



COMPTON PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of a meeting of Compton Parish Council held on
Wednesday 20th March 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 D Haskins, J Parsons
Cllr P Graham (after co-option)
County Cllr S Gimson
Borough Cllr J Palmer
2 members of the public

In attendance: The Clerk, Mrs J Cadman

- 23/13 **Apologies for Absence:** were received from Cllrs I Cosgun and K Patel
- 24/13 **Declarations of disclosable prejudicial and other interests:** no declarations were made.
- 25/13 **Co-option of Councillor:** Mr Peter Graham was PROPOSED by Cllr Haskins, SECONDED by Cllr Parsons, with all in favour. Cllr Graham took his place at the table and, having signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office, advised the Council that he had lived in Priorsfield Road for just over 20 years, was married with no children, and was retired. He would like to represent the interests of the people in Priorsfield Road and also to be involved in the proposed Parish Plan.
- 26/13 **Minutes of Meeting held 16th January 2013:** were agreed as a correct record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman.
- 27/13 **Matters arising**
05/13:117/12: Down Lane: Mr Sartori has replied and his comments were tabled at the meeting. It was agreed that there were a number of issues to consider, these being; a one way system; the problem of buses, Watts Gallery's management plans for buses and pedestrians. The Chairman had spoken to Mrs Sartori, who had devised a questionnaire and asked if this could be circulated for residents' views. The Chairman would circulate this to councillors for their comments, but noted that there is a Parish Plan meeting the following Tuesday and SCA might advise against a separate questionnaire. Cllr Haskins considered that it would be better if it was all contained in one questionnaire, as Down Lane is an integral part of the village.
The Chairman had also spoken to Stagecoach, who had at one point said that they did not want to run buses down Down Lane, but that Watts Gallery needed the bus service as part of their Heritage funding. There had also been some support for the continuation of the bus by a few residents / Gallery workers. A small bus would be preferable, and this could then turn round at Watts Gallery.
12/13: handyman: there has been no interest in the job of handyman. Roger Deacon is filling this role for the time being, on a task by task basis.
- 28/13 **Chairman's Report:**
Councillors: the Chairman recorded thanks to Cllr Burzio for his work on the council over the last year. He had moved house and had therefore resigned from the Council. She noted that this was the first meeting without Cllr Bills, who had left the Council last month due to re-location. She was pleased that the new councillors were from the Priorsfield Road area, as the Council should ideally represent all areas of the Parish. Cllr Haskins and the Chairman had met with Ellie Ricketts and would nominate her to the Council at the May meeting. Ellie works in publishing in Farnham, speaks a number of languages and has knowledge of copyright regulations as well as working knowledge that will be useful in devising a Parish Plan.
Flygrazing: private land between the Street and Priorsfield Road currently has 5 horses grazing on it. The owner gave his name as Oliver Jones and said that he would not move the horses until the one in foal has given birth. He claims to have paid rent to a Mr Giles, who claims that he owns one of the plots. This land was subject to a scam a few years ago, when plots were sold with planning permission, when in fact there is none. The plot is not big enough for 5 horses and one of the plot owners has put up enforcement notices and contact details, only to receive threatening calls from Mr Jones. This has been reported to the police.
The Chairman advised that putting up an eviction notice is the correct procedure. The Chairman noted that the field is not secure, and horses have escaped several times onto Priorsfield Road.
Allotment Land: the plot of land that abuts Poplar cottage is rented by Mr and Mrs Hunt. This piece of land is walked by the Allotment Committee to ensure that it remains as allotment land, but it is not

managed by the Committee. The Hunts pay annual rent to the Parish Council. Rents have increased this year, due to increases in overheads. This does not affect the Hunt's land, as they manage and water this independently, and it was **agreed** not to impose an increase on them this year. A row of fern trees on the perimeter of this land require cutting and Mr Hunt had requested permission from the Parish Council, subject to planning being sought where necessary. Cllr Curtis and Cllr Haskins had inspected the trees and given their permission.

A3 Signage: SCC had supported the Parish Council's application at the Local Committee meeting in 2011, as a result of which Highways conducted a costly survey to ascertain whether the signage could and should be changed. Their conclusion, in 2013, was that it could be changed, but local Highways have withdrawn their support as Waverley has objected. This 'U' turn is unacceptable and our County and Borough Councillors have agreed to take this matter up with Anne Milton and John Durey.

VAS: Down Lane is to be closed for one day and traffic volumes will be monitored in the Street to see whether there is any visible impact. Regarding Priorsfield Road, Cllr Haskins advised that it was not possible to put up an active VAS at present, because of the sightlines, but that it might be possible to put up a covered VAS, so that the volume of cars can be counted.

Lengthsman scheme: it was agreed to defer this for the present, as it was clear that funding would be needed.

Resident's issues: Alexa Chilern asked the Parish Council to persuade SCC to clear 2 bridleways. Further details are awaited on the exact location of one, off Priorsfield Road, where trees also need lopping. The other footpath is from Hurtmore Road to the wood, where it has become too narrow. Cllr Haskins will investigate. Alexa had also expressed an interest in joining the Council, but a candidate had already been interviewed before receiving this information, so her interest has been logged and acknowledged.

The paths leading to the properties of Mr Hunt and Mr Bugbird have become waterlogged, and the Chairman has reported this, under reference MG00375043.

Fowlers Croft residents were concerned that they were still without a grit bin. The Clerk confirmed that this is now in place.

Cemetery: Thea Adair and Jane Turner had expressed concern over the appearance of a new gravestone that contravenes cemetery rules. It was noted that current rules are given to people when they purchase a plot, but that it is often some time before that plot is used and the undertakers and stonemasons may not be local people. The Clerk advised that the Cemetery Committee now approve all applications for memorial stones, but that this one had been approved by the caretaker, and the wording on the application had not been particularly clear.

Congestion Plan: Osman Abdullah had expressed concern at the lack of concern or comment about congestion on the B3000 in the latest plan. The Congestion programme went on line for consultation the previous week, and the Chairman has asked the traffic committee to formulate a response and circulate this. Cllr Gimson has confirmed that he has proposed that improvements be made to the A3/A31 junction, as this was excluded.

29/13

Reports from County and Borough Cllrs

Borough Cllr: Cllr J Palmer

A3 signage: Cllr Gimson and Cllr Palmer had spoken to John Hilder and advised him that it was unacceptable that the Transport Manager had said that there should be no further signs, when the Guildford Local Committee had already expressed a different view. Cllr Gimson had spoken to Steve Gosser, councillor for North Godalming, and also to Peter Martin and they had advised that they were unhappy about any change. It would be necessary to keep pushing at this and for officers to raise this issue next time there was a meeting with Highways Agency, and continue to do so until a change was effected.

Cllr Haskins expressed a concern that the end result might be for the B3000 to be changed to the A3000. Cllr Palmer reassured him that this was not possible, as the road has to be of a certain width.

GBC Planning Enforcement Seminar: Cllr Curtis regretted that she would not be able to attend, Cllr Haskins volunteered to go in her place.

Council Tax: this had been increased by 1.9%. Central government had made a grant to reduce the effect of the change in the way benefit is paid, but for one year only. So it had been decided to increase council tax by a small amount this year in order to mitigate the effect of the reduction in income in the following year. Cllr Gimson advised that Surrey raises more tax for the government than any other area except the City of London, but only get back 8%. However, it seemed very likely that business rates will grow in this county, as the economy of Surrey has grown between 4 to 7% over the last couple of years. The second home discount will be removed and people will be encouraged to let out empty homes, or to sell them.

Tourism is being encouraged, particularly heritage tourism. In Compton this is linked to Watts Gallery, on the other side of the Borough to the Tillingbourne Valley and the Surrey Hills. It is hoped that this will boost the economy, together with the university and town centre development.

Traffic: a lot of work is being undertaken on the gyratory system, and hot spots around the county are being looked at.

County Cllr: Cllr S Gimson

Surrey Future: Cllr Gimson confirmed that this group are looking at 16 different projects, one of which is the gyratory system.

Transport Initiative in Guildford: £8m of funding has been allocated for this project, some of which will be spent on a new Park and Ride at Onslow, bus improvements and cycle lane improvements. So far, improvements to buses and cycle lanes has concentrated on the town centre, but it is now intended to extend these. Rural areas have a greater need to know where the bus is and if it is on its way than the town centre does, and it is possible to send information to mobile phones or to information boards in bus shelters.

Cllr Curtis suggested that smaller buses would also be a good idea in rural areas, so that they could be used in less accessible places.

Improvements to A3/A31 junction: Cllr Gimson outlined the problems using a map. He said that he would like to see a Park and Ride at Bentley, to get people out of their cars much earlier.

Re-surfacing: a 5 year programme will be published shortly. Nothing is planned for Compton, except for Down Lane. Cllr Gimson has reminded Highways that the drains need to be dealt with before this is done.

Lengthsman scheme: this has started in a few parishes. A second phase will be started later in the year, with a third next year. Local Committee is very keen to test the efficiency of the plan and carry it forward. The hope is to get 3 to 4 parishes working together, so that contracts for work are big enough to get contractor interest, but small enough to keep the focus local. Cllr Gimson would send details.

Superfast Broadband: this is on its way. Cllr Gimson reminded the meeting that SCC had obtained permission to install superfast broadband where BT did not intend to, in the rural areas.

30/13 **Report from the Police:**

the issue of 'gay dogging' reported in Down Lane has been reported to the police, who have undertaken to keep a look out.

31/13 **Public Forum:** *members of the public are invited to attend and to ask questions or make requests*

32/13 **Members Report: Highways**

a) *signage* – Cllr Curtis advised that Bahram Assadi had confirmed that the missing/new signs will be put up in the next financial year, 2013/14, and that Highways will also review the redundant posts/signs at the same time.

b) *Down Lane*: this issue was covered elsewhere in the meeting.

33/13 **Members Report: Allotments and Environmental Projects**

a) *Allotments*: Cllr Haskins had been concerned at over-development in one part of the allotments. He had raised this issue at an allotment meeting, and had agreed to look at other allotment committee's rules and regulations, to see what could be done to clarify the rules in Compton. He had submitted re-drafted rules to the committee, and they had been agreed and would be implemented, but would not be retrospective. The overdevelopment in question was a very large greenhouse.

There are 70 plot holders on 110 plots. Some have more than one plot, these are not always contiguous.

It is hoped to organise a work party shortly to remove some of the rubbish in the allotment garden. The Parish Council **agreed** to provide a skip, allowing people to clear their plots.

b) *Environmental Projects*: Cllr Haskins hopes to re-start the Compton Common clearance programme in the spring.

34/13 **Members Report: Recreation ground and playground**

106/12a: Safer Surfacing: Greenspan have indicated their intention to undertake the work at the end of April.

106/12c: outstanding jobs on common: the entrance to the recreation ground, the football posts and the scrub area in the corner of the common have been dealt with. The Clerk will ask Mr Deacon to quote for the posts to edge the far side of the common.

12/13: swings: the Clerk has asked Greenspan to provide a quotation to replace the damaged seats but this has not yet been received.

Parking: it was noted that the Village Club has now been disaffiliated from the RBL. This has allowed them to change their licence arrangements, which will mean that they can be more flexible on the activities that are allowed in the Club. This will have an impact on the necessity for parking in the future.

35/13 **Members Report: Watts Chapel and Cemetery**

a) Draft Minutes from meeting held Friday 15th March had been circulated.

b) *Chapel Lodge*: the Gallery have agreed to honour a further 6 months shorthold tenancy for the current tenant.

c) *Wheelbarrow*: Cllr Burzio has delivered his old wheelbarrow to the cemetery.

d) *Agreement between Gallery and Parish Council*: the Gallery's responses to the proposed Lease agreements is still awaited. Perdita Hunt has suggested a meeting with Cllr Curtis, Mark Foran and the Trustees.

e) *Cemetery data*: Cllr Haskins advised that the data will be integrated with Google maps. He will talk to Jonathan Mackie, who has drawn out the plot allocation for Zone 5, to embed this

data as well.

36/13 **Members Report: Planning**

- a) *Planning applications:* Cllr Parsons reported that there had been few applications in the last couple of months, and those had mainly been tree related. Traffic on the south road into Monks Hatch is an issue, and they had been asked to use the north road instead. The application for Brooklea, submitted in December, had not yet been determined and will probably go to committee, as it is contentious.
- b) *Parish Plan:* this will be launched at the Annual Parish meeting. The intention is to put up maps and statements, and invite comments and 'wish lists'.
- c) *Listing Local assets.* Cllr Haskins had started a list: for example, the piece of land known as the Waterworks, which is a brown field site. This is a valuable piece of land. The obvious assets are: the allotments, the village club, the village hall, Watts Gallery, the garden centre by the roundabout.

37/13 **Members Report: Village Hall**

Management agreement: Cllr Curtis reminded the meeting that the current modus operandi presumes the hall belongs to the Parish Council and is managed by the Management Committee. Two years ago it was agreed that agreements should be reviewed and updated and this had proved a complex exercise. The 1934 conveyance states that the committee can sell the hall if it becomes unviable, and the auditor had raised questions on how this could be the case if it belonged to the Parish Council. Since that time there had been a number of solicitor's letters from each side, but no agreement had been reached on the future management of the hall, or the resolution of this anomaly regarding rights to the hall's future. The Parish Council is the custodian trustee of the hall, and the Parish Council needs to find out now exactly what this means and whether it is also the owner.

38/13 **Councillor's responsibilities:** Members were asked to review specific areas of responsibility and decide on potential new ones. It was agreed that these would be agreed at the Annual Meeting, and would encompass youth, traffic, planning (with the potential for 2 councillors to deal with planning issues), cemetery, village hall, allotments, environment, and recreation.
Cllr Curtis asked all members to think about how these could be reorganised and what their own particular interests are.

39/13 **Finance**

- a) *Management Report to 1/3/13* had been circulated prior to the meeting. It was noted that the Council is well funded at present, but that substantial sums may be spent on legal issues, the parish plan and the lengthsman scheme.
- b) *Receipts and payments to 1/1313:* the report had been circulated prior to the meeting.

40/13 **Annual Parish Meeting: 24th April:** the meeting will be held in the village hall this year. It would commence with presentations from the Chairman, the Borough and County Councillors, and Jenny Seagrove, on her charity Mane Chance. Village Societies would have tables and display boards around the hall, so they can display their activities and be on hand to answer questions and recruit new members. After supper, provided by Leone Palmer, residents will be asked to consider a Parish Plan, and to put their thoughts and comments on post it notes, to go on maps or headed boards. There will be a bar, with each attendee receiving 2 tickets for free drinks. This will also enable an accurate register of attendees to be taken. Further details were discussed and agreed.

41/13 **Action list** had been circulated prior to the meeting. The contents were noted.

42/13 **Councillors Business:** *any further business arising from the meeting, to be noted or dealt with on a future agenda*

- a) *Middle Briar Wood:* this is owned by Surry Wildlife Trust, who have done a lot of work on clearing and taking down poplars, making it more attractive to wildlife.

43/13 **Compton News**

44/13 **New correspondence:** No new correspondence had been received.

45/13 **Dates of meetings:**

Annual Parish meeting: 24th April

Annual Meeting: 15th May

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.42pm