



COMPTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Compton Parish Council, held on
Wednesday 15th November 2017 at 7.00pm
At **Pucks Oak Barn** for the transaction of the under mentioned business

Present: Cllrs P Graham, C Sharples, R Nagaty
5 members of the public
In attendance: Mr K Miller, Chairman, Traffic Committee
Mr Alistair Burtenshaw, Director, Watts Gallery
The Clerk, Mrs J Cadman

The following matters were raised by members of the public, before the meeting commenced:

1. *Eastbury Manor:* Mrs Adair advised that the nursing home has installed a number of very bright outside lights, which have a considerable visual impact on the neighbours. **Action:** the Clerk to report this to Enforcement and ensure that it is followed up by them.
2. *Village Projects:* as discussed at the previous meeting, the Village Association, in conjunction with the Parish Council, has earmarked money for village projects as follow:
 - a) Average speed cameras: a feasibility study is underway and Mr Miller hopes to be able to report at the next meeting.
 - b) Adult exercise equipment: it had been agreed that two or three pieces of equipment on the Green would be a welcome addition to the facilities. Mr Miller will now put together a working group to decide on equipment and positioning.
3. *Monkshatch:* there is considerable concern over the ground clearance work at Monkshatch, and its purpose. Matt Furniss, SCC County Councillor, is now overseeing GBC's actions in this respect and has stated that he will not allow it to get out of hand as it did before. It was noted that the ownership of the land has been transferred recently. GBC will issue a stop notice and have asked that they are notified if any further work is seen on the site.
Members also noted that this piece of land has been divided into two, and the owner of one side has restored his land.

119/17 **Election of meeting Chairman:** Cllr Graham was PROPOSED as meeting chairman by Cllr Nagaty, SECONDED by Cllr Sharples. Cllr Graham took the chair.

120/17 **Apologies for absence:** were received from Cllr Patel.
Apologies were noted from County Cllr M Furniss.

121/17 **Declarations of interest:** Cllr Nagaty declared a pecuniary interest in the Blackwater Farm development.

122/17 **Minutes of Parish Council meeting September 2017:** due to software problems, these had not yet been circulated, and will be agreed at the next meeting.

123/17 **Matters Arising**
No matters were raised other than those covered by the agenda.

124/17 **Co-option of Councillor**
Mrs Andrea Bradley introduced herself and advised that her background is in PR and marketing. She is interested in community and people, particularly looking after the elderly and vulnerable in the village, and hopes to use her skills in PR and marketing to make the parish council more visible and reachable by the public.
Cllr Graham PROPOSED that Mrs Bradley be co-opted onto the Council. This was SECONDED by Cllr Sharples, with all in favour.

Cllr Bradley signed the acceptance of office and took her place at the meeting.

125/17 **Report from County Cllr:**

none had been received, but members noted that Cllr Furniss had offered to walk around the parish with the Council, and welcomed this offer.

126/17 **Report from borough Cllrs**

None had been received.

127/17 **Report on police and crime statistics:** crimes in Compton reported in August as follows: 1 public order in Spiceall, 1 vehicle crime near the recreation ground, 1 anti-social behaviour in Withies Lane, 1 anti-social behaviour and 1 criminal damage in Eastbury Lane.

The report was noted.

128/17 **Report on Local Plan:**

Mrs Steven's report had been circulated prior to the meeting.

Cllr Nagaty reported that there had been an Executive meeting at GBC the previous Monday, and they had put the Local Plan to an Extraordinary meeting of the Council on Tuesday, with the recommendation to agree it. Some members of the public had been allowed to speak at each meeting, and Cllr Nagaty had spoken at both. There was a general consensus of disquiet at how the Local Plan was being pushed through, despite all the objections.

Cllr Graham reiterated that this Council's major concern was the proposed development at Blackwell farm and its impact on this village, not least in increased traffic. We have had consultants working on this, as do surrounding parishes, and very strong reports have been produced, which have not been taken into account by GBC. Worplesdon and Artington have both agreed to support further work.

Members noted that the next step is for the proposed Local Plan to be submitted to the Planning Inspector, and this will be before the end of the year. Cllr Nagaty was concerned that the Planning Inspector will be led to understand that all objections have been taken into account.

Members also noted that a piece of land further along the Hogs Back has been split into lots, which suggests that the owner perceives that it has development potential.

129/17 **Members report: *highways***

Mr Miller reported as follows:

1. **Down Lane**

I am waiting on a call from SCC and I will report verbally.

2. **VAS and Speed & Volume Checks**

The new data logger is now operational and we are monitoring traffic in the Street at two locations. The Parish Council initiative for a third party to assess traffic volumes and speeds over a 30 day period is underway at a location close to the Green. This will provide not only independent evidence but also a check on the calibration used in our own VAS units.

3. **Traffic Pollution**

The GBC Executive is considering declaring an AQMA for the end of the Street close to the A3 at a meeting at the end of November. They have already written to three properties asking for their comments and the three replies were essentially along the lines of the attached document which had already been sent to GBC.

On talking to Matt Furniss, he indicated that the closure of the road for the new bridge close to the Crematorium would give an opportunity to see what levels of NO2 were present when the traffic levels are much lower. He said that Network Rail now expects a much longer road closure than the couple of days previously intimated and is arranging for Network Rail to make a presentation to Compton and Artington Parish Councils in January.

I detect that there is now a risk that there could be a possible delay in declaring the AQMA to see the effect the road closure would have on pollution levels.

4. Average Speed Cameras

Work has started on a feasibility study to see if such a scheme is within financial reach of the village. I hope to have some information for the Parish Council by the next meeting.

Mr Burtenshaw advised that he had met with Cllr Furniss and they had walked Down Lane, between the Gallery and the Chapel. The Gallery remain extremely concerned about speed and safety on Down lane, and Cllr Furniss will arrange a meeting with SCC Highways. Input from the Parish Council would be welcomed. Possible proposals include removing the 30mph repeater signs (a Quiet Lanes initiative) and replacing them with Advisory 20mph signs, and perhaps a sign to warn drivers of pedestrians in the road.

Members requested that consideration be given to the crossing between the Gallery and Limnerslease. At present there is an acorn painted on the road to mark the crossing, this needs to be something more substantial.

Avenue: Cllr Sharples pointed out that no progress has been made on clearing the Avenue in the past three years and visibility is very poor. The Avenue is the only means of walking to Godalming and it is a dangerous road. Mr Miller will take this up with Cllr Furniss.

130/17 **Members report: allotments and environmental projects:**

Allotments: nothing to report

Withies Lane: The Willow trees require further work, with an estimated cost of £1,000. Cllr Sharples PROPOSED that this extra work is done, to complete the work on the area. This was SECONDED by Cllr Graham, with all in favour.

Common: a car had driven from Polsted lane to the Old School, on the access through the common. Cllr Sharples requested that bollards be placed on the corner, so that the common is not accessible to vehicles.

131/17 **Members report: youth and recreation**

The upgraded recreation ground is being very well used.

132/17 **Members report: Watts Gallery and Cemetery**

Minutes of the cemetery committee meeting held September had been circulated prior to the meeting.

Mr Burtenshaw reported as follows:

- The main priority for the Gallery at present is road safety.
- A lot has happened at the Gallery over the last 10 years and a bit of time will be spent now on consolidation.
- Fund raising continues for the work on the chapel restoration. The chapel was closed for a week while samples of the paint were taken and it is hoped that conservation work will start in the new year.
- Physical energy: a bronze cast has been made and this will be exhibited in the Royal Academy courtyard from the coming Sunday for about 4 months. It was 113 years ago when the first Physical Energy went into the Royal Academy and into the public domain. The ambition is that the sculpture will be placed on the side of the A3, near the slip road to Compton. A public opinion survey is on the gallery's website, in the gallery and in the public library, with a three week consultation period. The results of this will be added to the consultation carried out with the community some months ago, and the forthcoming planning application will generate more consultation.

It was hoped, subject to planning permission and fund raising, to have Physical Energy in place in the late spring of 2018. It will come directly from the Royal Academy.

Mr Burtenshaw stated that he did not think that Highways England had any particular issues with the proposed siting of the sculpture.

Members discussed the reports from the Cemetery Committee, with particular reference to the laurels, yew and holly outside the chapel. It was agreed to discuss this in more detail with the newly appointed landscape curator.

133/17 **War Memorial:**

The Clerk is in discussion with the War Memorial Trust concerning our application.

Cllr Graham had laid a wreath on behalf of the Parish Council on Remembrance Sunday.

134/17 **Members report: *planning:***

Cllr Graham reported as follows:

- Eastbury Barn's application for a new stable blocked had been refused
- There had been 4 non-contentious applications
- There were 3 tree applications
- Land adjacent to Fowlers Croft: the proposal is for a new house in the front garden of the existing house. There is adequate room and members had no objection to this application.
- Land adjoining Woodside: proposal for 5 bedroomed detached house on a one acre plot. There have been a number of applications for this plot, all of which have gone to the planning inspector and all of which have been refused, one of the reasons being that this looked like strip development. This is the first application for one dwelling only and the neighbours do not object. Members had no objection to this application.

135/17 **Members report: *village hall:***

Cllr Graham had no report to give.

136/17 **Village sign:**

Cllr Sharples said that he hoped the sign would be finished by May 2018. He confirmed that maintenance would be minimal as the sign and the frame would need no work, and the area would just need to be strimmed.

137/17 **Finance**

- a) *Management report to 30th October* had been circulated prior to the meeting and was noted.
- b) *Receipts and expenditure for September and October:* had been circulated prior to the meeting. Members approved the expenditure for the period of £1762.56 and noted the balance at bank of £75,435.65 as at the end of September.
- c) *Internal audit:* in accordance with Local Government legislation, the Parish Council will undergo an interim internal audit this year. The findings will be reported at the January meeting.
- d) *Budget for 2018/19:* the Clerk presented the first draft of the budget for 2018/19, which showed a change in the Precept request. Members agreed that the budget will be approved at the January meeting, and had no questions at this stage.

138/17 **Clerks report**

- a) *New handyman:* the Clerk reported that she had toured the parish with the new handyman, and had given him a list of routine and one-off jobs, which included treating the new bus shelter and clearing the scrub area at the side of the Green. He will report back each month as he submits his invoice, and this report will be shown to Council.

139/17 **Councillors business: *for noting or including on a future agenda***

- a) *Liaison with the public:* Cllr Bradley expressed her wish to start talking to people; members were very pleased to agree to this.
- b) *Access:* Cllr Sharples asked if a strip of grass could be mowed from Polsted Lane to where the footpath starts again, to make access easier and more obvious. The Clerk will add this to the handyman's list for the next growing season.

140/17 **Correspondence: *to be noted***

118/17 **Dates of meetings: 17th January, 21st March**

To agree a date for the Annual Parish Meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.25pm