



COMPTON PARISH COUNCIL

PARISH OF COMPTON

Local Government Act 1972

Minutes of a meeting of Compton Parish Council held on

Wednesday 20th January 2021 at 7.00pm

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

Present: Cllrs A Burtenshaw, D Haskins, R Nagaty, J Palca, J Saunders, C Sharples
County Cllr M Furniss
1 member of the public

In attendance: The Clerk, Mrs J Cadman

- 001/21 **Election of Chairman:** Cllr Palca, Proposed by Cllr Burtenshaw, Seconded by Cllr Sharples, all in favour.
- 002/21 **Apologies for Absence:** Cllr Nagaty would be late attending, due to a prior commitment. Thanks were recorded to Mrs Patel for her years of service to the Council. Apologies were also noted from Borough Cllr C Blows.
- 003/21 **Declarations of interest:** Cllr Burtenshaw declared an interest in agenda item 013/21, as Director of Watts Gallery. Cllr Sharples also declared an interest in agenda item 013/21 as a new employee of the Gallery.
- 004/21 **Minutes of November full council meeting:** were approved by all present.
- 005/21 **Matters Arising:**
096/20 Monkshatch: The Forestry Commission have undertaken to investigate but have not yet reported back.
- 006/21 **Report from County Cllr:**
Cllr Furniss reported as follows:
- a) Firstly, a Happy New Year.
 - b) SCC's services are operating as normal. The main focus is on aiding Public Health England and the NHS, and the vaccine centres are operating as well as possible.
 - c) *B3000 Road bridge repairs:* the bridge will be closed for repairs from the 12th to the 19th February. SCC engineers will be working with Network Rail engineers to ensure that the work is done well and thoroughly this time. The work had been delayed to now due to work on the A3 by Highways England.

Cllr Nagaty joined the meeting at 7.10pm
 - d) *Your Fund Surrey:* this £100,000m fund is now being rolled out for capital projects throughout the county. It's a five year scheme, with no deadlines within that time or limits on the costs of schemes.
 - e) *Village Gates:* Cllr Furniss undertook to provide details of standard designs to Cllr Sharples, which can then be adapted. They also discussed repeater signs, Cllr Furniss will ask SCC engineers to look at suitable locations.
- 007/21 **Reports from Borough Cllrs:**
Cllr Nagaty reported as follows:
- a) *A331/A31 junction:* this is scheduled to be improved, together with the Guildford Road traffic lights in Ash.
 - b) *Town centre plan:* this is proceeding.
 - c) *Guildford Park Road:* the proposed development is proceeding, with some affordable housing.
 - d) *Enforcement:* Cllr Haskins reported that the owners of Coneycroft are using the driveway of Polsted Manor to move building materials onto their site. Cllr Nagaty noted that there are a number of enforcement issues in Compton.

- e) *Spending cuts*: Cllr Palca noted that the new Head of the Borough Council had talked about priorities for spending cuts, and asked if it would be helpful if this Parish Council suggested where they might best be targeted. Cllr Nagaty confirmed that this was under consultation at the moment, with the emphasis being on looking after the elderly and needy rather than arts and tourism.
- f) *Traveller bunds*: Cllr Sharples reminded the meeting that Compton had been scheduled for a consultation last summer on the possibility of installing bunds on the Green to prevent incursion. Cllr Nagaty said they had been heavily involved in Shalford, but that he is due to meet with Hendryk Jurk in the following week to discuss Compton and the plan that works here should follow on from Shalford. The government are bringing in a new bill to make it easier to move travellers on from private land, and SCC are arranging new transit sites.

008/21 **Report on police and crime statistics:** 4 crimes were reported in Fowlers Croft in November: 2 anti social behaviour, 1 public order and 1 violence and sexual offences. 1 violence and sexual offences was reported near Priorsfield Road.

009/21 **Members Report: local Plan:**
Mrs Gilbert's report was noted.
Cllr Palca asked if the council should be giving consideration now to how we assess a potential planning application for Blackwell Farm and whether money should be set aside for this purpose. It was agreed that both Mrs Gilbert and Mrs Curtis were very knowledgeable, but that it would be good to identify an expert to hold in reserve.

010/21 **Members Report: Highways:**
Cllr Haskin's report was noted.

- a) Cllr Haskins reported that the police had been at the hall with a speed gun before Christmas, but had not reported their results. Cllr Furniss commented that the police tended to be looking for drunk driving and lack of insurance rather than speeding.
- b) Cllr Haskins noted that the planning application at Blackwell Farm depends on improvements to the A3. Cllr Furniss noted that the current administration at GBC is lobbying for this widening.
- c) The recent storm had brought down trees in Polsted Lane and residents had been without telecommunications over Christmas. It appears that SCC are undertaking their five yearly tree assessment in February.
- d) Traffic seems to have returned to pre-covid levels.
- e) VAS: Cllr Sinclair asked if it would be possible to wire the VAS to the mains rather than having to keep changing the battery. Cllr Haskins advised that one of the two was, paid for by SCC. Cllr Furniss said that he would find the cost, but noted that it was preferable to have a moving VAS, as static ones tend to be ignored eventually.

011/21 **Members Report: Allotments and Environment**

- a) Work to allotment entrances: the work will commence as soon as the weather improves. Cllr Haskins reported that there is a waiting list. Cllr Nagaty asked if there was any space for new allotments.
- b) Footpaths meeting: the notes of the meeting were discussed. Cllr Haskins noted that the number of people walking for pleasure had increased over the last year, and an improvement in signage would be very helpful. Cllr Sharples advised that issues could be marked on the Surrey Interactive Map, but that little work is being done to footpaths at the moment due to social distancing. He undertook to circulate details of how to access the map and use it.
- c) Litter pick: It was agreed to advertise a litter pick for the last Saturday in March, asking people to contact the clerk if they wished to take part. Due to current Covid restrictions, they would be allocated an area and asked to use their own equipment and to take the rubbish home for their own bins.

012/21 **Members Report: youth and recreation**

- a) The gate spring has been repaired by the village caretaker.

- b) The inside of the play park is very muddy. The Clerk undertook to investigate ways of resolving this with the village handyman.

013/21 **Members Report: Watts Gallery and Cemetery**

- a) Report from Gallery director: this had been circulated and was noted. Cllr Burtenshaw drew the following to members' attention:
 - i. *Bench*: Surrey Hills AONB had indicated a desire to support this application.
 - ii. The Gallery had received some recovery funding, which had to be used by the 31st March. This will be used for fencing, to better define the borders of the Estate and to convert the Cloister offices alongside the shop.
- b) *Cemetery committee*: Members agreed that a meeting should be arranged.
- c) *Cemetery Agreement*: Members agreed that a meeting should be arranged to review the agreement, due to the costs to the Gallery.

014/21 **Members Report: Planning:**

- a) Planning applications received and members responses: noted.
- b) Proposed new two bedroom attached dwelling. Land adjacent to 28, Almsgate, Compton, GU3 1JG: Members discussed the plan with the applicant, attending the meeting as a member of the public. It was noted that a previous application had been turned down by GBC, but that this application had the approval of the tree officer, although the original had been turned down because of proximity to trees. The impact on the AONB will be greater because of the proximity of the building to Polsted Lane. Members agreed to review the plans and send comments to the Clerk, who will then write to GBC Planning.

015/21 **Members Report: Village Hall:**

Cllr Sharples reported that there had been some concern about the build up of rubbish at the closed pub next door, but the owners had cleared this.

016/21 **Finance**

- a) Schedule of income and payments Nov and Dec: noted and agreed
- b) *Management report to end Dec 2020*: noted and agreed.
- c) *Bank reconciliation to end Dec 2020*: noted and agreed
- d) *Draft budget 2021/22*: this had been circulated, with the recommendation that, in order to keep our share of the Band D equivalent council tax at £56.02 per household – in order words, a 0% increase – the precept request should be reduced from £27,176 to £26,873, as the number of Band D equivalents had reduced from 485.11 to 479.70. Proposed by Cllr Haskins, Seconded by Cllr Saunders, all in favour.

017/21 **Councillors Business:** *any further business arising from the meeting, to be noted or dealt with on a future agenda*

- a) *Neighbourhood Plan*: Cllr Nagaty asked if the Council should consider starting a Neighbourhood Plan, as they carry some weight. The Clerk will forward an example of a successful Plan. **Agenda Item**: March meeting.
- b) *Phone Box*: Cllr Sharples reported that he had arranged a crib scene at Christmas, which had raised £513 for Shooting Star Chase. The phone box now had a 14ft Statue of Liberty.
- c) *Losely Cattle*: As the Estate were not using stock fencing, the cattle escaped on a regular basis and caused a hazard on the roads and footpaths. The Clerk will write to Losely Estate.
- d) *Mayors Award for Service during the pandemic*. It was agreed to nominate Emma Terry.

018/21 **Correspondence:** no new correspondence has been received.

019/21

Dates of meetings:

Members to review meeting dates for the year 2021/22.

It was agreed to continue to meet on the 3rd Wednesday of alternate months, starting with January.

Regarding the Parish Meeting, members discussed the possibility of a meeting by Zoom, and then hold a social event in the late summer/early autumn, when it is possible to meet in public.

The meeting closed at 20.45.