**Minutes of a meeting of the Queen Thorne Parish Council held on Monday 9th January 2017 at Trent Village Hall**

**Present:** Cllrs McBeath, Andrews, Brewer, Chick, Dodd, Harris, Hayton, Kipling, Lowe, Street, Yendole, WDDC Cllr Gould and four members of the public

**1. Apologies** Cllrs Allcard, Biddiscombe, DCC Cllr Hall

**2.** **Declarations of Interest in items on the agenda**

**3. The Minutes** The minutesof a meeting held on 7 November 2016 were accepted as a true record and signed.

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**4. Information session with Paul Thatcher the Community Highways Officer**

Several roads in Sandford Orcas are due to be surface dressed after initial patching. Councillors were given a map with the roads marked. Sandford Orcas gullies: As agreed with Rolly Skeats, some gullies have now been cleaned. Mr Thatcher was reminded that some old gullies, which have become hidden by undergrowth, need to be detected and cleared. He confirmed that the Highways team will still attend blocked gullies. Unclassified Roads: Although they have no budget for UCRs, the Highways department still has a duty of care to keep UCRs safe. Councillors were told that the pavement in Trent is made up of Kington stone, and it would be possible to obtain replacement flags at the PC’s expense to replace the tarmacked areas. The PC might then have to pay Highways for installation. Cllr Street will arrange a meeting with Paul Thatcher to discuss all the issues in Trent. It was noted that the PC can get a quote for any extra work they may require from Highways. The issue of HGVs on Compton Hill was again discussed, but it seems that a sign to deter large vehicles is not likely to be possible. Speeding cyclists in Sandford Orcas: Sustrans have advised that rumble strips would be a possible option to slow cyclists down, but Highways are not keen on this idea and think it better to wait and see if the new SLOW signs have a positive effect.

The Council thanked Mr Thatcher for attending the meeting and all his previous efforts to resolve highway’s issues with the parishes.

**5.Business Items arising from Meeting of 7 November 2016**

**a.**  **Nether Compton Recreational Ground** The Play Area Committee is going to make a concerted effort to promote the ground to football teams next year. A quote for the replacement fencing was presented. The Council will hold a special meeting to make a decision on the fencing when further quotes are available.

**b. Allotments**. Cllr Kipling gave the Clerk two £56 cheques. Eight Trent allotments are now occupied and there is interest in the other two. The overgrown ground will soon be cleared as previously agreed. The Council also agreed a sum of £200 to pay for hedge laying. There are still vacant plots in Nether Compton.

**c. Speeding Cyclists in Sandford Orcas** See item 4.

**d. Problem of 4x4 motorbikes and quad bikes on parish lanes**The posts will not be put in until Highways have installed new signs.

**e.** **Campaign to challenge Mudford Development** The developer has requested an extension till May.

**f. Land around Sandford Orcas Hall** The Clerk gave Cllr McBeath information on registering village hall land which he will pass on to the Village Hall Committee at their next meeting.

**g. Superfast Broadband** Work to connect Over Compton in 2017 has still not been scheduled.

**h. Damaged pavement in Trent** See item 4.

**i. Renovation of Over Compton Triangle** The work has been done and the contractor has reduced his bill by £20 to allow for his retention of the wood from the felled tree. Cllr Andrews thought that the wood should be valued at £100. A vote was taken: 10 to 1 in favour of £20. Cllr Chick will remove and store the loose stones. It is hoped that the village will now care for the triangle.

**j. Removal of village payphones** Trent and Nether Compton wish to adopt the village phone kiosks and the Clerk has communicated this to BT and WDDC. Sandford Orcas residents were asked about the phone box removal 2 years ago and, at that time, wanted to retain the phone. The Council passed this on to WDDC again this time. However, the Village Hall Committee now believes that the phone box would make a good place to keep the new defibrillator and so wishes to adopt the kiosk.

**k. Trent Village Hall refurbishment** Details of the refurbishment plans and the architect’s invoice having previously been passed to Councillors, the Council agreed a donation of £1,000. A further donation will be requested in the next financial year.

**OPEN FORUM**

Mr Walden told the Council that the new lease for Trent Village Hall is still being drawn up and the PC will be the custodian trustee.

Cllr Gould told the Council that options from the public consultation on the restructuring of local government will be considered by individual councils this month. A simpler more relevant structure is sought. Budget preparation is ongoing with adult and child social care a very big concern. The Local Plan will soon be reviewed to re-examine housing numbers in Sherborne, to ensure adequate provision.

**5 New Business**

**a. Use of holiday homes in Over Compton** – Certain holiday homes being used for long term lets, has been a long-standing issue in Over Compton. The enforcement officer has investigated and will review the situation in February. Cllr Gould stated that the present situation is unsatisfactory with unenforceable usage restrictions. The planning team will try to open a dialogue with the property owner to regularise the situation.

**b. Highways Parish Council Workshop** The date has not yet been set.

**c. Trent Church appeal for a new window** Cllr Kipling told the Council that the PCC needs to raise a great deal of money to renovate an at risk, historically important window. The Council agreed to write letters of support.

**d. Sandford Orcas Village Hall refurbishment** The Village Hall Committee are planning to renovate areas of the hall that were not part of the earlier refurbishment and may approach the PC for a donation next year.

**6 Financial Matters**

**a.The financial report** for the year to date, having been previously circulated to Councillors, was accepted.

**Payment of Invoices** approved:Clerk salary (Dec/Jan) £657.60 Inland Revenue PAYE £9.40, KM Dike £342, Grit bin £70.80, Sherborne Voluntary Ambulance £300, CAB £300, 2nd Poor £250, Trent Village Hall hire £20. Sandford Orcas Village Hall hire £20, Tim Dunning £370

**b.**. **Budget and precept** The Council approved a budget for next year which had been prepared at a budget committee meeting in December. It was agreed that the precept should also allow for a larger than normal reserve, to include a contingency fund for services, which may be devolved from WDDC and DCC. In view of this, the Council voted by 9 to 2 to keep the precept at the same level as last year.

**8 Correspondence** The Clerk handed out posters about the avian flu outbreak in Dorset. Thornford Road south of Sherborne – notice of roadworks.

**9 Planning Matters**

**a** WDDC Planning Applications – For approval or decision by Parish Council

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| Name | Reference/Details | Status |
| 1 Farm Cottages, Sandford Orcas | WD/D/16/002259 Extension | Objection  Refused 21.12.16 |
| The Gate Barn, Sandford Orcas | WD/D/16/001902 Change of use from ancillary to holiday let | No objection, |

WDDC Planning Applications – Awaiting decision by WDDC

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| Gore Farm, Trent | WD/D/16/001543 Erection of livestock building & construction of lagoon | No objection |

Applications Determined by WDDC

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| The Old School, Nether Compton | WD/D/16/000938 Demolish extension, lower terrace, replace door, windows and bell | No objection  Approved 16.12.16 |

Tree Applications \*for approval

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| Thatched House,Nether Compton\* | WD/CA/16/001388 | Support, Granted |
| Glovers Mead, Trent\* | WD/CA/16/00375 | Support, Granted |
| Plum Orchard House, Nether Compton | WD/CA/16/00118 | No objection, |
| Woodforde Lodge, Sandford Orcas\* | WD/TP/16/00263 | No objection, Granted |

Withdrawn applications

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| Pretty Hayes, Adber, Trent | WD/D/16/002159 Extension | Support  Withdrawn 21.11.16 |

**10 Dates of Future Meetings**

* 6 March – Nether Compton
* 8 May – Sandford Orcas
* 3 July – Nether Compton
* 4 September – Trent
* 6 November- Sandford Orcas

**11 Items for next Meeting:** Hedge cutting by the PC through villages, Lane signs, Clerk qualification

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**The meeting closed at 9.45 pm**