



COMPTON PARISH COUNCIL

Notice of Parish Council meeting

Local government Act 1972

Minutes of a meeting of Compton Parish Council, held on

Wednesday 17th September 2014 at 7.00pm

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

Present: Cllr D Haskins (in the chair), Cllrs P Graham, J Parsons, K Patel and K Stevens
County Cllr G Johnson
Borough Cllrs J Parsons and N Ward
10 Members of the public

In attendance: The Clerk, Mrs J Cadman

97/14 **Apologies for Absence:** were received from Cllr Curtis.

98/14 **Declarations of interest:** Cllr Stevens declared a pecuniary interest in the Local Plan, due to where she lives. She also declared a personal interest, as part of the campaign group to stop building within the Green Belt. A discussion took place between the Council and the public on the fact that everyone had an interest in the Local Plan. It was agreed that Cllr Stevens should continue to report on the Local Plan, but should keep her reports factual and not state any personal views.

99/14 **Minutes of meeting held 16th July 2014:** were agreed as a correct record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman.

100/14 **Matters Arising**

78/14: Drop in event: Cllr Stevens reported that 50 parishioners came to the event, where there were posters showing the potential impact of the Local Plan. The general feeling was that people were not happy about the housing number in Guildford, were concerned about the loss of open spaces, the impact on traffic and public services. The Blackwell Farm and New Pond Road sites were discussed

91/14: Parking on the common: members discussed the violence on the Green the following Saturday, following a party at the Club, and agreed that this did not strengthen the case for extra parking for the Club. Parking numbers would be controlled by fencing around the parking area, and a padlock on the access gate. The problem is that, although the survey showed a number of people in favour of parking on the green, the people who live closest to the green were very much against.

It was understood that at present the village hall and the club are talking about using the piece of land behind the hall for parking, with access down the left hand side of the hall. It was suggested that more investigation be undertaken into this proposal before taking any further action regarding parking on the green, but also suggested that the proposed parking on the green be taken to its next logical step, so that proposals and costings could be received and taken into account, and this was agreed.

101/14 **Chairman's Report:** Cllr Haskins advised that his Chairman's report is on his website, so that he could record all actions and occasions.

At present he is moving all the VAS machines, with the help of Nick Palmer. It has finally been possible to get some data from the one by the Post Office. Last week one vehicle was recorded as going through the village at 104mph.

Fly tipping: GBC are very good at taking away fly tipping as soon as it is reported. Cllr Haskins recommended using the GBC website.

Allotments: the allotment people had just said goodbye to the person who had introduced pigs a few years ago, which had proved very successful. The allotments are fully let. There had been a working party the previous Saturday morning and 40 people had come.

Parish Noticeboard: the new board has been installed.

The *Love where you Live* team from GBC had been to the parish recently and had undertaken all the tasks asked of them.

Cllr Haskins had attended the official opening of Emma Palmer's pictures at Watts Gallery.

102/14 **Reports from Borough and County Cllrs**

County Councillor: Cllr G Johnson

- a) *New Pond Road Bridge*: two meetings had been held recently. At the first meeting, Network Rail had presented their cause for not improving the bridge, but this was not received well. The Head of Highways at SCC had written to point out that there was considerable support for a new bridge with access for pedestrians and cyclists. A further meeting had been arranged, with Jeremy Hunt and Anne Milton in attendance, which Cllr Haskins had attended. The options put on the table were either a pedestrian walk way on each side of the bridge, or a separate footpath. A further meeting will be held on the 28th November, chaired by Jeremy Hunt and Anne Milton, and it is hoped that this will result in some substantial progress. Cllr Haskins recalled that Network Rail said they were proposing a module design, with two spans. It would therefore in theory be possible to increase this to three spans. Cllr Johnson said that there would have to be road closures and diversions, but there is no indication when this will be at present. He was asked where SCC responsibility took over from Network Rail, and clarified that SCC take over at the bottom of the ramp.
- b) *Bus services*: there is some talk about bus services being reduced. This is not the case, but a 10% saving is needed, which it is intended to achieve without reducing services. Ken Miller had attended a meeting to ascertain whether the community bus (Compo) could be used in conjunction with other organisations.
- c) *Project Horizon*: this had made progress in Surrey. The 5 year plan has been reduced to 2, although this has had to be extended because of poor weather. Cllr Johnson asked for reports on any gullies that need cleaning.
- d) *Winter preparations*: are under way and are getting more resources than in the past.
- e) *Down Lane*: Mr Miller advised that a meeting has been arranged for the 22nd of September to look at the Down Lane scheme, including the pond.

Borough Councillor: Cllr J Palmer

- a) *Local Plan*: the consultation period ends on the 22nd September and GBC will decide how to proceed after that.
- b) *National Armed forces day*: Guildford has won the honour of hosting this on the 28th June 2015. A member of the Royal family will be present, and there will be a fly over from the Red Arrows.
- c) *Flooding*: a recent review has looked at the events of last winter. Discussions have been held with the Environment Agency, SCC and others and a number of areas have been identified for action. Compton was included on that list.
- d) Cllr Graham asked for Cllr Palmer's current position on the Borough Council. Cllr Palmer advised that he had stepped down as deputy leader of the Council, which meant that he was no longer a member of the Executive Committee. This would give him more time to concentrate on his parishes.

Borough Councillor: Cllr N Ward

Cllr Ward advised of the proposal by WBC to build a number of houses at one end of New Pond Lane. Cllr Stevens referred to the number of students currently living in university owned accommodation, at 60%, and asked why this was not a higher percentage. Cllr Palmer said that this figure was not set in stone, and in many university towns it was the policy for students to live in university accommodation. Cllr Stevens asked why the university land had not been included in the SHLAA and was advised that it was their land, and up to them whether it was included or not.

103/14 **Report from the Police**

PC Ryan Stephens had sent apologies for his absence over the last few months, as he had been unwell. He was now back at work and was still the Neighbourhood Officer for this parish.

104/14 **Public Forum**

Witley motor cycle club: thanked the Parish Council for allowing them to use the green. They had 70 bikes there, spanning the last 90 years.

105/14 **Members report: Highways**

Cllr Curtis and Mr Miller had a meeting with SCC about issues surrounding traffic in general in Compton.

- a) *Quiet Lane initiative for Down Lane*: SCC have confirmed that they have the budget for this, and a meeting

will be held to take this forward the following week. It is believed that the volume of traffic has increased considerably.

b) *Surface of Street*: this is not a quiet surface. The surface of the slip road from the A3 is quiet, where there is no reason. There will be more discussion concerning this, in conjunction with Project Horizon.

c) *HGVs and SatNavs*: this issue is being monitored by SCC.

d) *The Avenue*: there is an 'unsuitable for HGVs' sign at one end and not at the other. This is under discussion.

e) *Crossing the road*: a member of the public had joined the site meeting at this point and had confirmed how dangerous it is. It was agreed that there should be some traffic calming and Bahram Assadi will put a request for a pedestrian crossing and for traffic calming on the list for 2015/16.

f) *HGVs*: must by law use main roads where they can and only use B roads for access purposes. There is a move to try to get SCC and GBC councils to work together, and Compton Parish Council has been asked to support the initiative. All members were in agreement with this.

Cllr Haskins advised that the data used for commercially available navigation systems is not controlled, and these are what are used by foreign lorry drivers.

Cllr Ward advised about a system used in Spain, where if traffic enters a village too fast, the traffic lights in the village will turn to red.

106/14 **Members report: Allotments and Environmental Project**

Allotments: all is well, as noted in the Chairman's report

Environmental Projects: Cllr Haskins introduced his proposed 'Working Bees', regular environmental work groups. 15 people had expressed an interest so far and there are a number of projects to tackle, one of which is a listed ice house. Watts Gallery also have a project. Cllr Haskins had spoken to the McAlmont Trust about working on some projects with them. The first Working Bee will take place in October.

107/14 **Members report: Youth and recreation**

Cllr Patel said that the corner of the common had become overgrown again. The Clerk will ask Roger Deacon to deal with this.

108/14 **Members report: Watts Gallery and Cemetery**

a) Minutes of the meeting of the Cemetery committee held Friday 18th July had been circulated prior to the meeting.

b) Members received a paper from Cllr Haskins on the future of the cemetery committee, circulated prior to the meeting. The contents were noted. Members of the public were invited to speak on this matter: Mr Miller clarified that there had been a cemetery committee in place since the beginning of the last century, and the Restoration Committee was set up 19 years ago. He believed that the committee acted as the eyes and ears of the village and was invaluable to the Gallery. Mr Foran said that it had, in the past, been very difficult to find people to take an interest, and it would be a great pity to get rid of a committee of people who were engaged.

After discussion, it was agreed to make no changes until the Annual meeting next May, and to bring forward the proposal at that time.

c) *Benches*: 3 'Raffles' benches from Chic Teak had been received and were ready to be placed

d) *English Heritage*: The Designation Yearbook for 2013/14, featuring the Cemetery, was available at the meeting.

109/14 **Members report: Planning**

List of approved planning applications had been circulated prior to the meeting.

a) *Priorsfield School*: an application has been received to demolish an existing building and erect a new one. This would have no long term effect, but there would be short term disruption with construction traffic.

b) *Rectory*: permission has been granted for the new building. It was noted that the Cypress Farm application to refurbish some of its farm buildings might have an impact on light for the new building at the Rectory.

110/14 **Members report: Local Plan**

Survey: Cllr Curtis had written to all Parish Councils and had also asked them to pass the survey to the local Residents' Associations. She had received a reasonable response, of 73%.

89% of those who had responded had said that they did not feel that the Local Plan was of any benefit to their parish.

The figures presented by the Borough Council were noted to have been very complex.

Cllr Stevens had attended the *GBC Residents Association Forum*, but there was little to report. All present were invited to raise their concerns and a consultant gave some responses. Her particular table had concentrated on strategic sites. The question had been raised: if all issues were resolved for Blackwell Farm, would those attending still be unhappy with a development there, and the unanimous answer was in the affirmative.

Guildford Vision: Cllr Graham had attended this meeting. It was not a GBC group, but a number of people who live in Guildford and have a vision for the town. They are trying to integrate the town centre, improve transport, in particular integrating the station with the town. They want more affordable housing, in particular concentrating on Walnut Tree Close, next to the station. Their plan is to close the gyratory system and re-route traffic over a new bridge at the bottom of York Road. They would also remove the bus station from the middle of town, because it takes up valuable space. Cllr Graham did not think that their plans addressed the through traffic problem and the problem of getting to the A281 from the A3, as there did not seem to be a solution other than going through the centre of Guildford.

111/14 **Members report: Village Hall**

Cllr Graham reported that the hall had been redecorated over the summer.

112/14 **Finance**

- a) *Management accounts to 31st August* had been circulated prior to the meeting and were noted
- b) *Schedule of income and expenditure to 31st August* had been circulated prior to the meeting. Income of £1876.85 and expenditure of £8191.58 for the period was noted and approved.
- c) *Financial regulations*: members noted and approved the Council's financial regulations, circulated prior to the meeting. Adoption was PROPOSED by Cllr Graham, SECONDED by Cllr Haskins, with all in favour

113/14 **Clerk's Report**

- a) *Standing orders*: members noted and approved the Council's Standing Orders, circulated prior to the meeting. Adoption was PROPOSED by Cllr Parsons, SECONDED by Cllr Graham, with all in favour.
- b) *Casual Vacancy*: this vacancy has not been filled. Members were asked to consider who might be approached.
- c) *Parish handyman*: diary of duties carried out, which had been circulated before the meeting, was noted and approved.

114/14 **United Charities of Compton**

Mr Barnett reminded the meeting that at present the United Charities distributed Christmas boxes to selected people in the village. The charity is designed for the needy, but there is no real check on who receives the gifts. He has sent a note to everyone on his current list, asking them if they wanted to continue with this, and to date he had received no response. He had put an article in the newsletter, asking people to come forward if they wanted help, and had no response. He did not consider the current distribution of funds to be a proper use of UCL money.

He clarified that the funds are received from the Henry Smith Charity, and that each village in the area has a Henry Smith charity, and that funds are used in different ways.

At present there is £3302.17 in the account. Mr Barnett proposed that the charity should extend its remit to the outskirts of Godalming, where there was more likely to be a need. Or, alternatively to hand the funds back to the Parish Council to deal with. Mr Foran suggested that another responsible body be appointed to administer the charity, such as Age UK or CAB.

It was agreed that the Clerk would advise the Henry Smith Charity of the situation. The United Charities of Compton would be wound up and something more broader based set up. A further report will be tabled at the next Parish Council meeting.

115/14 **Remembrance Sunday**

Members considered the Royal British Legion's request to attach poppies to lamp-posts in the Street for an appropriate length of time during the remembrance period and **agreed** in principle. The period was confirmed to be the 24th October to the 11th November.

It was also noted that Watts Gallery are offering workshops on making terracotta poppies, to go around the War Memorial.

116/14 **Action list:** this would be circulated for noting.

117/14 **Councillors business:**

- a) *Village hall:* Cllr Graham requested an update concerning the Village Hall Lease and the land Registry amendment in time for the meeting on the 22nd September.
- b) *Parish noticeboard:* Cllr Graham suggested that the Council might consider a new noticeboard for Priorsfield Road. The Clerk would take a look after Cllr Graham had send a photograph of the existing.
- c) *Format of meetings:* members discussed and agreed the following:
 - i. That the agenda item: Chairmans Report, be moved to after Public Forum
 - ii. That an additional public forum be added at the end of the agenda
 - iii. That the Clerk devise a notice, to be put out on chairs, to clarify when public are permitted to speak, as laid down by the Local Government Act 1971.

118/14 **Compton News**

- a) *Working Bees:* Cllr Haskins to write a piece on this.
- b) *Vacancy:* the vacancy on the council will be advertised for the last time in this term of the Parish Council.

119/14 **Correspondence**

- a) *Waverley borough Council:* wished to include neighbouring parishes in their consultation on potential housing scenarios and other issues for the Waverley Local Plan, and asked members to visit the webpage www.waverley.gov.uk/newlocalplan and to give responses as individuals.

120/14 **Dates of meetings:** 19th November, 21st January, 18th March.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.40pm.