

COMPTONS TOLLER AND WYNFORD PARISHES

Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held on

Thursday 26th May 2022

7pm at Compton Valance Village Hall

Present: Councillors:

Charles Sclater (Chairman)(CS)

Jeremy Russell (JR)

John Wynford (JW)

Ashley Stewart (AS) (Vice Chair)

Simon Simpson

Nick Amor

Vacancy (Wynford Eagle)

Vacancy (Toller Fratrum)

Officer: Mrs Michele Harding, (Clerk)

Dorset Councillor: Anthony Alford (AA)

Members of the Public: None

22/05-1 Welcome, Housekeeping and to receive apologies for absence.

22/05-2 The last meeting was held in 2019.

22/05-3 Matters arising for information only- none

22/05-4 Chairmans report

When taking on the role of Chairman in 2019, I was acutely aware of the role that Roger Simpson had played in keeping the Parish council going. Indeed, with his departure being followed by the resignation of the clerk, it became apparent that for representation of the residents of the four parishes to be worthwhile, active participation was needed from an increased quorum of councillors of each parish.

This has been frustrated through the inability to meet during the pandemic to discuss matters and again the potential upheaval of recruiting another clerk last summer was averted thanks to Michele Harding proving willing to take on the mantle of clerk again.

In spite of the inability to meet in 2021 in person, work continued in updating the Parish Council website, making available to the electorate the necessary documentation of local government, for this our thanks goes to Michele. It is hoped that we now have the ability for residents and visitors to interact with the issues affecting our locality.

With the past 2 years of the pandemic now behind us and the routine of local government moving forward, the chance to meet in person has allowed the issues raised to be comprehensively discussed.

However, we once again find we are a body of 6 councillors (of the possible 8), adding pressure for those still in office to play their part. The onus to find 2 replacements, for Wynford Eagle and Toller Fratrum is proposed to be reduced to 1 at the 2026 election following recommendations in Dorset Councils Community Governance Review to only have one councillor elected from Toller Fratrum in order to ensure balanced representation across the four parishes.

Issues requiring consideration have included both local and some broader issues.

The possibility of the National Government introducing legislation to restrict the use of 'green lanes' to non-motorised users in AONBs was discussed and submissions made on behalf of the Parish Council. The expansion of the Maiden Newton to Bridport old railway line continues to prove divisive and the blanket submissions received to broaden the status of some public rights of way.

Issues of concern continue to include the poor state and costly reinstatement of some of the local 'finger posts', the possible improvement of the Broadband network into West Compton, Dorset Highways works to upgrade the local roads including traffic calming in West Compton.

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22/05-5 Dorset Council ward member report

Tony thanked the NHS, staff, volunteers and parishes for helping to out through the pandemic. He also mentioned the need to assist with the pressure the NHS is currently under and using the 111 service rather than turning up at A & E.

Dorset Council are improving services and have now returned to face-to-face meetings.

At one of the Dorset councils' meetings in April 2 protestors from extinction rebellion glued themselves to furniture the meeting resumed in a different room so business could be completed. It is a sad situation now as this means that Dorset Council have had to put security in place.

Climate emergency-Dorset Council are making progress on their work with climate emergency and now two of the refuse depo's have solar panels on the rooves. There was a change to the verge cutting routine reducing the number of cuts by using a cut and collect system reducing the nutrients in the soil to encourage wildflowers in the future.

Libraries- The recent consultation has now closed, and draft statutory will be prepared once all the comments have been reviewed

Community fund- There are community funds currently available for voluntary organisations for improvements to arts, heritage, fitness and play.

GWR also has grant funding available to support volunteer groups.

South walks house is now being used for clinical and administration purposes by Dorset County Hospital. Also, DCH have had a 77 million pound grant for expansion, this will includes the building of a multi Storey car park.

Tour of Britain-The Tour of Britain cycling event is happening on the 10th of September 2022, cycling from West Bay to Ferndown and this will be via the coast Road.

The Leader of the Council Spencer flower has been speaking to Michael Gove regarding the local plan and looking at planning in a different way to win the support of residents on new developments.

AA commented on the issues with the healthcare service locally now being run by the Ammonite group and that a group of councillors is meeting with the Ammonite health group in due course to discuss the issues that have been raised by residents.

Councillors commented on the potential future site North of Dorchester, but this has not been fully discussed and infrastructure needs to be put in place before, for instance schools, roads and health care etc.

AA commented on the new planning rules regarding the water courses within Dorset and the risks of nutrients in the water, farms have been looking at NVZ's for some time, but Wessex Water need to review their treatment plants as well.

22/05-6 Your issues- none

Refreshments and close

Meeting finished at 7.35pm