

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2016 – RECITED AT EVERY VILLAGE MEETING.

Each local council must hold an Annual Parish Meeting between March and June (May in Compton Dando). The Parish Meeting is a meeting of the parishioners (anyone on the electoral register of the Parish). Because our parish includes several villages, which may have differences in their points of interest, we also hold meetings in each of the five villages in March to collect their opinions. A summary of these will be added to the minutes recorded for the Annual Meeting of the Parish in May. The Parish Council will take note of the Parishioners' wishes expressed in these meetings and take matters forward to the full Parish Council to be discussed further and if required these matters will be acted upon. Items must be placed as an item on the agenda of the monthly Parish Council meeting. Any parishioner can come along to a Parish Council meeting, and they can speak for 3 minutes before the meeting opens, on whatever they wish to bring to our notice. Minutes of the Parish Council meetings are available to all parishioners who would like to see what is discussed and what decisions are reached. These are available on village notice boards, from the Parish Clerk, or on the parish council website (www.comptondando-parishcouncil.org.uk). Meetings may also now be filmed or recorded in line with the protocol on the website.

Throughout the year we have several standing items which we oversee. These include:

1. Planning matters (applications, appeals, enforcements): planning applications are considered by the Parish Council before they are decided by BANES. We arrange site visits to see for ourselves the proposed changes before we discuss our recommendation (we can support, object, or make comments). The recommendations are based on our understanding of the local environment and planning policies, not on personal preferences. In the past year, the Parish Council has considered 26 planning applications, two of which were withdrawn. 84% of the decisions made by the Parish Council agreed with the final decision made by BANES
2. We report to the BANES council (through Council Connect) local issues such as potholes, fly tipping, flooding, blocked drains, damage to ancient monuments etc which we want the local authority to take action on. The Parish Clerk will monitor action or progress on these reported matters.
3. The Parish Council is trustee for the Parish Hall in Compton Dando and currently the Deed is being updated so that the Parish Council become Sole Trustees this will allow the Parish Hall to gain charitable status. It has recently been proposed that the Parish Council work with a solicitor over the next months to formalise the proposal for charitable status.
4. We pay for local services such as street lights, grass cutting, a website, and a parish clerk from the parish precept.

We have recently co-opted two new Councillors Johanna Davies and Tony Butler to fill the two places that arose following the 2015 elections.

For a second year running, it was decided to freeze the precept. Because of increases in our costs, especially electricity and lighting, we will still need to take some funds from reserves, but we still have sufficient. We have several groups that have expressed an interest in applying for s137 grants this year and applications will be considered at the April Parish Council meeting, which is in the Parish Council's next financial year.

Some of the bigger issues we have dealt with this year are:-

1. Overseeing the refurbishment works and improvement of flood resilience measures to the Parish Hall in Compton Dando, after two major flooding incidents in 14 years. Also, the Parish Council have also recently agreed the installation of an overhead projector and screen in the Parish Hall to allow the Parish Council to undertake paperless planning at a later stage this year. This screen and projector will also be an asset for the residents for our Parish as it may be used for other activities e.g. film shows
2. The Parish Council have submitted comments on the following consultations:-

BANES Placemaking Plan

The BANES Housing Boundary Review

The BANES Designation of Local Green Spaces

We have also undertaken work on recording and submitting information to B&NES in respect of Community Assets.

Several Councillors are taking part in workshops, together with other Parish/Town Councillors and BANES officer to produce responses in respect of the West of England Joint Spatial Plan and Joint Transport Plan.

3. Following requests for 20mph for all our villages. Burnett has 20 mph in place through the village and Compton Dando has a 20mph limit allocated for specific sections of the village which will be under consultation next month. BANES are aware that other villages in the Parish wish to be considered for 20 m.ph should funding become available in the future.
4. In the past year, the Parish Council have reviewed their Standing Orders, Risk Assessment and Asset Register.
5. In June, the fingerposts within the Parish will be undergoing repair and maintenance. This is to be a joint venture between Parish Councillors, BANES volunteer groups (made up of BANES officers), the Community Pay Back Team and resident volunteers. All materials will be supplied by BANES.