 **COMPTON PARISH COUNCIL**

***Local Government Act 1972***

Minutes of a MEETING of Compton Parish Council

held on **Wednesday 15th January 2025 at 7pm**

At Pucks Oak Barn

For the transaction of the under mentioned business

**Present:** Cllr S Mallet (in the chair), Cllrs K Hecker-Meschede, R Nagaty, J Palca, C Sharples, N Wyschna.

County Cllr M Furniss

 Borough Cllr C Houston

 8 members of the public

In attendance The Clerk, Mrs J Cadman

**The meeting commenced with a presentation from Surrey County Council Highways on their proposals for traffic calming in Compton**

The traffic calming measures included strong visual alerts and raised tables at the both entrances to the village, raised platforms at junctions within the village, and many other proposals at key points of activity in the village. Issues of noise from platforms were discussed.   There would be a 20mph zone in Down Lane and from the western start of the village up to the Spiceall junction after which it would remain 30mph.  There were also measures to enable safer pedestrian crossing and some additional pavement or paths.  There was a full and constructive conversation on the many proposals which will hopefully help develop the proposals ahead of presentations to the village planned for 3rd and 5th Feb.

There was no second option for Average Speed Cameras as was agreed by all at the meeting on 2nd December.  We were told that Surrey Police have gone back on that position and stated they will not support ASCs. Therefore, as it stands,  the village will not have the opportunity to comment on a preferred option.

*Questions from the public:*

1. *Path from Spiceall to Playground:* this has become very overgrown and wet. The Parish Council handyman will be asked to re-dig it out and fill with scalpings.
2. *Polsted Lane:*  the vegetation from the fields on the left has been cut back, but the debris has filled the ditches. The Clerk will write to the Losely Estate and ask them to clear this, to avoid flooding. There are also some dead Ash trees overhanging the road.
3. *Footpath from roundabout towards A3 to Down Lane:* this has become muddy and overgrown. Cllr Furniss agreed to get this cleared,

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| **001/25** | **Apologies for Absence:** all members were present. |
| **002/25** | **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*None were made. |
| **003/25** | **Minutes of meeting held 8th October:** were agreed as a correctd record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman.**Minutes of meeting held 20th November –** for information only, but also signed by the Chairman for completeness. |
| **004/25** | **Co-Option of a Councillor**Mr Nick Wyschna was co-opted onto the Council and signed the Acceptance of Office, after which he joined the meeting. Proposed by Cllr Mallet, Seconded by Cllr Sharples, all in favour. |
| **005/25** | **Matters arising***096/24: Neighbourhood Plan:* a meeting will be arranged with Karen Stevens and Fiona Curtis to discuss the next steps.*099/24: ditch at Withies Lane:* a meeting to be arranged between the handyman and Mr Bagnall to discuss future maintenance. Mr Bagnall’s expenses have been met at 50%, as agreed.  |
| **006/25** | **Report from County Cllr:** 1. *County Cllr Allowance:* the Clerk confirmed that she had applied for this.
2. *Highways gangs:* 12 gangs have been put together to do such work as cleaning road signs and pavements ansd cutting back vegetation.
3. *National pothole day:* it was noted that the 15th January is national pothole day. A scheme had been devised where all SCC vehicles had AI reporting facilities, so that potholes were automatically reported when driven near. Cllr Furness stressed that it was still important to report potholes, as the vehicles won’t cover the whole of the county on a regular basis.
4. *Double yellow lines at Spiceall:* the need of these, to stop parking at the junction, will be reviewed in the next annual parking review.
5. *Local Government re-organisation:* Cllr Furniss confirmed that this will not affect Parish Councils.
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| **007/25** | **Report from Borough Cllrs**1. *Crowd Fund Guildford:* The Clerk will be sent a link.
2. *Housing Strategy:* GBC had launched a housing strategy consultation on housing and homelessness. The Clerk was asked to send the last housing needs survey results to Cllr Houston.
3. *Mayors Award for Community Service:* deadline for nominations 31st January.
4. *Clean Air night:* 22nd January.
5. *Pollution Levels:* Surre University are conducting a survey.
6. *Spiceall:* there had been a lot of issues regarding parking on verges and resident tension. Cllr Houston was advised that the verges were the responsibility of GBC, not SCC, as this is GBC property, so she will pick this up again.
7. *Devolution:* Cllr Houston explained that the government were pursuing devolution because of the level of debt in a number of Borough Councils. The new structure would consist of a Mayor, a unitary authority and parish and town councils.

It is proposed that this year’s elections be cancelled, as the new structure migth be put into place within the year. The proposed very large increase in housing will have a significant effect on unitary authorities, and council taxes will rise to incorporate the huge level of debt in the county.  |
| **008/25** | Members report: **Local Plan** The Local Plan is being updated but it is not clear at the moment to what extent the Parish Council should be involved. The Parish Council needs to examine whether a Neighbourhood Plan is appropriate for this parish. Cllr Mallet suggested that a working group be set up to consider the implications of the Local Plan and the value of a Neighbourhood Plan. This was agreed.He proposed that the members of the working group should be as follows: Fiona Curtis, Karen Stevens, Cllrs Mallet, Nagaty and Palca, and Olivia Timberlake. This was agreed.It was noted that, if it was decided to proceed with a Neighbourhood Plan, the involvement of a number of residents would be essential. |  |
| **009/25** | **Highways and Traffic Committee:** report on meeting in December with SCC and Surrey Police to discuss traffic calming proposals. NotedMr Bagnall was sorry that Average Speed Cameras had been agreed to be an option to what was presented tonight, but were now not possible, as Surrey Police would not support them.  |
| **010/25** | **Planning:**1. *list of current planning applications:* These were noted. Members expressed some concern about the access application for Priors Glade (24/P/01837), as this is an old and very narrow farm access onto a very busy road. The Clerk will recirculate the application and ask for views, to submit to GBC planning.
2. *Solar Farm Application:* a decision is still awaited from the Secretary of State on whether the application can be called in.
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| **011/25** | Members report: **Allotments and Environment** *: Cllr Sharples*Members noted that it had been agreed with the CVA that there should be a memorial to Ken Miller, but not what this memorial should be. Benches were discussed, and agreed to be worth pursuing. |
| **012/25** | Members report: **Youth and Recreation:** *The Clerk*The Clerk is still pursuing funding for additional equipment in the recreation ground. |
| **013/25** | Members report: **Watts Gallery and Cemetery**1. Cllrs Mallet and Palca met with the Clerk to review the Gallery Agreement on the 28th November and saw no reason to make any changes. The agreement will remain as it stands.
2. Reports from Mr Herbert on cemetery data project had been circulated prior to the meeting. Mr Herbert will attend the next Parish Council meeting to give detail on the project and answer questions. Members noted the complexity and thoroughness of the work being undertaken, which will provide a sound and comprehensive record of the cemetery.
3. Cemetery committee meeting: Arranged for 2pm Tuesday 21st January. The Clerk suggested that other members might wish to come to the site visit of the cemetery, so that she could show them some of the areas that had proved a challenge for her and Mr Herbert to resolve.
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| **014/25** | **Finance**1. Schedule of income and payments to end December: payments of £3,073.33 were noted and agreed.
2. *Management report to end December :* noted and agreed.
3. *Bank reconciliation to end December* noted and agreed and verified against the bank statement by the Chairman at the meeting.
4. *Interim Audit Report:* noted and agreed. The one observation, that the bank statement should be signed as well as the bank reconciliation, had been acted upon. The Clerk was thanked for a successful audit.
5. *Draft Budget 2025/26* ***:*** The Clerk tabled the following:
* Our council tax impact on a Band D property is currently £55.44. Last year this gave us a precepted income of £26981.
* The number of Band D equivalent properties has risen this year from 486.67 to 488.24. This would mean that we could raise our precept request to £27,068 without increasing our council tax impact.
* This year we are losing our Local Council Tax Support Grant of £1,841. We had been advised that this would be phased out, instead it has been stopped completely for parishes that received less than £5,000 in previous years.
* Meeting all our obligations and aspirations gives us an excess of expenditure over income of £15,182. We would have to increase our precept to £125.65 per Band D property in order to balance our budget. An increase of 5% would give us an extra £1,353.40, a total precept of £28,421.
* We currently hold £57,700 in reserves. £10,000 allocated to Planning, £10,000 to the cemetery project. We are expecting a VAT refund of £9,000.
* *Recommendation:* a precept increase of 5%, the remainder to be met from reserves.

This was agreed Proposed by Cllr Mallet, Seconded by Cllr Wyschna, all in favour. |
| **015/25** | **Back up strategy for website and cemetery records database:** a meeting will be held between Cllrs S Mallet, K Hecker-Meschede and the Clerk, by Zoom, at midday on the 7th February. |
| **016/25** | **Councillors Business:** any further business arising from the meeting to be noted or dealt with on a future agenda.No further business was raised |
| **017/25** | **Date of next meeting:**  19th March 2025**Annual Parish Meeting:** 7th May, 2025, at the Club. It is hoped that it will be possible to present plans for a Neighbourhood Plan at that meeting.**Annual Litter Pick:**  Saturday 22nd March, starting at 10am.  |
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