



# COMPTON PARISH COUNCIL

## Notice of Parish Council meeting

*Local government Act 1972*

Minutes of a meeting of Compton Parish Council, held on

**Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2013 at 7.00pm**

In the **Village Hall meeting room** for the transaction of the under mentioned business

**Present:** Cllr F Curtis (in the chair), Cllrs P Graham and D Haskins.  
County Cllr G Johnson  
Borough Cllr J Palmer  
PC Ryan Stephens  
6 members of the public

In attendance: The Clerk, Mrs J Cadman

115/13 **Apologies for Absence:** were received from Cllr Patel. It was noted that apologies had not been received from Cllrs Cosgun, Parsons and Ricketts.

116/13 **Declarations of interest:** none were made

117/13 **Minutes of meeting held 18<sup>th</sup> September 2013:** were agreed as a correct record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman.

118/13 **Chairman's report - to include WG update & report on Issues & Options / GRA meeting**

119/13 **Update Watts Gallery Agreement**

The draft agreement had been circulated prior to the meeting.

The possibility that the Gallery might allow events in the Chapel such as dance was discussed, but it was noted that the agreement states that any use of the Chapel must not detract from its use as a mortuary chapel.

Mr Foran pointed out that the greatest advantage of the agreement is that the conservation and maintenance will be taken on by the Gallery, who have the expertise.

Thanks were recorded to Mr Foran for all his work in brokering this agreement, and to Mr Miller who had done the initial groundwork.

Cllr Haskins PROPOSED that the agreement be entered into with Watts Gallery, as tabled this evening, subject to the Gallery Trustees being in agreement. This was SECONDED by Cllr Graham, with all in favour.

120/13 **Local Plan: Issues and Options** : *the meeting was opened so that the public could take part in this debate.*

Cllr Curtis took two points from her report to begin the discussion;

1. What growth is really needed in terms of housing. Estimates range from 300 minimum up to 1,000. If the lower figure is taken, brown field sites can be used. This has been proved by some research which has taken the available acreage and GBC's acceptable density, and has worked out how many houses can go on the available acreage.
2. What growth is needed in terms of employment. GBC is looking at 11% growth in retail. At the moment there is a growth in internet shopping. Needs have changed a lot and it is unlikely that both will grow, but more likely that shops will close. Those units could then be used for housing.

Cllr Palmer pointed out that the whole of Compton is in the Green Belt, and policy does not allow for building in the green belt, just limited infilling within the settlement boundary. GBC has no proposals for change within the Compton village area and no proposals for in-setting (the removal of parts of a village from the green belt).

Mrs Stevens replied that the Parish of Compton extends to the Hogs Back, where an area of land on the northern slopes has been identified as a development area. This area fulfils all the functions of green belt, is also partially in the AONB and AGLV, and encroaches on ancient woodland. If the development is moved further down the slope so that it is not in the AONB, then it will visually detract from the AONB. Natural

England are reviewing this area on behalf of the Surrey Hills Board. If the development goes ahead, it will be the third biggest settlement in the Borough, after Guildford itself and Ash.

Cllr Haskins pointed out that this development would solve a lot of problems for GBC and the university in one go. Cllr Palmer said that the Council has to consider all sites as part of the process. There is no plan at present, the current consultation is a series of questions to find out what the options are. The Parish Council can assist in this by giving the views of the Parish.

Cllr Haskins believed that any growth had to be looked at in terms of the difficulty in getting into and out of Surrey: the hills, sunken lanes, etc. Cllr Palmer replied that one of the documents deals with the assessment of the infrastructure. This will be taken into account for any development proposals. SCC is also undertaking a transport and traffic mobility study. Waverley Borough Council had put forward in their Local Plan the proposal to build 230 houses per annum, whereas a study had shown that 450 were needed. Their Plan had been rejected by the Inspector, who did not believe that they had investigated options fully. GBC did not want to fall into that trap. He took issue with the viewpoint that Guildford Borough was full up and could not take any more people. It was not possible to stop people from moving and, if housing was not supplied, people would not be able to afford to live in the Borough but would travel to work, hence increasing traffic congestion.

Cllr Curtis referred to information given that showed that the number of people commuting in and out of Guildford was almost 50;50 and that as there was no evidence to support the idea that creating more housing would lessen commuting and congestion this was speculative.

Cllr Palmer explained that the next step would be to make all responses available for public inspection. Any themes in the responses will be picked up and people's views will be properly considered before a report is given to the councillors who will decide what goes into the first draft of the Local Plan, which will again go out for consultation. **He warned that GBC have an anti-plagiarism policy and if people decided to copy a response submitted by someone else, because they agreed with the content, all such responses would be treated as just one.** *Joanna, I referred to this, having heard about it and he asked where we heard of this and then I thought he disagreed with it? I don't recall him agreeing with it? Can we check with Cllr Palmer?*

The draft Local Plan should be ready to submit to the Government Inspector in February of 2015, and it will take about 6 months to reach approval stage.

#### 121/13 **Matters arising**

*98/13:81/13: village mapping:* GBC would not give grant aid to this project as they considered it to be a feasibility study, but the Parish Council will continue with it. Cllr Palmer undertook to ask the Finance Department if there was another source of funding that could be used.

*98/13: SALC councillors briefing:* the papers distributed at the training meeting were available for inspection.

*99/13: War memorial:* the conservator has finished the work, with the exception of the finial, which is proving hard to fix. The plaque behind the memorial needs to be cleaned, the Clerk understands that the conservator intends to do this on his next visit. Cllr Palmer advised that the Borough Council have funding for First World War Memorials. Cllr Curtis advised that Phil Gorton, a local historian, is putting together information about the names on the memorial with the view of undertaking an exhibition.

*99/13: Village Hall:* the Clerk has submitted an application to bring the title deed up to date.

*102/13: Parking at Spiceall:* Communications received by the Clerk have all opposed this proposal. Cllr Curtis tabled a new proposal which showed parking at the top of the common, opposite the houses, and screened by a hedge and trees, which would also prevent people from driving across the common. The Clerk would ask GBC for a map of where allocated parking is for the Spiceall properties, to ascertain whether the parking problem is that there are too few spaces, or that the spaces are too far from the properties. If this plan, which would include enhancements to the common such as a village sign and benches, became firm, it would be launched at the parish meeting next April.

#### 122/13 **Reports from Borough and County Cllrs**

*County Cllr:* Cllr Johnson tabled a map which showed the areas of priority for gritting in the Borough. The B3000 is considered a major route and will be gritted as a matter of priority, as will Priorsfield Road. Cllr Johnson offered more grit bins, but it was agreed that at present there is no-where to site one.

*Signage:* Cllr Johnson referred to Mr Miller, who advised as follows: the SCC meeting of a year ago which decided not to change the existing signs had been redacted. When he had asked how the decision had been made, he had been advised that the minutes had been redacted to remove the names of the people who had attended the meeting. Recently, a statement had been made which indicated that HGVs could not use Milford to access Godalming because of the low bridge, but the bridge is 14', adequately high for almost all vehicles. In Normandy, there are signs which direct drivers to Godalming via the B3000. It seems that no-one is prepared to take into account the problems experienced by Compton as a result.

Peter Jelfs, who headed up the LORDs (Lorries off Rural Diversions) Campaign and who now lived in Normandy had discovered that the Transport Select Committee had met in Kingston in 2008 to decide on policy. The Surrey Distributor Road Network clearly recommended that lorries should use roads in order of priority, but this recommendation had never been communicated. Peter Jelfs is now challenging the current state of affairs, and Normandy Parish Council will ask for this Council's support.

*Operation Horizon:* was intended to be a 5 year plan, 6 months of which have gone, and involves the proper re-surfacing of many of the roads in Surrey. From the 11<sup>th</sup> November a permit scheme exists which controls works being carried out on the roads, allowing for better management. SCC issues 60,000 notices a year to carry out works on the roads, half of which will have traffic management implications.

Mr Miller asked if the street lamps in The Street were to be replaced, as had been advised some time ago. This will be pursued.

*Down Lane:* there seemed to be a great deal of confusion: it had been agreed that the white lines and road markings should be removed, which would have the effect of slowing down the traffic, but the white lines had been repainted. Cllr Johnson confirmed that these would be removed. Cllr Palmer advised that he sat on the Local Committee Transport Task Group, and would get involved in these matters. He also advised that he had talked to Philip Shepherd at a recent conference about signs, and Mr Shepherd had said that he would try to get something done.

*Borough Cllr:* Cllr Palmer advised that the senior officer team at GBC was being re-structured. The Chief Executive, David Hill, had left the Council and had been replaced by a Managing Director. Sue Sturgeon had been appointed into this post. The emphasis was now on service rather than strategy, and the council had made saving of £300,000 per annum by making some posts redundant.

## 123/13 **Report from the Police**

PC Stephens apologised that he had been unable to attend the last meeting. He advised that PCSO Fiona Ffyfe had moved posts within Surrey police and that her replacement, hopefully Damien Young, would be in post soon. PC Stephens hoped to bring him to the next meeting.

- There had been 2 burglaries in Compton in the last 4 weeks, but in both cases it did not appear that anything had been taken.
- A new web site had been set up to record members of the public's possessions that had been forensically marked.
- *Horses:* the number of horses had reduced from 60 to around 30. Some had been removed, some had died. The RSPCA have taken responsibility for the welfare of the horses in the short term and have secured the fence following a number having escaped in the last week.

The man who owns the horses is currently in prison, and has been charged by South Wales police with more animal welfare offences, failure to remove carcasses, etc.

A number of horses have been removed from surrounding counties and taken back to Wales, it was understood that around 500 – 600 had now been relocated. PC Stephens asked that the police be advised if a silver and yellow horse box, with the words *Welsh Gypsy Ponies* on the site is spotted in the area.

The owners of the field have cancelled the lease and want to reclaim the land for non-payment of rent, but will not assist in removing the horses and the police cannot do so, because they are on private land. At present there is no legislation to help the police deal with this matter, as 'fly grazing' is a new phenomenon.

- *Speed Watch:* Compton runs the system which is used throughout Surrey, but there has been a fault in the way data is transmitted and verified since the summer. Cllr Haskins considered it a great pity that a very good system is likely to be abandoned because of this inability to sort out the problem. PC

Stephens asked Cllr Haskins to send him an e-mail detailing the problem , and he will liaise with Matt Redfern.

124/13 **Public Forum**

*Post Codes:* Mr Bugbird reported inaccuracies in his post code when used by SatNavs, resulting in people, including the GBC binmen, being sent some distance away from his house. The Post Office would not take any action. Others near Polsted area had also been affected, it was however not a matter the Parish Council could help with and it was suggested that he write to his MP, Anne Milton

125/13 **Members report: Highways**

This item had been dealt with under the County Cllrs report.

126/13 **Members report: Allotments and Environmental Projects**

- a) *Allotments:* the gates have been installed and a temporary problem with the locks had been sorted out, so the allotments are now secure. The troublemakers had also now been moved out of the village.
- b) *Good Woods project:* Cllr Haskins had attended a very good workshop on woodland management in East Horsley. The recent visit from the Good Woods Project expert had been very useful, involving a detailed walk around Compton common, followed by an extensive report. Cllr Haskins would complete the report and would liaise with GBC in the new year to bring them up to date on what Compton is doing. There is a lot happening in woodland management, as the EC has directed government to focus on taking wood out of woodlands in management, as well as concentrating on wildlife and ecology. A date will be set for the next Compton Common working party in the new year.

127/13 **Members report: Youth and recreation**

- a) *Youth Activities:* no report had been received and this item was deferred to the January meeting.

128/13 **Members report: Watts Gallery and Cemetery**

*Minutes from the Cemetery meeting held Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October had been circulated prior to the meeting.*

Cllr Haskins was unhappy about the current practice of allowing non-residents to install trees, benches and other items in the cemetery, where they are not eligible to have a grave or ashes plot. He understood that the Cemetery committee had allowed this in order to landscape Zone 5, but believed that all memorials in the cemetery should be commemorating Compton residents.

**Agenda item:** January meeting.

*Cemetery records:* these are now complete on the new website and almost ready to 'go live' once Cllr Haskins has been able to speak to the Curator's contact. Cllr Curtis thanked Cllr Haskins for all his work in bringing this project to its final stages.

129/13 **Members report: Planning**

*Flood lighting at Priorsfield School:* this is the 3<sup>rd</sup> application, two others having been rejected. Cllr Parsons believed that they had made every effort, having reduced the height and shielded the light. There was one concern, that the original application had stated that the lights would be used up to 6.30pm, it was believed, and now the application stated 8.30pm. **This would be checked and if the time had not been changed, the council would make no objection.**

*Watts Gallery:* Limnerslease: no objection, and noted that they had consulted extensively.

*Rectory:* Cllr Parsons did not see that there was a need to object to this application to erect a new building in the front garden, but was concerned about access. Discussion took place on whether an application should be made to list this property. It could not be listed as a village asset, as it is private property. Members agreed not to pursue the possibility of listing, but to ask GBC to refer the plans to SCC Highways regarding the access.

The Clerk will circulate details of new applications to Cllrs Parsons and Graham when she receives the lists from GBC.

130/13 **Members report: Village Hall**

Minutes of the September meeting had been circulated prior to the meeting.

The Clerk had been asked to request SCC to re-paint the no parking signs.

The hall committee had engaged new cleaners.

Mr Crillo had undertaken a survey of the hall, and all appeared to be in order. Members noted that the metal beams in the ceiling are rusty, but that this is not a concern. They also noted that there is an amount of redundant pipework and wiring in the roof space, and it is intended to tidy this up. It had also been agreed to test the emergency lighting on a more regular basis.

The update to the hall's charitable status is progressing.

#### 131/13 Finance

- a) *Management accounts to 30<sup>th</sup> October*: had been circulated prior to the meeting and was noted.
- b) *Schedule of income and expenditure to 30<sup>th</sup> October*: had been circulated prior to the meeting and was noted.
- c) *Draft budget for 2013/14* had been circulated prior to the meeting. The Clerk presented the draft budget for 2014/15. She advised that the Council currently holds £90,000 in current and savings accounts. The current budget allows for a further spending of £22,769 in this financial year, leaving a capital balance of £67,000. It is estimated that approximately £45,000 of this could be spent on enhancing the village green and providing extra parking, leaving £22,000 in capital reserves.

One aspect to enhancing the village green would be a village sign. A local person had designed one a few years back, at a cost of circa £11,000. Cllr Curtis suggested village involvement in making commemorative plaques to put on the sign's base, but it was agreed not to pursue this directly but to ask the Gallery if they can help with this.

£9,000 has been budgeted for projects in the current year, and currently just under £1,000 has been spent. The proposed budget allows £12,000 for projects in the next financial year, as there are a number to be carried out both this year and next, without the project of the village green. The Clerk will add Projects as an agenda item to each meeting from now on, so that these can be reviewed on a regular basis and moved forward. Cllr Parsons would be asked for clarification on his ideas for the bus shelter near Down Lane. The Clerk would seek quotes for a new bus shelter to replace the existing near the common. Cllr Haskins would draw up proposals for environmental issues.

Total expenditure for the coming year, assuming that the Gallery has taken up the Agreement for the Chapel and Chapel Lodge, is estimated at £47,850. Income has been estimated at £20,000 for the cemetery, £50 from bank interest and £2000 other income, requiring a precept of £25,600

- d) *Asset List*: the revised asset list had been circulated prior to the meeting and was noted.

132/13 **Action list:** had been circulated prior to the meeting. The Clerk would add dates and agenda item where appropriate to each item.

133/13 **Councillors business:** any further business arising from or not discussion in the meeting, for noting or including on a future agenda  
No further matters were raised.

#### 134/13 Compton News

1. Cllr Haskins to write a paragraph on Compton Conservation and Good Woods
2. Cllr Curtis to write a piece on the proposed agreement with Watts Gallery.
3. The date of the next Annual Parish meeting would be advertised as the 9<sup>th</sup> April. Venue to be agreed, it is hoped to be able to use the Gallery.

#### 135/13 Correspondence

No new correspondence had been received.

#### 136/13 Dates of meetings

15<sup>th</sup> January, 19<sup>th</sup> March  
Annual Parish Meeting: 9<sup>th</sup> April.  
Annual Meeting: to be agreed

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 11.15pm