A30: The council agreed that the verges are looking reasonable following the recent clear up by Dorset Council and that nothing more could be expected in the circumstances. The clerk will write to the resident who raised the issue and let her know.

e. Funding requests

a. Life Education Wessex: Cllr Lowe reported that this is a very worthy cause and the council agreed to a grant of £145.

b. Over & Nether Compton Parish Council: The council agreed to a grant of £500 towards a hearing loop for the hall.

9. 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

Playsafety (Play area inspection, Trent) £160.80

Playsafety (Play area inspection, Nether Compton) £115.20

DAPTC (Annual subscription) £498.53

Clerk (Petty cash float) £100

Trent Memorial Hall (Hall hire) £46

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

Ellen Hughes £60 (Play area materials), DAPTC £75 (Training 2024-25)

Receipts since last meeting:

Legerton £15 (NC Allotment rent), Trent VH £50 (Play inspector meeting)

10. Planning Matters

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

Name	Reference/Details	Status Parish Council comments Dorset Council 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
Seven Gates Western Street Over Compton	P/HOU/2025/03211 Erect single storey rear extension.	No comment
Mill House, Sandford Orcas	P/HOU/2025/03381 Convert detached garage to stand alone annexe.	Support (Cllr Philipson left the room)

b. Applications Determined by Dorset Council or awaiting decision

- 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. No further updates.
- d. **Wyke Solar Farm:** No updates

11. Dates of Future Meetings 2025: 1 September in Sandford Orcas, 3 November in Nether Compton.

12. Items for next Meeting: 20 mph zones in villages.

13. The meeting closed at 9.45 pm