



COMPTON PARISH COUNCIL

Local Government Act 1972

Minutes of a MEETING of Compton Parish Council
held on **Wednesday 17th July 2024 at 7pm**
At Pucks Oak Barn

Present: Cllr S Mallet (in the chair), Cllrs R Nagaty, C Sharples
Borough Cllr C Houston
Mr William Bagnall
2 members of the public
In attendance: The Clerk, Mrs J Cadman

Public Session:

- a) *Harrow:* a drain pipe had fallen off the building, the building was becoming a general mess and a hazard. Cllr Mallet undertook to contact the developers.
- b) *Withies Lane blocked drain:* Mr Bagnall advised that SCC had finally attended to jet the blocked pipe, but as they had not advised him of the date, he was not able to show them what needed doing, as a result the pipe is still blocked. Mr Bagnall has contracted with a firm to replace the pipe. Cllr Mallet asked him to advise the Parish Council of the cost, so that a contribution could be agreed.

073/24 Apologies for Absence: were received from Cllrs Cllrs K Hecker-Meschede, J Palca, J Saunders and Borough Cllr Dominique Williams

074/24 Declarations of interest: Cllr Nagaty declared a pecuniary interest in 080/24iii as a close neighbour. Cllr Sharples declared a pecuniary interest in 085/24 as an employee of the Gallery.

075/24 Minutes of meetings held 15th May and 11th June 2024: Both sets of minutes were agreed as correct records of the meetings, and signed by the Chairman.

076/24 Matters arising
Your Fund Surrey – still to be explored.

077/24 Report from County Cllr: no report had been received

078/24 Report from Borough Cllrs:

- a) The next round of Crowd Fund Guildford opens on the 30th September. Cllr Houston will send information to the Clerk.
- b) The Council had experienced problems with its social housing portfolio, with repairs not being carried out and some houses in a poor condition, and had referred itself to the regulator.
- c) Cllr Houston reminded the meeting of the Rural Fund Surrey.
- d) GBC wish to consult on a new Climate Change Supplementary Planning Document. The cut off to respond is midday on 9th August. [Have your say in our draft Climate Change Supplementary Planning Document - Guildford Borough Council](#)

079/24 Highways and Traffic Committee: Mr Bagnall reported as follows:

Liaison with Parish Council

I have established liaison with the Parish Council. I commented positively on their proposed letter to Surrey CC Highways. It has been sent.

I have made clear that our group has come together solely for the purpose of helping make the most of this SCC initiative and counter their initial stance that there is no endemic speeding problem in Compton. We don't wish to be involved in general traffic issues nor become long standing.

Mean Speed and 85th Percentile Speed

One of our first tasks has been to understand the difference between mean speed and 85th percentile speed data. Having looked at The Dept for Transport guidance to local authorities in setting speed limits – updated March this year - the 85th percentile is the speed point in a set of data at which 85% of vehicles have been at or below this speed (or put another way the speed that 15% vehicles recorded have exceeded). It isn't an average. Whereas mean speed is the average speed of all the vehicles recorded. The government guidance states authorities are meant to record both but use mean speed for setting speed limits (see paras 36 and 37)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/setting-local-speed-limits/setting-local-speed-limits> The guidance is worth a look to get an understanding of the rationale behind the recommended policies.

Compton VAS Data

I have looked at all the data we still have from the VAS between 2012 and 2020 and calculated means speeds and 85th percentile speeds. David kindly looked at my calculations and thinks they are correct.

Over these 9 years, and involving several million vehicle movements, the data shows that average speeds (mean speeds) opposite the village green and at the junction of New Pond Road and The Avenue were between 37 and 42mph and my calculations are that the 85th percentile figures are significantly over 40mph. This substantially exceeds SCC stated policy that 85th percentile needs to be 5mph over the speed limit for speed cameras to be worthwhile.

Communication with SCC

I have sent an email to Matt Furniss in response to his email of 19 June.

Fiona has been in communication with Deveena Matharu, Placemaking Officer for the SCC initiative, who has sent information on their speed data and offered a video meeting with her and a colleague from their road safety team to discuss these. We have sent them our VAS analysis and ask that this is discussed as well. We do need to counter the SCC statements that there is no endemic speeding problem on the B3000 through Compton.

VAS Equipment

Nick Palmer is in contact with Westotec hoping for help in getting the data off the VAS outside Cypress Farm. I think he has asked Jon for help in this. Nick is also going to charge up one of the batteries to see whether any of the battery operated VASs have data we haven't seen yet.

Other Villages

Fiona has requested the data SCC has used in assessing that other local villages that have been allocated Average Speed Cameras. This may not be provided for several weeks.

Our MP

Following the election, Chris and I will either book a surgery appointment with Jeremy Hunt or email him with the latest information and ask how he can best help us to secure ASCs.

Surrey Police

Chris has advised of correspondence between a resident in Down Lane and Stuart Bonner, Road Safety & Traffic Management Officer at Surrey Police. That has given us an appropriate contact as and when we decide to lobby them.

Website

The brilliant website created by Fiona is <https://www.cameras4compton.com>

Members **agreed** that a letter should be written to MP Jeremy Hunt, asking for his help. To be drafted by Mr Bagnall and send by the Clerk.

080/24 Planning:

- i.* List of current planning applications had been circulated. Members agreed to send a comment regarding **24/T/00165 High Timbers, Mark Way:** T1 Beech – fell to ground

level, asking for confirmation that this would not affect the protected view of the ridge.

- ii. **The Harrow:** nothing further to report at present.
- iii. **Solar Farm/Blackwell Farm:** response from the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, confirming that our request to call in application no 24/P/00441 is being considered and the Parish Council will be contacted again in due course. Noted.

081/24 Land Acquisition

The transfer of the land to the Parish Council is now complete. Public liability insurance is confirmed, a risk assessment will be undertaken shortly by the Clerk.

082/24 Members report: Local Plan

Due to the sensitivity of the subject the Chairman directed that this item should be deferred to the end of the meeting and held in closed session.

083/24 Members report: Allotments and Environment : Cllr Sharples

It had not been possible for Cllr Sarah James to complete a funding application for the 'dunny' before she left the Gallery. Cllr Sharples would talk to the allotment committee about various funding options, and encourage them to approach the Parish Council for a grant.

084/24 Members report: Youth and Recreation: Cllr Saunders

- i. **New Proposals from Fawn Playgrounds:** a revised proposal, which replaced the slide with a zipwire, replaced part of the trim trail with a New Forest multi-unit and repaired the accessible roundabout, together with grass mat installation and topsoil, gave a total cost of £36,481.00. It was agreed to accept this quotation, Proposed by Cllr Mallet, Seconded by Cllr Nagaty, all in favour, and to continue to fund raise for the remainder of equipment, to be added when funds allowed.
The Clerk will advise the Village Association of this decision and also place an article in the Newsletter.
- ii. **Report on funding:** Cllr Saunders continues to work on grant applications.

085/24 Members report: Watts Gallery and Cemetery

- a) minutes from Cemetery Committee meeting 8th July were noted.
- b) It was agreed to set up a committee, comprising Cllrs Mallet and Palca, and the Clerk, to review the Agreement with the Gallery.
- c) Gallery report was circulated following the meeting.

086/24 Finance

- a) Schedule of payments to end June at £8,070.05 was noted and agreed.
- b) **Management report to end June** was noted and agreed
- c) **Bank reconciliation to end June** was noted and agreed
- d) Standing Orders and Financial regulations: Cllr Palca's comments on these documents were tabled by Cllr Mallet, as follows:
 - i. **Annual Appraisal for the Clerk:** agreed that the Chairman and the Clerk will carry this out.
 - ii. **Bank reconciliation verification:** Agreed to undertake this 3 times a year – every second meeting.
 - iii. **Precept meeting – declaration by councillor if they are in arrears with council tax:** individual councillor's responsibility, but they will be reminded at the start of the meeting.
 - iv. **Advertising the playground contract:** this clause (FR5.7) is confusing. The Clerk will consult with the internal auditor.

Subject to iv. Approval of the Standing Orders and Financial Regulations was Proposed by Cllr Mallet, Seconded by Cllr Nagaty, all in favour.

087/24 Back up strategy for website and cemetery records database

Deferred to September meeting

088/24 Councillors Business: any further business arising from the meeting to be noted or dealt with on a future agenda.

No further matters were raised.

089/24 Date of next meeting: 18th September
20th November

The meeting closed at 20.30 hrs.