



COMPTON PARISH COUNCIL

PARISH OF COMPTON

Minutes of **THE ANNUAL MEETING** of Compton Parish Council held on
Wednesday 20th May 2015 at 7.00pm

In **Pucks Oak Barn** for the transaction of the under mentioned business.

Present: Cllrs F Curtis, P Graham, P Hunt, R Nagaty, C Sharples, K Stevens.
County Cllr G Johnson
Borough Cllr M Parsons
4 members of the public

In attendance: The Clerk, Mrs J Cadman

51/15 **Election of Chairman:** Cllr Curtis PROPOSED Cllr Stevens as Chairman, SECONDED by Cllr Graham, all in favour. There were no other nominations.

52/15 **Apologies for Absence:** Cllr Patel had sent her apologies, as she is unwell.

53/15 **Declarations of interest:**

Cllr Stevens declared a pecuniary interest in the Local Plan, as she lives in close proximity to Blackwell Farm, and is a member of the Save the Hogs Back group.

Cllr Nagaty declared a pecuniary interest in the Local Plan, as she lives in close proximity to Blackwell Farm, and is a member of the Save the Hogs Back group.

54/15 **Election of Vice Chairman:** Cllr Stevens PROPOSED Cllr Curtis as Vice Chairman, SECONDED by Cllr Graham, with all in favour.

55/15 **Appointment of Member's responsibilities:**

Local Plan: Cllrs Curtis, Nagaty, Stevens. Alexa Hunt will sit on this committee as a resident of the Parish.

Traffic: Cllr Curtis

Cemetery: Cllr Curtis. Rev'd Caroline Burnett would be asked if she would chair the committee.

Maryon Lordan would be asked if she would remain on the committee as a member of the public, in accordance with the committee's terms of reference.

Allotments: Cllr Sharples

Playground: Cllr Patel

Planning: Cllr Graham

Village hall: Cllr Graham.

56/15 **Dates of future meetings:** members **agreed** that full Council meetings will continue to be held every other month, in May, July, September, November, January and March, on the 3rd Wednesday of the month, commencing at 7pm.

57/15 **Minutes of Meeting held 25th March 2015:** these were agreed as a correct record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman.

58/15 **Matters Arising:**

40/15: Village sign: Cllr Sharples reported as follows: The centre panels (2) will replicate the Peace Panel at Watts Gallery and will be made by Mick Pinner, who works in terracotta.

The detail of the woodwork will be taken from the lychgate at the Chapel, and may be made by Harry Stebbing, who made the village noticeboard.

The sign will be set, on the village green, at a point between the two bus shelters, subject to planning permission and the views of residents.

The cost will be in the region of £8,000 in total.

Cllr Sharples will bring firm proposals to the July full Council meeting. In the meantime, residents will be advised via an article in the newsletter and on the website.

41/15: Annual Parish meeting: It was agreed that a PA system was needed, particularly as people who were not involved in the meeting were talking in the background.

The format did not work as well as hoped in terms of trying to link the village economically. No-one had responded to the piece in the newsletter inviting them to talk about their business, but they had turned up anyway, expecting to talk. By then, the format was set and this was not possible in the time frame.

45/15: Parking on the Green: Mr James Parsons had undertaken to draw up proposed plans for parking on the Green, in an area which would also be used for 5 a side football. Once this is received it will be possible to draw up a budget. Cllr Graham will discuss this with him.

59/15 **Chairman's Report:** the Chairman's report is included in the report on the Local Plan.

60/15 **Reports from Borough and County Cllrs:**

Borough Cllr M Parsons: He and his fellow borough councillor, Michael Illman, were very pleased and honoured to be elected to represent Shalford Ward. They are looking forward to working with the residents and the Parish Councils in their ward and hope to be in a position to help in whatever way that they can. Cllr Illman will sit on the Planning and Scrutiny committees, Cllr Parsons sits on the Scrutiny committee and the Task Group, a non-political group which scrutinises Council.

County Cllr G Johnson:

1. New Pond Road bridge: there are currently a number of options on the table:
 - b) To replace the bridge with the same: £800,000
 - c) Widen the bridge to provide a footpath: £2.5m
 - d) A new bridge with a 7.2m carriageway, to accommodate pedestrians and cyclists as well as cars: £3.5m.
 - e) A 6.2m carriageway with a separate foot crossing: £2.2m.
 - f) A separate crossing for pedestrians and cyclists, leaving the bridge as it is. £1mCllr Johnson was in favour of insisting on option c), even if it took longer to achieve it. He would like to call another meeting of all the parties, under the chairmanship of Anne Milton or Jeremy Hunt, to decide on the next steps. Cllr Stevens was concerned that widening the bridge might encourage traffic to speed on an already dangerous road, and Cllr Curtis said that a wider bridge might attract more vehicles to use the road. Members agreed that it might be better to have a separate bridge for pedestrians and cyclists, but noted that it might be necessary to widen the bridge for safety reasons. Cllr Johnson was asked to raise the possibility of a single lane bridge with traffic lights at the proposed meeting, with a separate crossing for pedestrians and cyclists.
2. Hogs Back cross over: a number of people on both sides of the road are very unhappy about this proposal. The next turning is a long way away, and with the volume of traffic on the Hogs Back, this will only serve to increase congestion. The care home at Flexford Lane need emergency vehicles from time to time, and this closure will be detrimental to their attendance time. The consultation process needs to be followed through and views sought and considered. The cut-off date for responses is the 5th June. Cllr Curtis asked if the Council would agree to a subscription to Crashmap, which would be very useful when assessing road for safety and the cost of £60 was **agreed**.
3. Cllr Johnson advised that he is serving on the Planning Regulatory Committee at SCC, and the Environment and Transport committee. He no longer serves on the adult social care committee. He is now getting more involved with the Wey and Arun Canal Trust.
4. Cllr Johnson advised that SCC intended to involve local people more in its decision making processes, so there will be an increase in consultation documents.
5. Withies Pond: Cllr Johnson is prepared to put some of his councillors allowance towards this project.
6. Down Lane: the traffic calming measures to date seem to have had some effect. A specialist had suggested that the paint brush gates be moved further into the road to create a chicane. The pedestrian track has faded and become less obvious, but Bahram Assadi has said that this will be rectified when the road is resurfaced. Cllr Johnson has some concern about the signs at the entrance of the road leading to Main Chance, as these need to be improved. Peter Borrett commented that visitors should be encouraged to access Main Chance from the A3 rather than Down Lane. Cllr Johnson has a meeting with Bahram Assadi in Down Lane on the 28th May.

61/15

Report from the Police:

The local police were unable to be present, but reported to the Clerk as follows:

24/4/15: theft of power tools from storage contained at building site

30/4/15: criminal damage to a gate and motor vehicle in Charterhouse

1/5/15: theft of paving slabs from building site

1/5/15: road rage incident

12/5/15: 3 arrested for drug offences

15/5/15: 1 arrested for drunk driving.

62/15

Public Forum:

Compton Common: Mr David Hunt reminded the meeting that the land had been gifted to GBC by Losely, under the condition that they maintained it, which they have failed to do. Representing the Compton Village Association (CVA) He had walked the common with Michael More Molyneux and Hendrick Juerke from GBC, and Mr Juerke had made it clear that, as a conservationist, he is happy to leave it as it is. Mr Juerke intends to produce a plan of each GBC owned site, so the CVA will wait for this, but will in the meantime ask for a copy of the 1975 agreement.

Mr Borrett asked to be advised of any issues that he should address as the village caretaker and advised of his concern about the vegetation spreading over the pavements, as reported, as he cannot clear this without some means of disposing of it. He advised that he had recently organised a walk around the village, but very few had turned up for it. He would organise another walk in the autumn.

Cllr Hunt left the meeting at 8.45pm.

63/15

Members Report: Highways

Cllr Curtis reported as follows:

Down Lane

Some measures have been taken to differentiate the area between Watts Gallery and the Chapel so that motorists in particular, take extra precautions. These include

Paint brushes – acting as ‘gates’ defining the area and acting as entrance and exit.

Speed limit signs and ‘quiet lane’ signs on the gates.

Removal of white lines to create a more rural feel.

Different coloured pedestrian strip on the road.

The feedback is that generally, it has worked and that most motorists to proceed with added caution and pedestrians do feel safer with the strip and frequently use it.

The issue is that there are no physical constraints and some drivers still drive in a manner that takes little to no account of the pedestrian traffic. A Specialist who advises SCC has concerns and is making a few suggestions to SCC for their consideration. He feels that making the entrance / exit area more prominent by physically placing part of the brush in the road (creating a mini chicane) combined with a single lane affect along that stretch, would physically force drivers to slow down.

There will be a meeting on 28th May with SCC when we hope to get their view on this and exactly how it could/would work. We hope to have details of the traffic survey and the video survey they completed at this meeting.

The Street

This will be discussed in June when we hope to meet with SCC. We believe that funds have been allocated for some traffic calming in the Street, namely rumble strips / speed hump at the Cypress Farm end of the village to slow traffic down as it enters the village from the A3 and a crossing.

The police carried out speed checks last week, as these are very fruitful, we hope there will be more of these as the volume has tailed off significantly and we are therefore having to rely on **Community Speed Watch** who continue to do a great job.

The Bridge

Has been reduced to a single lane after something hit it, with some force, affecting the wall. No information has been sent to us or SCC from Network Rail, the only information I have is that SCC have reduced the road to one lane until 28th May, after which they expect whatever remedial works to have taken place. George Johnson has supplied further information about the future of the bridge with various quotes for works.

Closure of access from East Flexford Lane across Hog's Back

In principal I can see that a route crossing the busy A31 is not desirable and would oppose additional routes feeding onto this busy road as enormous infrastructural changes would be needed to make these safe and much of this area is in AONB. However this junction already exists and changes

would affect residents.

Further to comments made by residents before the election, this subject was put on hold. It was presumed that the various suggestions would be actioned (ie better signage, understanding of the wider plans for the area). Neither has been forthcoming? A meeting with the Guildford Road Safety Working Group suggested closing the gap, following 9 accidents since 2011, 6 of which were linked to the turn off. Residents have taken issue with the accident claim.

Crash Map only shows 4 accidents on the crossing and one other that may be linked? To evaluate properly it would be necessary to look at each report to see whether it was linked to the crossing and gain a better understanding as to whether crash map is used or comparable to data used by SCC Given the relatively small number of accident reports, I would suggest CPC subscribes to this, if SCC approve of its data and if CPC approves take a maximum subscription of £60 which will permit 100 reports, as this would be useful for other traffic matters. Given the on-going development of the Local Plan and the importance of appropriate infrastructure, I think it would be better to make this subscription now than do it piecemeal, which would cost in the region of £1 a report.

In my view, It would be useful to compare this with other junctions off the A31 and also understand what alternatives there might be in the future as the A31 towards Guildford gets very congested and a diversion of between 1 mile and 2 ½ miles could add a great deal to journey time.

64/15 **Members Report: Allotments and Environmental Projects**

1. Members discussed a proposal to register the Green as a playing field, so that it cannot be built on. The drawback would be that this would preclude the possibility of using part of it for a car park, unless a further piece of common land was provided elsewhere in the parish to replace that lost. Cllr Sharples was of the view that it would be difficult to gain permission to build on the Green, as there is evidence that it has been used as common land for more than 20 years.
2. *Withies Pond*: the quotation from Land and Water had been circulated prior to the meeting. The total cost for the work required was estimated at £11,338 + vat. This was agreed to be, on the fact of it, expensive, and the Clerk was asked to seek other quotations.
3. *Flood Forum*: this combines the parishes of Shalford, Artington, St Martha and Compton. It was intended that cluster funding used would be used for the work identified, but at present SCC did not agree with the parishes on what was needed.
4. *Hedge in Down Lane*: Thea Adair had asked for the Council's support in getting the hedge cut in Down Lane. It was, she believes, planted by Surrey or Guildford when the A3 roadworks were finished about 25 years ago. They cut the sides but not the top and it is now about 30 ft tall and has blocked the lovely views. It is also, in her view, a hazard as it has made the road into a tunnel, and encourages speeding. It was **agreed** to ask SCC for their help in the first instance.

65/15 **Members Report: Recreation ground and playground**

Proposals for new playground equipment: The Clerk tabled a quotation from Playground Facilities for the Council's information. The total cost of a disabled swing and a zip wire and connected climbing wall was £11,000 + vat. Members agreed to concentrate on a zip wire and equipment for the disabled, and to authorise the Clerk to find and recommend the best options. The Clerk and Cllr Graham will do a site visit to determine whether the preferred equipment will fit the space or whether something else might be more suitable

66/15 **Members Report: Watts Gallery and Cemetery :**

Burials and cremations: a report from the Clerk on the number of available plots and the average number each year had been circulated prior to the meeting and the contents were noted. It was **agreed** to treat each application for a plot in the cemetery on its merits.

67/15 **Members Report: Planning**

Cllr Graham reported as follows:

- a) *Issue of plans from GBC*: nothing further has been heard from GBC concerning their proposals to cease issuing paper plans.
- b) *Eastbury Manor* have submitted a retrospective application for work done two years ago. These were small interior changes but members objected, as it is a listed building and should therefore conform more closely to building regulations.
- c) *House at the north end of Priorswood*: the field between this and the adjacent house, used to belong to the adjacent house. Not clear of the status of the land, but a builder paid £5,000 in 2005 for an interest in this piece of land and had made planning applications to build a house,

which have all been rejected. Two weeks ago it became clear that trees are being cut down on the property but GBC have said that there is nothing they can do, as no laws are being broken. It was agreed to keep a watching brief on this situation.

68/15 **Members report: Local Plan**

Cllr Stevens reported is attached to these minutes.

69/15 **Members Report: Village Hall:** Cllr Graham reported that the hall's AGM had been held the previous Monday. The conveyance had been changed so that it reflects the way the hall operates, and registered with the Charity Commission. The list of trustees had also been updated to reflect the current situation.

The fete had made a good profit again this year, although not quite as good as the previous year. However, since the ethos was to have fun rather than make money, it was agreed to have been an extremely successful day.

Village hall funds are good and takings buoyant.

70/15 **United Reformed Charities:** Members considered and agreed a proposal that the Charity's net is widened to include Godalming and that food banks and other support aids are included in its remit. Martin Foran is in contact with the Charity Commission to ascertain how the Charity might change its objectives. The Clerk has written to the Henry Smith Charity for their view.

70/15 **Finance**

- a) Schedule of income and payments to end of financial year had been circulated prior to the meeting and were noted and the expenditure of £22877.09 was approved.
- b) *Management report to end March 2015* had been circulate prior to the meeting and was noted and approved
- c) *Financial Regulations:* members reviewed the Council's financial regulations, circulated prior to the meeting. Cllr Graham PROPOSED that they be approved, SECONDED by Cllr Stevens, with all in favour.
- d) *Grant aid projects:* projects for the year 2015/16 to be determined, to enable quotations to be sought within GBC's deadline. No new projects were identified
- e) *Annual Return:* the internal auditor is to review the Council's books on the 27th May. Council agreed to a meeting on the 24th June to approve the Council's Annual return before the deadline of 30th June.

71/15 **Clerk's report**

- a) *Standing Orders:* members reviewed the Council's Standing Orders, circulated prior to the meeting. Cllr Graham PROPOSED that these be accepted SECONDED by Cllr Curtis, with all in favour.
- b) *Parish Handyman:* diary of duties carried out had been circulated prior to the meeting and was noted.

71/15 **Councillors Business:** *any further business arising from the meeting, to be noted or dealt with on a future agenda*

- a) The Clerk was asked to establish the current situation regarding the proposed Conservators work to the War memorial.

72/15 **Compton News:** It was agreed to put pictures of the proposed village sign in the News, on the website and also on the noticeboards

73/15 **Correspondence:** .No new correspondence had been received.

74/15 **Dates of meetings:**

Full Council: 15th July, 16th September
Cemetery committee: 24th July

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 10.15pm.