



COMPTON PARISH COUNCIL

Local Government Act 1972

Minutes of a meeting of Compton Parish Council held on
Wednesday 20th May 2020 at 7.00pm

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

Present: Cllrs A Burtenshaw (at 7.20), P Graham, R Nagaty, J Palca, K Patel, C Sharples.
County Cllr M Furniss
Chairman of United Charities, Mr Martin Foran
Mrs K Stevens (for the Local Plan agenda item)
2 members of the public
In attendance: The Clerk, Mrs J Cadman

The meeting commenced with a minutes silence in memory of Martin Ellis of Vine Cottage, who was killed while riding his bike on New Pond Road on Maundy Thursday.

- 021/20 **Election of Chairman:** Cllr P Graham was Proposed as Chairman by Cllr Sharples, Seconded by Cllr Palca, with all in favour.
- 022/20 **Apologies for Absence:** all members were present.
- 023/20 **Declarations of interest:** *Councillors are reminded of their responsibility to declare any disclosable pecuniary interest which they may have in any item of business on the agenda no later than when that item is reached. Unless dispensation has been granted, you may not participate in any discussion of, or vote on, or discharge any function related to any matter in which you have a pecuniary interest as defined by regulations made by the Secretary of State under the Localism Act 2011. You must withdraw from the room or chamber when the meeting discusses and votes on the matter*
Cllr Burtenshaw declared an interest in Watts Gallery, as Trustee, when he came to the meeting.
- 024/20 **Standing Orders for the conduct of Council business during the period of crisis:**
Members approved the standing orders, ensuring the regulation and transparency of council business for the time being. Proposed by Cllr Sharples, Seconded by Cllr Palca, all in favour.
- 025/20 **Compton United Charities: annex21:** *minutes of Trustee minutes supporting changes to its remit, agreed by the Charity Commission.*
a) *Current Status and action during current crisis:* members received a report from Martin Foran, Chairman of the Trust the Charities Commission have agreed to changes to the Charity's Declaration of Trust, widening its area of remit.
b) *Appointment of two new Trustees:* Peter Barnett, a Trustee, has sadly recently died, leaving two Trustees in office. In order that the Trust can effectively carry out its new remit, Cllr Foran wishes to appoint two new trustees and proposed Chris Sharples and his wife, Senga Foran, who is a Social Worker and will take the role of the Trust's Safeguarding Officer. These appointments, which are the Parish Council's duty to make, were Proposed by Cllr Palca, Seconded by Cllr Graham, with all in favour.
- 025/20 **Child Protection Policy**
Members approved this policy, to ensure compliancy. Members noted that the policy named the Clerk as Safeguarding Officer for the few occasions when the Parish Council is responsible for an event involving children or vulnerable adults. Proposed by Cllr Graham, Seconded by Cllr Patel, all in favour,
- 026/20 **Minutes of January full council meeting:** were approved as a correct record of the meeting and will be signed by the Chairman when possible.
- 027/20 **Matters Arising:**
a) Meeting at the Avenue: the meeting, which discussed sight lines and speeding traffic amongst other topics, encompassed the area where Martin Ellis was killed. The last speed check was eight years ago.
Cllr Furniss reported that, since the meeting, some works had been agreed on the Avenue, including some repairs.
He advised that the police did not know why the van which hit Mr Ellis was on the wrong side of the road. A speed check will be undertaken when traffic returns to normal, and

then measures to improve safety on that section will be considered, including traffic calming measures and reduction of the speed limit.

Cllr Sharples advised that this was the second accident on this road, and asked if a solid white line, to stop overtaking, could be considered,

Cllr Furniss believed that a Community Speed Watch would be very helpful, as these initiatives were more effective than signs.

He also reported that it was planned to remove national speed limits over the whole county.

Cllr Sharples asked that Withies lane be included in the review of speed limits, as it is unrestricted at present.

- b) Parking at the entrance to Spiceall: Cllr Furniss advised that this is logged with the parking team at SCC for its next review, and measures will probably include double yellow lines, to prevent parking on the corner.
- c) Willow stump on the Green: GBC wishes to keep this as a wildlife habitat and suggest an information board and the planting of a new Willow.
- d) Roadside of the Green: as this is S38 common land, a consultation will start in the summer and work carried out next winter.
- e) Bin at allotments: GBC are not in favour of this, as they have experienced that bins attract more scattering of rubbish.
- f) The water main and pothole have both been reported. Cllr Furniss reported that he had attended a Network Rail inspection of the bridge, and it was clear that the original work had not been done to a good standard and would have to be done again. SCC will ensure that this time the work has a 10 year guarantee. The bridge will probably be closed for three weeks to get this work done.

028/20 **Reports from County Cllr: Cllr Furniss**

- a) *Recycling Centres*: these have now re-opened.
- b) *Highways*: the work schedule has returned to normal. 10,000 potholes have been filled, 7km of carriageway have been resurfaced, and 10,000 gullies and drains cleared.
- c) *Countryside car parks*: these are open, but the public toilets are closed.
- d) *Help line*: this is still open, it was noted that a number have now closed.
- e) *Virtual mental health service*: was launched last week.
- f) *Spectrum*: is the food hub for the whole county and has issued 1500 food parcels across Surrey. This will start to be wound back now people can get out more.
- g) *Headley Court*: £1 million had been spent bringing it back into service and the first patients had been admitted this week.
- h) *Onslow Park and Ride*: had been relocated to Artington and Onslow Park is now a drive through testing centre, as it is close to the Royal Surrey.
- i) *Hospitals*: there is a lot of capacity, and adequate PPE. Surrey infection and death rates have remained low.
- j) *Investment into Highways*: this is back on track. A big investment has been made in electric buses and cycle lanes, and an interactive map created to aid with social distancing. Cllr Burtenshaw requested a cycle lane between Watts Gallery and Farncombe and Guildford stations. Cllr Furniss confirmed that this would be looked at in conjunction with working on making roads safe for cyclists, possibly using Rights of Way.

02920 **Report from Borough Cllr: Cllr Nagaty**

- a) Mr Podger is now in a nursing home and his son has started to clear the site.
- b) There have been changes in the Executive at Borough Council. When Covid 19 is resolved the current leader will step aside.
- c) The Borough Council have had to spend a lot in response to the Covid 19 pandemic. The consultation on Shalford's proposed parking on their common has been postponed.
- d) Cllr Palca asked for information on plans to return children to school. Cllr Furniss advised that some schools would go back on the 1st June.

030/20 **Report on police and crime statistics**: this information is not currently on the Police website, but the website design and accessibility is generally improved.

031/20 **Members Report: local Plan:**

The next consultation will take place in June.

The road infrastructure strategy had previously included the widening of the A3 from Guildford, but

this has now been removed, it seems without explanation. Blackwell Farm would be the proposed development most affected by this change of policy.

Cllr Furniss advised that the road widening had not been agreed by DFT for RIS 2, but it would be included in RIS3. He advised that 1000 houses could be built before the A3 becomes a restricting factor and that improvement of the junction at Compton would be included in RIS3.

Cllr Burtenshaw was concerned at the impact on Watts Gallery of the proposed widening of the A3, but was reassured by Cllr Furniss that this widening only applied to the 50mph section.

Thanks were recorded to Karen Stevens for her report and her attendance tonight.

032/20

Members Report: Highway:

- a) **AQMA:** deferred to next meeting
- b) New Pond Road: discussed earlier in the meeting.
- c) Mr Ken Miller has now stepped down from his role as Chair of the Planning Committee and advisor to the Council. The Parish Council recorded their indebtedness to him for all his work on their behalf.
An appeal will be put into the News for a councillor to fill the vacancy with special remit for Highways.

033/20

Members Report: Allotments and Environment

- a) litter pick: this had been very successful, with a record attendance. As usual, volunteers were given soup and rolls in the Club.
- b) Withies Lane: pond, ditch and clearance work: this has been completed and has made a considerable difference.
- c) bench for Withies Lane bus stop. Deferred.
- d) Silent Soldiers: Cllr Sharples has taken charge of the two silent soldiers. He will put them out, one at the war memorial and one elsewhere in the parish, when the Poppy Appeal begins, and remove them at New Year.

034/20

Members Report: youth and recreation

- a) the playground remains closed.
- b) Cllr Patel asked if the tree on the corner outside her house could be cut back, as it has become over-large. The Clerk will discuss this with the village caretaker.
- c) Cllr Sharples will discuss trees and vegetation overhanging the pavements with the village caretaker and decide what can be removed.

035/20

Members Report: Watts Gallery and Cemetery

- a) Report from Gallery director:
 - i. Cllr Burtenshaw was sad to report that Malcolm Hodgson, who had worked for the Gallery for 60 years, had recently died.
 - ii. The Gallery is in great financial difficulty as a result of the pandemic, as it has no income. It is trying to continue its charitable work in the community. 55 out of 60 staff have been furloughed. Cllr Burtenshaw hopes that GBC will be able to offer some funding support as it does for other art centres in the borough.
 - iii. It is hoped that the Gallery can open again on the 1st August.

Cllr Palca suggested an article in the News asking people to shop in the Gallery shop online. It was also agreed to write a letter of support to the Leader of the Council when the Gallery made an application for financial support.

- b) **Agreement:** A meeting to be arranged.
- c) **Plot at the cemetery:** a resident has donated the second plot purchased by his parents back to the parish, to be given at the Councils discretion to a deserving parishioner. Members greatly appreciated this gesture.

036/20

Members Report: Planning:

- a) LGA Peer Review of Planning committee: this has been deferred until later this year.
- b) Planning Focus group: As part of that review, this has also been deferred.
- c) Fowlers Croft: a letter has been written to Enforcement, as the roof tiling does not match that agreed in the planning process, and is not appropriate in this setting.
- d) In March, Two Applications for Tree Works had been submitted since the previous report for the meeting on 15th January 2020:
The Limes: Reduce two yews at the side and fell one ash at the front of the property: now approved.
Cedar Glen, Down Lane: Felling an ash, and a small number of other trees. Although in a

conservation area, for which reason the landowner must make a Planning Application, no reasons have to be given, and none were given. Reasons only required if the trees have a Tree Protection Order: now approved.

Since then:

Coneycroft farm: fell one Eucalyptus and one Cherry (conservation area): now approved.

Broadbridges Cottage: fell 3 weak or dead trees: now approved.

I had no objections to any of these works.

- e) In March, One Planning Application had been submitted since the previous meeting in January:

30 Spiceall: to demolish existing side and rear extensions and rebuild larger single storey side and rear extensions. The new build will be almost invisible from the public highway, pre-application advice has been taken into account, and so I have no objections from the Parish's perspective: now approved.

3 Fowler's Croft: Applicant appealed against GBC's refusal of Planning permission for a single storey side extension and porch. The appeal has been dismissed (refused).

Previous Applications:

Application for a garage at Compton Glebe is currently withdrawn.

Applications to erect a summerhouse at 2 Puttocks Cottages, Withies Lane, and for tree maintenance at Coneycroft Farm have both been approved.

Since then:

Monkshatch Cottage: to replace tile hanging with render, change fenestration, and other work.

037/20 **Members Report: Village Hall: Annex 9**

- a) *Appointment of representative to Village Hall Committee:* Cllr Graham was reappointed to the Village Hall Committee, Proposed by Cllr Sharples, Seconded by Cllr Burtenshaw, all in favour
- b) The Village Hall Committee met on 9th March, and resolved to refund booking fees in full if coronavirus forced cancellations. At that time, it was felt this would have relatively small impact on Village hall funds, and would be appropriate for a charity providing a service.
- c) The chairs, which are upholstered, are to be cleaned, as some are stained. A new kitchen floor covering will be laid this week (March).
- d) Matt Furniss to be asked whether the footpath in front of the VH and Harrow can be re-laid level to avoid build-up of slippery silt; a VH visitor suffered a bad fall there recently.

Since then:

1. Last meeting 9 March; next 8 June with AGM;
3. VH has been closed, effectively, as the nature of booked activities doesn't lend itself to distancing.
4. Uniquefruit have been using the Village Hall as a depot, and paying hire charges.
5. Offer of £10K from GBC to offset losses and expenses is being discussed: most in favour.

038/20 **Clerks Report**

- a) *Covid 19 actions in the Parish:*

- i. A flyer advising residents where to obtain help was produced by the Clerk and distributed by councillors at the start of the pandemic.
- ii. 2 banners have been placed in the village, advertising a help line number.
- iii. Emma Terry has set up a volunteer hub, co-ordinating volunteers and those in need of help. Thanks were recorded to Emma.
- iv. The playground was closed at the start of the pandemic, thanks were recorded to Cllr Palca for doing this.
- v. A community shop has been set up in Godalming, allowing those in need to shop without the need for payment. This is the brainchild of Vicki Connor and is very successful, both in the help and self-respect it gives to residents, but also in the very generous donations. Some restaurants in Godalming are cooking ready meals for the shop. A trolley has been set up outside the Compton Club for local donations, which are collected on Tuesdays. The Clerk did the first collection, and reported that the trolley was full and was surrounded by bags of food and supplies. The Club were also very generous in their donations.
- vi. Only one burial has taken place at the Cemetery, and was not Covid related.

- b) *Noticeboard at Priorsfield road:* a resident has undertaken to repair it.

039/20 **Finance**

- a) **Annex 10:** Schedule of income and payments January, February, March: the total outlay for the period of £14694.93 was noted and approved.
- b) **Annex 11:** schedule of income and payments April: the total outlay for April of £6867.96 was noted and approved.
- c) **Annex 12:** *Management report to end March 2020:* noted and approved.
- d) **Annex 13:** *Bank reconciliation to end March 2020:* noted and approved.
- e) **Internal Audit:** to take place on Friday 29th May.

040/20 **Councillors Business:** *any further business arising from the meeting, to be noted or dealt with on a future agenda*

- a) *Scaffolding at Chapel:* Cllr Sharples asked when this would be removed and was advised that its removal had been held up by the emergency, but that it would be taken down soon.

041/20 **Correspondence:**

- a) Surrey Hills Environmental Design Guidance
- b) Local Council Review
- c) Surrey Crimestoppers –requesting support.
- d) *Surrey Air Ambulance:* have requested a donation to their work.

Cllr Sharples proposed that a donation of £300 be made to Surrey Air Ambulance in memory of Martin Ellis.

042/20 **Dates of meetings:**

Bi-monthly meetings: 15th July, 16th September, 18th November.

An extraordinary meeting will be held on Wednesday 10th June to approve the Annual Governance and Annual Return, in conjunction with the Auditors report.

The meeting closed at 9.19pm.