

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting  
of Compton Bassett  
Held on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2016 at 6.30pm**

**Those Present:** Cllr Szczesiak (Chair) Cllr Coward (Vice Chair) Cllr Reis, Cllr Alberry, Cllr Barnett, Cllr Waite, Cllr Jackson, Rev Bromiley, D Zeitzen (Clerk)

Attended by over 50 parishioners

**Apologies for absence** – Sonya Stockhill, County Cllr Crisp

**1. Welcome by the Chair Pete Szczesiak**

The Chair Cllr Szczesiak gave a short introduction and welcome explaining the aims of the Annual Parish Meeting. Although called by the Parish Council, the meeting does not deal with or form part of the Parish Council Business. It is a statutory requirement that every Parish holds an annual Parish Meeting to express their concerns on local matters. Members of the Parish Council are on hand to answer questions. Cllr Szczesiak advised that the referendum on the Compton Bassett Neighbourhood Plan will take place on 31<sup>st</sup> March. The plan was accepted by the planning inspector with minor alterations. Parishioners were encouraged to use their vote.

Cllr Szczesiak gave details of a Dementia Awareness Evening that is being held in Hilmarton on 22<sup>nd</sup> March – anyone interested in attending was asked to contact CBPC Clerk.

Cllr Szczesiak explained that unfortunately the presentation of the Legion d'Honour medal to Alan Lewis was unable to take place this evening. It has to be presented by someone who already holds the medal or is a French Ambassador. The British Legion had been unable to arrange it. Cllr Szczesiak wished to congratulate Alan Lewis for this award and arrangements will be made for a presentation at a later date.

Our local MP James Gray had hoped to attend the meeting and give a short presentation. Unfortunately he had been delayed at the House of Commons and was unlikely to attend.

**2. Broadband Update by Cllr Peter Alberry**

Before going on to the Broadband update Cllr Alberry wished to mention several items, he reiterated that for the Neighbourhood Plan to become a legal document it needs a majority vote in the referendum.

He also said medals commemorating the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday on 21<sup>st</sup> April are available for purchase from the Parish Council. He asked for a show of hands and a number of people are interested in purchasing one. A beacon will be lit on Starve Knoll – by kind permission of the Reis family on April 21<sup>st</sup> – Cllr Coward will kindly organise refreshments for the event.

There will be a quiz and chilli night on 16<sup>th</sup> April to raise funds for the Benson Hall roof.

The difficulties experienced receiving broadband in the village was discussed at length with several parishioners expressing their concerns. There are ongoing approaches to BT, four questions have been asked in the House of Lords, connection speeds recorded throughout the village that demonstrate the very poor service but all to no avail. Pressure will continue to be maintained but another idea proposed that could be successful is to have a broadband service connected to the Benson Hall as a Community Access Point, which would then transmit a signal around the village.

**3. Past, present and future of St Swithin's Church by Cllr John Reis and Rev Philip Bromiley**

Cllr Reis gave a very interesting and informative short history of St Swithin's Church. It dates to the late 11<sup>th</sup> century but even earlier Saxon walls were found recently. It is a wonderful little church and benefits from excellent acoustics, something which should be taken more advantage of in the future. Dwindling congregations means it will have to evolve to meet the needs of a 21<sup>st</sup> century community. Philip Bromiley has now been rector for 10 years and made a plea to the audience that he doesn't want to be the last vicar of St Swithin's. He stressed that the church is there for everyone and reminded us of some of the other work it carries on in the village such as T4ALL and Little Fishes.

**4. Road Safety Issues through the Village by Cllr Pete Szczesiak**

Cllr Szczesiak advised that a meeting had been held this morning in the village with Martin Cook of The Highways Department at Wiltshire Council and 5 of the Parish Councillors to discuss road safety issues through the village. Compton Bassett Traffic Matters – he gave a short outline of the meeting as detailed below:

Notes of a meeting with Martin Cook, Wiltshire Council (WC)

Compton Bassett Parish Council (CBPC): P. Szczesiak, P. Alberry, J. Reis, P. Barnett, D. Jackson

Speeding Traffic in Compton Bassett

A general discussion on speed limits and speeding traffic in Compton Bassett took place.

CBPC explained that their position was based on the Compton Bassett Neighbourhood Plan (which was likely to be approved at the end of the month) and which had widespread support.

The underlying CBPC aim was to decrease traffic risk to pedestrians; dog walkers; cyclists; horse riders; farm animals and other road users.

In addition, a data bank of speeding traffic had been accumulated to provide factual support

CBPC also outlined the recent traffic safety issues (car damage etc).

A detailed discussion then took place, where it was recognised that any potential solutions would have to accommodate farm traffic, buses and large delivery vehicles in addition to cars and be consistent with WC's current policies to have any chance of being implemented.

Following the discussion, the main conclusions were that the following measures were likely to be acceptable to WC and potentially implementable within a reasonable timescale of

1. New Compton Bassett signs at either end of the village with additional "Conservation

Village – Please Drive Carefully" signage.

2. A 40mph speed limit could be justified from Goodenough Corner to the existing 30mph sign due to the combination of housing density; usage and likely effect on speed reduction within the 30mph zone at the Briar Leaze exit road.

3. A reduced speed limit was unlikely to be acceptable between Goodenough Corner and the A3102 as WC's policy was to base speed limits on the number of speed related injuries over the past 3 years.

4. A reduced speed limit was unlikely to be acceptable at the Calne end of the village, but the new Compton Bassett signs with additional "Conservation Village – Please Drive Carefully" signage would probably have the desired effect.

5. It is highly unlikely that a "No Through Road" designation would be achievable for Compton Bassett.

6. A traffic calming curb extension, effectively reducing the road width to a single lane (with priority to traffic leaving the village) immediately prior to the Briar Leaze exit road was likely to be possible as it would reduce the speeds of traffic entering the village from the Hilmarton end and would complement the reduced 40mph limit.

7. A further traffic calming measure was also thought to be possible (and desirable) in the centre of the village between Rosemary Cottage and White's House. This would probably involve some combination of a road width restriction (extending around 1m from the pavement side between Rosemary Cottage and White's House)

combined with increased sized kerbs on the opposite side of the road to protect the ditch and remove the current kerb hazard. The pavement is thought to have some level of conservation protection so any modification would have to be sympathetic, but may be eligible for a grant. However, it is likely that the design of this measure would need careful consideration and possibly some experimentation, possibly using traffic cones before the traffic calming configuration could be finalised.

8. Finally, the issue of regular parking on the pavement can be resolved by submitting a complaint in writing to any CBPC Councillor with details of the registration number, type and make of vehicle, dates and times and, where possible photographs of the offending vehicle. The CBPC will then report the details to Sonya Stockhill who will identify the owner of the vehicle and advise them that their activity is illegal and liable to a parking penalty fine if repeated.

9. The way forward was likely to be:

- a. Outline the approaches at the Annual Parish meeting
- b. Finalise the traffic speed data
- c. Finalise the Village signs
- d. Discuss the way forward with Cllr Crisp (Chair of Calne Area Board) at the next CBPC meeting
- e. Produce a summary paper for presentation to the Calne Area Board
- f. Present a detailed case to the County Area Transport Group (CATG)

Cllr Szczesiak asked for names of volunteers who would be willing to train to use the speed camera. Steve Izatt who is chair of Wiltshire RoSPA road safety organisation RoADAR and secretary of the local IAM kindly offered to offer his help over road safety matters and this was gratefully accepted.

**Cllr Szczesiak thanked everyone for attending the Annual Parish meeting.**

Refreshments were available, kindly served by Cllr Coward and Cllr Waite.

The meeting was then brought to a close at 8pm

**Date of next Parish Council Meeting Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> March  
7.30pm at the Benson Hall**