

**Minutes of the Compton Bassett Annual Parish Meeting  
Held on Wednesday, 11<sup>th</sup> April 2018 at the Benson Hall  
At 6.30pm**

**Those Present:** Cllr Szczesiak, Cllr Reis, Cllr Barnett, Cllr Waite, Cllr Marshall, Cllr Barlow  
County Cllr Crisp, D. Zeitzen (Clerk)

**Apologies:** None

**30 Members of the Public were present**

AGENDA

1. **Welcome and introduction by the Chair of Compton Bassett Parish Council Pete Szczesiak** – Cllr Szczesiak welcomed everyone to the meeting, He explained that the Parish Council has a statutory duty to hold a parish meeting annually for members of the public to express their concerns on local matters. The meeting does not deal with or form any part of parish council business. The next Parish Council meeting is on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> May at 7.30pm in the Benson Hall, members of the public are welcome to attend. Cllr Szczesiak outlined the agenda for this evenings meeting. He then introduced Henry Oliver, Director of North Wessex Downs AONB (Area of outstanding natural beauty)
2. **Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting 18<sup>th</sup> May 2017 to be approved and signed** – The minutes were approved unanimously and signed by Cllr Szczesiak
3. **Presentation by Henry Oliver, Director of North Wessex Downs AONB (Area of outstanding natural beauty)** Henry showed a short film of the area. This was followed by a presentation on the history of the North Wessex Downs up to the present day, they cover an area of 700 square miles over 4 counties. It is the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest AONB in the UK and has 520 scheduled monuments. He explained they work with their partners in tourism, councils etc to try to look after the landscape in various ways. It was a very interesting and informative presentation.
4. **Update on war memorial and fundraising for St Swithin's Church from Jennie Brooks.** Jennie thanked the friends of Compton Bassett War Memorial for all their hard work. In particular Laurie Waite for securing the grant for cleaning of the memorial and also for organising the monthly Saturday morning grass cutting and tidying. If anyone is interested in helping with this monthly task please contact Jennie or Laurie.

A very enjoyable cheese and wine evening was held in aid of PCC funds, many thanks to everyone who supported it and to Charles and Louisa Reis for hosting it.

On 29<sup>th</sup> September 2018 the Lingmara World Choir will be performing in concert, more details available from Jennie Brooks.

It is hoped to hold an archaeological talk by Professor Andrew Reynolds, followed by supper later in the year.

Jennie then introduced Reverend Matthew Earwicker.

5. **Reverend Matthew Earwicker** said how pleased he is to be moving to the area and is looking forward to working in this diocese. He hopes to become part of the community.
6. **Calne Running Club Event.** There will be a 5k race from the Benson Hall around Highway and back to the Benson Hall on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> April, commencing at 11am. Cllr Szczesiak said 300 runners are entered for the event so it will be a busy morning in the village. It's hoped to raise funds for the village at the event. Parking is kindly being provided by Charles Reis and Peter Barnett.
7. **Update on Briar Leaze development** Green Square are working with Focus Ecology to mitigate the existence of bats at Briar Leaze. Cllr Szczesiak explained that the porches have been removed from the empty properties. Exclusion devices have been installed on the occupied properties, which will stop the bats returning. If necessary the roofs to the properties will be removed by hand.

All legal formalities are undergoing and being formalised.

Green Square will be working with residents to achieve moves this summer, this will enable Green Square construction to start on site. They are possibly looking to start pre site works

where they can, in May and are keen to progress matters as quickly as possible. It will take approx 18 months to complete

8. **Traffic Management** Cllr Marshall explained that the request for 40mph signs goes to the Area Board, then CATG and then back to the Area Board, hopefully in a few weeks we will have the grant and signs in before July.

Concerns have been raised over HGVs using Compton Bassett as a cut through to Hills Waste. To stop this happening Hills have agreed to pay for signage on the A3102 directing HGVs away from the village. This should be installed in the next 8 weeks. In the meantime if any lorry is reported to Hills as using Compton Bassett as a cut through, the driver is cautioned at the Hills site.

There are mixed opinions over potholes, some think they help slow traffic down, some think they are dangerous. The parish steward fills potholes on his visits to the village. Cllr Marshall explained that within the next 5 years the road might be considered for resurfacing,

Cllr Marshall thanked Fran Creasey and her team for all their hard work running speed watch. Statistics show speed watch has slowed the traffic down considerably. Volunteers are always needed so anyone interested in joining the speed watch team, please contact Fran.

9. **Closing words by Chair of Compton Bassett Parish Council**

Cllr Szczesiak thanked everyone for attending the meeting. He also thanked Henry Oliver, Jennie Brooks, Reverend Earwicker and Cllr Marshall for their interesting, informative presentations and reports. The meeting was closed at 8.30pm.

It was followed by a parish social event.