



COMPTON PARISH COUNCIL

PARISH OF COMPTON
NOTICE OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
Local Government Act 1972

Minutes of a meeting of Compton Parish Council held on
Wednesday 18th January 2012 at 7.00pm
In the **Village Hall** for the transaction of the under mentioned business.

Present: Cllr F Curtis (in the chair), Cllrs D Haskins, J Parsons, K Patel, M Williams
County Cllr S Gimson
Borough Cllr J Palmer

In attendance: The Clerk, Mrs J Cadman

01/12 **Apologies for Absence:** were received following the meeting from Cllr M Bills

02/12 **Declarations of interest:** none were made

03/12 **Minutes of Meeting held 16th November 2011:** were agreed as a correct record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman.

04/12 **Matters Arising**

grit bins at Fowlers Croft: The Clerk had asked GBC if they had any objection to a grit bin at this location, but had not heard. Cllr Palmer would follow this up.

05/12 **Chairman's Report**

the Chairman had been asked to summarise the activities of the Parish Council over the last year for the Village Newsletter. She read her report to members and received their approval of the content. Cllr Gimson commented on the positive economic effect on the village of the re-opening of Watts Gallery. In particular, the Harrow pub had re-opened and was benefitting from business from the Gallery, both staff and visitors.

06/12 **Reports from Borough and County Cllrs**

County Cllr S Gimson:

- a) *Bushes overgrowing the banks:* in response to a question from the Chairman, Cllr Gimson undertook to talk to Gary Curtis and ask if he could arrange for some of these to be cut back. If necessary, he would allocate some money from the 'Pride' fund. Cllr Curtis advised that a note had been put into the Parish Newsletter, asking people to cut back their hedges, but that some were still a problem.
- b) *Signs:* Cllr Gimson would ask Kas Banisiaed for the current status of the promised signs for the parish.
- c) *Guildford Bus Station:* there had been a number of letters in the press about proposal that the bus station be moved to Bedford Road. Cllr Gimson stressed that the consultation process is in the very early stages and that all ideas were in outline only. People should *take the* opportunity to have their views taken into account by getting involved in the consultation. The background to this consultation is that GBC want to tidy up the area where the bus station is located and to extend the shopping centre. They would also like to achieve an outcome where buses are kept out of the centre of town. Cllr Palmer confirmed that this is the current situation and that moving the bus station would lead to the regeneration of the area around the Friary. Regarding Park and Ride, Cllr Palmer pointed out that buses could still stop in the centre of town, without the necessity for a bus station. Cllr Gimson advised that Guildford is in the top 12 of the shopping centres in the country and is very important economically to Surrey. £20m has been made available from central Government for the economic development of 3 county towns and the decision should be made by May. This development includes cycle tracks, as the impetus is to encourage people to drive only if there is no alternative. Highways are currently looking at improving the A3 and creating an access road to provide another Park and ride at the Research Park. Funding for this is part of the application for the regeneration grant.
- d) *Seale and Sands Parish Council:* Cllr Gimson advised that this council had obtained a £20,000 grant for play equipment.
- e) *Highways:* Cllr Gimson advised that the contract with May Gurney is working well. The company is honest and open and want to ensure that the contract works. However, Cllr Gimson noted that there was a list of outstanding works at present in Compton, which he would chase. He advised that the Community Gangs were currently up to a strength of 9 to 11, who were attempting to reduce the backlog of work.

Borough Cllr James Palmer

1. *Planning Matters: Monks Hatch:* An investigation into the performance of the Planning Enforcement service was currently under way. The aim was to try and ensure that nothing of this nature happens again and, to this end, a system had been set in place where the legal and planning teams worked together and met regularly. There had been two databases, which had added to communication problems, and that had now been resolved.
2. *Gypsies and travellers:* GBC were attempting to identify official sites. A public meeting had been arranged in Shalford for the following day. The planning permission given at Wancom underlines the need for GBC to identify sites. This is a 5 year temporary permission, and it is hoped that official sites will have been allocated by that stage. Regarding illegal pitches, Cllr Palmer advised that the Borough Council was talking to neighbouring districts to try to set up a combined out-of-hours service.

07/12 **Report from the Police:**

Nothing had been received and the Clerk understood that Fiona Ffyfe is currently away.

08/12 **Public Forum:**

No members of the public were present.

09/12 **Annual Parish Meeting:** The Clerk had drawn up a Paper advising the Parish Council of the legal necessity of holding this meeting (LGA '72) and this had been circulated before the meeting. After discussion it was **agreed** that the meeting would be held on Wednesday 7th March, 7pm, in the village club. Cllr Haskins undertook to make the booking after this meeting. Cllr Parsons offered to do a talk about the work of Surrey Air Ambulance, for whom he volunteers, and this was accepted with appreciation.

10/12 **Members Report: Highways:**

- a) *Community Speed Watch and VAS:* Cllr Curtis was pleased to report that Mr Foran and Ms Nicky Webber had joined the Community Speed Watch team. A meeting had been held with the Police Safety officer and he had confirmed that the VAS system could be re-located as discussed. Cllr Haskins had put a great deal of work into making sense of the data that came from the system. There had been a lot of trial and error to get the calibration right, but figures now matched the police traffic statistics. The statistics can also measure vehicle length, so will eventually be able to provide data on the number of lorries through the village.
Cllr Haskins was also helping another village with their set-up problems. There were now only 2 people trained to use the system and it was decided to ask for volunteers through the Compton News.
Data showed that people were travelling at speeds up to 80mph through the village, with speeds of up to 60 to 70mph during the day. These were mostly motor bikes.
- b) *Down Lane:* the number of accidents in this Lane had increased in recent months. Cllr Palmer pointed out that there is no stop sign at the top of the Lane, where it meets the A3. Cllr Curtis advised that there had been an agreement from SCC for 'pedestrians in road' signs in The Street and Down Lane, also a 'unsuitable for HGV' sign in the Avenue. A 30mph speed limit in Down Lane was under consideration but not yet agreed.
- c) *A3000:* Cllr Parsons said that the 30mph sign at the Guildford end of the village was constantly hit by lorries as it is too close to the road. Cllr Curtis confirmed that this had been reported to the Highways Team.

11/12 **Members Report: Allotments and Environmental Projects**

- a) *Allotments:* Cllr Haskins reported that all allotments were let and that there was now no waiting list. There was no major expenditure planned at present, although a possible project regarding drainage might change this.
- b) *Environment:* Cllr Haskins planned a working party and the date of 11th March, starting at 10am at the Withies, was agreed. The Parish Council would provide funds for a drink for all participants.

12/12 **Members Report: Recreation ground and playground:**

Cllr Patel commented that there are moles on the recreation ground, but it was agreed that there was not much that could be done about this.

Cllr Patel was asked to keep a watch on cars parking on the recreation ground. It might be necessary to consider putting posts around the Green to prevent this re-occurring problem.

- 13/12 **Members Report: Watts Gallery and Cemetery:**
- a) *Zone 5:* Cllr Williams reported that Stephen Byrne had finished laying out the new path in Zone 5, which had created a new ground plan for the new part of the cemetery.
 - b) *Caretaker:* Stephen had now left Watts Gallery. His wife had a new job at the Military Museum at Chatham, and Stephen had gained a 6 month contract at the British Museum. Stephen had done an extremely good job of looking after the cemetery since Chris Harvey left. The Gallery had found a replacement, a young man who lives near Bordon. For the time being, he would split his working week into two, as Stephen had, working in the mornings for the Gallery and in the afternoons for the Cemetery. The Cemetery Committee would manage his workload in the afternoons.
 - c) *Watts Gallery:* Members briefly discussed the proposal that Watts Gallery should take responsibility for the Chapel and Cemetery from the Parish Council on a long lease. The Chairman, Vice Chairman, Mr Foran and the Clerk had met with Roger Taylor, SCAP&TC's solicitor, to discuss the best way forward with this and would now meet with the Gallery to negotiate an agreement.
 - d) *Lych Gate:* the Cemetery Committee were investigating the possibility of putting bollards outside the lych gate to prevent high vehicles from driving too close.
- 14/12 **Members Report: Planning:**
Cllr Parsons had nothing to report, as there had been no new applications for the past six weeks.
- 15/12 **Members Report: Village Hall**
Cllr Curtis reported that Richard Hutson is drawing up a new constitution between the Parish Council and the Village hall which will be reviewed by the village hall committee and hopefully approved before the end of this financial year.
- 16/12 **Finance**
- a) The Precept request of £30,000 for 2012/13 had been submitted to the Borough Council
 - b) The Schedule of Income and Expenditure to 1/01/12 was circulated to all members prior to the meeting and was approved by all present.
 - c) Details of Income and Expenditure year to date was circulated to all members prior to the meeting and was approved by all present.
- 17/12 **Guildford Bus Station**
This had been covered in Cllr Gimson's report.
- 18/12 **Mayors Award for Community Service**
Cllr Curtis proposed that John Dobson be put forward by the Council for this award, and all were in agreement. Cllr Curtis would write a few words for the submission.
- 19/12 **Councillors Business:** *any further business arising from the meeting, to be noted or dealt with on a future agenda*
- a) *Nominated point of contact:* Cllr Haskins advised that a dead horse had been discovered behind Polsted Manor. This had raised the problem of who should deal with occurrences of this nature, that were not a personal or an emergency services matter, and he suggested that there be a nominated point of contact from the Parish Council, perhaps on a rota basis.
 - b) *Polsted Lane:* Cllr Parsons asked for a sign on this road, requesting cars to slow down for pedestrians and animals on the road.
 - c) *Loseley:* the hedge needs to be trimmed back.
- 20/12 **Compton News**
- a) Annual Parish Meeting
 - b) VAS volunteers
 - c) Parish workparty
- 21/12 **Dates of meetings:**
7th March: Annual Parish Meeting. 7pm
21st March, 7pm
16th May, **Annual Meeting, 7pm**