

COMPTONS TOLLER AND WYNFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on

Thursday 14th November 2024

7.00pm at Compton Valence Village Hall

Present: Councillors:

Charles Sclater (Chairman) (Compton Valence) (CS)

Chris Bennett (Wynford Eagle)

Ashley Stewart (AS) (West Compton) (Vice Chair)

Simon Simpson (Toller Fratrum)

Vacancy (West Compton)

Vacancy (Wynford Eagle)

Officer: Mrs Michele Harding, (Clerk)

Members of the Public: none

24/11-1. Welcome and Housekeeping- The Chairman welcomed fellow Cllrs to the meeting and noted no members of public.

24/11-2. To receive apologies for absence. Jeremy Russell and Ward Cllr Neil Eysenck.

24/11-3. To receive any declarations of interest or grants of dispensation- none

24/11-4. To approve the minutes of the last meeting held on 11th June 2024.

The minutes were approved as an accurate record of the meeting.

Proposed AS

Seconded SS

24/11-5. Matters arising for information only- none.

24/11-6. Democratic Forum- none

24/11-7. To consider the dissolution of the Group Parish Council

a. Option 1 -dissolve into 4 parishes

b. Option 2 -hold a Community Governance Review and join with neighbouring parishes

c. Option 3 -stay as a Parish Council but a Clerk and more Cllrs are required.

Cllrs discussed at length the current situation with a lack of Cllrs and a need for a new Clerk to continue as a grouped parish council. Advice had been taken from DAPTC who had liaised with electoral services on the best way forward as detailed below.

The first question relates to formally resolving that CTWPC does not want to be a parish council anymore. Confirming this needs to be in a full council meeting, then motions are put in place following this resolution.

The second question would be to determine if the existing parish council could be merged with one or possibly two nearby parish councils?

If the PC resolves to investigate this, it would be courteous to approach the chairs of those Parish Council's so that this can be considered.

If this was considered and agreed, then a petition would need to be submitted to Dorset Council. There would be minimal cost to undertake this change. There may be a short cut in legislation rather than having to undertake a full community governance review.

Chairman.....

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If the answer is no, the parish council should convene 4 parish meetings (possibly at one meeting on the same night – one after the other), encouraging as many residents as possible to ensure a meeting is viable. Ideally 6 residents of which at least 3 need to support any decisions reached.

At the parish meetings two questions need to be voted on:

- a. Does each parish meeting want to create their own parish council? To effectively ‘wind up’ a parish council and parish meeting this step needs to be concluded.
- b. Secondly each parish meeting can then vote on the abolishment of the parish meeting as well.

By walking through the above steps, either the parishes will be supported by neighbouring governance structures or effectively cease to exist.

Each of the Cllrs after discussion gave their own view on the circumstances.

CB felt that the PC should dissolve as it cannot continue as it is.

CS would continue to chair if elected and if the PC continued to exist, but only if this is what the electors want and if there are enough Cllrs to fill the vacancies, but he would be content to move to being parish meetings.

SS wished that the PC keeps going.

AS suggested that the PC moves to join with a neighbouring parish.

It is thought that JR wishes that the PC continues but CS will follow this up.

Cllrs then discussed the options to become separate parishes or join with others. Cllrs felt they had more in common with Cattistock which is part of Frome Valley Group Council, the boundary of Toller Fratrum is adjacent to the boundary of Chilfrome that is within the group, this could be an option.

The Clerk will contact the Chair of the group Council to follow this up and CS will then discuss this further.

24/11-8. Finance

i. To consider the Budget and Precept for 2025-26

It was agreed that until a conclusion is made a budget will be set based on last year and a precept of £2600 submitted to Dorset Council in January 2025 after the next meeting when this will be confirmed. Proposed SS Seconded AS

ii. To approve all payments and receipts since the last meeting.

Payments		
Admin costs		500.00
Accounting software	July to Nov	47.96
Hugo Fox	Website	57.60
CVVH	Hall hire	20.00
Website		118.87
Internal audit		50.00

Chairman.....

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Receipts		
Interest		17.97
Precept	2 nd instalment	1300.00

All payments were made in line with internal controls.

Proposed CS Seconded CB. Bank balance as of 31st October 2024 £5803.96

24/11-9. To consider any planning applications or planning matters -None in circulation, it was noted that the Solar application at Cruyton is to be reapplied.

24/11-10. To consider any Highways or rights of way matters

CS had met with the highways officer regarding the concrete in the ditch creating a flood in Compton Valence. The reason the water egresses from the ditch and the ditch has become clogged is entirely due to the concrete road edge having broken away into the stream restricting flow. This was highlighted before the road was reconstituted 2 years ago and the work carried out made good the road surfaces but failed to tackle the cause of its degradation. To clear the ditch by removing the concrete plinth edge will only lead to erosion of the tarmac edge. A site meeting has been requested by the Pariah Council repeatedly, a job has been set up for repair.

The roundel is missing from the sign at the top of Compton Valence, CS has the roundel in safe keeping, Clerk to ask Roger Bond to look at the repair.

24/11-11. To consider any correspondences received and previously circulated. None

24/11-12. Date and Items for next meeting – 16th January 2025 at Compton Valence Village Hall.
To finalise the decision to dissolve or join a neighbouring parish.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.45pm

Chairman.....

Date