



COMPTON PARISH COUNCIL

Notice of Parish Council meeting

Local government Act 1972

Minutes of a meeting of Compton Parish Council, held on

Wednesday 16th July 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, K Stevens, J Parsons, K Patel
Borough Cllr J Palmer
Sgt K Barwood
3 members of the public

In attendance: Mrs M Lordan

- 75/14 **Apologies for Absence:** had been received from Cllr P Graham
Apologies from the County Cllr G Johnson and Borough Cllr N Ward were also noted.
- 76/14 **Declarations of interest:** none were made
- 77/14 **Minutes of meeting held 15th January 2014:** Cllr Parsons queried Item 68/14 ownership of the land behind The Harrow and the Village Hall. He was advised that Punch Taverns own this.
The minutes were then agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.
- 78/14 **Matters Arising:** The Drop-In event went very well with better attendance than expected, and the Local Plan was reviewed in much more depth. Members debated the next step and **agreed** that a meeting of the Planning Committee should be held, and Cllrs Curtis, Parsons and Stevens should be invited to attend.
- 79/14 **Chairman's Report**
Cllr Haskins advised that there was now an established link to the Parish Council on his website 'ubiubi.org'. This is a blog he has set up, and includes some of the day to day incidents and some photographs of events occurring in Compton.
Thames Water: have replaced the cracked manhole cover on Polsted Lane after at least 10 years. At the same time they replaced a missing cover to a water meter in Spiceall.
In June there had been flash flooding at night on the corner of Polsted /Withies Lane again and a fallen tree on The Avenue.
VAS: machines had been swapped around, the collected data showed average speed was about 30mph but the maximum was 50+ mph. There has been a 30% increase in HGV vehicles in the last year.
Commons: A working party on the common discovered Himalayan Balsom has replaced the nettles. GBC agree with the general plant ecology woodlands management plan, and may use it as an education tool.
Allotments: There has been an incident at the Allotments, a case of assault, which Cllr Haskins has written to Cllr N Ward about. Cllr Curtis asked to see a copy of the letter.
Litter Pick: High Viz jackets and litter picking tools have now been issued to all Parish Councillors, and Cllr Haskins showed them to the meeting. Cllr Curtis asked whether there had been a new traffic survey done since 2008 which would show the increase, Cllr Haskins said this depended on which day of the week they do the survey, however 3 years data, recording traffic in both directions, has seen a big increase. Cllr Palmer asked whether the data could be made available to GBC, as 3 years' experience with data would show a clearer picture.
Street lights: have been replaced at the end of the village.
BT: Installation of BT fibre optic has started, which will mean better Broadband reception.
Network Rail: Bridge replacement: This appeared to be going ahead, although Cllr Palmer said GBC had placed an objection. He said Anne Milton is to make enquiries with Network Rail. There had been a 'Drop-In' at Guildford Rugby Club but, as it was not advertised, not many people turned up. Cllr Curtis questioned whether the re-routing of traffic had been publicised, and whether there a timescale of the diversion. She also asked, if the proposal would go to committee if SCC objects.

- 80/14 **Report from Police:** Ryan Stephens has been seconded for a few months and there is no replacement as yet. Point of contact is Carol Page (40185) of the Barnwood team.
Latest incidents include a person preying on the vulnerable, including a common assault in the Chilworth/Shalford area; thefts of BMWs taken from driveways without needing keys, and shed break ins. Public are asked to be aware and not to leave house doors/windows open or unlocked even if in the garden. Garden machinery is highly sought after.
- 81/14 **Presentation from Louise Williams, Surrey Community Action, proposed Housing Needs Survey in Compton.**
Louise said she was employed by SCA and GBC, to work with parish councils to see if there is a need and if so, for what. Her survey *Local Housing for Local People* can identify suitable pieces of land that can be developed into 6-12 homes. Cllr Stevens asked the criteria for proving 'local people'. Louise said GBC had stated this to be: living in the village 5-10 years, close family i.e. parents or siblings, working in the village, or have had to move away at some time due to lack of affordable housing.
Some parish councils share the survey if they are geographically linked, ie recently a collective one has been done for Puttenham/Seale and Sands/Wanborough. Either a paper survey or Survey Monkey can be used. Paper surveys produce more results in some parishes.
Cllr Parsons said he was not sure how you solved the (housing) problem by doing this. 80% of property in Surrey is still not 'affordable'.
Cllr Stevens said this was a good initiative. However, 6 or so houses is a drop in the ocean.
Louise said the survey was not shared with developers.
Members asked for examples of other parishes' surveys, to be sent to the clerk, Joanna Cadman.
- 82/14 **Report from Borough Councillor**
Funding: Cllr Palmer said funding of £10m had been announced by central government. This funding will include transport projects in Guildford, access improvement sites, sustainable transport projects, ie. Cycling, pedestrian, byeways, horse bridleways etc. The Transport Task Group meet monthly to look at alternative routes.
National Armed Forces Day: Guildford have put forward a bid for events to take place next year in Stoke Park – this could be a big boost for the local economy.
Community Information Levy: Cllr Palmer has attended 2 meetings at council, 14 councillors voted against it. The general feeling was that housing numbers were too high.
Local Transport Scheme This consultation is now closed.
- 83/14 **Members Report: Highways**
Cllr Curtis advised of an accident in The Street, where a car coming off the A3 too fast skidded into the wall of Eastbury Manor. This was attended by the police. A member of the public said 2 weeks ago a car hit his wall on the corner of Withies Lane.
The verges are being left longer for butterflies. Sight lines are bad.
Cllr Curtis asked for 'Silent Tarmac' to be reinstalled in The Street. This is in place now on part of the A3 Guildford/University. Cllr Palmer advised to write to Cllr G Johnson – 'Noise Action' is top of the list for Guildford.
- 84/14 **Members Report: Allotments and Environmental Projects**
Cllr Haskins reported all is well. There are no free plots. He is keen to set up a monthly plan of 'Things to Do' and wants to build up a 'Compton Crew'. He intends to ask the villagers for support via the Compton News.
- 85/14 **Members Report: Youth and Recreation**
Cllr Patel said that the grass cutting was being done regularly by a Housing Association. The play area was well kept. There was a request for play equipment for older children.
The recently cut cherry tree needs tidying up.
- 86/14 **Members Report: Watts Gallery and Cemetery**
Cllr Haskins said he made regular visits to the cemetery and all seems to be working well. The Parish Council's interest is Burial Authority and Landlord. With this in mind he proposed a more simple arrangement, i.e. that the Parish Council does not now need a cemetery sub-committee. He had had meetings with The Gallery and they were in favour of this. Cllr Parsons asked if Cllr Haskins would put forward this suggestion in writing for the Parish Council to consider and vote on. It was important to remember that the Parish Council were still

responsible for Burials and the Cemetery land.

3 benches for the Dais were on order.

Surrey Wildlife Trust are to do a survey of the cemetery.

A suggestion of a Railing to be placed, along the left side of the boundary before cloister to be considered.

Cllr Haskins has been working with Lucy Ashley who has taken photographs of certain gravestones for the website

87/14 **Members Report: Planning**

Cllr Parsons said that a dispute between Monkshatch Garden Farm (Jenny Seagrove) and the Bensons over drainage was taking place. He was working with them to come to an understanding. Other neighbours have started to create issues re access.

Work continues on the new building on the main road.

Rectory development – nothing to report.

88/14 **Members Report: Local Plan**

Cllr Stevens reported events as follows:

April 30 - Revised Green Belt & Countryside Study released

GBC published Vol V of the Green Belt and Countryside study, which earmarks additional potential development areas. It has also published an addendum to Vol 2, which reviews the way the green belt purposes were scored. H1 and H2 (Manor and Blackwell Farms) now score 3 and 2 respectively and are listed as having "high green belt sensitivity", which is an improvement on the initial assessment which gave the two land parcels a score of 1. If those two are taken together, they would score 4 (the maximum) and they should be combined as development of H2 is dependent on H1 being developed also.

June 4 - Exec Committee Meeting

Exec Committee meeting - The Exec Committee voted unanimously to approve the draft plan and ignored the requirement to review the housing number from the Scrutiny Committee, but there was a lot of questioning by councillors of the University's motives in putting forward Blackwell Farm; and two members of the Exec voiced their concerns about the proposed development. There was also concern expressed from some quarters about the housing numbers. Three representatives from UniS gave speeches. *June 6 - Housing group meeting*

Tom Stevens - along with members of GSoc, Guildford Vision Group and the GRA - met with GL Hearn and Anne Milton to discuss the housing figure (Stephen Mansbridge, Monika Juneja were there as observers). GL Hearn defended its methodology and its 652 houses pa, but is going to re-run the model with revised ONS data and hopefully it will consider a number of points made about how different (but equally valid) assumptions would lead to a much lower housing figure. GL Hearn will hopefully be providing further information about its modelling approach and how its numbers were derived so these can be explored and discussed further.

June 12 - Town Centre Vision

The Town Centre Vision document went to the Scrutiny Committee on June 12. It seems positive. No housing numbers are mentioned, and there's a big question mark over where the displaced traffic will go to, but the overall principle of regenerating the town and avoiding development on the green belt should be one that many will be happy to support.

June 19 - EGM - Draft plan approved for 2nd consultation

It was a long night - went on to 11.30pm! The University had three representatives, including Greg Melly and Tim Hancock (MD of Terence O'Rourke - UniS consultant planner). The third speaker was secretary to the UniS Planning Officer Malcolm Parry, who delivered the same speech she had presented to the Exec Committee. It all ended with 28 votes to 14 (with one abstention) to proceed with the draft Local Plan as it stands, even though most Councillors said that they didn't like the Local Plan and felt the housing numbers were too high.

June 28 - councillor drop-in event

There appeared to be a focus on the youth/hard-to-reach groups. The venues for the popups - Guildfest, Tesco (at Ashenden), Spectrum - suggested that GBC was going for a particular demographic. The URS consultant I spoke to suggested that GBC might contact UniS's alumni to capture the views of young professionals, but many of them, too, will live outside the borough and likely to be biased. Two "youth engagement" events were planned to be held at the University. I pointed out this lack of balance, it has since been amended, but the consultation still appears weighted towards younger, less affluent members of the public. I'd be interested to know who suggested these venues to URS.

July 1 - 2nd phase of consultation began

July 7 - GRA meeting

Overall feeling was that the housing figure was too high. All members felt that it should be a figure with a 3 in front of it; two members felt that a figure with a 4 was more realistic, although they would prefer something around 350 pa.

July 8 - Excessive housing debate

GBC debated the Excessive Housing petition organised by GGG. I was invited to speak at the last minute because someone had dropped out. It was rather disappointing as the Council seemed less inclined to drop the housing figure than it had been at the EGM on June 19. (There were five abstentions, everyone else voted against the petition.) It became clear during the debate that CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) money, for roads in particular, is an incentive and GBC

feels that building on the Green Belt is required by Government and is the only way to get the money it wants. However, it seems unclear whether CIL money can be used for infrastructure outside of a new development area so there could be no net gain for Guildford. It also flies in the face of "objectively assessed housing need", which we're supposed to be basing our Local Plan on.

89/14 **Members Report: Village Hall:** in Cllr Graham's absence, no report was tabled.

90/14 **Finance**

- a) *Management accounts to 30th June:* had been circulated prior to the meeting and were approved
- b) *Schedule of income and expenditure to 30th June:* had been circulated prior to the meeting. Total income for the period 1st April to 30th June amounted to: £7258.93 and total expenditure was £5777.64. This was noted and approved.

91/14 **Clerk's Report**

Compton Parking on the Common: Cllr Curtis said Green Mesh was first choice in the survey. Cllr Parsons asked if we could investigate land owned by GBC in that area with regard to extra parking.

Bus Shelter: Two examples were tabled, members selected the Queensbury, to be placed opposite the Village Hall bus stop. Cllr Parsons suggested one purchase at a time and members agreed with that.

Peter Borrett: the handyman's report was circulated and members thanked Peter for his care and attention to Compton.

92/14 **Action list:** this was briefly discussed.

93/14 **Councillors business:**

No matters were raised.

94/14 **Compton News :** Cllr Stevens will send a report concerning the Local Plan.

95/14 **Correspondence**

- a) *Surrey Hills Newsletter* members took copies and agreed to continue with the membership.
- b) *Guildford in Bloom/Compton in Bloom* Cllr Curtis had received a letter mentioning participation to Compton in Bloom for next year. Members agreed to offer £75 (circa) as a prize but said it was not the parish council's responsibility to organise.

Categories: Best Small Front Garden and Best Large Front Garden

Best Garden for Wildlife

Best Business in Bloom

Best Container Garden

Best Vegetable / Kitchen Garden

96/14 **Dates of meetings:** 17th September, 19th November

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 10.00pm.