



COMPTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Compton Parish Council, held on
Wednesday 20th January 2016 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, C Sharples
County Cllr G Johnson
Borough Cllrs M Illman , M Parsons and T Rooth
2 members of the public
In attendance: The Clerk, Mrs J Cadman

01/16 **Apologies for Absence:** were received from Cllr P Graham

02/16 **Declarations of interest**
Cllr Nagaty and Cllr Stevens declared a pecuniary interest in the Blackwell Farm Development]

03/16 **Minutes of meeting held 18th November 2015:** these were agreed as a correct record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman.

04/16 **Report from the Police:**
PCSO Damon White had reported as follows:
2/12: theft of plant x 2
3/12: card fraud
17/12: assault: road rage
24/12: drink driver
31/12: theft of exhibits
13/1: theft of trailer
The accident on the 19th January had been caused by black ice, due to water running across the road.

05/16 **Chairmans report**

- a) *Footpath/bridleway from Footpath 453 (Wanborough) to Footpath 446 (Worplesdon):* Cllr Stevens tabled maps from 1993, which indicate that there was a footpath at that time, and it is numbered on the maps as FP480. The Clerk will discuss this with Luke Dawson, SCC Rights of Way Officer.
- b) *Flexford Gap:* residents are very unhappy about the lack of consultation from SCC.
- c) *New Pond Road Bridge:* At the recent meeting, Network Rail had made it clear that there are no funds to widen this bridge, and that they have no legal obligation to do so. Jeremy Hunt, MP, had recommended that hatched lines be investigated to make cycling over the bridge safer but Cllr Curtis believed that these would do more harm than good, as they would infer safety on a very dangerous bridge. As the bridge is safe for another two or three years, nothing will be done at present.
- d) *Annual Parish Meeting:* to be held in the village hall this year. Members agreed that the meeting will be held on the 21st April, the Queen's 90th birthday, and will combine a celebration with the usual business. It was suggested that the meeting focus on the history of the village over the 90 year period of the life of our Queen. Cllr. Curtis suggested the inclusion of Conservation - Cllrs decided to consider the matter and finalise details for the March News.
- e) *The Artists' Studio:* Cllr Stevens had attended the recent tour of the Studio at Limnerslease and congratulated the Gallery on this wonderful achievement.

06/16 **Reports from County and Borough Cllrs**

Cllr G Johnson reported as follows:

- a) *Flexford Gap:* Cllr Johnson had spoken to John Hilder, SCC, who had advised that he intended to hold a consultation on the proposed closure.
- b) *Speed through the village:* Cllr Johnson is very concerned about speed through the village, and hoped that a scheme could be devised to calm the traffic. He supports the suggestion of a 20mph speed limit in all the villages particularly in areas where children cross the road.

- c) *Grant to Watts Gallery*: Cllr Johnson had approved a grant from his personal allowance for signage on Down Lane
- d) *Polsted Lane Gully*: this is under investigation by SCC personnel. Mr Miller and Cllr Curtis have a meeting scheduled for 27th January to discuss this and other drainage issues on the Street.
- e) *Mr Podger*: the court order means that no action can be taken against Mr Podger until after the end of February.
- f) *Withies Pond*: Cllr Johnson expressed his willingness to put some money from his councillors allowance for 2016/17 towards the work to be done to be pond.

Cllrs M Illman and M Parsons reported as follows:

- a) *Town Centre master plan*: the consultation has now closed and the responses will feed into further plans, to be made public in the spring.
- b) *Crematorium development*: plans to re-develop and modernise Guildford crematorium are under way.

07/16 **Public Forum**

1. *Watts Gallery*: Mr Miller had been a volunteer at the Gallery for more than 12 years. He had been to one of the openings of the Studio and found it to be tremendous. He congratulated Perdita and her team .
2. *Local bus Services*: Mr Miller advised members that SCC are reviewing the local bus services, with the aim of making savings. Cuts, once agreed with Stage Coach, will take place from September 2016. It is proposed that the no 46 bus is re-routed so that it no longer goes to Guildford via Compton and Shackleford, as the passengers from these villages only make up 27 of the 450 on an average day for this bus. This means that there will be no bus route through Compton, despite being assured last year that one would continue. People who cannot drive will be isolated, and workers to the nursing home, the gallery, the Lemongrass restaurant and Withies as well as other small businesses will be disadvantaged.
Members **agreed** that the consultation regarding cuts to bus services should be extensively advertised in the village through the website, flyers and posters, and in the Compton News. Cllr Stevens will write a piece for the News and Cllr Curtis will devise a flyer to be delivered with the News. Additional flyers will be delivered as necessary and local businesses advised.
3. *Green*: members discussed the damaged done to the Green by visitors to the village hall the previous Saturday night. The ground was very wet, and cars had sunk into the ground, and had to be pulled out by rescue trucks, which caused more damage.
Members **agreed** that the proposal for permanent parking on the Green will not be pursued. The entrance onto the Green will be closed by a chain between the two posts, and no parking signs erected.

08/16 **Matters Arising**

1. Cllr Curtis had completed the application for listed status for the Rectory. GBC have requested more images, which she will supply.

09/16 **Members report: Local Plan**

- a) *Independent Landscape Impact Assessment*: Cllr Stevens had identified two companies to undertake this, but advised that it would be difficult to ask them to quote when GBC has not publicised its plans for Compton. It was agreed no further action will be taken in this respect until it is clear what land will be affected.
- b) Cllr Nagaty, Cllr Curtis and Cllr Graham had attended a meeting about the proposed plans for the railway station. The plans consist of a wall of flats, linked together, so affording little view between them. It appeared that most people who attended the meeting had disapproved of the plans and the Guildford Society and Guildford Residents' Association did not support them.

10/16 **Members report: Highways**

1. Down Lane: the surface of the walkway has become unkeyed and is lifting. A technical investigation is ongoing. There are other issues to resolve, including moving the paint brush gates and removing the metal posts. The Gallery scheme for a crossing to the studios is taking shape, with tree removal and implementation of a path having already been done.
1. *Gallery scheme for crossing to studios*: a great deal of tidying up has taken place on the left of Down

lane, and work has been done to the pond. This will enhance the area and improve crossing safety. There is a question mark over the viability of the ProTeq work in Down Lane and until this has been resolved it is unlikely that the crossing will be implemented as this is also scheduled to be by ProTeq in the same material.

2. *The Street*: a verbal agreement has been received from Highways for the installation of an *Unsuitable for HGVs* sign at the beginning of Polsted Lane, the beginning of Withies Lane and at the end of Down Lane. Confirmation is needed from Bahram Assadi, who is unwell at present. Mr Miller will follow this up.
3. *Ditching and drains*: these are a growing problem in the parish and poor maintenance and excess water has resulted in pools of water in the Street, Polsted Lane and the Avenue. Mr Miller and Cllr Curtis hope to be better informed after their meeting with Highways on 27th January.
4. *Pollution*: a meeting had been held with Gary Durrant, from GBC Environment department. He had advised that there are only 10 testing tubes for the whole borough. Cllr Curtis and Mr Miller have a meeting scheduled for 21st January with Gary Durrant.

11/16 **Members report: Allotments and Environmental Projects**

- a) *The Avenue*: a meeting had been held between Cllr Sharples, the Clerk and Hendrick Jurk and it had been agreed with him to hold a meeting in March with selected local people to talk about jobs that need doing and what straightforward job local people can do to leave GBC contractors free for other work. It was noted that GBC have already done quite a bit of work to the Black Path. Mr Jurk wished to tackle the Himalayan Balsam this year, and it was pointed out to him that this is a job that could be easily passed to local people.
- b) *Allotments*: Cllr Sharples had discovered that these had been established in around 1830, making them among the oldest in Surrey.

12/16 **Members report: Youth and recreation**

- a) *Playground*: It was agreed to use the April Annual Parish Meeting to discuss proposals and get feedback.
- b) Mark Knight would be asked to use his tractor and roller to even out the ruts when the weather has improved.

13/16 **Members report: Watts Gallery and Cemetery**

- a) *Minutes of November meeting*: had been circulated before the meeting. The following items were discussed:
 - i. Cllr Hunt confirmed that the Gallery are working to the plan attached to the Agreement.
 - ii. Hilary Underwood: Members **agreed** that she should be allowed to purchase a plot in the cemetery. She was a Compton resident before her marriage, and had worked at the Gallery at that time and ever since, in a very valuable role.
 - iii. Wooden steps from dais: Cllr Sharples will discuss an alternative to these slippery steps with the Clerk.
- b) *Grant*: members **agreed** a grant of £500 to Watts Gallery for the provision of signage for the Pilgrims Way properties and organisations. Funding to be received from SCC, Members Allocation.
- c) Cllr Curtis asked about the progress of the rail that parishioners had been asking for, for some time. Cllr Hunt stated that she was aware of the need and that it was a priority for Watts Gallery too and that possible solutions would be tabled at the next Cemetery Committee meeting.
- d)

14/16 **Members report: Planning**

- a) List of approved planning applications had been circulated prior to the meeting.
- b) There had been no issues with recent planning applications.
- c) The conservation document is in Dropbox
- d) Development in the Green Belt: Clarification will be sought on the term 'exceptional circumstances', when referring to development in the Green Belt.

15/16 **Members report: Village Hall**

- a) Cllr Nagaty reported that a good generator would cost between £3500 and £5000.
- b) Cllr Graham had advised that the village hall committee were not prepared to house a

generator for emergency use. The Clerk will investigate whether they had considered that it might be useful for the hall in a power cut.

16/16 **Village Sign**

- a) Cllr Sharples and the Clerk will meet concerning the planning application.
- b) Cllr Sharples had contacted the people doing the work regarding progress.

17/16 **Withies Pond**

The sampling has been done and results should be received by the end of the week or the beginning of the following week. Once these have been received, and no problems have been highlighted, the clearance will be able to start. Cllr Sharples had contacted Mr More-Molyneux to advise him of progress. Cllr Johnson will be asked for a grant for the wooden rail to be placed at the front.

18/16 **Finance**

- a) *Management accounts to 31st December had been circulated prior to the meeting and were noted and approved.*
- b) *Schedule of income and expenditure to 31st December had been circulated prior to the meeting and the expenditure for the period of £2868.64 was noted and approved.*

19/16 **Clerk's Report**

- a) *Parish handyman:* diary of duties carried out had been circulated prior to the meeting. Cllr Sharples and Mr Borrett will discuss where the debris from cleaning the pavements can be put. The pavement between the Barn and White Hart Cottages is badly in need of clearing. Cllr Sharples will ask SWT if they can deal with this.
- b) *Mayors Award for service to the community:* three names were suggested, the Clerk will find more information and put these forward for consideration.
- c) *United Charities of Compton:* members considered the requirement for a committee, which was agreed, and nominated Cllr Curtis to serve on the committee with Mr Foran and Mr Barnett.

20/16 **Action list:** had been circulated prior to the meeting. The following matters were raised:

- a) the clerk was asked to insert the date on the list when the matter initially arose.
- b) Cemetery data: Cllr Hunt will ask Nick Tromans, Curator, to report to the cemetery committee at their next meeting.
- c) Saltbox at Almsgate: one is needed here, and on Eastbury Lane.
- d) It was agreed that actions from each meeting be added to the list and circulated shortly after the meeting so that where possible, they could be carried out or progress made, before the following meeting.

21/16 **Councillors business:** *any further business for noting or including on a future agenda*

- a) *Website:* Cllr Curtis proposed that the Parish Council have a separate website from the village website. This is good practice, but also allows more information to be kept and displayed on the website. This was agreed, and thanks recorded to Cllr Curtis for doing this. Cllr Curtis will send a draft of how the website will look, and the proposed contents.
- b) *Defibrillator:* Cllr Hunt requested that the Parish Council consider providing a defibrillator for the village. After discussion, it was agreed that the Parish Council purchase two, one to be kept in the centre of the village, the other at the Gallery. The Clerk will obtain a quotation and circulate for agreement from all councillors, to be ratified at the March meeting.
- c) The Annual Litter pick and 'Clean for the Queen' will take place on the 19th March. This will be advertised in the News. It will not be necessary to obtain litter pickers, etc, from the Council, but they will be asked to collect the rubbish at the end of the morning, as usual. Arrangements as usual.

22/16 **Compton News**

- proposed changes to the bus service
- damage to the Green and proposed action.

- Congratulations to Watts Gallery for the studios
- Date of Annual Parish meeting: 21st April: save the date. Celebrate the Queen's birthday.
- Litter pick: 19th March.

23/16 **Correspondence**

24/16 **Dates of meetings:** 16th March, 18th May
Annual Parish meeting: 21st April.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.58pm.