



COMPTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Compton Parish Council, held on
Wednesday 19th July 2017 at 7.00pm

At **Compton Village Hall Meeting Room** for the transaction of the under mentioned business

Present: Cllrs P Graham, R Nagaty.
5 members of the public
In attendance: The Clerk, Mrs J Cadman

Open Forum:

- 1. Village Projects:** Mr Miller had asked, through the Compton News, for residents to suggest projects in the village. He read the list of proposed projects, which he will discuss with the Clerk for collaboration between the Village Association and the Council.
- 2. Royal British Legion:** Peter Lambert, Chairman of the Compton RBL, reminded members that 2018 is the 100th anniversary of the end of the First World War. The 11th November is on a Saturday and the Compton RBL want to make that a very special day, in conjunction with the Parish Council and the Village Association. This was agreed, and it was agreed to open discussions.

74/17 **Election of meeting Chairman:** those present **agreed** that Cllr Graham should chair the meeting.

Members also **agreed** that Standing Orders regarding a quorum should be set aside for this meeting, in order that decisions could be made, particularly with regard to the response to GBC's consultation to the Local Plan, due no later than Monday 24th July. All decisions will be reported to members by email, for agreement, and ratified at the next Council meeting.

75/17 **Apologies for absence:** were received from Cllr Hunt and Cllr Sharples

76/17 **Declarations of interest:** Cllr Nagaty declared a pecuniary interest in the Blackwater Farm development.

77/17 **Minutes of Parish Council meeting May 2017:** were agreed as a correct record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman, after the following amendment:

Minutes of Parish Council Extraordinary meeting June 2017: were agreed as a correct record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman

78/17 **Matters Arising**

54/17: *Highways issues:* the Clerk has reported the drain and the debris at Eastbury Manor to Highways.

Bridleway 290: the Clerk is liaising with SCC Rights of Way, who are only able to deal with high priority clearing at present. It was agreed to establish the owners of the land on each side of the bridleway and to ask them to cut back their vegetation.

Pavements along Priorsfield Road: Cllr Graham will identify the properties with overhanging vegetation and the Clerk will write.

VAS: the new equipment has been ordered.

80/17 **Report from County Cllr:** no report had been received.

81/17 **Report from borough Cllrs:** no report had been received.

82/17 **Report on police and crime statistics:** In April, the following crimes were recorded: 1 public order offence in Down Lane, 4 sexual offences in Eastbury Lane, 1 criminal damage, 1 other theft and 1 public order in Eastbury lane, 1 violence and sexual offence on the Green, 1 antic social behaviour in

Withies Lane.

83/17 **Report on Local Plan:** *had been circulated before the meeting.*

Members noted that a request had been made at the Annual Parish meeting for the Parish council to be more pro-active about the Local Plan and how it will affect Compton. They noted that some villages have employed barristers, but were content that Compton had employed Green Balance, environmental consultants, to write a report on the environmental impact.

Despite 33,000 objections, the Local Plan is still very much in the form that it was previously. The proposals for Blackwell Farm are now for 1500 houses and a school, with a potential further 300 to be added at a later date. There are no immediate plans for alterations to the A3 and so the only access is Down Place, through ancient woodland. It appears that the Borough Council plan to control traffic to and from the development through number plate recognition, but this method has been proved not to work in Cambridge.

Blackwell Farm is AONB, which gives a lie to the Borough Council's statement that they are protecting AONB.

When considering the budget for 2017/18, the Parish Council had agreed to budget £20,000 for consultant's advice. The consultant had produced a 23 page report which mainly concentrates on traffic issues, illustrating that the volume of traffic produced by the development has not been taken into account. This was pointed out by consultants in great detail following the June 2016 version of the plan but, in the year that GBC have had to address this problem, they have found no solution.

Recommendations:

1. That the report from Green Balance is submitted by Compton Parish Council to GBC, CPRE and Surrey Hills. PROPOSED by Cllr Graham and SECONDED by Cllr Nagaty.
2. That Green Balance is asked to continue to represent the Parish Council in the business of the Local Plan. PROPOSED by Cllr Nagaty and SECONDED by Cllr Graham,

Thanks were recorded to Fiona Curtis and Karen Stevens, who had both worked tirelessly on this.

Mr Miller was concerned that the Borough Council would only allow comment on changes to the Draft. If they had ignored previous requests for change, it was not now possible to point that out. If the Green Belt was taken up for affordable housing, that might be acceptable in certain circumstances, but it was more likely it would be taken up for executive homes.

Mr Miller confirmed that the Village Association would support the Parish Council.

84/17 **Members report: highways**

Report from Mr Ken Miller:

1. **Down Lane**

SCC have recently questioned why the "Brushes" have been removed near the Chapel as they are now insisting that there are signs at both ends of the "Quiet Lane" section. This is being discussed with the Surrey Hills AONB Director who authorised their relocation.

2. **VAS**

As previously discussed, we are awaiting the arrival of the data logger for the VAS near Cypress Farm in the Street.

3. **Traffic Pollution**

The GBC report into NO2 levels at the A3 end of the Street is now scheduled for late August and we are told by the GBC Environment team that an AQMA is "inevitable". However, the Guildford Local Plan supporting documents now include an Air Quality Review by AECOM which includes the following:

"As a result the implementation of the GBC Draft Local Plan should have little effect on future traffic flows through the area (Compton) and thus negligible impact on local air quality".

"Concentrations of nitrogen dioxide above the 40 µg/m3 objective value have been recorded at few locations within the Borough and those with the potential to affect sensitive receptors have undergone detailed assessment. The primarily residential village of Compton is one such location. In 2016 a detailed air quality assessment of

emissions from traffic passing through the area along the B3000 (The Street) was carried out. The results of this assessment show that there are residential receptors to which the NO₂ concentration is above the associated objective. However, it is predicted that if little development takes place within the area and vehicle emissions are reduced by technological advances these objective exceedance should reduce to below the objective in the future, without additional measures being required locally”.

“At one monitoring location in the village of Compton passive NO₂ monitoring data shows an exceedance of the annual mean NO₂ objective (GBC, 2016b). GBC therefore carried out further air quality reviews of this area. The further assessment work found that one sensitive receptor experienced annual mean NO₂ concentrations in exceedance of the associated annual mean NO₂ objective and that additional nearby sensitive receptors were approaching the objective. The assessment identified a risk of exceedance if traffic flows, primarily on the B3000, increased. The area was not declared as an AQMA as the assessment noted that emissions from traffic were expected to decrease into the future which should lead to a decrease in NO₂ concentrations measured in the area”.

The Environment team just shrug their shoulders at this and say that the AECOM report was correct as it only uses 2016 figures but that this year’s readings are leading inevitably in the direction of an AQMA.

I will be keeping in touch with the Environment team on this important subject.

4. The Avenue

The Avenue has had a number of incidents recently including a resident being forced off his bike by a car driving without due care and attention. We explained to SCC that the Avenue is a dangerous road for all users, particularly cyclists and walkers. Many villagers use the Avenue to walk to the doctors’ surgery and to Binscombe and some even walk to Farncombe.

Our preferred option, to close the road at the Binscombe end and just use the entrance from the Street for access, was rejected by SCC (it would make the road into a private road) as was the other option, which was to make the Avenue like Stakescorner Road, which effectively means it would be access only. The reason for this rejection is that it would need police enforcement which is not available.

The Avenue currently has a national speed limit in place and SCC have agreed to place a request on the Guildford running list for a speed reduction. They also believe introducing markings for pedestrians, similar to Down Lane, with anti-skid, will improve safety for cyclists and pedestrians. It is apparent that the white line in Down Lane has indeed slowed the speed of the traffic.

Cutting back the foliage on the hedges either side of the road would create more space for all users. The best way to achieve this would be by reporting this on the SCC website.

5. Traffic Volume figures for Compton

We see a problem with the volume of Compton traffic mentioned in the Local Plan. It states that the volume will decrease in Compton and that Blackwell Farm will not have any significant impact on the B3000 in Compton. We have asked why but the officer from GBC Traffic department has refused to explain, stating that this would not be a good use of the Council's resources.

Our concerns are that the statement may be linked to misleading data from 2015, when a traffic count took place over just 3 weeks in January and February. This is certainly not representative of Compton’s normal traffic flows. GBC are aware of the anomaly and originally said they would remove this data, but the comment leads us to believe

otherwise.

- 85/17 **Members report: allotments and environmental projects:**
Allotment ditches: Ian Fowler had agreed to a site meeting but this had not yet been arranged.
Himalayan Balsam: a working party had removed most of this in the previous year, and a small working party will deal with the remainder in August.
Mirror a mirror to make a safer access from the allotments into Polsted Lane is needed. Members agreed to this, and asked that the allotment holders should establish the landowner and organise the mirror.
Willow trees in Withies Lane: these will be pollarded in August, as agreed.
- 86/17 **Members report: youth and recreation**
a) A recent risk assessment has shown that one section of the new railing has been bent. The contractor has been asked to quote for a replacement panel and the insurance company advised.
b) Outline proposals for further playground equipment : The Clerk reminded members that they had agreed to install a zip wire and some adult exercise equipment next year. Costs have been received for the zip wire, in the order of £10,000. The Clerk proposes to make an application for GBC Grant in aid, which will cover up to 50% of the cost. She was asked to source wooden adult exercise equipment.
- 87/17 **Members report: Watts Gallery and Cemetery**
Volunteer working party: The Clerk has asked for volunteers through the News. A working party was agreed for Saturday 30th September.
- 88/17 **War Memorial:**
In order to apply for a War memorial Trust grant, a condition survey has to be completed. This was carried out on Monday 17th July
- 89/17 **Members report: planning:** list of applications determined by GBC had been circulated prior to the meeting.
- 90/17 **Members report: village hall:** minutes of village hall meeting had been circulated prior to the meeting.
Cllr Graham advised that the committee holds substantial reserves against future repairs and renovations. At present, it is planned to hold a working party shortly to address fixtures and fittings. He commented that the hall is very well maintained.
The committee are working with Punch Taverns to maintain the trees and boundaries and will submit a planning application for a shed, as the theatre group need more storage space.
- 91/17 **Village sign:**
The sign and frame are both in construction and the project is on target. GBC are drawing up a permission document, as the sign is to be placed on their land. Planning permission has been received.
Members were concerned that it might be possible for the terracotta sign to be damaged or broken, and would seek Cllr Sharples' views on this.
- 92/17 **Finance**
a) *Management report to 30th June :* had been circulated prior to the meeting and was noted.
b) *Receipts and expenditure for April, May and June:* had been circulated prior to the meeting and the total expenditure for the period of £6709.13 was noted and approved.
- 93/17 **Clerks report**
a) *Handyman:* Peter Borrett has now retired. In the absence of a handyman, Cllr Sharples has kindly offered to mow the recreation ground.
- 93/17 **Councillors business:** for noting or including on a future agenda

No further matters were raised.

95/17 **Correspondence:** *to be noted*

96/17 **Dates of meetings:** 20th September, 15th November, 17th January

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.50pm.