

COMPTONS TOLLER AND WYNFORD PARISHES

Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held on

Monday 19th May 2025

6:30pm at Compton Valence Village Hall

Present: Councillors

Charles Sclater (Chairman)	- Compton Valence
Ashley Stewart (Vice Chairman)	- West Compton
Jeremy Russell	- Compton Valence
Simon Simpson	- Toller Fratrum
Chris Bennett	- Wynford Eagle

Members of the Public

- Cllr. Neil Eysenck (Ward Councillor)

1

Welcome and Housekeeping – The Chairman thank everyone for coming.

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Apologies – No apologies had been received.

3

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of 11th June 2024 – these were approved as an accurate record of the meeting.

4

Chairmans Report 2024-25

Operation of the Council

The fact we are still operating is mostly thanks to Michele Harding who having resigned in November 2023, has until recently acted as a locum clerk to assist the Council in moving forward.

While this served a purpose it was never a long-term option as she has too many responsibilities elsewhere. The Councillors are all I know very grateful for her guidance and continued help.

There have been no changes in the 5 councillors sitting and in general, given that we continue with 2 empty seats at West Compton and Wynford Eagle, have managed to hold the meetings required during the year.

Time has been spent over and above the usual business in attempting to find an agreeable way to continue to operate on a financially worthwhile and efficient manner. The search for a replacement clerk has proved to be greatly disappointing.

Discussions held on whether it would be beneficial for a merger with adjacent councils have concluded that while the existing team of 4 parishes have a lot in common, this did not extend to the larger village councils of Winterborne Abbas, Maiden Newton and Toller Porcorum. These larger villages were considered to have differing priorities and it was felt would disregard the issues affecting the small villages on their periphery.

The Frome Valley Parish Council, being a team of 3 parishes not dissimilar in nature to CTWPC were approached in the hope that they would welcome the chance to spread costs and complete their quorum having had vacant seats for some time.

This proposal was rejected by Frome Valley Parish Council in January and as a result Michele Harding felt she had no option but to cease assisting in the running of the council.

It is currently agreed that the council will attempt to continue to operate without a clerk and the councillors are to split the role between themselves.

Highways

Finally Council Highways have repaired the road edge adjacent to the stream in Compton Valence, removing the collapsed road edge from the stream bed. It is anticipated that this will prevent the road flooding during period of high rainfall.

Finger Posts

A meeting with Roger Bond of Normtech has put in train the upgrade of fingerpost and associated roundels along the Roman Road.

It is anticipated that the finger to Wynford Eagle, West Compton and Maiden Newton will be replaced shortly together with the repaired Roundels to the south of Compton Valence and addition of the 'Main Road' Finger. The quote for a complete new sign below 3 Sisters is awaited.

Openreach

Openreach have proceeded slowly with the connection of the Fibre to the Property scheme for Compton Valence. Delays have occurred due to the need to cross the A35 and with sharing SSENs electricity poles.

There has recently been a proposal by Wessex Internet to connect West Compton with Fibre. Full details of this have yet to be circulated.

5 Dorset Council ward Members Report.

Neil Eysenck outlined the issues affecting Dorset Council.

- The Chief Executive had left. The role had been filled by Same Crowe acting as interim while a replacement was sought. Dr Catherine Howe had now been appointed to the role and will formally take up the role in August.
- The Councils Budget had increase by the maximum permissible.
- The proposed devolution to a mayoral structure is not popular in the Council. The Council had pushed for priority program but had missed out.
- Highways continue to be of concern and seems to be a lack of structure with priority repairs of rural roads.
- The local Plan is currently being formatted to cover all the relevant areas of the greater council following the merger of the various District Councils now falling under Dorset Council
- The working of the Brit Valley project for integration of natural environment, climate, ecology and communities was outlined which set to protect the area along the Brit valley from Beaminster to Bridport which in turn will release additional funding for the area to the west of CTWPC.

6 Your issues

There were no issues raised by the public. Meeting closed at 6:55pm followed by the Parish Council Meeting.