



COMPTON PARISH COUNCIL

Notice of Parish Council meeting

Local government Act 1972

Minutes of a meeting of Compton Parish Council, held on

Wednesday 19th November 2014 at 7.00pm

At Pucks Oak Barn for the transaction of the under mentioned business

Present: Cllr D Haskins (in the chair), Cllrs F Curtis, P Graham, K Patel, K Stevens
Borough Cllrs J Palmer and N Ward
2 members of the public

In attendance: the Clerk, Mrs J Cadman

121/14 **Apologies for Absence:** were received from Cllr J Parsons.

Apologies were also noted from County Cllr G Johnson

122/14 **Declarations of interest:** Cllr Stevens declared a personal interest in the Local Plan and the Campaign to Save the Green Belt, and a pecuniary interest in the Save the Hogs Back Campaign.

123/14 **Minutes of meeting held 17th September 2014:** These were accepted as a true record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman, after the following amendments:

124/14 **Report from the Police:** PCSO Gregor Culross had been unable to attend, due to an accident in Bramley, but sent the following report after the meeting:

There had been 3 crimes in total over the period since the last meeting:

One dog incident in Hurtmore (person bitten by dog)

One dog incident (where member of public had a dog grip their arm)

One made off without payment (Which occurred at Peasmarsh petrol station)

125/14 **Reports from County and Borough Cllrs**

Borough Cllrs J Palmer and N Ward:

New Pond road bridge: the meeting arranged for the 28th November has now been postponed to the 2nd February, to allow Network Rail time to put together firm plans. Cllr Haskins referred to the unscheduled closure over one weekend. Cllr Palmer had written to ask Network Rail why this had happened but had not received a satisfactory response and he had asked Anne Milton for her help in obtaining an explanation.

Cluster Funding: the Cluster groups consist of a number of parishes grouped together under the remit of the Local Committee, which has allocated funding to them for specific projects. This group, the western parishes, had decided that it would bid for funding for flood defences, to include work such a jetting. Cllr Palmer sits on the board which decides how the funding is

Local Plan: this is currently on hold, the leader of the Council will make a formal statement in the next couple of weeks about the direction the Council will take. Eric Pickles had stated that more weight must be placed on protecting the Green Belt, which would have an impact on the next stage. The Council had appointed Terence Patrick as its Executive Member for rural affairs, and part of his remit is to speak up for the Green Belt. Cllr Ward advised that the Council is now able to take more notice of the argument regarding lack of infrastructure and it appeared that the message is getting through that the Borough suffers from constraints around the AONB, Green Belt and infrastructure issues.

Cllr Palmer stated that he and/or Cllr Ward would attend a meeting in the next week on protecting Binscombe Green Belt. Cllr Ward commented that GBC had no influence with Waverley, but that its plans do not appear to comply with national guidance. Waverley had not spoken to the landowner of site 572, so they should not have put the land forward for consideration to be moved out of the Green Belt.

Grass at Almsgate: Cllr Ward advised that there is a new Parks and Countryside manager, Hendrick Juerck, starting in post in December. He suggested contacting Nicholas Rowe to discuss who is responsible for the

various areas of grass at Almsgate.

1. **CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy):** members asked the Borough Cllrs questions about CIL and why GBC had not yet set their CIL rate. Cllr Stevens pointed out that the east-west movement corridor appeared to be funded through increased development and that a large portion of this corridor benefitted the University and the companies located on the Business Park. She asked whether it should therefore be funded by the businesses on the Surrey Research Park and by the landlord Surrey University rather than by a levy raised through development?

Cllr Palmer responded by stating that a good cycle/pedestrian network is of benefit to the whole town and not just the university. He also pointed out that the university is a major employer in the town and a national institution which benefits the town, and deserves support from that point of view. He added that the hospital would also benefit from the proposed green corridor.

1. Cllr Stevens referred to a remark made by Cllr Mansbridge, that the Council wanted to get the housing number down to the lowest possible amount that would satisfy the inspector, and asked if Cllrs Palmer and Ward believed it was possible to satisfy the inspector without building on the strategic sites in the green belt, particularly now that Berkleys Homes has stated that 15,000 houses could be built at Walnut Tree Close, and 1,000 homes could be built at Slyfield

Cllr Palmer replied that the Borough had constraints such as the AONB, Green Belt and the infrastructure, and the intention is to advise the inspector that these constraints made it impossible to reach the target number of houses. He pointed out that, because this is the south of England and housing prices are high, the only way to provide affordable housing is as part of a larger development.

County Cllr

In his absence, Cllr Johnson had forwarded to the Clerk the following email from Jason Russell, Assistant Director, Highways & Transport, SCC, to Anne Milton and Jeremy Hunt, MPs regarding New Pond Road Bridge: *The feasibility report is progressing and is due for completion by the end of December. The bid for funding in 2015/16 as part of Surrey's Resilience package was submitted on 31 October and the outcome will be known by the end of January. Network Rail are our partners in the bid and have confirmed that they could provide their contribution of £750K in 2015/16, should that bid be successful.*

126/14 **Public Forum**

Local Plan: Mr Miller stated that local people are very worried about the Local Plan. Traffic used to be the most important subject in this village, but the Plan had surpassed that. People look to the Parish Council to take the lead and represent them, and he believed that it was the most important subject on the Parish Council agenda at present. He had been concerned at the tendency to move to the next agenda item and hoped that the subject would get the attention it deserved at future meetings. Cllr Haskins said that the Parish Council had committees so that items could be discussed out of meeting, as there was a great deal to discuss in a full council meeting. He stated that there had been a lot of misinformation and panic, and now that the plan is in abeyance there would be a chance to reflect. Mr Miller believed that the village had a right to be vocal and, if people weren't vigilant, what is most feared may well happen.

Mr Nagaty said that the plan might be in abeyance, but things are still moving forward and the university is still carrying out its investigations.

Cllr Palmer explained that the reason for the pause is because councillors have heard loud and clear the concerns from parish councillors and from residents. The statement from the leader of the Council is expected in a few weeks, which should give a clearer indication of the next move.

127/14 **Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising from the last minutes that were not dealt with elsewhere on the agenda.

128/14 **Members report: Local Plan**

Cllr Steven's report is attached to these minutes.

120/14 **Members report: Highways**

Traffic Calming in Down Lane: Cllr Curtis asked Mr Miller to speak on this. He advised that there had been two site meetings with SCC and the Surrey Hills AONB, as this is part of the Quiet Village initiative. A spring had to be diverted from flowing down the lane, and this had only been partly successful, but SCC had no budget to do

any further work on this. What had been done had made a big difference, however.

A budget exists in this financial year to do the traffic calming work, part of which is a plan to improve the pond and Mr Miller is trying to co-ordinate residents' feedback to SCC within the next couple of weeks. It is hopeful that work will take place from January to March.

Regarding a 20mph speed limit, Mr Miller advised that the Local Committee had agreed to 30mph in this sort of situation. Surrey Hills are in touch with some national bodies who are in contact with the government and who are working on a scheme to remove the need to enforce national requirements. So it may be possible to get a 20mph limit, and it is also hoped to get "*Unsuitable for HGVs*" signs. It is also hoped that there will be some way of indicating that this is a special area and some signage to warn motorists of pedestrians in the road. Cllr Haskins advised that village signs are under consideration at present anyway. Mr Miller advised that these would be a different style, hopefully sympathetic to the area.

B3000: the road has not been forgotten, SCC are considering some sort of traffic calming and this will be the next priority. Cllr Haskins referred to the VAS data. Most of the figures seem to be consistent, except for the one outside the Old Post Office, which double counts. It has now been set up so that it records what is leaving the village rather than coming in, which will hopefully rectify the problem.

130/14 **Members report: Allotments and Environmental Project**

Environment

There had been two very good working parties in the last two months. The ditches had been cleaned along Withies Lane and there is now a plan to replace the pipe under the allotments gate, as it is either broken or jammed full. The deer fencing at the allotments is in need of replacement, and Cllr Haskins PROPOSED that the Parish Council finance the purchase of this, together with the new pipe, with a maximum outlay of £1,000, and the allotments people will install both. This was SECONDED by Cllr Graham, with all in agreement.

Cllr Haskins is involved with the Flood Forum, and has asked David Baskerville to sit on that committee, as he is affected.

A parish litter pick had been carried out recently, with 20 bags of litter collected from the slip road.

The *Love where you Live* team had done some very effective cleaning up work in September.

Cllr Graham advised that the red cats eyes on the sliproad are obscured. Cllr Miller will take a look. Cllr Haskins said that there were links on his log, where issues like this can be reported.

Cllr Miller requested a grit bin at the Almsgate entrance to Polsted Lane. The Clerk would organise this.

Cllr Curtis advised that the problem of flooding from Eastbury Lane appeared more noticeable since tarmac was added, several years ago. The Clerk was asked to write to Eastbury Manor to request that they cut back the trees that overhang the road.

131/14 **Members report: Youth and recreation**

- a) *Corner of common*: Roger Deacon will clear this in the coming week.
- b) The RoSPA safety report had highlighted repairs that need to be done to the playground equipment. The Clerk will organise these.
- c) The Clerk advised that she had received a quote to trim and re-shape the London Cedar Tree on the Green, at £700+ vat, and this was agreed.
- d) It was noted that Peter Borrett is doing a very good job.
- e) Cllr Patel referred to the tree in the scrub area at the edge of the Green, which also needs some work done to it.

132/14 **Members report: Watts Gallery and Cemetery**

- a) Minutes of the meeting of the Cemetery committee held Friday 7th November had been circulated prior to the meeting.
The Clerk reported that there had been discussions with the Gallery about who took responsibility for agreeing and organising memorial services in the chapel, and it had been agreed that this was the remit of the Parish Council, as they are the burial authority.
Nick Tromans and Simon Cox will now produce a report before each meeting of the Cemetery Committee, which will give a full update on work undertaken and work planned. The Cemetery Committee will continue to meet at the Cemetery to review its condition before the formal meeting, but the agenda will be driven by the report.
- b) Cllr Haskins advised that he is meeting with Perdita Hunt once a month. She had agreed a voucher scheme for residents of the parish, in return for the donation to the 'Self Portrait' and a statement to

this effect is awaited.

- c) Cllr Haskins advised that the ride-on mower from the allotments would be given to the Gallery for use in the cemetery, particularly Zone 5, as the allotment holders have decided to purchase a new one.
- d) The possibility of a railing from the lych gate to the chapel was discussed, and will be raised with the Gallery.
- e) the *Raffles* benches have been placed on the dais.

133/14 **Members report: Planning**

- a) *14/P/02006 Broadbridges Cottage, The Avenue*: Erection of a new two storey detached dwelling following demolition of chalet bungalow: Cllr Graham commented that he did not necessarily share Cllr Parson's concern about this proposal, as natural materials would be used and it would be modern without being aggressive. The proposal is for a higher building than before, the previous building having been small for the size of the plot. He was unsure whether the parish council should object. Cllr Curtis replied that, as the property is in the conservation area, the proposed development should be in the vernacular and fit in with the street scene. The neighbours are unhappy because it does not, and because of its size. She believed the Parish Council should support the neighbours' argument. Cllr Graham will check on the rules regarding building in a conservation area.
- b) *Monkshatch Garden Farm*: an asphalt car park has been installed without planning permission. This has been reported online to the enforcement officer, who has advised that he will visit in 10 days time
- c) List of approved planning applications had been circulated prior to the meeting.

134/14 **Members report: Village Hall**

Discussions with Punch Taverns about a potential car park are still ongoing and no significant progress has been made to date.

Richard Paxton and Cllr Haskins will measure the potential area for car parking on the Green. The Clerk has written to SCC to establish whether it is a registered green. It was noted that, now the Club was much busier, the proposed car park would not be for occasional use, and the survey response had been based on occasional use. The dilemma is that the Club would like the car parking, the residents would not.

135/14 **Finance**

- a) *Management accounts to 31st October had been circulated prior to the meeting*
- b) *Schedule of income and expenditure to 31st October had been circulated prior to the meeting.* Members noted and approved the income for the period of £15759.17 and outgoings of £2509.59.
- c) *Budget for 2015/16 and Precept request*: The Clerk tabled the draft budget for 2015/16 (which had been circulated prior to the meeting) and advised the Council that there is currently over £100,000 in unallocated reserves. Cllr Haskins PROPOSED that the precept request be reduced by £1,300, the estimated reduction in insurance costs now that the Chapel, Cloisters and Lodge are insured by the Gallery, giving a precept request of £24,300, less the local council tax support scheme, which has not yet been calculated by GBC. The Council will then review the situation next year, given that substantial capital outlay is expected in the next few months. This was SECONDED by Cllr Graham, with all in favour. The Clerk will move capital into allocated reserves for planned projects.

136/14 **Chairman's Report**

Cllr Haskins referred to his 'blog' where he records all his actions. Cllr Graham considered that his report would benefit by being more formal, and questioned the use of the title 'Compton Parish Council diary' as it records more than parish council activities, and asked that Cllr Haskins consider changing the title, which he agreed to do. Cllr Stevens requested that detail be included. Cllr Curtis suggested that all councillors feed into the log, as a parish council report. This was agreed. Cllr Stevens said that it would be very helpful if everyone on the council advised all other members of what they are doing, so that everyone is up to date

137/14 **Clerk's Report**

- a) *Parish handyman*: diary of duties carried out had been circulated prior to the meeting.
- b) *Members' reports*: members agreed that all reports to Council be no longer than 5 minutes. If longer than 5 minutes is required, due to the complexity of the report or other factors, members to be notified in advance and approval requested.

138/14 **United Charities**

The problem raised by the Trustees is that it is not clear how the money should be used in Compton, and the question raised was whether the boundaries could be extended so that the money could be used for Farncombe Day nursery, for example, or food banks. Members agreed that the Henry Smith Charity should be approached and asked if this is within the terms of the Charity. Cllr Haskins said that Social Services rely on funds from outside sources to buy things for people, and he suggested approaching them and asking them if there were people in need in Compton. Rev Caroline Burnett will also be asked.

139/14 **Action list:** The action list was reviewed, and agreed that it was at present very unwieldy, and not possible to identify priorities. The Chairman and Clerk will go through it and clarify the actions needed.

140/14 **Councillors business:** *any further business arising from or not for discussion in the meeting, for noting or including on a future agenda*

a) Cllr Stevens had completed the questionnaire concerning travellers. Members thanked her and agreed that it should be sent without any amendment.

b) Cllr Curtis raised the issue of recent email correspondence between the Chairman and Councillors. After some discussion, Cllr Haskins tendered his resignation from the Council and left the meeting at 10.30pm. Cllr Stevens took the chair.

141/14 **Open Forum**

No further matters were raised.

142/14 **Compton News**

Cllr Stevens will write a piece on the Local Plan

Cllr Haskins' recent successful litter pick will be mentioned.

Residents will be asked if they have any suggestions for new equipment in the Playground.

143/14 **Correspondence**

There was no new correspondence.

144/14 **Dates of meetings:** 21st January, 18th March.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 10.45pm.