



COMPTON PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council meeting

Minutes of a meeting of Compton Parish Council, held on
Wednesday 16th November 2016 at 7.00pm

At **Pucks Oak Barn** for the transaction of the under mentioned business

Present: Cllr F Curtis (in the chair), Cllrs P Graham, R Nagaty, K Patel, C Sharples
Borough Cllrs M Furniss, Deputy Leader

In attendance: Mrs M Lordan, deputising Clerk

- 98/16 **Apologies for absence:** were received from Cllrs P Hunt and K Stevens, and from the Clerk, Mrs J Cadman
Apologies were also noted from Cllr M Parsons.
- 99/16 **Declarations of interest:** Cllr Nagaty declared a pecuniary interest in the Blackwell Farm Development.
- 100/16 **Minutes of Parish Council meeting July 2016:** These were agreed as a correct record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman.
- 101/16 **Matters Arising**
80/16:i: Bi-monthly meetings: a comparison with operational modes of other parish councils, showed Compton held longer meetings but spent fewer hours in meetings, most parish councils meet every month. The latter means steady progress and possibly better communication. Efforts have been made to improve communication (continued use of Dropbox and agreement by Joanna to cc the Chair and relevant councillor in on all emails as well as sending regular updates about progress with a live running list. Fiona felt that all need to be improved upon but did feel that residents were happier having the option to be able to talk to the Clerk on a week basis at the temporary parish office at Watts Gallery. Fiona suggested lengthening this by half to one hour, if possible as long as the time could be used effectively. Fiona also said that the council may need to gain a better understanding of Joanna's role and hours in order to determine whether more hours might be needed to improve rates of progress but that to do this it would be useful if Joanna kept a diary of her hours over a few months.
Decision: Review at a later date..
- 94/16: Defibrillator training:* due to South East ambulance service commitments, it was not possible to organise a training date in the autumn. Decision: defer to 2017.
- 95/16: Compton United Charities:* Report from the Clerk on liaison with other clerks re Henry Smith charity funds had been circulated prior to the meeting. Cllr Graham said he had emailed Martin Foran but had yet to receive a response and so he would make an appointment to meet him as Peter Barnet was still unwell.
Decision - Peter Graham to visit Martin Foran regarding the responses received from other clerks.
- 102/16 **Chair report:**
The chairman summarized the report presented by GBC MD Sue Sturgeon about Guildford's finances and the cuts being made. Cllr Furniss confirmed that cuts were being made but said that the £100k funding allocated to Parish Councils was small in the overall picture and that many councils did not make claims at all and that it would not be affected and that we should not be alarmed. Cllr Furniss confirmed that the cuts would be in 2018.
- Website: Chairman said the URL had been sent to Peter Graham for spell check and to check links were working.
Amendments to take place before going live, this will be the end of December, or the New Year.
Councillors present agreed to have their email address added to the forwarding system which will be firstname@comptonparishcouncil.co.uk The catch all email will go to the clerk and reads

Cllrs Curtis and Stevens to resign in December, due to re locating.

The suggested way forward in the absence of a Chair or Vice Chair is for all correspondence to go the clerk and for all decisions to be made by council (3 councillors for minor decisions and full council for major ones or those involving finance).

Vacancies to be advertised, as soon as they occur, on: Parish Notice Board, Compton website and COMPTON NEWS if they fall before the printing deadline. If the vacancy/cies have been advertised for a full month prior to the meeting in January then co-option may be viable at this meeting. It will be via a closed ballot system.

Attendance of County and GBC Cllrs at PC meetings:

Cllr Curtis reported that Cllr Parsons and Illman had only attended one Compton PC meeting each this year. Her concerns that the lack of attendance might be personal to Compton were found not to be the case as Artington PC confirmed a similar problem. Decision: write to them both and ask if they can attend more meetings and for Cllr Furniss to ask Cllrs to submit reports when they are unable to attend meetings.

103/16 **Report from County Cllr:**

No report was received.

104/16 **Report from borough Cllrs**

No report was received.

105/16 **Report from the police or on law enforcement related matters**

No report was received.

106/16 **Members report: *local plan:***

Decision: Suggest CPC write a separate letter supporting removal of Blackwell Farm [to support Anne Milton's submission of the need for the landscape assessment jointly commissioned by 3 parish councils to be included as evidence]

Vote taken to ring fence £10k of the £20k allocated for Local Plan work and legal fees, to support additional work by planning consultant, Richard Bate to improve the integrity of the existing document and to provide a strong case for the need to exclude Blackwell Farm from the plan when the case is in front of the planning inspector.

Unanimous vote in FAVOUR: 4 members (R Nagaty abstained.)

107/16 **Members report: *highways***

The report on Down Lane was circulated. The following update was provided for other parts of Compton: The yellow signs have yet to be replaced but have been ordered

The obscured sign by Eastbury / Church Cottages was removed although the post remains.

The water problem at Polsted / Street has been resolved. After initially stating that Compton had sufficient police speed checks to warrant a camera sign on the VAS, it appears that there has been a change of opinion.

Action - Ken Miller will clarify the rationale with the police and gain costs for the replacement fascia with Westotec. Ken will also seek new members for the traffic committee. Ken confirmed that funds are still held by the project committee for minor traffic projects that would help support this.

Verges: SCC do not have control over their time schedule as work is sub-contracted and timings given are per quarter. Currently drains fill in Autumn (with leaves and hay from summer) but are not flushed until Spring, leaving surface water problems on the B3000 over winter.

Action: Clerk to write to SCC requesting more suitable timing for drain flushing.

Members noted that SCC had cleared a tree in Withies Lane the same night that it fell. Thanks were

recorded to SCC for the speedy emergency remedial action.

Cllr Natagy reported an incident he had with a high sided vehicle which pulled over into a layby at the top of Down Lane, and suggested that an alternative route be shown for HGVs to accompany the advisory sign warning HGV drivers that Down Lane is unsuitable. Ken Miller advised that this would not be normal practice.

108/16 **Members report: *allotments and environmental projects:***

a) Allotments & Withies Lane: Cllr Sharples reported as follows: The ditch surrounding the allotments needs clearing - no quotes as yet, he will let everyone know and suggests asking for assistance from Cllr George Johnson's allowance if we are not too late to apply. Quotes have been received to lop overgrown trees on Withies Lane between the Withies and Waterhaw, as branches lay over power lines and regularly break off.

Action - CS & JC to establish whether costs of approx £3,500 can be split between Loseley & Village Projects Fund and the Parish Council.

b) Phone Box Adoption: BT are decommissioning and removing telephone boxes in Guildford, due to lack of use. This includes the one near the Green. There is an option for local organizations to adopt the telephone box for £1. Cllr Sharples reminded the Parish Council that an anonymous donation of up to £1000 had been made to cover maintenance of the box in its current location. Ideas were also discussed as to alternative uses and these included a book exchange, a miniature museum and a mini art gallery. Members **agreed** to adopt the phone box, the Clerk will take the necessary action.

109 /16 **Members report: *youth and recreation***

The Chairman presented the 3 quotes received for new equipment and fencing, and suggested that like for like quotes be obtained with and without prep and fence work and with a comparative trail. The Chairman asked Council to sanction further discussion, to be moved to a committee of the Clerk and Cllr Graham, and whether any other Cllrs wished to be involved. Cllr Nagaty volunteered. It was also suggested that least one parent of child using facilities might be on the committee. This was **agreed**, with the final decision to be brought back to full Council.

110/16 **Members report: *Watts Gallery and Cemetery***

- a) *Minutes of September meeting*: these had been circulated. The Hand Rail at Cemetery is partially in place, and already in use
- b) *Committee*: a Cemetery Committee vacancy will follow Cllr Curtis' resignation. Cllr Nagaty agreed to represent the Parish Council on this committee.

111/16 **War Memorial:**

- a) *Conservation*: Cllr Sharples reported he had requested a second quote from Florian, but he has broken his foot, so not sure when he will be active again. It will certainly be January 2017 before the quote will be available. Conservationist Claire Davies now has all documentation and the next step is to arrange a site visit with her.
- b) *Damage to War Memorial*: CS confirmed Eastbury are agreeable to the Ash tree being removed.

112/16 **Members report: *planning***: list of applications determined by GBC had been circulated. PG confirmed there were no contentious new planning applications.

Monkshatch Garden Farm: PG confirmed the ongoing situation. GBC have been asked to re-apply the enforcement notice under separate ownership.

New Pond Road: PG confirmed he is watching the situation regarding the land under an enforcement notice. Details are reported in the minutes of Artington Parish Council.

113/16 **Members report: *village hall***:

No report was tabled.

- 113/16 **Village sign:**
The planning decision should have been made on the 16th, the date of this meeting. If approved, the CPC will arrange for the sign to be commissioned and installed. Cllr Sharples requested that a discreet sign reminding dog owners to keep the area clean might accompany the sign. Members **agreed** to ratify the original agreement for a sum of up to £7,000 to be allocated to the construction and erection of the village sign, and noted that it is unlikely that the work will cost this much.
- 115/16 **Finance**
a) *Management report to 30th October 2016* had been circulated and was noted and approved.
b) *Receipts and expenditure for year to date* had been circulated and the total expenditure of £12,122.38 for the period from 1st July to 31st October was noted and approved.
c) *External audit:* the Parish Council has again received a clear audit return.
d) *Draft budget for 2017/18:* this was noted and it was agreed to keep the precept request as 2015/16 as there are a number of projects to complete.
- 116/16 **Clerks report**
a) Travellers: no update had been received on plans to protect the Green from travellers. The Clerk to contact GBC.
b) *Parish office:* report from the Clerk was noted
- 117/16 **Councillors business:** *for noting or including on a future agenda*
a) *Planning:* Cllr Graham advised that GBC wish parishes to view applications online. This would involve showing the plans on a computer or screen in the parish council meeting rooms. In the last two months there have been 4 planning applications, none of which have been contentious. This number of applications might make it hard to justify the cost of the equipment, but it was agreed that viewing the range of documents and plans on a screen would be beneficial in general.
At present, Cllr Graham determines applications. Dates will be set where he will review the applications with the Clerk in the new office. The dates will be published so that members and members of the public can attend. Cllr Graham noted that, whilst they are mentioned at Parish Council meetings, this is often retrospective as meetings are bi-monthly and the application process is usually shorter than this.
Members recorded thanks to Watts Gallery for the use of their space for an office for the Clerk. It was noted that funding had been allocated for a laptop.
- 118/16 **Correspondence:** the following were noted.
a) *Remarkable trees of Surrey:* Surrey Tree Warden network
b) *Surrey Hills Society:* newsletter
c) *Guildford Environmental Forum:* newsletter
- 119/16 **Election of Chairman**
No election was made.
- 120/16 **Dates of meetings:** 18th January, 15th March.

Public question time:

1. *Footpath closure, Blackwell Farm:* the chairman had recently been made aware of this and had asked Karen Stevens to provide more information.
2. *Chairman:* Mr Ken Miller, on behalf of the Village Association, thanked the Chairman for all she had done over the past 16 years for the village: her dedication to all events, including traffic, the village website, the mass of work she had accomplished with no apparent effort. Members unanimously recorded thanks to Fiona for her outstanding work and leadership. She was presented with a bouquet of white roses.
3. *Priorsfield/Hurtmore Road:* a complaint was received about the continuing encroachment onto a bridleway in Hurtmore. The route is too narrow to safely navigate a horse, or for the horse to

turn round. Cllr Graham would investigate.

4. *Common Management Plan:* Cllr Sharples confirmed that work had been carried out on the common and the bridge, and a plan was expected. The Clerk will establish progress.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9pm.