



COMPTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Compton Parish Council, held on
Wednesday 18th January 2017 at 7.00pm

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

Present: Cllrs P Hunt, R Nagaty, K Patel, C Sharples
Borough Cllr M Parsons
3 members of the public

In attendance: The Clerk, Mrs J Cadman

01/17 **Election of meeting Chairman:** Cllr Nagaty was unanimously elected as Chairman for the meeting, and took the chair.

02/17 **Apologies for absence:** were received from Cllr Graham.

03/17 **Declarations of interest:**

Cllr Nagaty declared a pecuniary interest in the Blackwell Farm Development.

Cllr Hunt declared a personal and pecuniary interest in Watts Gallery

04/17 **Minutes of Parish Council meeting November 2016:** were agreed as a correct record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman.

05/17 **Matters Arising**

101/16 United Charities: to be deferred to March meeting, as Cllr Graham is away

107/16: Adoption of Phone Box: GBC had objected to the removal of the phone box and BT have agreed that the Parish Council can adopt it. The Clerk has signed the adoption papers. Cllr Sharples will contact the benefactor who had offered up to £2,000 towards its refurbishment, and consideration will be given to its future use.

Public forum: GBC commons management plan: Hendryk had advised that he is currently behind with the management plan, due to major infrastructure issues. He wishes to prioritise the formal management plan for the main sites to make sure future funding is in place and whilst this is not ideal for Compton, he has a work plan in place.

He advised that tree thinning had been done in the school house area, whilst being conscious of access for travellers. He has asked SSE to clear the scrub under the power line in that area. The Himalayan Balsam has been cleared and this work will continue. The Black Path was flailed last winter and more work will be done to create better woodland edges. Tree safety works on the road edges are booked and small scale veteran tree work in the Black Path area. A veteran tree survey will be carried out in due course. He has changed the grass cutting to a cut and collect in the Avenue, with the aim of improving the grassland.

Cllr Sharples commented that the area is looking much improved. Local volunteer work is also making a difference, and the commons are slowly moving to a better condition

06/17 **Report from County Cllr:** no report had been received.

07/17 **Report from borough Cllrs**

Cllr Parsons reported as follows:

1. *Air Quality Management station:* this will be installed in Compton on the 14th February, somewhere near the A3 end of the village.
2. *Change in management at GBC:* Cllr Parsons confirmed that Sue Sturgeon is stepping down as Managing Director at the end of May. Interviews are being held for her replacement at the end of January.

08/17 **Report on police and crime statistics:** no report had been received from the police.

- 09/17 **Report on Local Plan:** Mrs Stevens' report is attached to the minutes. Cllr Nagaty asked Cllr Parsons if there had been any discussion at GBC regarding the university's decision to remove the application under Clause 15 S106 agreement. Cllr Parsons believed that this would be dealt with under delegated authority, but would follow up the question and advise the Clerk.
- 10/17 **Members report: highways**
Mr Miller reported as follows:
1. *VAS:* the highways committee are still waiting to hear from Bahram Assadi whether it will be possible to obtain a data logging unit for the VAS at the A3 end of the village. The Village Association would consider financial assistance if this is the reason it has not been provided.
 2. *Down Lane scheme:* no action has been taken since the beginning of the year. Mr Miller will pursue this.
- 11/17 **Members report: allotments and environmental projects:**
1. *Ditch: members were asked agree the cost of clearing the ditches, at £2,000 + vat .* the quotation had been circulated prior to the meeting and members noted that Cllr Johnson had agreed to contribute from his personal allowance. Cllr Sharples PROPOSED, SECONDED by Cllr Hunt, that this work be carried out and that the Parish Council pay the full cost if no other contribution is received. This was **agreed** by all present.
 2. *Ditch in Polsted Lane:* more work will be done to this ditch at some stage. (trees in Polsted lane are almost on lines near Compton cottage)
 3. *Almsgate:* Cllr Parsons will advise the Clerk the best person to contact regarding jetting the drains at Almsgate
 4. *Willows at Withies Lane: members were asked to agree the cost of pollarding the willows: quotations at circa £2,300 had been circulated prior to the meeting:* Cllr Sharples explained that the willows are very unsafe and are on land that appears to be manorial waste. He asked if the Village Association would be prepared to contribute. Mr Miller advised that the Village Association were happy to contribute towards projects, cleaning ditches being an example, and would be happy to have a conversation with the Parish Council about sharing the cost of projects. He reminded Members that funds had been released towards the purchase of Compo 4, and that Puttenham had also significantly contributed to this. Cllr Hunt would speak to Kevin Shepherd, who might be prepared to deal with the Willows, and will advise the Clerk. Members authorised the Clerk to ascertain the financial outlay required by the Council and to seek authorisation by email.
 5. *History of allotments: members to agree a maximum contribution of £250 towards the costs of publishing Carolyn Maslin's history of the allotments, to be completed:* the draft had been circulated. Members agreed it to be an excellent piece of work which would be well received in the village. Cllr Sharples PROPOSED, SECONDED by Cllr Patel, that a grant of up to £250 be allocated towards the costs of printing the history. This was **agreed** by all present.
- 12/17 **Members report: youth and recreation**
Playground proposals: members received comparison quotes on the upgrade to the existing playground, from Playground Facilities and Sovereign Play. The new proposals are to replace the fencing, provide a trim trail and an accessible piece of play equipment, and matting. After consideration, and on the basis of price comparison, it was PROPOSED by Cllr Patel, SECONDED by Cllr Nagaty and **agreed** by all present that the contract be awarded to Playground Facilities.
- 13/17 **Members report: Watts Gallery and Cemetery**
- a) *Minutes of cemetery committee meeting 16th December:* had been circulated prior to the meeting. Cllr Sharples suggested that the ashes area be marked by small wooden posts rather than rockery stones. Members **agreed** that the Clerk would seek agreement from the Cemetery Committee and proceed with this if it is obtained. Cllr Hunt will relay the Council's concerns that the wooden steps have not yet been covered with chicken wire, to prevent slipping.
 - b) *Members considered the following support for Watts Gallery proposals:*
 - i) *the chapel:* Cllr Hunt summarised the position that the Gallery is in, that the Chapel, Cloisters and Cottage all need extensive work. The Chapel, a Grade I listed building, is

there for the community and is a memorial to Watts. It badly needs work to Mary Watt's Gesso work, and new lighting so that the interior can be properly appreciated. Work also needs to be done to landscape Zone 5 and to put in appropriate steps to this area. The Gallery have been successful in gaining a grant from the Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation, but this needs to be match funded. This is a three year project and the Gallery seeks £5,000 a year from the Parish Council.

- ii) *an external amphitheatre at Limnerslease.* The Gallery are seeking funding for the installation of Bench 1, a wooden amphitheatre created by the daughter of Antony Gormley, which has been successfully used at Roche Court in Wiltshire and at Frensham Heights School in Surrey. Watts Gallery Trust has applied to the Roger de Haan Charitable Trust. If they were able to show that Compton Parish Council could make an investment in the project for £2,500 in 2017 and £2,500 in 2018, this may unlock a grant of £45,000, as well as monies from the Community Foundation and Friends of Watts Gallery Trust.

Members acknowledged that the Chapel belongs to the village and is the property of the Parish Council, leased to the Gallery, and as such was worthy of financial support. They also acknowledged that the Gallery is an integral and important part of the village and provides substantial local employment. They were concerned at the level of financial commitment involved in these two project and it was **agreed** to a site visit so that members can view the proposals and a decision taken at the March full Council meeting. The site visit was arranged for Thursday 2nd March at 2.30pm, meeting at the Chapel.

14/17 **War Memorial:**

Cllr Sharples is seeking further quotations for the restoration work, the Clerk will send him details of conservationists that she was given by other Surrey Clerks. The current quotation is for £6474, with a further £1,000 to install electrics to restore the light at the top of the Memorial.

Members **agreed** that this should be progressed and that an application should be made to the War memorial Trust for a grant. Members **noted** that there will be a financial outlay on the part of the Parish Council, and this will be agreed once the aforementioned work is completed

15/17 **Members report: *planning*:** Cllr Graham's report is attached to the minutes.

1. Cllr Sharples expressed his concern regarding the fencing at the Rectory, which he considered to be out of keeping.
2. Members agreed that Coneycroft Barn is out of keeping with its environment.
3. The Clerk will establish the current position regarding the Vinery.
4. Surrey Wildlife Trust intend to apply for a licence for Pucks Oak barns, so that it can be used for wedding receptions, etc. members agreed that the lack of parking will be an impediment.

16/17 **Members report: *village hall*:** Cllr Graham had reported as follows:

Sarah Baskerville and Pete Graham conducted a review of the Hall's Risk Register, and updated it, walking round on site. Bookings are steady, and the financial position is good.

17/17 **Village sign:** Planning permission has been granted.

GBC's legal department have not yet completed the legal agreement for erection of the sign on their land, but in the meantime Cllr Sharples will ask the craftsmen to proceed. A grant of £2,000 has been offered towards the sign, and Cllr Sharples will also apply to the Village Association. Members ratified the previous agreement that the Parish Council will fund the difference between funding received and the total cost.

18/17 **Finance**

- a) *Management report to 30th December:* had been circulated prior to the meeting and was noted and approved.
- b) *Receipts and expenditure for year to date:* had been circulated prior to the meeting and the expenditure for November and December of £1661.44 was noted and approved.
- c) *Draft budget for 2017/18:* the precept request had been approved at the November meeting and submitted to GBC. The Clerk explained the budget workings and these were noted and approved.

- 19/17 **Clerks report**
- a) *Security of village green:* the ditch and bund and posts will be installed by GBC's contractor once the weather has improved. The Parish Council will pay for the ditch and bund.
 - b) *Update on the bus shelter:* Nick Palmer had reported as follows: the painting and maintenance of the bus stop was interrupted by Christmas but work will resume shortly. So far, 28 new roof panels have been cut and treated to cover the degrading roofing felt. Removing the entire roof and re-felting would have been the best option but it would have required professional contractors and would therefore have broken the budget. The road facing panels have been painted, new exterior slats have been cut, machined and stained, as the old originals had rotted beyond repair. The broken seat has also been repaired with a new length of timber and a couple of broken missing roof tiles replaced. 50 years of dust was swept away, along with the usual litter. Very grateful thanks were recorded to Nick and his team
 - c) *Annual litter pick:* Saturday 25th March, 10am at the Village Club.
- 20/17 **Councillors business:** *for noting or including on a future agenda*
No further matters were raised.
- 21/17 **Correspondence:**
No new correspondence had been received.
- 22/17 **Dates of meetings:** 15th March, 17th May. Annual Parish Meeting: to be arranged.