



# COMPTON PARISH COUNCIL

## PARISH OF COMPTON

### Local Government Act 1972

Minutes of **THE ANNUAL MEETING** of Compton Parish Council held on  
**Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2024 at 7.00pm at Pucks Oak Barn**  
for the transaction of the under mentioned business.

**Present:** Cllr R Nagaty (in the chair), Cllrs J Palca, C Sharples  
County Cllr M Furniss  
6 members of the public

In attendance: The Clerk, Mrs J Cadman

*Open Forum:* Cllr Sharples spoke on behalf of the residents attending the meeting and advised the County Cllr of their unhappiness at the decision to create a 20mph speed limit on the B3000 rather than installing the average speed cameras that had been asked for and which residents believed would be the most effective way to deal with dangerous driving. Average speed cameras had been installed in Bramley, there seemed no reason why Compton could not have the same.

Cllr Furniss advised that SCC had assessed Compton for Average Speed Cameras and it was not suitable. They believed that they could deliver improvements by traffic calming measures such as better crossings, zebra crossings, raised tables and village gates, to bring back a village feel. He agreed to return to SCC and ask for a site visit and a review of their decision, but warned that, if Average Speed Cameras were agreed, they would be the only traffic calming measure delivered in Compton.

042/24 **Election of Chairman:** Cllr Mallet, Proposed by Cllr Palca, Seconded by Cllr Sharples.

As Cllr Mallet was unable to be present, Cllr Nagaty was elected as chairman for this meeting, proposed by Cllr Palca, Seconded by Cllr Sharples.

043/24 **Apologies for Absence:** were received from Cllrs K Hecker-Meschede, S James, S Mallet, J Saunders. Apologies had also been received from both borough councillors

044/24 **Declarations of interest:**  
Cllr Sharples declared a personal interest in agenda item 059/24 as an employee of Watts Gallery.  
Cllr Nagaty declared a pecuniary interest in agenda item 052/24 as a neighbour.

045/24 **Election of Vice Chairman:** Cllr Nagaty, Proposed by Cllr Sharples, Seconded by Cllr Palca.

046/24 **Appointment of Member's responsibilities:**  
Highways: Cllr Saunders and Cllr Sharples  
Allotments and environment: Cllr Sharples  
Youth and recreation: Cllr Saunders  
Watts Gallery and Cemetery: Cllr Palca, Cllr Sharples

047/24 **Dates of future meetings:** members reviewed and agreed the current meeting date structure:  
Parish Council meetings bi-monthly from January.  
Annual Parish meeting between the beginning of March and the end of May  
Annual meeting in May.

048/24 **Minutes of Meeting held 20<sup>th</sup> March 2024:** agreed as a correct record of the meeting and signed by the meeting chairman  
**Minutes of extraordinary meeting held 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2024:** agreed as a correct record of the meeting and signed by the meeting chairman.

049/24 **Matters Arising:**  
022/24 *Blocked drain at Withies Lane:* Mt Bagnall continues to deal with the blocked drain and will

try to reclaim his costs from SCC.

050/24 **Land acquisition:**

*Recommendation:* members agreed the payment of £694 to the Trustees of Westbury Barn Farm, in recognition of their unexpected additional costs

051/24 **The Harrow:**

- a) *Planning Appeal:* Members agreed the sum of £1500 to be used to obtain specialist advice on their argument against the Appeal against development, now with the Planning Inspectorate. Proposed by Cllr Palca, Seconded by Cllr Nagaty, all in favour.
- b) *Second application:* the Parish Council had submitted an objection to this application to GBC.

052/24 **Solar Farm, Surrey University**

Members agreed that the solar farm application should be called in, and would take advice on how this should be done.

Cllr Nagaty advised that the proposed cables and tracks would be very close to badgers sets.

053/24 **Report from County Cllr:**

**The Street, Compton, Highway & Public Realm Improvements**

The project will introduce traffic calming measures to improve road safety and enhance public realm in Compton, creating a high-quality environment which is attractive and safe for all road users.

The project seeks to introduce raised tables in suitable locations along The Street to address known speeding issues. Gateways into the village will also further help reduce vehicle speeds. These will be co-designed with community groups, residents and the Parish Council to ensure they reflect and celebrate local heritage. The project will include enhancement of the existing public realm and improved biodiversity through the introduction of new planting areas and seating. This will create a more pleasant space for residents to enjoy, contributing to improved health and wellbeing. Pedestrian and cycle improvements are also being considered along Down Lane, encouraging access to The Watts Gallery and Chapel. The bus stop area outside the Watts Gallery will be upgraded to further encourage active travel and create a safe waiting area for pedestrians. Initial stakeholder engagement has taken place with the Parish Council and other key local stakeholders such as Watts Gallery. A wider community engagement event is planned to take place in March. The total cost of the scheme is estimated to be in the region of £400,000 funded by SCC. Match funding options are limited in this locality but are currently being explored, and if secured would reduce the SCC proposed contribution accordingly.

**Surrey Hills is Better by Rail Campaign**

I was really pleased to be at the launch of the Surrey Hills Rail to Ramble this morning at Chilworth Station. We have such fantastic countryside in Surrey to be explored and a vibrant rural economy. Promoting access by Rail and Bus as sustainable means to enjoy the countryside demonstrates the ease in which residents can walk on our Rights of Way routes.

The campaign has been launched to encourage visitors to the Surrey Hills National Landscape to travel by rail. The ambition of Rail to Ramble is to create walking routes which give users the very best countryside experiences whilst leaving the car at home. This creates a greener and more accessible National Landscape for all visitors looking for connections to nature. <https://surreyhills.org/activity/rail-to-ramble/>  
<https://surreyhills.org/activity/shalford-to-chilworth/>

With thanks to funding from Great Western Railway's Customer and Community Improvement Fund, the Southeast Communities Rail Partnership and Surrey Hills National Landscape commissioned local artist Diana Croft to create railway posters which champion sustainable travel along the North Downs Line. This railway line connecting Reading to London Gatwick Airport offers a beautiful train ride through the rolling Surrey Hills, with views of the chalk North Downs hillside, St Martha's Hill and characterful towns and villages such as Shalford, Chilworth and Gomshall.

**Your Fund Surrey Small Community Projects**

Your Fund Surrey Small Community Projects Fund is available for projects worth between £1,000 and £50,000 to support capital community projects. Each Surrey County Councillor has been given £100,000 Small Community Project funding to allocate in their local areas and they can decide which projects that £100,000 is spent on. Please let me know if there are any local projects that residents would like to support.

**Your Councillor Community Fund**

Each County Councillor has £5,000 of funding per year to support residents and community organisations to deliver activities that benefit local people in their neighbourhoods. This funding is known as Your Councillor Community Fund (YCCF).

Please let me know if there are any local projects that residents would like to support.

SCC Updates

### **Surrey Fire and Rescue Service are turning up the dial on wildfire awareness**

Surrey Fire and Rescue Service are urging residents across the county to be 'Wildfire Aware' this season, after fires almost doubled between 2022-2023.

As part of its wildfire prevention campaign this year, the service is encouraging everyone to take steps in preventing wildfires to protect homes, businesses and habitats, by binning BBQS and taking litter home. Between 2022-2023, the service dealt with 553 wildfires in Surrey, with their appliances spending over 13,000 hours attending wildfire incidents in the last year alone.

Wetter winters and drier summers mean they're becoming more of a risk. They are common in places like Surrey because of large parts of heathland near urban areas.

The Fire and Rescue Service's wildfire awareness and prevention work is a collaborative effort between different teams and partners. In preparation for the season and to help prevent and tackle these types of fires, teams have taken part in extra training to refresh and enhance wildfire capabilities and expertise, as well as introducing five new state-of-the-art drones into the service.

Crews were recently joined by 100 residents during their 'Wildfire Awareness Week' activities in April with partners, with more events planned this summer to raise awareness.

To have a safe summer and enjoy Surrey's beauty spots, here is Surrey Fire and Rescue Services' advice to help prevent wildfires:

- Avoid having camping stoves or open fires in the countryside. They can quickly spread and get out of control. Switch your BBQ to a picnic.
- Dispose of smoking materials properly. Throwing cigarette ends on the ground or out of a car window can start a wildfire.
- Put your rubbish in the bin or take it home with you. Bottles and glass can start wildfire as they magnify the sun.
- Be prepared at home by cutting down or clearing areas of high fuel close to your home (vegetation, bushes or piles of leaves). Be aware that dense areas of vegetation, hedges, timber fences or sheds, and dry undergrowth will allow a fire to spread from an open space to your home or business.

If you spot a fire out in the open, don't attempt to tackle it yourself, leave the area and please call 999. For more information, please visit: [Wildfire – Surrey County Council \(surreycc.gov.uk\)](https://www.surreycc.gov.uk)

054/24

### **Report from Borough Cllrs:**

Neither councillor was present, but had sent a report:

Solace Reports

Following on from alleged fraud which took place regarding overspends on housing maintenance contracts and which was uncovered last year, Guildford Borough Council commissioned investigations into governance in housing, and across the council as whole, from the Society of Local Authority Chief Executives (SOLACE). The two reports published last week show some deep-rooted and long-standing issues and problems going back several years, including under-investment in systems, staff and maintenance of council-owned homes. The reports note that the Future Guildford transformation programme commissioned prior to 2019, designed to make savings to offset large government funding cuts, exacerbated the issue by stripping out staff and processes across the council.

Recommendations from the reports have been added to GBC's ambitious improvement plan which will ensure that such failings can never happen again. GBC's current administration, together with senior officers, will be reporting back to the borough council on the progress of the improvement plan every six months for a period of three years.

You can read the reports and the improvement plan here:

[Agenda for Corporate Governance and Standards Committee on Wednesday, 15th May, 2024, 7.00 pm - Guildford Borough Council](#)

Planning

Guildford Borough Council is starting a consultation on two new supplementary planning documents. Both relate to planning contributions for development: one is for Open Spaces and the other for Special Protection Areas. The consultation is now live. You can read the draft documents and comment by following this link: [Consultation on Open space and Special Protection Area planning guidance - Guildford Borough Council](#)

Compton Placemaking

We were invited to meet with the Surrey CC placemaking team who recently held an open afternoon at Compton. We are supportive of any improvements to enhance Compton as a village and to increase safety on the roads, particularly with regard to reducing speeding.

Verges in Almsgate

Thank you to those who have made us aware of the damage to verges in Almsgate caused by the parking of large vans. GBC officers are aware and are investigating the matter. Officers have asked us to make residents aware that vehicle registrations numbers of vans can be checked on the DVLA website and if the vehicle is not licensed/taxed then please can you report to Surrey Police. The best way to do this is via the Surrey Police website (use a search engine to find this easily) and then use the LIVE CHAT function in the bottom right-hand corner of the website. Sorry to to have further news but please do keep reporting to us.

#### Guildford Green Day

On Sunday 9th June between 11.00-4.00 Guildford will be celebrating Green Day, part of national Green Week. Stalls will set up in the high street and activities include:

- learn how you can do more to tackle climate change
- hear from world-class researchers from University of Surrey
- find out more about recycling with our fun games
- meet the team from Zero Carbon Guildford
- discover your inner performer with circus skill workshops
- learn about recycling with our friendly furry recycling champion
- receive tips on how to improve your home's insulation
- browse through a selection of plant-based artisan market stalls offering ethically sourced goods.

#### Solar Farm

We attended the presentation by Compton Parish Council regarding the Solar Farm and the Blackwell Farm Development. Cllr Houston also attended a presentation on the solar farm at the university. She has submitted CPC's questions to the university and, at the time of writing, is awaiting their response.

#### Lido Open

The Guildford Lido has reopened for the summer season. A lot of maintenance work has taken place over the winter, including the addition of a family play and picnic area, with seating which accommodates wheelchairs and buggies.

#### Ward Surgery

We held a drop in ward surgery at St Mary's Church, Shalford on 13th May

Our next ward surgery details are:

When: Tuesday 11th June 11.00-12.00 midday

Where: Old Kiln, Watts Gallery

#### 055/23 **Members Report: local Plan**

No report had been received as Mrs Stevens is presently assisting the council with its various planning issues.

#### 056/23 **Members Report: Highways: Cllr Saunders and Cllr Sharples**

Members reviewed the earlier discussion and agreed to lobby the police and the police commissioner. Cllr Sharples will approach MP Jeremy Hunt for his help.

#### 057/23 **Members Report: Allotments and Environment: Cllr Sharples**

Cllr James, although about to leave the council due to a move in career, will continue the fund raising for the compost toilet at the allotments.

#### 058/23 **Members Report: youth and recreation Cllr Saunders**

**a) Refurbishment of Playground:** members considered underwriting the shortfall between received funding of £36,500 and the total cost of the playground at £53,577.50 plus £5,000 to remove the old equipment. (Funding received: £30,000 from reserves, £5,000 Compton Village Association, £1,500 Shepherdsmead Trust). Cllr Palca recommended that this is not agreed, due to the possibility of not receiving funding elsewhere if funding is perceived to be secured, and this was agreed. The project is now deferred until funding is identified.

**b) Childrens fun park on the Green:** members considered a request to hold a fun park one weekend over the summer. The company Burnetts Amusements, have offered rent or a donation to charity. The Clerk was asked to clarify the following:

- i.** Where else they have been that we could receive a report from
- ii.** How much they would pay to sue the space
- iii.** How they would set about using the space

iv. How they would be affected by weather.

- c) *Football posts at Almsgate*: the proposal from a resident to install permanent football posts at Almsgate was agreed to be a good one, but this would need to be decided by GBC, as it is their ground. The Clerk to discuss.

059/23 **Members Report: Watts Gallery and Cemetery:**

- a) *Current cemetery records and findings*: The Clerk had circulated a paper advising of the problems encountered when starting the mapping of the cemetery. In two areas, K and subsequently A, she and Mr Herbert had discovered that the map on which the records are based was inaccurate, to the extent that graves are shown in one place, but appear on the ground in another and that some graves are recorded and others not. As a consequence, the mapping and recording project will take longer than initially hoped, and at this stage it is hard to estimate how much longer. She will report a current update at each meeting so that members are clear on progress and potential additional costs. The issues were accepted and it was agreed that the situation would be kept under review.
- b) *Visio*: The Clerk had discussed Cllr Hecker-Meschede's concerns with Mr Herbert, who had been able to provide satisfactory answers with regard to Visio's security.
- c) *Water issue*: an unidentified leak in the pipe taking water through the cemetery had cost the Gallery £10,000. It had not been possible to find the pipe, and so water was cut off, and was only available from the tank near the lodge.

060/23 **Members Report: Planning:**

All applications were noted, and would not be objected to, with the exception of the Harrow application,

061/23 **Finance**

- a) Schedule of income and payments to end of financial year: noted and approved
- b) *Management report to end March 2024*: noted and approved
- c) *Standing orders*: members reviewed the Council's Standing Orders, circulated prior to the meeting. Cllr Palca stated that she had advised the Chairman that she did not believe that the Parish Council adhered to all the Orders and had listed her queries and these should be reviewed before approval. The Clerk asked for sight of the queries, so that she could address them.
- d) *Financial Regulations*: members reviewed the Council's Financial regulations, circulated prior to the meeting. Cllr Palca stated that she had advised the Chairman that she did not believe that the Parish Council adhered to all the Regulations and had listed her queries, and these should be reviewed before approval. The Clerk asked for sight of the queries, so that she could address them.
- e) *Financial risk assessment*: approved.
- f) *Internal Audit*: to take place on the 3<sup>rd</sup> June: Members to agree a date to review report and approve AGAR. A date was not set, the Clerk will arrange this after the meeting.

062/24 **Back up strategy for website and cemetery records database**: it was agreed to defer this item to the next meeting, but perhaps to consider a manual.

063/24 **Communications**

Members considered how best to communicate with residents and agreed to give more attention to social media, a contact form on the website, a flyer with the Newsletter, a request for email addresses so that residents could be kept updated.

064/24 **Councillors Business**: *any further business arising from the meeting, to be noted or dealt with on a future agenda*

no further matters were raised.

065/23

**Dates of meetings:**

17<sup>th</sup> July, 18<sup>th</sup> September, 20<sup>th</sup> November, 15<sup>th</sup> January, 19<sup>th</sup> March. Annual Parish meeting to be arranged.

The meeting closed at 21.00.