



COMPTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Compton Parish Council, held on
Wednesday 16th September 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 Graham, P Hunt, R Nagaty, K Patel, C Sharples
County Cllr G Johnson
Borough Cllr M Illman
2 members of the public
In attendance: the Clerk, Mrs J Cadman

102/15 **Apologies for Absence:** all members were present.
Apologies were noted from Borough Cllr M Parsons

103/15 **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
Cllr Hunt declared a personal interest in the application for a grant made by Watts Gallery Trust

104/15 **Minutes of meeting held 15th July 2015:** were agreed as a correct record of the meeting and signed by the chairman.

105/15 **Report from the Police:** minor incidents in the Parish had been reported by the Police and were noted.

106/15 **Reports from County and Borough Cllrs**

County Cllr G Johnson reported as follows:

Railway bridge: the main issue is the safe crossing of cyclists and pedestrians. The county council is of the view that a separate crossing is the best option, but as the costs would be prohibitive, other means of slowing traffic down are being investigated. Cllr Johnson assured the Parish Council that their views are taken into account at any meetings at which they are not represented. Cllr Johnson confirmed that no further meeting had been arranged with MPs Anne Milton and Jeremy Hunt. Cllr Johnson would like to introduce a 20mph speed limit in rural villages, which would have a traffic calming effect on the bridge.

Cllr Stevens pointed out that this had started when Network Rail said that the bridge was no longer fit for purpose, and she asked whether HGVs would be banned from using it in time. Cllr Johnson advised that some remedial work had been done. It was agreed that if more traffic used the A3100, this would take pressure off the bridge.

Polsted gullies: Jason Lewis has advised that there are two drains which need to be connected, but at present he does not have a date for this work to be done.

Watts Gallery: work is being done to improve the signage opposite the Gallery.

Down lane: Mr Miller advised that the traffic calming is still in progress, with some issues still to be resolved. It does appear, however, that traffic is travelling about 5 mph slower than before, and travelling on the road feels safer as there are fewer pot holes.

Mr Podger: Cllr Johnson advised that Mr Podger will appear in court on the 16th October, and it seems likely that he will receive a prison sentence for contempt of court. (He had been storing waste illegally on his land for the last 25 years). SCC and GBC had spent a great deal of money getting this case resolved, and will not recover this as the land will not be worth the amount spent.

Flexford Gap: the County Council had now taken the view that the gap should not be closed, but will review the signage and safety. It was agreed that signage was generally poor in that area. Cllr Johnson advised that onelocal residents was in favour of the closure, and 17 were against. The emergency services are also against the closure.

Re-surfacing of A3: this was scheduled, but would not happen in the current financial year, possibly in 2016/17.

Borough Cllr M Illman reported as follows:

Town centre master plan: the plans will be open for consultation from the second week of October. The traffic flow will change, there will be more Park and Rides, a different road lay-out, the river will be utilised more, and more bridges will be built across the river. North Street will be developed, a new railway station is proposed and new houses built. This is a 17 year project.

One of the key aims of the project is to prevent traffic from passing through Guildford, the strap line being 'To Guildford not Through Guildford'.

The Surrey Advertiser is doing a feature on the plan over a four week period, to illustrate the proposals.

Cllr Curtis was concerned about the focus on Park and Ride, as they do not currently work well. Cllr Illman agreed to raise that issue and advised that they would be more extensively advertised, so that people were aware of their existence and where they are. The point was made that the Park and Ride at Onslow village is in the wrong place, causing traffic to go into the most congested area in order to get the bus.

Cllr Curtis asked if the Council would have sight of the traffic survey. She pointed out that it would be difficult to support the plan without a clear idea of where dispersed traffic would be directed. Cllr. Illman agreed to find out.

Constraints to infrastructure: this had been discussed at the last meeting, when the Council had been advised that GBC would not take this into account. Cllr Furniss had now corrected this statement, confirming that constraints would be taken into account, but that wherever possible; issues should be addressed rather than used to constrain development.

107/15 **Public Forum**

- a) The overhanging vegetation at Compton Heights in Down lane is seriously affecting the sightlines in that area. The Clerk will contact GBC and ask them to deal with this.
- b) A number of bridleways in the area are now impassable: BW 290, BW3 and BW 90. the Clerk will write to SCC Rights of Way.
- c) Cllr Graham had talked to Highways about encroachment from a hedge in Priorsfield Road. They had confirmed that they would monitor it during the summer and take action in the autumn if necessary.

108/15 **Matters Arising**

81/15: Conservators work to war memorial: the Clerk advised that she had heard nothing from the conservator. Cllr Hunt undertook to contact her.

84/15: light on war memorial: further information is awaited.

85/15: Withies pond: Loseley Estates had advised Cllr Sharples that they did not want the spoil from the pond on their land, but offered to allow it to be put on the scrubland at Polsted Lane. Tigerscapes would have to use a dumper to move the spoil, with an additional cost of £2,000. Cllr Sharples will investigate whether permission is needed from the EA to move the waste.

Tigerscapes will shred the tree arisings and leave them to rot down.

Cllr Sharples had learnt that the EA will give a grant of £285 per annum for the restoration of an historic pond and suggested that Compton Parish Council look into the matter.

Cllr Sharples proposed that the fence be removed and a knee height bar installed, creating a new open space. The grant from the EA could then be used to mow up to the pond.

Members **agreed** to proceed with this project, subject to receiving the results of the survey from SWT. Funding was identified from the Parish Council, the Village Association, and from the County Councillors allowance.

Cllr Sharples, who was nominated as Project Manager, would investigate the possibility of removing some trees, so that the area is lit.

93/15: listed status for war memorial: this is currently under review by Historic England

93/15: cemetery data: the current list had been circulated to all councillors.

109/15 **Members report: Local Plan**

Cllr Stevens report on the Local Plan is attached to these minutes as **Annex 1**.

It was agreed that Cllrs Curtis, Nagaty and Stevens will meet to draw up a response, which will be agreed by the Parish Council before it is sent. Cllr Curtis expressed concern about the available data on traffic volumes. This had been on the Surrey Interactive website but a great deal of it has been removed. Cllr Curtis contacted the

GBC who confirmed that the links to the data did not appear to be working and suggested she contact Fanar Potts directly.

Cllr Stevens queried the procedure for revision. The original plan had attracted many letters of objection, the majority believing that the methodology was flawed. Was there any mechanism for ensuring that the data is correct? She believed that the plan should be legally challenged if it is based on flawed data.

110/15 **Members report: Highways**

Cllr Curtis gave a report on Highways, attached to these minutes as **Annex 2**

Down Lane: Mr Miller commented that the traffic calming measures in Down Lane seem to have been effective. Cllr Hunt expressed the Gallery's gratitude to the Highways committee, as traffic had slowed down and those walking to the Chapel were using the safer side of the road. Removing the white lines had also been effective.

The Street; Cllr Curtis and Ken Miller and some residents had had a meeting with SCC Highways to discuss safety measures for the A3 end of the Street. Bahram Assadi did not present the options he had in mind as they were restricted by lack of finance and after a lengthy site visit SCC were able to appreciate the magnitude of the issue. Instead they agreed to look at what would be possible if money were not a constraint and return with this plan so that the Traffic Committee could evaluate and see whether apportioning or raising funds might be appropriate. Cllr Curtis suggested that a similar site meeting be held, with GBC Cllrs. and Cllr Johnson so they might also appreciate the issues for themselves.

Polsted Lane: The Clerk was asked to follow up the problem of water on the corner of Polsted Lane with Highways.

Pollution: Cllr Curtis asked the Council to agree a formal request to have sight of recent pollution readings taken by GBC.

Avenue: Cllr Sharples asked the traffic committee to consider similar measures in the Avenue to those carried out in Down Lane. The speed limit in the Avenue is the national one, 50mph, and he felt 30mph would be more appropriate due to the number of pedestrians on the road in the Avenue. It was agreed that this should be looked at.

111/15 **Members report: Allotments and Environmental Projects**

Pond: Cllr Sharples proposed that a sign be put up so that people know what is happening to the pond. This was agreed.

Common: Mr Juerck, GBC, is drawing up a maintenance plan but Cllr Sharples is of the view that there are a number of people who would like to join a group to decide what the common is for and how it should be used. It was agreed to pursue this, and to invite interested parties, including David Haskins, who had built up a good working knowledge and who had set up the Compton Clearance Groups originally. An article will be put in the Compton NEWS and a meeting held in January. Cllr Sharples will put together a small Parish Council committee to take this forward, Cllr Curtis agreed to join the group

112/15 **Members report: Youth and recreation**

86/15: new playground equipment: a report was tabled at the meeting on the recent site visit undertaken by Cllr Graham and the Clerk and the remedial work that needs to be done to the current playground, as well as the proposals for new equipment and for car parking. It was **agreed** to hold a public meeting in the Club to advise people of the proposals and to gather responses. The Clerk to liaise with Cllrs Graham and Patel to agree a date. It was agreed that the Clerk should seek additional quotations for the equipment.

113/15 **Members report: Watts Gallery and Cemetery**

- a) *Cemetery committee meeting:* the minutes from the meeting held in August had been circulated. Cllr Hunt confirmed that the beech tree with a fungal growth adjacent to the Chapel was subject to ongoing scrutiny.
- b) *Mary Watts Diaries and Gallery guide book: (Cllr Hunt left the meeting for this agenda item, having first given an outline of the background to the grant applications).*
 - i) *Mary Watts Diaries:* this publication is the result of 10 years of work and reads very well. Compton is very much at the heart of her diaries. The cost of printing the diaries is £10,000 and this money will gradually be recovered through sales, but help is needed with the up front costs. The Parish Council would receive a credit in the book if they are able to support this.
 - ii) *A circular walk from the Gallery through the village would* be included in the new Guide Book.

At the recent Heritage weekend, where there had been more than 1,000 visitors, people had been interested in the village as well as the Gallery. The Gallery requested a grant of £800 towards the map illustrations.

Members discussed these two grant applications in detail. It was **agreed** that the Council should not support funding for the diaries. These do not have a direct benefit to the village.

Cllr Graham PROPOSED, SECONDED by Cllr Nagaty, that the Parish Council support the cost of the illustrations for the Guide Book at a cost of £800, as the walks will bring visitors into the village as well as the Gallery, and will support other village enterprises. All were in favour.

114/15 **Members report: Planning**

- a) List of approved planning applications had been circulated prior to the meeting
- b) *Changes to the Local Enforcement Plan*: email from Cllr Parsons had been circulated prior to the meeting and was noted.
- c) *Broadbridge cottage*: Cllr Graham advised that it is quiet at present, with the only significant application being Broadbridge cottages. One planning application made last year for this dwelling, which is in a conservation area, has now gone to appeal. Another application has been made for the same design on a different part of the plot. The Council failed to determine this in the allotted time and this has also gone to appeal on grounds of non-determination. There had been a number of objections to this application and an amendment had been submitted, turning the house around in the plot by 45°. Cllr Graham understands that there is no need for further parish council objections unless there is a material change, as these have been logged. Cllr Curtis asked whether appeals could also be listed and circulated with the planning list. This was agreed.
- d) *Eastbury Barn*: there is evidence of bats and a survey will need to be done to decide how best to accommodate these before any permissions are given. The Clerk is still awaiting an update from GBC as to the special circumstances or whether it is simply sufficient to state that special circumstances exist as the barn is within Green Belt and it had been agreed that all special circumstances should be noted with the planning list updates.
- e) *Land south of Woodside*, end of Priorsfield Road. This has been cleared and a post and rail fence installed. It was noted that applications to build on the land had been turned down in the past.

115/14 **Members report: Village Hall**

There was nothing to report

116/15 **Village Sign**

Cllr Sharples is waiting for quotations. The proposal will now be advertised in the NEWS, on the notice board and on the website, with requests for feedback to the Parish Clerk.

117/15 **Finance**

- a) *Management accounts to 31st August*: the Clerk reported a problem with the accounts software, which cannot be rectified immediately due to a problem with her computer. Once this has been resolved, she will circulate the accounts.
- b) *Schedule of income and expenditure to 31st August* had been circulated prior to the meeting. The total receipts for the period 1st July to 31st August at £1790.06 and expenditure over the same period of £1422.16 were noted.

118/15 **Clerk's Report**

- a) *Parish handyman*: diary of duties carried out in the last two months had been circulated prior to the meeting. Thanks were recorded to Peter Borrett for all his work.
- b) *Bin next to the War Memorial*: there is a small one on the post which is unsightly and will be removed. The possibility of installing a bigger bin in the area will be pursued if needed.

119/15 **Action list**: had been circulated prior to the meeting and was noted.

120/15 **Councillors business: any further business for noting or including on a future agenda**

Rectory: the view was that it should be both locally listed and Grade II listed if possible, but it is not possible to gain access to acquire evidence and photographs. The Diocese has referred Cllr Curtis to the Natural History centre, but there is little information there. It was agreed that it is a lovely Arts and Crafts building and Cllr

Curtis agreed to make the application on behalf of the Parish Council.

121/15 **Compton News:** the item concerning the new village sign was agreed

122/15 **Correspondence:** there was no new correspondence.

123/15 **Dates of meetings:** 18th November, 20th January.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 10.30pm.