



# COMPTON PARISH COUNCIL

## PARISH OF COMPTON NOTICE OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING Local Government Act 1972

Minutes of a meeting of Compton Parish Council held on  
**Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> November at 7.00pm**  
In the **Village Hall** for the transaction of the under mentioned business.

**Present:** Cllr F Curtis (in the chair), Cllrs M Bills, D Haskins, J Parsons  
County Cllr S Gimson  
Borough Cllr J Palmer  
PCSO Fiona F  
7 members of the public  
**In attendance:** the Clerk, Mrs J Cadman

86/11 **Apologies for Absence:** were received from Cllrs K Patel and M Williams

87/11 **Declarations of interest:** none were made

88/11 **Minutes of Meeting held 21<sup>st</sup> September:** These were agreed as a correct record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman.

89/11 **Matters Arising:**

*Cleaning of Memorial:* Cllr Bills reported that he is still waiting for a quote for this work, but that it is in hand.

*Cemetery Data:* The Clerk reported that this is in progress and she had hopes of having completed the task by the end of the year.

*Grit bins:* the Council was now in a position to issue snow shovels to the village hall, the church, the cemetery and Watts Chapel, but had not made any further progress with grit bins.

*Highways:* Members discussed the water on the roads and the lack of information about ditches and drains. It was hoped that the current investigation would resolve this and noted that Loseley would help with this.

*Watts Gallery:* Cllr Bills reported that Watts Gallery had commended Ken Miller's report and the Trustees were very keen to move forward. It would be good to have a meeting soon and to resolve the situation before the next application was due for a Heritage Lottery grant. Thanks were recorded to Mr Miller for all his work on the review.

90/11 **Chairman's Report**

**Hearing GBC - 27.10.11:** Cllr Curtis attended a hearing with a local resident at GBC concerning the application by travellers seeking permanent planning permission for a mobile home next to Wancom on Puttenham Heath Road. Approximately 20 members of the Public attended, all of whom objected. Matthew Green represented the appellants. Neither the Head of Planning or Legal dept were present from GBC. Planning Officer Nick Upton and his team and Tony Rooth represented GBC. The Chairman of Wanborough Parish Council asked for equality, stating that if you or I were to install a mobile home and hard standing on agricultural / brown field land on Green Belt land, enforcement and all the weight of the law would follow. The Inspectorate refuted inequality stating that it was not against the law for anyone to build without planning permission, it being a civil matter. She also stated that most individuals follow regulations and would not want the uncertainty or stress of dealing with the enforcement process. Questions that residents had in relation to the eligibility of the appellant as a 'Gypsy' were not permitted on the grounds of 'racism'. We await the decision of the Inspectorate. The concern is that whilst GBC announced a couple of days ahead of the hearing that 3 sites were being considered as sites for travellers the decision was some way off. The fact that Guildford hasn't met it's need for sites adds to the concern that planning permission (temp or permanent) could be given on the basis that travellers in the area have no where else to go.

**Meeting - Gary Curtis SCC:** Following a meeting between Gary Curtis and Cllr. David Haskins and the Chairman, the Compton sign has been re-instated at the Godalming end of the village. The traffic committee would like to have wooden 'village style' gates to mark the village entrance with an ornate sign but have been told that this would have to be done by SCC contractors, including design and would cost £2k for the gates alone. One would hope that this culture will change or that the localism bill will force change.

**Parking issues at Farncombe:** It was reported that commuters parking off-road in Farncombe were receiving threatening notices from residents. This has been reported to police.

**Village Hall Update:** The need to update regulations relating to the Village Hall Committee and the Parish Council has been agreed by all parties and solicitor Richard Hutson from Beverly Morris & Co has agreed to produce a draft document. This will then be finalized following input from the VHC. The matter must be resolved before the next audit but should be resolved long before then.

**Watts Gallery:** Following the review carried out and presented to us by Ken Miller some months ago the proposal for Watts Gallery to take over responsibility for the Chapel is being very seriously considered. The review highlighted the need to exclude the cottage or, to include the cottage along with responsibility for maintenance and management of the cemetery. Details have yet to be agreed as has an agreement to the

second proposal which would ideally include remuneration for use of the Chapel and its grounds within the Watts Gallery portfolio, thus leaving CPC with less responsibility and a comparable income stream to that of today.

91/11

### Reports from Borough and County Cllrs

*Cllr Palmer, Guildford Borough Council:*

- a) *Monkshatch Garden Farm:* the application for the barns to be used for the repair of vehicles had been turned down by Council and has now gone to appeal.
- b) *Localism Bill:* this became law the previous day, but there was still not a great deal of detail about the content.
- c) *Gypsy sites:* the Council has some proposals for official sites for gypsies, one of which is the Stoke Bridge site at Shalford. Officers are also looking at two sites in Ash and one in Effingham and carrying out feasibility studies. Proposals would go to GBC Executive in late spring/early summer of 2012 and Cllr Palmer is pushing for residents to be given the right to comment on the proposals. The Council has to find 30 pitches, for which there is a waiting list, and one pitch accommodates two caravans. There are currently gypsies in the borough, some of whom are living in social housing, so it would not be a question of receiving an influx of gypsies from elsewhere. It has still not been decided whether the sites should be public or private.
- d) *Guildford Design Awards:* Cllr Palmer congratulated Watts Gallery on winning the Design Award.
- e) *A3 signage:* in response to a question from Cllr Palmer on current progress, Cllr Gimson undertook to investigate.

*Cllr Gimson, Surrey County Council:*

- i) *Road repairs:* there would be a series of night-time closures of the Hogs Back for carriageway repairs from the end of November.
- ii) *Priorsfield:* One of the 30mph signs is missing and Cllr Gimson has reported it.

92/11

### Report from the Police

- a) *Shed Burglaries:* there had been two reported incidents recently and the police advised the public to get valuable property marked and to fit sheds with special hinges and locks that cannot be removed.
- b) *Telephone scams:* members of the public had received phone calls from people purporting to be from their bank, and asking for bank details.
- c) *Police website:* PCSO Fiona Ffyfe recommended the police website for crime prevention advice and updates and reminded people that Christmas is a prime time for burglaries. She advised that the Crime Prevention Officer was always available to come and give advice to residents.
- d) *Speed Watch:* Cllr Haskins advised that the new data system had been piloted in this village and had now gone live around Surrey. It was working very well: data collection volume had quadrupled in a week and a lot of people were now involved. It was noted that Cllr Haskins had written the software for this new data system and he was thanked for all his work.

93/11

### Public Forum

- a) *Grit Bin:* Michael More-Molyneux had agreed that a grit bin could be installed at the end of the lane leading to The Bothy behind the Autotec garage. The installation and on going maintenance is a private matter that the owner/tenant of the property is happy to undertake.

94/11

### Members Report: Highways

The Chairman had met Kaz Banisaied with Ken Miller and Martin Foran.

- a) *Accident at the top of Down Lane:* there is no give-way sign at this point. Mr Banisaied said that this is being addressed.
- b) *VAS signs:* the position has to be approved by SCC and the police before the signs can be put up. Cyprus Farm had been approved, but not Priorsfield Road.  
\*Cllr Haskins advised that there were 120,000 traffic movements a week through Compton, but that most people are law-abiding and kept within the speed limit. \* *Post meeting note, this information was based on results of VAS which, after re-calibration bore different results which will be presented at the next meeting.*
- c) *Signage:* Mr Miller advised that, as the SCC had no budget for this type of work, it was becoming more important and necessary for residents to find funding themselves, and he was pleased to report that there was a general feeling in the community that people were happy to support funding that went towards road safety. The next project was signs regarding HGV's, pedestrians, etc. Mr Banisaied from SCC highways carried out an on-site visit with the Traffic Committee and agreed to fund unsuitable for HGV signage is the Avenue, where lorries are getting stuck because their SatNavs take them in that direction. He also agreed to fund 'pedestrian in road' signs near Church Cottages for the A3 end of the village and 2 similar signs in Down Lane between The Gallery and The Chapel. Following advice taken from Mr Banisaied The Traffic Committee submitted requests for 2 new sites for the VAS' these being in Priorsfield Road and near The Withies. Cllr Gimson advised that SCC are making representations to the Department of Transport to make it illegal to use anything other than HGV Satnavs on HGVs.  
Resident, Doramai Rothwell pointed out that there would be an increase of tourists in 2012 because of the Olympics, and that signs would be even more necessary.  
Cllr Haskins advised that there had been a change in traffic movements since the A3 tunnel opened

at Hindhead, as people now come off the A3 at Puttenham. He believed that traffic at Down Lane had increased by as much as 50%. Cllr Gimson advised that a post-tunnel assessment would not be done for 12 months from its opening, as it was important to let traffic movements settle down, but he agreed that this was a long term issue. He sat on the Task Group for the Surrey Community Transport Plan.

- d) *Pond Outside Watts Gallery*: this is a balancing pond and therefore should be lined with porous material or left unlined. It was noted that SCC is not taking any responsibility for this pond.
- e) *Compton sign*: the sign at the Godalming end of the village had been replaced with one where all the words are on one piece, to prevent the 'Compton' part being stolen as had happened many times in the past. Consideration was being given to replacing this sign with a wooden 'gate' in the future.

95/11 **Members Report: Allotments and Environmental Projects:**

- a) *Allotments*: all renewal bills now go out by e-mail and this is working very well. Funds show a small surplus. 8/9 plots had been re-let this week, with local people receiving preference.

96/11 **Members Report: Recreation ground and playground**

- a) *Common*: Cllr Patel had reported that people were not cleaning up after their dogs around the recreation ground. A request would be put into the parish magazine. It was also noted that people were backing onto the green and using it to turn on, which was ruining the grass. A request not to do this would also go into the parish magazine.
- b) *British Legion Club*: Cllr Haskins took this opportunity to advise members on the current status of the village club. The room letting is doing well but the remainder of the club is making a substantial operating loss. The AGM is in two weeks and it is possible that it might be agreed that the bar is closed and the club is hired out for functions only. One of the problems for the club is the lack of parking, and members discussed the possibility of putting reinforcing mesh down on the piece of grass opposite and allowing it to be used on an occasional basis. It was recognised that it could be difficult to ensure that the parking was only used occasionally, and the use of posts was discussed.

97/11 **Members Report: Watts Chapel and Cemetery**

- a) The work on the Chapel had been very successful.
- b) *Well head*: as conservation work would not commence until next summer, the well head will be covered over the winter to prevent further deterioration.
- c) *Zone 5 pathway*: The Clerk reported that the appointed contractor had been given a deadline to produce a schedule and a start date, and had not done so. The contract had therefore been taken away from him and given to Stephen Byrne, who had quoted a reduced sum to do the same work and who was able to start work immediately.
- d) *Caretaker*: Members noted that Stephen Byrne's salary was subsidised by accommodation provided by Watts Gallery, and that this ends on the 31<sup>st</sup> December. Discussions on the future of the Chapel are ongoing with Watts Gallery, but it is possible that a temporary agreement needs to be put in place.
- e) *Hedge on parking area*: the hedge on the land to the right of Cemetery Cottage is encroaching on the highway and the end of the parking area. A piece will go into the newsletter asking residents to cut back their hedges.

98/11 **Members Report: Planning**

*Priorsfield School: 11/P/01957*: Proposal to replace portacabins with permanent building. There was no objection to this application.

*Affordable Housing*: the Council had been approached by Surrey Community Action to establish whether there was a need for a survey in the parish. It was **agreed** that this was not necessary at this time.

99/11 **Members Report: Village Hall**

Cllr Bills reported that there was a meeting of the village hall committee scheduled for December and that he would report further at the January meeting.

100/11 **Finance**

- a) the Schedule of Income and Expenditure to 1/11/11 had been circulated prior to the meeting and was **approved** by all present.
- b) *Income and expenditure year to date and proposed budget for 2012/12*: approval was PROPOSED by Cllr Parsons, SECONDED by Cllr Bills, with all in favour.
- c) *Financial regulations*: approval of updated regulations was PROPOSED by Cllr Parsons, SECONDED by Cllr Bills, with all in favour

101/11 **Chapel Lodge**: the Chairman advised that the current tenant had signed the agreement for a further six months, and would continue his work on the recreation ground as part of the package.

102/11 **Councillors Business**: any further business arising from the meeting, to be noted or dealt with on a future agenda

- a) *Electric Fence*: Cllr Parsons had investigated this, and acknowledged that it was too close to the road. The Clerk would seek advice.
- b) *Jubilee Celebrations*: It was noted that the village fete would have a jubilee theme next year, but

that residents had expressed a wish for the parish council to lead some celebration. Members discussed the possibility of a committee, and in the meantime the Clerk would contact the village societies to ascertain their views.

- c) *Volunteers for clearing programme*: Cllr Haskins proposed to put together a working party to do work around the parish in the early spring. The Chairman suggested that the Parish Council fund a lunch at the Withies for the volunteers. Cllr Haskins will report at the January meeting and a notice will be placed in the Compton News at that time.

84/11 **Compton News:** The Clerk would submit an article.

85/11 **Dates of meetings:**

It had been proposed that the meeting date be changed from the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month, but this proved not to be convenient. Dates are therefore as follows:

18<sup>th</sup> January

21<sup>st</sup> March

16<sup>th</sup> May

Annual Assembly: **agenda item**: January meeting

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.27pm.