



# COMPTON PARISH COUNCIL

## PARISH OF COMPTON

### Local Government Act 1972

Minutes of a meeting of Compton Parish Council held on

**Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2020 at 7.00pm**

BY REMOTE ACCESS for the transaction of the under mentioned business.

**Present:** Cllrs A Burtenshaw, D Haskins, R Nagaty, J Palca, K Patel.  
County Cllr M Furniss  
Mr James Saunders

**In attendance:** The Clerk, Mrs J Cadman

- 070/20 **Election of Chairman:** Cllr Palca was Proposed as Chairman for the meeting by Cllr Patel, Seconded by Cllr Haskins, with all in favour.
- 071/20 **Apologies for Absence:** were received from Cllr Sharples.
- 072/20 **Declarations of interest:** Cllr Burtenshaw declared an interest in agenda item 083/20 as Director of Watts Gallery Trust.
- 073/20 **Minutes of July full council meeting:** were agreed as a correct record of the meeting and will be signed by the Chairman when possible.
- 074/20 **Co-option of Councillor:** Mr Saunders introduced himself: He moved to Compton in 2017, joined the Guildford Rugby Club and is coaching the micros. He was asked to join the Village Association the previous year, as he had helped at various events. He is very keen to get involved in village life.  
Mr Saunders' co-option was Proposed by Cllr Haskins, Seconded by Cllr Patel, with all in favour, and he was welcomed to the Council.
- 075/20 **Matters Arising:**  
All matters are covered by the agenda.
- 076/20 **Report from County Cllr M Furniss**
- a) *SCC's tree planting programme:* Cllr Furniss will put some of his community allocation to this project. He will establish whether the trees will all have to be planted on public land, or whether private land could also be considered.
  - b) *Network Rail:* Network Rail have still not finalised plans for the Pond Road bridge, SCC continue to put pressure on them.
  - c) *Utility companies:* are being encouraged to complete their work as quickly as possible, and delays will be penalised at £2,500 per day.
  - d) *Active Travel Map:* this gives everyone the opportunity to make suggestions on ways to travel, and shows local tracks and cycle paths. It is hoped to improve some of the countryside roads between Watts Gallery and Guildford town centre.
  - e) *Community recycling centres:* these are now back to normal.
  - f) *Spiceall junction:* has been put forward for a parking review, specifically double yellow lines at the corner.
  - g) *B3000:* Cllr Furniss has spoken to the police and SCC Highways engineers regarding the proposal for double white lines on the B3000 following the death of the cyclist. The police will not support this proposal as they say that current road markings are appropriate. Cllr Palca expressed her disappointment that nothing was being done about this dangerous road.
  - h) *Unitary Authority:* SCC is making an application in this respect. The aim is to make services cheaper and simpler, with sizeable potential savings. There would be efficiencies across the board and the opportunity to empower parish councils and bring the NHS closer. There will be a consultation period. Cllr Furniss undertook to send some

information, but confirmed that the intention was to have one unitary authority for the county. The decision will ultimately be made by government.

- i) *Avenue*: the agreed work has been signed off, the signs will be replaced within the next month.

077/20 **Reports from Borough Cllr R Nagaty:**

- a) *Crematorium*: GBC planning committee are reviewing the chimney at the crematorium, which has not been built to the agreed plan.
- b) Cllr Nagaty is involved in the interviews regarding the new strategic services director.
- c) Air Quality: GBC's recent report had covered Shalford, but had said little about Compton.
- d) Down Lane turning: Cllr Nagaty had pointed out that the road signs were inadequate and foliage covered the sign.
- e) Unitary authority: the council's view is that a single unitary authority would be very unwieldy and that three across the county would be more efficient.
- f) Cllr Nagaty had met Tim Dawes on the previous Monday to discuss enforcement issues: the office is under-resourced and does not have sufficient power.
- g) Priors Gate: This health facility is not licenced.
- h) Local Plan: the A3 information is misleading. Paul Spooner, when he was Leader of the Council, had said that there would be no development without infrastructure.

078/20 **Report on police and crime statistics:** 11 crimes were reported in July: Spiceall: 4: 2 violence and sexual offences; 1 anti social behaviour; 1 criminal damage. Fowlers Croft: 3: 2 violence and sexual offences, 1 anti social behaviour. The Withies: 2 public order. Down Lane: 2: 1 Violence; 1 anti social behaviour.  
Noted.

079/20 **Members Report: local Plan:**

Mrs Steven's report was noted and reproduced below and thanks were recorded to her for her continued help.

As previously reported, Compton PC has requested a review of Guildford's Local Plan on the grounds that a key piece of road infrastructure on which several strategic sites depend (the A3 widening) will not go ahead in the foreseeable future.

In response to our request, Council Leader Caroline Reeve stated that the Council would (in conjunction with Surrey County Council and Highways England) review its transport evidence base to "investigate the consequent cumulative impacts of approved development" and "to determine whether the proposed transport measures or additional transport measures could mitigate the cumulative impacts of development traffic on the A3".

Various other borough councillors expressed concern that a review would risk increasing the number of houses which the borough is required to provide overall. However the new planning white paper does allow for housing numbers to be reduced to take into account constraints, such as landscape and traffic (see bullet point 3 below).

Cllr Colin Cross is considering the implications of a Local Plan Review on behalf of th

**FOI re A3 widening scheme**

A Freedom of Information request by Fiona Curtis has suggested that a GBC Officer gave misleading information to the Planning Inspector at the Public Examination of Guildford's Local Plan. The Officer stated that an A3 improvement scheme had been developed, which had been assessed as meeting Highways England's value for money criteria, and which has been assessed as being buildable. The FOI request has revealed that no statement was made to the officer in question in relation to the deliverability of the scheme.

This finding is significant as it means that participants in the Examination were deterred from discussing the implications of the A3 improvement scheme failing to go ahead (or being scaled back) by this false assurance from the Council.

It is also possible that this statement by the Officer influenced the Inspector's decision-making in relation to

the soundness of the Plan, especially as the NPPF clearly states that all development schemes need to be deliverable at the time of the Examination, and those sites which were dependent on the A3 being widening clearly were not deliverable (contrary to what the Inspector was led to believe).

The Local Plan Sub-Committee (on behalf of Compton PC) will call on GBC to conduct a formal investigation into how the Officer came to make this statement.

### Planning White Paper

On August 6, the Government's published its White Paper *Planning for the Future*, which proposes the following changes:

1. A new approach to land categorisation, whereby local authorities would be required to divide all sites in their area into one of three categories: "protected", "renewal" and "growth". In "growth" areas, developers would be given automatic planning permission, without having to wait for council approval (although they would still need to secure reserved matters permission in accordance with a locally drawn up design codes); areas of "renewal" (potentially all urban land) would be considered with a "permission in principle", with checks being carried out; and "protected" land (including green belts, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and heritage sites), would continue with the existing planning process. Some commentators have voiced concern about the quality, density and types of homes delivered under these changes.
2. The role of local authority planning committees is to be limited, with a move towards a more standardised, rules-based process and the delegation of detailed planning decisions to planning officers (where the principle of development has been established).
3. Housing numbers for all local authority areas is to be centrally set. The figures would be based on levels of unaffordability, so more expensive areas would be given higher targets. Given the imposition of a top-down target, local authorities would no longer have a duty to co-operate with each other over the drawing up of local plans. Numbers would take into account the presence of constraints on growth, such as green belt, but there is no explanation of how this would be carried out.
4. The existing system of developer contributions is to end. Section 106 agreements would be scrapped, while the existing Community Infrastructure Levy is to be replaced by a nationally-set levy on development value. The levy would be paid at the point of occupation, requiring local authorities to pay for and deliver any infrastructure needed upfront. Councils would be allowed to borrow against future levy receipts to fund this. This is a particular concern in Guildford, where it is likely that the large infrastructure schemes which underpin the local plan would be unable to proceed ahead of development and might never happen because they may not be deemed economically viable.
5. Public involvement in local planning is to be expanded by digitising the service to allow easier public access to planning documents and by encouraging public engagement earlier in the process.
6. Local authorities would be given a statutory period of 30 months in which to write a new-style Local Plan.

### AONB boundary review

A petition has been launched by a private resident calling on Natural England to urgently undertake the Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) boundary review. An independent landscape architect (appointed by Compton, Worplesdon and Wanborough parish councils) has evaluated Blackwell Farm and the surrounding area and concluded that it meets the AONB criteria and merits inclusion within the new AONB boundary. This is the only detailed study of this area of the Hog's Back. Guildford Borough Council has ignored this evaluation in developing its Local Plan, but former Guildford MP Anne Milton forwarded it to Natural England on behalf of the three PCs. It is therefore in Compton PC's interest that the Natural England review goes ahead quickly.

080/20

### Members Report: Highways: *Annex 4*

- a) *Speedwatch*: the members of this valuable team are currently wondering if their efforts are worth the trouble, as little or nothing happens as a result.
- b) *Traffic data*: is merged with air quality data online.
- c) *Average Speed Camera*: Ken Miller had investigated this previously but the police had not been in favour. The Clerk advised that she had spoken to SCC Highways recently and they were reviewing this option.

- d) *20mph*: in the past, the Parish Council had been advised that this was not possible, but there were more 20mph speed limit areas now, so it may be worth re-visiting.

081/20 **Members Report: Allotments and Environment**

- a) Tree and vegetation overhanging the pavements: deferred to next meeting.
- b) Village sign: the top part of the sign had been leaning slightly. Cllr Sharples and the village caretaker and fenced off the sign and the sign had been repaired by the craftsman who had made it. It was now fully restored and safe. Cllr Nagaty will raise GBC's requirement to have a structural inspection every year with the Planning Department, as this is a very expensive commitment for the Parish Council.
- c) SCC proposals to plant 1.2 million trees in the next 10 years: Cllr Haskins suggested that the gaps in the treeline at the Black Path should be considered. The Clerk will discuss this with GBC.  
Cllr Sharples had suggested the following: at the roundabout at the A3 end of the village, to the left are some shrubs and dead trees. This area and the wide verge on the left as one drives up the hill might help screen traffic noise.
- d) *Work to allotments entrances*: the allotment owners had requested that work be carried out to the entrances, which are worn and difficult to access in the winter. They proposed that the gates should be moved back, and the surfaces dug out and relaid with scalplings. Mr Holloway (the village caretaker) had quoted £1800 for this work. In order to move this forward before the winter, the Clerk proposed that the detailed proposal be circulated and members make a decision, to be ratified at the November meeting. This was **agreed**.

082/20 **Members Report: youth and recreation**

- a) Members considered a provision of dog waste bags on the Green, together with a disposal bin, to be emptied by GBC and decided not to take this forward.
- b) RoSPA report for 2020: The Clerk reported that the village caretaker had dealt with all the items raised in the report.
- c) Cllr Patel asked if the bench in the playground could be painted. The Clerk will speak to the caretaker.

083/20 **Members Report: Watts Gallery and Cemetery**

*Report from Gallery director Cllr Burtenshaw:*

Following work on the Chapel and Cloisters roof the scaffolding around both was taken down on 31 July and removed from site on 6 August. There are a small number of Heras fencing panels at the gate to the cemetery awaiting collection which our Head of Operations is chasing. We are now in the process of going through snagging for the project.

As part of the next phase of the project Opus Conservation are conducting the first phase of our planned interior conservation project, the scope of which shall be conservation documentation and assessment of condition, multispectral imaging (MSI is an imaging technique using ultraviolet and IR radiation to provide information about the type and condition of art materials), environmental monitoring and limited solubility and cleaning trials. This will inform a subsequent more comprehensive phase of conservation work.

This work is confined to the interior of the chapel with 2 free standing internal scaffolding towers erected. The Chapel is open although visitors cannot go all the way into the space they can enter and have a look at the interior and see the work of the 2 conservators. This will be completed by 25 September 2020.

Surrey Fire Service attended Limnerslease Studios on Friday evening and dealt promptly with an electrical incident in the Studios Lobby. Watts Gallery Trust is grateful to the emergency services, staff, and neighbours for their support during the incident. We are presently assessing the impact.

The Gallery has received £243,000 from the Heritage Emergency fund.

084/20 **Members Report: Planning:**

- a) Planning applications received and members responses: circulated before the meeting and noted.
- b) Priors Meadow: the unauthorised health complex is being investigated by GBC

Enforcement.

085/20 **Members Report: Village Hall:**

Cllr Haskins had attended the virtual meeting earlier in the week. He and Cllr Sharples had agreed that, from now on, Cllr Haskins would take responsibility for the allotments and Cllr Sharples would sit on the village hall committee.

086/20 **Finance**

- a) *Schedule of income and payments July and August:* the total payments for the period of £7574.97 was noted and approved.
- b) *Management report to end August 2020:* noted and approved
- c) *Bank reconciliation to end August 2020:* noted and approved.

087/20 **Councillors Business:** *any further business arising from the meeting, to be noted or dealt with on a future agenda*

- a) *Village Club:* Cllr Haskins reported that the Club is now open on Friday and Saturday from 6pm, but is holding no big events.
- b) *Chairman of Parish Council:* Cllr Burtenshaw said that he believed that the Parish Council would benefit from a permanent chair. Cllr Palca said that she had been approached by Peter Graham before he left the Council, but had declined the role as she did not feel that she could give the role the time it deserved.

088/20 **Correspondence:** no new correspondence has been received.

089/20 **Dates of meetings:**

*Bi-monthly meetings:* 18<sup>th</sup> November, 20<sup>th</sup> January

The meeting closed at 8.45pm.