

Minutes of the Annual Council Meeting of the Queen Thorne Parish Council held on Monday 12th May 2025 at 7.30pm in Over and Nether Compton Village Hall.

Present: Cllrs McBeath (in the chair), Carter, Chick, Gordon, Lowe, Negus, Phillipson, Symms, Thomas, Trent RoWLO Max Snow and several members of the public.

1. **Apologies:** Cllrs Biddiscombe, Hart, Livingstone, Stoddart and Dorset Cllr Legg
2. **Election of chairman and Chairman's Announcements:** Cllr Livingstone was proposed by Cllr Chick and unanimously re-elected.
3. **Election of vice chairman:** Cllr Hart was proposed by Cllr Gordon and unanimously elected.
4. **Declarations of Interests:** There were no declarations of interest.
5. **Declarations of any conflict of interest with the parish council auditor, BDO:** There were no declarations.
6. **Co-option of a new member for Nether Compton:** There remains a vacancy for Nether Compton.
7. **Planning Representatives:** The following councillors agreed to act – Nether Compton: Cllr Hart, Over Compton: Cllr Chick, Sandford Orcas: Cllrs Phillipson with Lowe, Trent: All Trent Councillors.
8. **Village Hall Representatives:** The following councillors agreed to act –Sandford Orcas: Cllr McBeath, Nether Compton: Cllr Carter, Trent: Cllr Stoddart.
9. **Other Representatives:** Nether Compton Recreation Ground/Play Area: Cllr Hart, Trent Allotments: Cllr Negus, NC Allotments: Cllr Biddiscombe. Environment: Cllr Negus.
10. **Minutes:** The minutes of the meeting on March 3rd were agreed as a true record and signed
11. **Business Items arising from meeting on March 3rd 2025**
 - a. **Nether Compton Recreation Ground:** Cllr Hart had sent a report on a successful village day in April that saw more than a dozen people tidying up the recreation ground. The council agreed to the reimbursement of costs amounting to £215.90 plus VAT from the ringfenced play area funds. The council agreed to make a rent payment of £250 to the Poors Land Trust. The trust had omitted to claim this in March. The council resolved that the clerk should sign a contract for electricity supply to the changing hut with Yu Energy for the next 3 years. The contract is at a higher rate per unit, but includes no standing charge meaning the overall costs will be much lower.
 - b. **Allotments:** Cllr Negus reported that all is going well in Trent. Cllr Biddiscombe who was not present had sent a report to say that during the tidy up day 2 new plots/ 4 half plots had been cleared and brought back for use. There has been interest in at least one half and the clerk will advertise the others if necessary. The council agreed that a member of the play committee could temporarily put 4 chickens on the new plots so long as they are moved daily and removed once all the ground has been covered.
 - c. **Neighbourhood Plan:** Max Snow reported that the end of grant report and repayment for last year has been completed. As yet, there is nothing on the Locality website about grants for this year. He has written to enquire.
 - d. **Highways Issues, new issues and updates on:**
 - i. **A30 road safety at the Marl Lane junction and unauthorized coach park:** No further updates on the A30. The planning application for the coach park is still undecided. The clerk will write to Dorset Council and ask for an update and request that appropriate action is taken shortly.
 - ii. **Mill Lane, Trent:** Cllr Stoddart had reported that potholes have been filled with loose gravel. The council agreed that the clerk should write to Highways and ask when a more permanent repair will happen. It was noted that the state of the lane had been reported to Edward Morello, whose office had looked into the matter and decided to leave it in the hands of Dorset and the parish council.
 - iii. **Road surface at Moorway Lane, Sandford Orcas:** Cllr Phillipson reported that after a meeting with Highways and residents, Highways have made repairs to the surface of the lane. Mr Rutter agreed that the surface is currently satisfactory.

- iv. **Fingerposts:** The council extended its thanks to Clive Yendole for repairing the fingerpost at the Triangle in Over Compton and Michael Edwards for repairing the post at the Ashman's Hill junction in Trent. As previously agreed, the council approved payment of the cost of materials to Mr Yendole.
- v. **Large tractors and trailers using Compton Road.** Cllr Chick reported that he had advised Mr Kaye to write to Dorset Highways about the potential damage to the listed ancient wall at Hill House. As he has had no reply it was agreed that the clerk should write to Highways and ask that they contact Mr Kaye.

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:** No update
 - 3. **Shiller's Lane wall repair and fallen trees:** No update
 - 4. The clerk will write to Highways and request an update on all the above.
- f. **Environment:** The clerk reported that the NWG is advertising for new members on its website. Cllr McBeath has seen group members investigating the stream in front of his house.
 - g. **Wessex Internet Fibre broadband connection:** No further updates
 - h. **Mobile phone coverage Sandford Orcas proposal,** Atlas have reported that they are approaching landowners about a possible site for a mast.
 - i. **Defibrillators: maintenance:** Nothing to report.
 - j. **Fly tipping including food waste bags in Marston Road area:** See item 12.
 - k. **Side verging contract 2025-26:** Cllrs Negus and Stoddart have discussed a plan for Trent to be part of this year's schedule. This will be sent to Cllr Lowe.
 - l. **Flood Prevention in Sandford Orcas:** Cllr McBeath reported that the situation is difficult because of uncertainty over responsibility for the land.
 - m. **Removal of copse at Manor Farm, Trent:** This has been replanted.

12. Report from Dorset Council: Nicola Marshall who is an Environmental Enforcement Officer at Dorset Council spoke to the meeting and answered questions on fly tipping, which is her area of responsibility. She is part of a new directorate including Trading Standards and Environmental Health, which deals with littering from vehicles, abandoned vehicles and fly tipping. The team of four is doing everything possible to cover these issues across the whole of Dorset. They follow up every report of fly tipping and go out to look for evidence of those responsible as well as getting it cleared up. If evidence is found, fixed penalty fines are issued. Nicola told the meeting about the Householder Duty of Care. This means that you can take your own household rubbish to the tip, but if you pay someone to take it for you, it is then classed as commercial waste and the person taking it requires a license. If the waste is illegally tipped, the householder may be held responsible. For protection it is wise to take a photo of the waste, check the license, pay by BACS and get a receipt. Unfortunately, Queen Thorne is currently a fly tipping hot spot, with one person or business responsible for regular dumping of black bin bags along lanes. Nicola promised to send further information to the clerk. Cllr McBeath thanked her for coming.

Open Forum

Questions were asked about litter picking and whether it would be possible to organise a group to pick up litter along the verges of the A30 between Yeovil and Sherborne. Councillors thought it unlikely that Dorset Council would permit members of the public to do

this. The clerk advised checking the Litter Free Dorset website and contacting them to ask for advice.

13. New Business

- a. **Quotes for grass cutting:** The council agreed to the quote for the coming year received from KM Dike, which was cheaper than the other quote obtained.
- b. **Trees on Gore Lane:** Cllr Lowe said she would like the council to note how well the trees on Gore Lane are doing. Through the efforts of former councillors Mike Hayton and Roger Kipling, the trees were planted here when the intended location on Western Street was not possible. It is now clear that the road will be greatly enhanced by the rows of trees for many years to come.
- c. **Report of Mudford Parish Council Meeting re Primrose Lane development:** Cllr McBeath reported on the meeting. Mudford Parish Council and many residents are very disappointed that the scheme is likely to go ahead. It has recently emerged that the tree planting part of the proposal will not happen for several years. The council agreed that this is a great concern.
- d. **Play areas inspections, to consider additional cost at Trent:** The council decided not to approve a request from Trent Village Hall to cover the cost of a meeting with the inspector at Trent. The cost will now be borne by Trent Village Hall.
- e. **Parish Council laptop backup, to consider a subscription to OneDrive:** The clerk explained that the quantity of data backed up now exceeds the OneDrive free allowance. The council agreed to pay for the lowest level of subscription for extra storage, currently £1.99 per month.

14. Financial Matters

- a. **Risk Assessment and Assets** The risk assessment and list of assets were approved
- b. **Insurance** The clerk had previously circulated the renewal details from Clear Insurance. This is the second year of a 3 year agreement, now underwritten by Ecclesiastical. The council agreed to the terms.
- c. **Internal Audit** The Clerk reported that the internal audit had been carried out by Mr Daniel Baker and the annual review completed with no issues. The council reviewed and approved it.
- d. **The Annual Governance Statement** was reviewed, approved and signed.
- e. **The Annual Accounting Statement 2024-25** was reviewed, approved, and signed
- f. **External Audit:** The clerk reported that the council has been selected as one of the 5% for an intermediate audit this year.
- g. **Financial Report and Payment of Invoices** The Council reviewed expenditure against budget year to date.
Payments approved:
Clerk salary £960.96,
Ernest Cook Trust (Trent Allotments rent) £ 180.00,
KM Dike Nurseries (Grass cutting) £402,
Clear Insurance (PC policy 2025-26) £864.83,
Clive Yendole (Materials to repair fingerposts) £101.47,
Paul Hitch (Materials for recreation ground renovation) £40.03,
Dorset Garden Fencing (Materials for recreation ground renovation) £95.60,
Jimmy Blacknell (Materials for recreation ground renovation) £112.75,
Poors Land Trust (Rent of recreation ground land 2024-25) £250.
Payments made since last meeting approved at this or the previous meeting:
Citizen's Advice (S137 donation) £270,
Sherborne Voluntary Ambulance (S137 donation) £270,
R. McBeath for Artsreach (S137 donation) £270,
Groundwork (Neighbourhood Plan grant repayment) £6583.37
Max Snow (Printing for Neighbourhood Plan) £31
Receipts since last meeting:
Nether Compton Duck race proceeds 2024-25 £1780.30
Dorset Council Precept £15,723.50

15. Planning Matters

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

Name	Reference/Details	Status Parish Council comments Dorset Council decision
Land at Wyke Farm, Wyke	P/ESC/2025/02279 Environmental Impact Assessment Screening Opinion	PC considers an EIA should be required. Decision: EIA is required
Land West of Trent Manor Farms Trent	P/FUL/2025/00412 Change of use from agricultural land to a dog walking area	No objection Granted 17.04.25
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 accomodate 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
Laburnum House Road Past School Trent	P/HOU/2025/01282 Erect ground floor extension (demolish existing extension & conservatory)	Support Granted 08.04.25
Loscombe House Old Compton Lane Bradford Abbas	P/FUL/2024/07616 Continue use of land as Commercial Car Storage (Class B8).	Objection

b. Applications Determined by Dorset Council or awaiting decision

34 Higher Barton Trent	P/LBC/2025/01005 Replacement of single storey rear extension	No objection Granted 15.04.25
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
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. Granted 01.05.25

- 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. The council agreed that it should form a working group to try and secure the best possible gain from the proposed community fund. However, since it now looks like an application will not be submitted until later in the year, it was agreed to wait until this is more imminent.

16. Dates of Future Meetings 2025: 7 July in Trent, 1 September in Sandford Orcas, 3 November in Nether Compton.

17. Items for next Meeting: Cllrs Negus and Gordon gave their apologies for the next meeting.

18. The meeting closed at 9.35 pm