



# COMPTON PARISH COUNCIL

## Notice of Parish Council meeting

*Local government Act 1972*

Minutes of a meeting of Compton Parish Council, held on

**Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2014 at 7.00pm**

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

**Present:** Cllr F Curtis (in the chair), Cllrs P Graham, D Haskins, K Patel and J Parsons  
County Cllr G Johnson  
Borough Cllr J Palmer  
PCSO  
PCSO  
4 Members of the public  
In attendance: The Clerk, Mrs J Cadman

01/14 **Apologies for Absence:** none had been received. Cllr Rickman's absence was noted.

02/14 **Declarations of interest:** none were made.

03/14 **Minutes of meeting held 20<sup>th</sup> November 2013** were agreed as a correct record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman.

### 04/14 **Matters Arising**

*121/13:102/13: Parking at Spiceall:* the proposal is for parking at the far end of the green, which the Village Hall committee is not in favour of, as they believe it is too far away to be of use to them. It was agreed that parking here would probably be used mostly by residents, but this would free up parking elsewhere.

Cllr Haskins considered that parking is urgently necessary for the Club, who have to put on more functions in order to survive. He suggested putting down mesh on the green as a temporary measure, but members were concerned that people would then park anywhere on the green, which is very wet.

Mr Borrett offered to look at existing parking spaces in the village which might be used for village hall and club parking when they have a function. He suggested that people hiring the hall could be given a map showing where this parking is.

It was agreed to discuss this issue at the Annual Village meeting, and to seek views on where parking could be put.

*122/13: Street Lamps:* Cllr Johnson had received no information but would continue to pursue this.

*122/13: Down Lane:* Cllr Johnson advised that work on the drainage was scheduled to start on the 24<sup>th</sup> January and would last for 40 days. Access to all properties and to Watts Gallery will be maintained throughout, with the exception of one day when a pipe will be laid across the road from Watts Gallery, who will be consulted on the best day for them. The road will be re-surveyed after this is completed, and the Quiet Lanes project launched, which has received funding approval from SCC.

### 05/15 **Councillor Co-option**

The co-option of Karen Stevens onto the Parish Council was PROPOSED by Cllr Curtis, SECONDED by Cllr Haskins, with all in favour. Cllr Curtis advised the meeting that Cllr Stevens had been heavily involved with the campaign to protect the Hogs Back, and is an expert in the Local Plan and the evidence based papers.

Cllr Stevens said that she had become interested in local politics as a result of the proposals for the Hogs Back. She runs a children's book publishing company and before that was a journalist.

### 06/14 **Chairmans Report**

### 07/14 **Reports from Borough and County Cllrs**

Borough Cllr J Palmer:

a) *Borough's response to the flooding:* the Council was undertaking a fundamental review on lessons to

be learnt. It was unacceptable that the Borough Council had warned the Environmental Agency about the flooding, rather than having been advised by them, and it was hoped to meet with them soon to discuss a better warning system. The Council had distributed sandbags to several locations and a number of Borough Council employees worked over Christmas to try and help people. Cllr Curtis had been very impressed with how quickly trees had been removed from the roads, but would like a system whereby people could get a more accurate idea of how long a power cut might last.

- b) *Student accommodation:* Cllr Palmer confirmed that the National Planning Framework does not allow Councils to take student accommodation into account: provision of student accommodation does not count towards the housing allocation.

County Cllr G Johnson:

- a) *Signage:* Cllr Johnson recorded thanks to Mr Ken Miller for his work on the A3 signage. He suggested that it would be a good idea to have a local meeting with John Hilder, and he would help with this if needed. Cllr Palmer advised that the Government road minister was visiting Guildford on Friday, and he would raise this issue with him. Cllr Curtis advised that the only reason given for directing traffic through Compton was the bridge at Milford, which is 14'6", adequate for most traffic.
- b) *Response to the Local Plan Consultation:* this was discussed, Cllr Palmer stressed that all points will be taken into consideration and that each discrete issue that has been raised will be published on the website, and each will have a response. The traffic report will be published at the end of February, and the SMA in the next four weeks. There will be a workshop on the 27<sup>th</sup> January, and other opportunities to be involved afterwards.

08/14 **Report from the Police**

PCSO John Perres and PCSO Gregor Calross, from the Guildford Safer Neighbourhood team, reported as follows:

*Cllr Patel attended the meeting at 8.15pm*

- a) During the last month there had been one incident of criminal damage in the area, one fraud, and one leaving without payment.
- b) Three men had been seen inspecting a skip. The meeting was urged to call 101 if anything suspicious was seen as, although no crime had taken place here, it was useful to know what was happening in the parish, as the information could be useful in a criminal investigation.
- c) *Horses:* 14 horses are left in a location behind the sawmill. The RSPCA are still managing the horses' welfare. A letter has been written to the landowner and the parish council will be updated when there is further information.
- d) *Operation Candlelight:* a burglary prevention team was operating in certain areas of the Borough, keeping watch for suspicious vehicles or people. There had been a rise in incidences of burglary throughout the UK over Christmas. People were encouraged to mark their possessions and register them online, through the following website: [www.immobilise.com](http://www.immobilise.com)
- e) *Body in the wood:* in response to a question from Cllr Curtis, the meeting was advised that the police had attended an address in Down Lane on the 9<sup>th</sup> January, following a report concerning safety. The emergency services had found a man in his 20s and the death was being treated as unexplained, with no evidence of third party involvement.
- f) *Speed watch:* a total of 9 hours had been spent in Mill Road, and 82 people caught. Cllr Haskins reminded the meeting that Compton ran the system and that last year a fault had occurred in the data handling software, and there had been no feed-back since then. People are carrying out the volunteer speed watch, but he was concerned that they would lose interest if there was no feed-back. It was understood that letters were going out, but volunteers were not being advised of the numbers. PCSO John Perres undertook to speak to Matt Redfern and report back.

09/14 **Public Forum**

- a) *Old Rectory:* Cllr Curtis reported that she had received 4 e-mails objecting to the planning permission given for the Old Rectory. Cllr Palmer commented that the approval was valid, and that no objection had been received from Highways regarding the access.
- b) *Flooding:* Mr Borrett asked if someone from Loseley would be invited to attend the intended meeting regarding this, and was advised it was intended to do this. Mr Borrett had met with Mrs Arnold and had recommended to her that she had a water pump, which would move the water to the other side of the road.

- c) *Petrol generators*: Mr Borrett suggested that the Parish Council purchase one, and it be held at the hall or the club, so that people have somewhere to go in a powercut. He and Cllr Haskins would discuss an emergency plan. Cllr Haskins thanked Mr Borrett for all the work he is doing around the village.

10/14 **Members report: Highways**

11/14 **Members report: Allotments and Environmental Projects**

*Allotments*: nothing to report, all is going well.

*Environmental Projects*: Cllr Haskins did not wish to set a date for a Commons Working Party until it had been possible to agree a plan of action. *Agenda item*: March meeting.

*Community Maintenance Scheme*: Cllr Haskins wishes to put together a stronger maintenance scheme, and needs to talk to the Borough Council about its long term plans for the wood, as Compton wishes to get involved. Cllr Haskins had spoken to Adam Owens before he had left GBC, but wished to progress this, and Cllr Palmer suggested he speak to Moira Cash in Parks and Countryside, and asked that he be copied into e-mail correspondence.

12/14 **Members report: Youth and recreation**

- a) *Youth activities*: no report had been received from Cllr Ricketts  
b) Recreation ground: Cllr Patel confirmed that all is well.

13/14 **Members report: Watts Gallery and Cemetery**

- a) *Minutes from the Cemetery meeting held Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December*: had been circulated. Members noted that it was hoped that the agreement with Watts Gallery would be signed shortly.  
b) *Committee terms of reference*: the proposed revision had been circulated. Cllr Curtis wished to make some amendments. It was agreed that these would be sent to the Clerk, who would incorporate them and send the document out to all councillors for comment and agreement.  
c) *Schedule of work*: Cllr Curtis wished this to be more precise regarding standards. Cllr Graham commented that the problem with being too prescriptive is that anything that has not been specified can be ignored. The Clerk will circulate the schedule of work for comments and agreement.  
d) *Non resident involvement*: members were asked to decide whether non residents should be allowed to install trees and benches in the cemetery when they are not eligible to have a grave or ashes plot. After discussion, it was *agreed* that decisions of this nature should be referred to Full Council, and not decided by the Cemetery committee.

14/14 **Members report: Planning**

- a) *Old Rectory*: the application to build a dwelling in the grounds has been approved.  
b) *Almsgate*: although plans had not been submitted yet, it was understood that there was a proposal to add to the building. Cllr Parsons considered that, unless a number of residents objected, there was no need to object to this application.  
c) *Floodlighting at Priorsfield School*: there is nothing on the Borough Council website, Cllr Parsons undertook to find out what has happened to this application.

15/14 **Members report: Village Hall**

Minutes of the December meeting had been circulated before the meeting.

Cllr Graham reported that an investigation had been undertaken into what is in the roof. Crillo had undertaken a free survey of the building, which had brought up two points:

- a) The roof trusses are rusty, but this appears to be a low risk.  
b) Gas pipes in the roof feed the heaters and some have been capped off over the years. These, like the electric wiring, need tidying up.

The committee had expressed disappointment that the Parish Council had not come to a conclusion about car parking.

16/14 **Finance**

- a) *Management accounts to 31<sup>st</sup> December* had been circulated. No issues were raised.  
b) *Schedule of income and expenditure to 31<sup>st</sup> December* had been circulated. The total income for the two months had been \*\* and total outgoings \*\*.  
c) *Precept request for 2014/15*: Discussion took place on the projects to be undertaken and achieved in the next 12 months, listed under agenda item 20/14b below. A budget for 2014/15 was set at \*\*, with a precept request to the Borough Council of £\*\*, a reduction of \*\* on the previous 3 years. Approval of the budget and precept request was PROPOSED by Cllr Haskins, SECONDED by Cllr Graham, with all

in favour.

17/14 **Guildford Greenbelt Guardians:** members considered and agreed the proposal that the Parish Council join this action group. Members discussed the location of brown field sites in the borough, and whether these had been mapped. It was agreed that, without a housing figure, it was difficult to see the exact threat to the Green Belt. Some brown field sites will need to be de-contaminated, which will take five years, and as a result it is possible that Green Belt sites will be chosen in preference.

18/14 **Annual Parish Meeting:** Watts Gallery had agreed that the Parish meeting could be held there. Members expressed some concern at the Gallery's distance from the village, and believed that this might discourage people from attending. Cllr Curtis considered, however, that the Agreement with the Gallery regarding the Cemetery might attract people. A vote was taken, with 3 votes in favour of the Gallery and 3 against. Cllr Curtis took her casting vote, and voted in favour of the Gallery.  
Themes: Local Plan; Horses; parking in the village.  
The Clerk will ask the village organisations what they would like to do this year.  
Members were asked to consider who could be asked to speak, and for any further ideas.

19/14 **Emergency Plan:** this was briefly discussed under 9/14c above. Cllr Haskins believed that something much simpler than the Borough Council's emergency plan could be put in place.

#### 20/14 **Clerk's Report**

a) *Parish handyman:* diary of duties carried out by Peter Borrett had been circulated to all members. This was noted and Mr Borrett commended both for his work, and for his liaison with residents. He had reported on the early collection times for the post boxes in the village, and it was agreed that the Post Office should be asked to move all collection times back to 10am.

b) *Projects:*

i. *Noticeboard:* Two quotations had been received, from Harry Stebbing and from Greenbarnes. Cllr Curtis PROPOSED, SECONDED by Cllr Parsons, that the Council accept the quote from Harry Stebbing. All in favour.

ii. *Bus shelter:* two quotations had been received for a new bus shelter at the Avenue. It was agreed not to proceed with this until research was undertaken into how much this shelter was used. The Clerk would ask the Gallery if they wished to get involved in helping provide a new shelter in Down Lane.

*The following Projects were agreed for the coming year:*

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|--|----------|
| a) <i>World War I:</i> booklet and exhibition. This will be undertaken by Phil Gorton.   | £2,000   |
| b) <i>Drainage work on Green.</i>  | £10,000  |
| An expert would be engaged to find out why the common retains water, it was suspected that there are broken drains under. This item would also include the pond. ?? offered to take the spoil, to use as wildlife buffers on her land. |          |
| c) <i>4 saltboxes:</i> Corner of Almsgate, corner of playing field, Withies Lane, junction of Polstead Lane and B3000  | £2,000   |
| d) <i>Village sign:</i> design competition to be announced at the Parish meeting <u>or</u> a commission from Watts Gallery   | £12,000  |
| e) <i>Trees and benches on Green</i>   | £2,000   |
| f) <i>Converting bus shelter by Down lane to information centre:</i> this would include repairing the roof.  | £5,000   |
| Total:   | £33,000. |

21/14 **Action list:** Cllr Haskins reported that the Cemetery database was ready to go live, after he had received a few last bits of information from the Clerk.

#### 22/14 **Councillors business:**

a) *Footpath from roundabout:* this is overgrown. Cllr Curtis said that she had spoken to the people who lived in the adjacent cottage, and they had said that no-one used it, and if it was opened up it would be used for fly tipping.

b) *Fly tipping:* Cllr Haskins urged the meeting to report any fly tipping, as GBC are very good about removing it straight away.

23/14 **Compton News :** there will be no news this month. The Annual Parish Meeting will be advertised in March.

24/14 **Correspondence:** there was no new correspondence.

25/14 **Dates of meetings:** 19<sup>th</sup> March, Annual Parish Meeting: 9<sup>th</sup> April. Annual Meeting: 21<sup>st</sup> May.  
Litter pick: 15<sup>th</sup> March (early this year, in order to carry out work before vegetation starts to grow).

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 10.55pm.