



COMPTON PARISH COUNCIL

Notice of Parish Council meeting

Local government Act 1972

Notice is hereby given of a meeting of Compton Parish Council, to be held on

Wednesday 15th July 2015 at 7.00pm

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

Present: Cllr K Stevens (in the chair), Cllrs F Curtis, P Hunt, R Nagaty, K Patel.
Borough Cllrs Paul Spooner (Lead Councillor for Planning) and Matt Furniss, (Lead Councillor for Infrastructure)
Borough Cllr M Illman
11 members of the public
In attendance: The Clerk, Mrs J Cadman

75/15 **Apologies for Absence** were received from Cllr Graham and Cllr Sharples.
Apologies were noted from Borough Cllr Parsons and County Cllr G Johnson

76/15 **Declarations of interest**

Cllrs Nagaty and Stevens declared a pecuniary interest in the Local Plan due to the Blackwell Farm proposals, and a personal interest in the Local Plan as they are both members of the Save the Hogs Back Campaign.

77/15 **Minutes of annual meeting held May 2015:** these were agreed as a correct record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman.

Minutes of meeting to approve Annual Return held June 2015: these were agreed as a correct record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman.

78/15 **Report from the Police:** No report had been received.

79/15 **Reports from County and Borough Cllrs**

Borough Council: Cllr Illman reported as follows:

New Pond Road bridge: a meeting will be held in October, allowing more time to consider the best course of action.

A3: A number of problem areas have been identified around Guildford, on the A3, A31 and B3000. Plans have been made to do some interim improvements to designated junctions on the A3 over the next couple of years, through Highways England, with radical work scheduled for 2021 through Highways England. Details of what this might entail were not available. Cllr Hunt asked for an update on the proposed re-surfacing of the road, which was due to start in April. Cllr Illman advised that, as this is not part of the improvements to traffic flow, he did not have the information. Cllr Furniss agreed to find out.

80/15 **Public Forum**

a) *Local Plan:* Cllr Furniss and Cllr Spooner: the summary of the discussion concerning

- Infrastructure
- Housing number
- University/student housing provision
- Timing/process

Is attached to these minutes as *Annex 1*

b) *AA Autos:* Mr Borrett, the Council's handyman, had spoken to AA Autos, which was having trouble with people parking their cars in the lay-by and taking lifts in other cars. He suggested that a 4-hour limit might be imposed by Highways. Cllr Johnson will be asked for his help.

c) Mr Borrett intends to undertake a litter pick in the next month. Mr Nick Palmer offered his help

81/15 **Matters Arising**

71/15a: Conservator's work to War memorial: The Clerk reported as follows: Patricia Jackson, the Conservator, has steam cleaned the finial. She has asked that the Council to view the result before making a decision of further work, and will make an appointment for next time she is in Compton. Cllr Hunt undertook to establish when this might be.

82/15 **Chairman's Report**

- Cllr Stevens congratulated Cllr Hunt on being awarded an OBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours.
- *New Pond Road Bridge:* Cllr Stevens had attended a meeting with representatives of Surrey County Council, Surrey County Highways and GBC at which options for the B3000 rail bridge were discussed. Mr Russell, Assistant Director of SCH, said that there were potential safety problems with the current narrow bridge, especially in terms of HGVs passing on the bridge (although few accidents had occurred). He also pointed out that a narrower bridge might provide some benefits in terms of traffic calming. A study conducted by SCC had shown that very few cyclists and pedestrians used the bridge. SCC therefore needed further justification for spending £3-3.5m on widening the bridge, as opposed to £800k. Mr Russell had asked all parish councils to provide feedback on which of these options they considered the most desirable. It was unanimously agreed that Compton PC's preference was for the bridge to remain narrow and for there to be a separate bridge for pedestrians and cyclists. This, it was believed, would result in traffic calming and fewer HGVs using the bridge. A further meeting about the bridge, scheduled for July 3, was cancelled and rescheduled for October 16. This is to allow time for SCC to complete a report into alternative routes for cyclists and pedestrians and also for Anne Milton MP and Jeremy Hunt MP to explore with the Secretary of State for Transport any alternative options for funding the improvements to the bridge (current budgets at county, borough and parish council levels would not allow for significant widening of the bridge).
- *Playground:* Cllr Stevens had met with Proludic. A French manufacturer/supplier of playground equipment, regarding new installations for the Village Green play area. She had also looked at the equipment at Witley and at Busbridge playing fields in Godalming. The Clerk reminded the meeting that members had agreed to a zip wire and a disabled swing, and that the next step agreed was that she and Cllr Graham would meet to establish whether these can be accommodated in the current situation. Cllr Curtis supplied details of alternative Companies dealing in natural, rural style equipment and the Clerk agreed to get brochures and a minimum of 3 quotations for similar equipment. It was noted that it was unlikely to exactly the same as a companies used different combinations and specifications.

83/15 **Members report: Local Plan**

Report attached to these minutes as *Annex 2*

Members *approved* the renewal of the subscription to the Guildford Residents Association.

84/15 **Members report: Highways**

- *Down lane:* It has been agreed that there should be no road markings to differentiate the walking strip, and as few signs as possible, and the situation will be reviewed once the road re-surfacing has been completed, to see if the change in road colour is sufficiently effective. At present, people are using the strip and cars are slowing down, so it is having an effect.
- *VAS:* Speeds have reduced in Down Lane, from just over 30mph average speed to 25mph. In New Pond Road, the speed is still around 40mph. Speeds in the Street are higher than anywhere else in the Parish, with 110mph being recorded. The Clerk was asked to contact the police to arrange a training course for VAS, as at present only Nick Palmer and David Haskins are trained. Cllr Curtis said that she would be willing to undergo this training.
- *Community Speed watch:* more volunteers are required for the A3 end of the village.
- *Hogs Back:* Jane Turner had received a letter from SCC, suggesting that she might like to withdraw her objection to the proposed closure of gap in the A31 at East Flexford Lane. Cllr Nagaty had received a similar communication from SCC, advising that the closure was for safety reasons only. The Parish Council has asked Cllr. Johnson for an update.
- *War memorial:* Cllr Curtis had received requests to restore the light on the war memorial, which was originally a gas lantern. It had been suggested that the power could come from the church's supply, although it might be preferable to keep the supply separate. The Clerk will discuss this with the conservator, to establish whether the memorial could now support a lantern, and would contact Sarah Baskerville regarding an electrician's survey. It was understood that Compton's project committee might make a contribution, subject to costs.

85/15 **Members report: Allotments and Environmental Projects**

- *Withies Pond:* Cllr Curtis reported that Cllr Sharples had obtained a further quotation from Tigerscapes,

at a cost of £6500 + vat compared with Land and Water's quotation of £11,338.60 +vat. The Clerk was asked to find out the Environment Agency's costs for soil sampling, as it was noted that the Land and Water estimate includes this, at £750, but the Tigerscapes quote does not. She will also ask EDF's advice about the overhanging wires, which are preventing some of the trees from being cut back.

- *Common:* Mr Hunt referred to the conveyance of the land from the Loseley Estate to GBC, which included GBC's undertaking to keep and maintain the said common as a public open space and to take all appropriate steps to protect wildlife. He pointed out that, currently, out of 30 acres only around 4 are accessible. It is understood that GBC is going to prepare a maintenance plan for next March and Mr Hunt asked that the Parish Council and Loseley put together a proposal to add to this plan. GBC has sent out workers to trim the Black Path.
- *Cllr Curtis* reported that Cllr Sharples would like to continue the commons clearance parties, but cannot organise these for weekends, as he is then working. She suggested the 6th August at 2pm, finishing at the Withies at 6pm. This will be advertised in the Compton News. Mr Hunt suggested organising a date every alternate month, same day of the month, same time, to build up interest in, and commitment to, the working parties.
- *Allotments:* nothing to report this month, as a lot of allotment holders are away.
- *Cllr Curtis asked for an update about the Withies Pond survey.* The Clerk advised that SWT had yet to provide a date and that she would chase the matter.

85/15 **Members report: Youth and recreation**

- Proposals for new playground equipment:* as noted in the Chairman's report, Cllr Graham and the Clerk will conduct a site visit to consider feasibility of the various options.
- Gate to playground:* the area continues to puddle, despite the concrete base put in a couple of years back. It was suggested that the gate be moved nearer to the road, the bin moved to near the gate and a path put in to the gate. Cllr Patel and the Clerk will meet to review this. *RoSPA playground safety report:* had been circulated prior to the meeting. Members noted two main areas: wear to swing chains and repair to the perimeter fence. The swing chains will be dealt with at the same time as installing new equipment, the Clerk will ask Roger Deacon to deal with the fence round the play area and the fence near Almsgate.

86/15 **Members report: Watts Gallery and Cemetery**

- Cemetery committee meeting:* the minutes from the meeting held in May had been circulated prior to the meeting. Members noted the reception at 5pm on the 21st August in the Cloisters to thank Jonathan Mackie for his work with the committee.
- Cemetery Committee chairman:* Rev'd Burnett did not wish to take on this commitment. It was agreed to ask Maryon Lordan to continue with the role as the benefit of having an independent chairman was recognised.

87/15 **Members report: Planning**

List of approved planning applications had been circulated. It was noted that for application 15/P01123 (demolition and replacement of outbuildings at Eastbury Barn, Priorsfield Road, GU7 2RQ), the applicant's agent states that 'special circumstances' exist to allow development in the Green Belt, but that there is no mention of what these 'special circumstances' are. It was agreed to seek clarification from GBC on what these 'special circumstances' are, for this and future applications.

- The Clerk was asked to add a separate column to note Special Circumstances.

88/14 **Members report: Village Hall**

- Proposed meeting on car parking (agenda item 14/15 January meeting):* The Clerk was asked to ascertain what needs to be done in terms of planning permission and access to a hard standing, dual surface, area and to seek estimates for a permeable green multi-purpose surface.
- Village hall: permission to park on the Green:* the village hall committee has asked for permission to allow parking on the Green for a large meeting on November 18th. This was agreed, subject to reinstatement of any damage and the appointment of someone to supervise the parking so that problem areas are avoided.

89/15 **Village Sign**

Once all costs have been confirmed, the proposal will be published in the Newsletter and on the Parish Council noticeboard, giving residents the opportunity to comment and to be consulted.

The sign itself will come from West Meon Pottery.

Cllr Curtis reported that Cllr Sharples had visited the owners of the house that would be closest to point where he envisaged the sign being placed and that they were fully supportive. The next step would be to discuss the way forward with GBC planning dept.

Cllr Curtis reported on Cllr. Sharples' behalf, that a donation might be forthcoming from an anonymous benefactor.

90/15 **Finance**

- a) *Management accounts to 30th June*: had been circulated before the meeting and were noted and approved.
- b) *Schedule of income and expenditure to 30th June*: had been circulated before the meeting and the expenditure of £1761.65 for May and £2030.24 for June was noted and approved.

92/15 **Clerk's Report**

- a) *Parish handyman*: diary of duties carried out had been circulated prior to the meeting.

93/15 **Action list**: had been circulated prior to the meeting.

- It was agreed that action should be taken to obtain listed status for the War Memorial.
- Cllr Curtis proposed that listed status should be sought for the Rectory. A member of the public had taken some photographs and she would write to the Diocese.
- Community Asset Register: Cllr Curtis had started this and had included the Green, the Club, the Village Hall and the allotments.
- Website: Cllr. Curtis had added the cemetery regulations, burial criteria, fees and memorial stone application form to the website along with a map of the cemetery. The map and data are still six years out of date. The cemetery data needs to be updated and at present there has been no further action with regard to the linking of the online cemetery data with the Gallery website. The Clerk will update the current spreadsheet and circulate.

97/15 **Councillors business**: *any further business for noting or including on a future agenda*
No further matters were raised.

98/15 **Open Forum**

No further matters were raised.

99/15 **Compton News**

- Commons Clearance party 6th August
- Consultation on recycling scheme.

100/15 **Correspondence**

- a) *Living and ageing well in Surrey awards*
- b) *Update on plans for Wisley Airfield*: it was noted that the plan put forward proposed a much higher density than Blackwell Farm, at 34 dwellings per hectare compared with 16 for Blackwell Farm. Cllr Stevens was of the opinion that, if land is to be taken out of Green belt, the subsequent dwelling ratio needs to be increased.
- c) *LCR summer edition, Guildford Environmental Forum newsletter*

101/15 **Dates of meetings**: 16th September, 18th November, 20th January.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.32pm