



COMPTON PARISH COUNCIL

Local Government Act 1972

Minutes of a MEETING of Compton Parish Council
held on **Tuesday 8th October 2024 at 7pm**

At Pucks Oak Barn

For the transaction of the under mentioned business

Present: Cllr S Mallet (in the chair), Cllrs R Nagaty, C Sharples
6 members of the public

In attendance: The Clerk, Mrs J Cadman

Public session: All matters raised by the public were dealt with during the meeting, as they all related to agenda items.

090/24 Apologies for Absence: were received from Cllrs K Hecker-Meschede, J Palca, J Saunders. Apologies were also noted from our County Cllr and two Borough Cllrs, due to a conflicting meeting at Guildford Borough Council this evening.

091/24 Declarations of interest : were made as follows:

098/24: Cllr Nagaty declared a pecuniary interest regarding any reference to the Solar Farm or Blackwell farm.

101/24: Cllr Sharples declared a non pecuniary interest as an employee of the Gallery

092/24 Minutes of meeting held 17th July 2024: Were agreed as a correct record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman.

Minutes of the closed session held 17th July: Were agreed as a correct record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman.

093/24 Matters arising

All matters were covered by the agenda

094/24 Report from County Cllr: no report had been received.

095/24 Report from Borough Cllrs: no report had been received.

096/24 Members report: Local Plan

Mrs Stevens was unable to attend the meeting but had discussed with the Clerk the possibility of a private discussion with councillors to examine the benefits of a Neighbourhood plan, with the purpose of protecting the parish by having a stronger voice in planning decisions.

At the same time, she would also update members on the Local Plan and a timetable for future actions by the Council.

This was agreed and will be arranged by the Clerk. Mrs Townsend indicated an interest in being involved in the Neighbourhood Plan committee and this was welcomed.

097/24 Highways and Traffic Committee:

- a) *members received an update from Mr Bagnall:* He reminded the meeting of the Placemakers team in March and that the budget of £400,000 is in place until March 2026. The team had disagreed with residents' views about speed through the village, despite the evidence shown by speed cameras, and will not support Average Speed Cameras until such time as their preferred highways engineering is proved not to be effective.

The committee had suggested taking the village in sections. The A3 end is narrow and wndy, with little pavement. Speeds pick up in the centre of the village and again at the Avenue. The SCC committee wish to advance the options of raised platforms, or taking out the central white lines and had given examples of where this had been done elsewhere. Mr Bagnall and Fiona Curtis had done a lot of work on speeding in other parishes and measures taken to reduce this.

Members were not in favour of raised platforms as they create a lot of noise. They also pointed out that lorries wander across the road now, and removing the white lines would only make this worse. SCC don't recognise the size and volume of traffic, or the problems caused to pedestrians because of this, and due to the lack of pavements. Mr Bagnall confirmed that there are currently 4.5 to 5 million traffic movements a year through Compton.

Mr Bagnall will ask the Placemaking Team and Matt Furniss for a draft of their proposals.

Cllr Sharples proposed a poster campaign through the village, objecting to the lack of viable proposals from SCC. This will be discussed further.

- b) *potential meeting with SCC and Surrey Police:* Mr Bagnall had still not heard but would chase Mr Hunt's office and report back when he has more information. He suggested it would be helpful to have a representative from the Parish Council at that meeting.
- c) *Data survey:* members agreed to fund a further data survey if necessary, but with a specific remit agreed by the Council.
- d) *40mph speed limit on A3 exit:* Highways England would be approached concerning the possibility of a 40mph speed limit on the A3 exit at Compton.
- e) *Compton roadworks:* these are not mentioned in regular weekly updates.

098/24 Planning:

- a) list of current planning applications: these had been noted and no comments raised.
- b) Surrey Hills National Landscape (AONB Boundary variation project: It was agreed that the Parish Council would respond, and would ask for the help of Fiona Curtis and Karen Stevens to do so.
- c) *Harrow:* there is no further news at present.

099/24 Members report: Allotments and Environment : Cllr Sharples

- a) *ditch at Withies Lane:* Mr Bagnall reported as follows: *Flowrite Drainage have today replaced just over 4m of the old concrete pipe with 300mm Twinwall pipe and joined the new to the old with Flexseal Couplers. (Photos available if of interest). It took some time to locate it but, when found, it was quickly apparent where roots had got into the pipe. The problem section was close to the Waterhaw boundary and opposite the*

trees and bamboo. A lot of work was needed with digger and manual labour to get through the heavily rooted area and expose the pipe. About 4 junction points had root problems and the size of some of the root inside the pipe was amazing. No wonder there was very limited water flow. A camera inspection checked that all the root problem was dealt with.

I also asked them to do some dredging of the catch pool which has improved it a bit, but it does need regularly monitoring and clearing as needed. The sandbags have been positioned to encourage the water towards the pipe without blocking the flow under the tree. I estimate about one third of the water flow now goes down the pipe. The water is coming out at the far end of the pipe and I noticed a trickle is making its way slowly down Withies Lane ditch and wasn't far from the pond when we finished a couple of hours ago. However, I think it's going to take time before we see a flow again behind the cottages.

The ditch at the exit side has been dug out and an eye cut on the pond side to ensure the water is flowing freely. A decision needs to be made on how this is handled in the future, to ensure a flow into and out of the pond. It was agreed to ask the Parish Council's handyman to keep an eye on the pond, so that remedial work can be ongoing. A meeting will be arranged between the handyman and Cllr Sharples to discuss this.

Mr Bagnall will also write a full report for the Parish Council records.

Mr Bagnall advised that the costs of completing this work were as follows: £240 for the camera survey, £800 + VAT for the work. Members **agreed** to contribute 50% of this cost.

- b) *parking on verges at Spiceall:* Mr Wyschna, a resident of Spiceall, drew the attention of the Council to the parking problems at Spiceall, with residents parking on the verges and in front of the garages. Posts had been installed by the Parish Council's handyman to stop residents driving and parking on the green space in front of the garages, which was currently effective but increased the poor parking elsewhere. One resident was running a business from his garage and took an extension lead across the road from his flat to the garage.

A meeting had been arranged with the new Housing Officer at GBC and they would be asked to agree to a joint letter from GBC and the Parish Council, asking people to respect their environment.

100/24 Members report: **Youth and Recreation:** *Cllr Saunders*

Playground renovations: The Clerk reported as follows:

The refurbishment was completed by the 27th September, but the park closed until the 2nd of October, due to the very wet underfoot conditions.

The refurbishments consist of the following:

1 zip wire (which replaced the slide and 2 bouncy animals)

1 toddlers multi play (which replaced half the trim trail)

1 'rock and bowl' (an accessible piece of equipment, which replaced the accessible roundabout)

Grasscrete has been paid under all the equipment, and grass seed sown, and some turf has been laid where safer surfacing has been removed.

The project remaining is to replace the old multi play which an older children's version, and the swings with modern swings. In the meantime both are safe and serviceable, and our handyman will paint the swings when the weather makes it possible for him to do so.

The cost of this remaining work is circa £25,000, allowing for fencing and site equipment. The Clerk reported that she had been pleased with the company, Playtime by Fawns. They have been courteous, efficient and prompt, and have kept her up to date at all times with any issues that they have found, particularly that of the weather.

The total cost of the project is £38,960.61 + vat

This is funded as follows:

Parish Council reserve	£30,000
CVA	£5,000
Shepherdsmead Trust	£1,500

Subsequent to our last meeting it was agreed by email to remove the accessible roundabout and replace it with a 'rock n bowl', with the following proposal:

The cost of repairing the accessible roundabout is £2,500. It is an old piece of kit and the likelihood of something else going wrong is quite strong. The Clerk questioned whether it is a good use of Parish Council resources. It could be removed and replaced with a 'Rock and Bowl', which is also accessible, although the child would need to be lifted into it.

Doing this would cost an extra £2,500. £38,960 as opposed to £36,481.

Members agreed to this proposal out of meeting, and that agreement was ratified this evening by all present.

The newly renovated playground had been opened the previous Thursday and Mr Wyschna was warmly thanked for organising the official opening in the presence of the Mayor, and providing refreshments for all those present. It had made a lovely occasion, and the new equipment had been well received.

Further funding possibilities: no report had been received from Cllr Saunders.

101/24 Members report: **Watts Gallery and Cemetery**

- a) A date to be agreed for Cllrs Mallet and Palca to meet with the Clerk to review the Gallery Agreement.
- b) The Clerk had tabled a report from Mr Herbert on cemetery data project and verbally updated the meeting as follows:

The cemetery had now been accurately mapped, so that all areas are measured correctly and are geographically accurate. Work had now started on placing graves within the marked areas, starting with area E, as it was one of the smallest. It has been clear from the beginning of this project that the information on the historical maps is consistently incorrect, with graves placed in the wrong places, duplicated or left out completely, so each area has to be closely examined to ensure that all graves are included, and that the ones that are not unmarked are also recognised and mapped.

The Clerk was grateful for offers of help with doing this, but explained that, because of the detail needed in each area, some of which crossed into or were duplicated with other areas, it would be very hard to share the work. This was agreed.

The Clerk advised that the level of additional work needed would have a budget implication of in the region of £10,000.

102/24 Finance

- a) Schedule of income and payments to end September, amounting to £15,632.67 was noted and approved.
- b) *Management report to end September* noted and approved

- c) *Bank reconciliation to end September* noted and approved and verified against the bank statement by the Chairman at the meeting.
- d) *Annual Governance and accountability return:*
 - i. notice of conclusion of audit
 - ii. Sections 1 and 2 of the AGAR
 - iii. Section 3 – external auditors reportNoted and approved.
- e) Playground Contract: FR5.7: advice from internal auditor was noted.
- f) Risk Management Policy: noted and approved.

103/24 Back up strategy for website and cemetery records database

It was agreed that a working group of Cllrs Mallet, Cllr K Hecker-Meschede and the Clerk should meet to discuss this.

104/24 Councillors Business: any further business arising from the meeting to be noted or dealt with on a future agenda.

- a) *Memorial to Ken Miller:* members unanimously agreed that it was imperative that a memorial of some nature be put in the village to commemorate this man, who had been such a fundamental part of Compton for so many years. To be discussed with the Village Association. Mrs Townsend offered to liaise with them.

105/24 Date of next meeting:

20th November

The meeting closed at 20.30.