

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2018 – 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 24 planning applications, three tree notifications and two Footpath Order consultations.

Three of the planning applications considered were withdrawn. 93% of the decisions made by the Parish Council agreed with the final decision made by BANES. Three applications with the Parish were taken to appeal.

There are several planning enforcement matters that still being investigated by Bath and North East Somerset Council.

2. The Parish Council has reported to the BANES Council (through Council Connect) local issues such as potholes, fly tipping, flooding, water leaks, blocked drains & gulleys, damage to verges and the need for SLOW signage on the highways to be re-painted. The Parish Clerk monitors the action or progress on these reported matters. Also, the Parish Council has been working with landowners to get some ditches within the Parish cleared.
3. Last year, we reported that the Parish Council had become trustees for the

Parish Hall in Compton Dando and in the past year, the Deed has been updated and the Hall has gained charitable status. The Parish Council has worked with the Parish Hall Committee to review the asset register and to update the Parish Hall Risk Assessments and we are currently looking at registering the Parish Hall with the Land Registry.

4. The Parish Council pay for local services such as street lights, grass cutting, a website, and the services of a Parish Clerk from the parish precept.

This year, the Parish Council voted to increase the precept from £7150 to £10,000. This increase has been approved by B&NES together with a grant of £50.00. This increase was felt necessary due to increases in our costs, including a proposed NJC pay award to Clerks, the need to increase reserves to pay for any possible bi-election costs and possibly devolution of some services from B&NES. In the past year, the Parish Council has saved money by taking out an extended three year insurance policy and signing a new energy contract.

The Parish Council has also sought external funding and has been awarded a Community Empowerment Award of £290.00 towards fingerpost painting (this is to be match funded with community volunteer hours). A Tesco Bags For Help grant was applied for and £1,000 was awarded for finger post painting. The Parish Council will also be submitting a grant application to Heritage Lottery for funding for the restoration of the War Memorial in Compton Dando.

This past year, the Parish Council awarded three s137 grants and these went to St. Michaels Church Smile Project, the Nomads Compton Cricket Club and the Five Villages Youth Group.

Some of the issues that the Parish Council have dealt with this year are:-

1. Traffic monitoring in Queen Charlton, flooding issues on the B3116 Burnett, repair of a wooden bench near the Woollard Bridge, Woollard.

A joint bid along with Keynsham and Whitchurch Councils for improvements to the A37 junction at Whitchurch was submitted to B&NES. This bid was not successful but we will continue to work together to bring these improvements about in the future.

Airport issues including increased night flights.

In conjunction with B&NES improvements to the Two Headed man junction which have at last been finalised.

2. In the past year, the Parish Council have submitted comments on the following consultations:-

The Joint Spatial Plan for the West of England
The BANES Local Plan
The BANES Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment
The BANES Housing Boundary Review
The Parish Charter questionnaire.

The BANES Electoral Review on the warding boundaries. If this particular consultation proposal is adopted by B&NES, the Parish of Compton Dando will no longer be part of Farmborough Ward but will become part of Saltford Ward. This will mean that our ward councillor will no longer be Councillor Sally Davis but we will have two new ward Councillors – Councillor Francine Haerberling and Councillor Emma Dixon.

3. In the past year, the Parish Council have produced new and reviewed existing policies and these include

- A Finance Policy
- An Equal Opportunities Policy
- A Data Protection Policy
- A Freedom of Information Policy
- A Transparency Code
- A Clerk's Appraisal Policy
- A disciplinary and Grievance Policy

We are also working through steps to become GDPR compliant by May 2018.

4. In respect of requests for further 20mph limits for all our villages. We have been notified by B&NES that their Communities, Transport and Environment PDS Panel at a meeting on 17th July 2017, considered a report on '20MPH Zones – Review'. After some discussion, the Panel came to the following consensus that:-

More data over a three year period for all schemes is needed to provide evidence for any future changes to the scheme;

That capital budget provision will be required to implement any future changes;

The outcome of the Department of Transport review be considered at a future panel meeting.

To continue to consider specific applications for 20 mph schemes especially where these relate to safety around schools;

It be recommend to the Cabinet Member for Transport and Highways that 20mph signage be removed where it is illogical.

A statement from the Panel stated that “Speed limits are something which raise strong feelings for and against and there is evidence on both sides as to their effectiveness. Therefore the Panel have advised waiting until the national assessment of 20 miles an hour limits is available but in the meantime prioritising any new schemes outside schools where they are likely to be most successful.”

5. Projects that the Parish Council are currently looking at are the maintenance of the Coronation Tree Triangle, Queen Charlton, modifications to the Parish Hall Ramp and restoration of the War memorial in Compton Dando.
6. Two final points

Firstly the Parish Council would like to thank all Parishioners for getting involved in village litter picks.

Secondly, with the installation of a defibrillators in several villages the Parish Council have agreed to arrange free defibrillator training for members of the Parish and we will be leaving with you a form that you can add your name to if you would like to express an interest in taking part in this training. Please do make other members of your village aware of this training, so that they can include their name on the form, if they wish. Please as it states on the bottom of the form return the complete list to our Parish Clerk.

Thank you for your time and for listening to this Parish Council report and we would welcome any questions that you may have.