



COMPTON PARISH COUNCIL

PARISH OF COMPTON
NOTICE OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
Local Government Act 1972

Minutes of a meeting of Compton Parish Council held on
Wednesday 18th July 2012 at 7.00pm
In the **Village Hall** for the transaction of the under mentioned business.

Present: Cllr F Curtis (in the chair), Cllrs M Bills, D Haskins, J Parsons, K Patel
County Cllr S Gimson
Borough Cllr J Palmer
PCSO F Fyffe
1 member of the public

In attendance: The Clerk, Mrs J Cadman

73/12 **Apologies for Absence:** were received from Cllr P Burzio and Borough Cllr N Ward

74/12 **Declarations of interest:** Cllr Bills declared an interest in agenda item 90/12.

75/12 **Minutes of Meeting held 16th May 2012:** were agreed as a correct record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman.

Minutes of Meeting held 6th June 2012: were agreed as a correct record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman.

76/12 **Matters Arising:**

62/12: Parking for village events: This item was deferred to be discussed under Agenda item 91/12

64/12a: Village Club: Cllr Haskins reported that the Club is running at a loss. The bar is not doing at all well, although room lettings are healthy. Cllr Haskins has suggested that the Club find out what the space could be used for: eg: shared IT facilities, classes and workshops. Perhaps this question could be asked in the village plan. Lack of parking has been sited as an issue in the past, but no business case to support increased parking has been presented.

64/12b: Vacancy on Council: A candidate has come forward and it is hoped that he will be able to attend the September meeting, and that his co-option will go ahead at that stage.

77/12 **Code of Conduct:**

Members received and approved the revised Code of Conduct, circulated prior to the meeting, together with supporting documentation: Ethical Standards Commencement Order and Regulations on Disclosable Pecuniary Interests.

78/12 **Register of Interests:**

Members complete the Register of Interests, circulated prior to the meeting, Members noted that this information must be available to the public, in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act, and will be published on the Parish Council website.

79/12 **Chairman's Report:**

Down Lane: 30mph speed limit: Cllr Gimson undertook to check where this actually ends. It is becoming very clear that a path from the Gallery to the Chapel is needed, but there is no county council owned land to put it on. The Parish Council could consider an alternative, such as a footpath through the neighbour's land, which could be used on a permissive basis. Cllr Gimson would be happy to provide some funding towards this and in the meantime will ascertain the correct width for such a footpath. Cllr Parsons undertook to speak to Mrs Sartori about the lack of path and the electric fencing next to the road, and will report on his discussions at the September meeting.

The Clerk would speak to Highways about cutting back the hedge in Down Lane. It is currently very overgrown into the road.

Coneycroft Farm: have submitted a retrospective application. Cllr Parsons undertook to review this.

Community highways officer: Cllr Curtis understood that interviews had taken place and it is hoped that someone will be in post shortly.

VAS systems: volume data is awaited from Matt Redfern, or the roads PCSOs, Jo Gallagher and Ed Nelson. Cllr Haskins advised that Matt Redfern had asked him to become a PCS volunteer.

80/12 **Reports from Borough and County Cllrs:**

County Cllr: Cllr Gimson advised that he had agreed £500 from his allowance towards the pond work, and Cllr. Curtis confirmed this would be matched by £500 from Loseley.

He had been advised at Local Committee that the County had been awarded £50,000 for resurfacing of the roads. He has asked for the road near the crematorium to be looked at. Cllr Curtis noted that there had been a lot of complaints to the traffic committee about the B3000 having been resurfaced in the way that it was. Policy had determined that the B3000 received a quiet surface 7 years ago and as this hadn't changed residents and the traffic committee alike questioned the validity of the decision to replace the surface with cheap noisy chippings

Borough Cllr: Cllr Palmer reported that there is a potential proposed change in the way garden waste is collected. The proposal is that bags are phased out and bins used instead.

81/12 **Report from the Police:**

PCSO Fyffe reported that there had been a small amount of vehicle crime and burglaries, but the main concentration for the police at present was the spate of shed burglaries in Peaslake. Besides seeking the perpetrator, the police were providing advice and reassurance and a vehicle presence.

82/12 **Public Forum:**

Water flow through the village: Mr Bugbird raised the issue of water management if higher than average annual rainfall continues to be the norm.

83/12 **Members Report: Highways:**

Cllr Burzio would take on the role of Council representative on the Traffic Committee, and had spoken to Mr Miller about the next Traffic meeting.

84/12 **Members Report: Allotments and Environmental Projects**

Cllr Haskins reported that the allotments are doing well, there have been a couple of changes of tenants. There have been some major repairs to the lawnmower, which have been paid for by allotment users as they get the most use from it.

Environment: Part 1 of the clearance project went well, money from Losely would fund part 2. The next plan is to create a circular walk which includes the common, and November would be a good time to do this if it is dry. Otherwise, this would be deferred to the new year. Cllr Haskins undertook to write a piece for the September edition of the Compton News, and to give dates when the work parties will take place.

85/12 **Members Report: Recreation ground and playground**

RoSPA Playground inspection report: The report had highlighted some work to be done, particularly to the safer surfacing. It was agreed to seek grant funding – grand aid and community grants.

Cllr Patel reported that there is a lot of heavy rutting in the centre part of the common and it was agreed that this would be kept an eye on.

86/12 **Members Report: Watts Chapel and Cemetery**

Watts Gallery: Cllr Curtis reported that negotiations continue on a lease between the Parish Council and the Gallery for the management of the Chapel, Lodge and *cemetery grounds The Trustees of Watts Gallery wish to replace any break clauses with an independent arbitration procedure but will accept a 10 year rent review. The request concerns the level of investment the Gallery will have made at the ten year point and the need for any breaks to be justifiable The Parish Council in turn stressed that the principal purpose of the chapel and cemetery must remain to serve those seeking burials and visiting graves of loved ones

If the agreement goes ahead, the Cemetery Committee will remain in place to enable all aspects to be managed.

It was agreed that at an appropriate time, an item would be put into the Compton newsletter to make it clear that, if the Gallery take over the Chapel, burials will still be managed by the Parish Council.

Pottery Classes: Cllr Bills advised that these would take place on the 8th August, 5th September and 3rd October. All villagers are welcome to attend one or all of them.

Chapel Lodge: Cllr Curtis advised that she had spoken to Paul Monks, the current tenant, about the tenancy of Chapel Lodge. She had asked him to contact Cllr Bills concerning the future of his tenancy, as it was understood that the Gallery did not at present have plans for the Lodge. Paul's tenancy ends at the end of December 2012 and by agreement with the tenant, can continue on a monthly basis whilst negotiations with the Gallery are in place.

Leaflets: another print run had been authorised.

War memorial: There are four conservation students staying at Limnerslease from the beginning of August for a few weeks, and they will do an assessment of the War Memorial and advise on the work that needs doing. Grants will then be applied for, to undertake the work, the students will help with the application process.

87/12 **Members Report: Planning**

Cllr Parsons reported that there were currently 6 active planning applications.

88/12 **Members Report: Village Hall**

Cllr Bills advised that he would resign as Trustee of the Village Hall as he is no longer a committee member.

Cllr. Curtis reported that heating costs had been discussed at the last VHC meeting and users would be reminded of the need to turn down the heating when leaving the building.

89/12 **Finance**

- a) *Members received the Internal Auditor's report.* Financial management had been in order and the Council had received a clear internal audit report. The internal auditor was concerned about the lack of financial control inherent in online banking. The Clerk seeks permission from two signatories to make a payment, but has full access to the bank. She was authorised to seek a more secure way of making payments through online banking, and would report at the September meeting.
- b) *Schedule of receipts and payments* since the Annual meeting was received and approved.
- c) *Management Report to 1/7/12* was received and noted
- d) *Grant aid projects:* members discussed possible projects and compiled the following list, to be submitted by the Clerk:
 - i) *Posts around the Green:* £2,000
 - ii) *Shed at Chapel Lodge* £1,000
 - iii) *War memorial*
 - iv) *Pond:* Cllr Haskins will advise the Clerk on potential costs for labouring and materials
 - v) *Cemetery database and linked map:* Cllr Haskins will advise the Clerk on costs

90/12 **Watts Chapel:** members received an update on negotiations with Watts Gallery: following the report under agenda item 86/12, the Chairman opened the discussion to Members. Concerns were raised about access for parishioners and people visiting graves or seeking peace. The lease agreement would address this point, and it would be monitored by the Cemetery Committee.

Cllr Parsons asked if the Parish Council had the authority to take this step. Cllr Curtis advised that the solicitor who is advising the Parish Council on this had said that this is acceptable and that a number of parish councils had taken a similar route.

Cllr Curtis asked that any further issues should be with her by mid-day the following day, as there was a meeting of the Trustees of the Gallery in the afternoon. In the absence of this, members agreed that negotiations should continue with the Gallery, with the purpose of arriving at an agreed lease of the Chapel and Lodge between the Gallery and the Parish Council.

91/12 **Village Plan:**

Village Plan: Cllr Curtis had spoken to Tracy Haskins GBC planning Dept She had advised that the Council had been adhering to the South East Plan until quite recently, which prescribed 645,000 new homes by 2026, 422 a year in Guildford Borough. GBC had challenged that figure, as some houses

were to be built on the Green Belt, and the challenge was upheld. The South East Plan was now to be abolished. GBC now have a self imposed quota of 322 houses a year, this is an interim target pending adoption of the Local Plan and is the rock bottom figure and will quite likely have to be increased.

Cllr Curtis advised of the potential for GBC to impose a housing quota on Compton or the Parish could find out for itself what is required and plan accordingly. This is where the village plan would come into play, and it could also be used to find out about transport, the village club, and so on.

Cllr Palmer advised that a Neighbourhood plan would cost in the region of £16,000 to £20,000 to adopt and it has to be in conformity with the Local Plan. A Parish Plan has no legal standing, but a Neighbourhood Plan, so long as it takes the Local Plan into account, has some weight. Cllr Parsons considered that it was not worth spending several thousand pounds on a village plan if it did not carry any statutory weight. He could see, however, that it would be a useful exercise if it helped the Council decide on its priorities for the next 5 years, as long as it did not cost anything. Cllr Palmer said that it would be useful to help the Parish Council identify areas where development would be acceptable, rather than having development imposed on the parish,

Cllr Bills believed that, before a decision was made, the Council needed to have a clear idea of what the aims and objectives would be.

Cllr Palmer suggested feeding into the Local Plan without producing a Parish Plan, and then working on a Parish Plan at leisure. Cllr Curtis wondered if a Parish Plan should be done by the Parish Council, or whether the committee should include members of village societies. Cllr Palmer suggested picking people who would be helpful and constructive and starting at the beginning, rather than looking at examples of other Parish Plans. Cllr Parsons agreed to take this forward and he will report back at the next Council meeting

92/12 **Councillors Business:** *any further business arising from the meeting, to be noted or dealt with on a future agenda*
No further matters were raised.

93/12 **Compton News**
The Clerk would write a piece on the future of the Chapel as far as parishioners are concerned, as discussed above.

94/12 **Dates of meetings:**
19th September, 21st November, 15th January, 20th March.
Annual Parish meeting: 24th April
Annual Meeting: 15th May

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9pm.