



COMPTON PARISH COUNCIL

PARISH OF COMPTON

Local Government Act 1972

Minutes of a **MEETING** of Compton Parish Council held on

Wednesday 19th July 2023 at 7.00pm

for the transaction of the under mentioned business.

Open Forum: Withies Pond: a member of the public asked if it could be cleared as it was full of silt. It was agreed to first get the water flowing freely again, and then clear the silt. Our village handyman would be asked to quote for the work, and the allotment holders asked if they would like the silt.

Present: Cllr S Mallet (in the chair), Cllrs S James, R Nagaty, J Palca, C Sharples
Borough Cllr C Houston
10 Members of the public

In attendance: The Clerk, Mrs J Cadman

073/23 **Apologies for Absence:** were received from Cllr K Hecker-Meschede

074/23 **Declarations of interest:** Cllr James and Cllr Sharples declared a non pecuniary interest in agenda item 85/23 as employees of Watts Gallery.

075/23 **Minutes of Meeting held May and June 2023:** were agreed as a correct record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman.

076/23 **Matters arising**

Ditch at Withies Lane: members received a report from William Bagnall:

‘I am pleased to report that I have agreed with Surrey County Council that they will clear the tree roots from the Withies Lane blocked drain and that this work has been scheduled for November, subject to no new emergency work required elsewhere. This should resolve the lack of water flowing down the water course which has been gradually reducing for some years. However, please note that Surrey CC are not legally responsible, so the work will be done as a goodwill gesture for which I have expressed our appreciation.

I have had very helpful discussions with Tor Peebles who is head of flood risk management at Surrey CC and with one of his senior team, Guy Whittaker, who is Senior Flood and Climate Resilience Officer. There were lots of apologies for the lack of response which was due to a change in their admin system. Matt Furniss has also been very helpful in making these introductions. The responsibilities for the water flow along Withies Lane are complicated and Guy has provided me with a guide to the legal rights and responsibilities of land owners with water courses through their property and also water courses adjacent to their property, as is partly the case here.

‘I have undertaken to make sure that all the land owners involved (some 15 households and Loseley Estate) together with the Parish Council are fully briefed so that there can be discussion and hopefully agreement on how best to manage and maintain this watercourse in the future.’

Grateful thanks were recorded to Mr Bagnall for his work.

064/23a: defibrillator at hall: the pads have now been received and the defibrillator is back in place.

077/23 **Land acquisition in Compton:**

Recommendation: members to agree to execute the form of Transfer, to be signed by the Chairman and witnessed by two councillors, in the presence of the Clerk.

Members requested clarification on the right of way and the covenants for adjoining properties. Cllr Palca wished to see the entire document. It was decided to appoint a sub committee of Cllrs Mallet, Nagaty and Palca to meet with the solicitor to clarify these points. They were authorised to sign the form of Transfer in the presence of the Clerk once they were satisfied with the Transfer.

078/23 **Neighbourhood Plan:** Cllr Mallet had talked to Artington, who were also considering a Neighbourhood Plan and might want to do it jointly with Compton. They are still considering their options. Cllr Nagaty briefly explained the process of completing Neighbourhood Plan.

079/23 **Report from County Cllr:** no report had been received.

080/23 **Report from Borough Cllrs:**

Cllr Houston introduced herself and explained that she lived in Shalford and covered 5 villages as

Borough Cllr.

- i. *GBC finances:* there will be a shortfall in the budget of £3m this year and 8m next year. Over the next 5 years the shortfall will amount to £25m. This is the situation across the whole country, as Government stopped funding councils to provide services. GBC had also invested in capital projects, which have had to be terminated due to rising costs, interest rates and inflation. The last audit had highlighted some problems, mainly to do with the Covid grants. An emergency meeting was to be held the next day to discuss the situation. Guildford is an asset rich borough and assets may have to be realised to deal with projects, at the same time as reigning back on some projects.
- ii. *Planning:* Covid had decimated the planning department at GBC and there had been a number of additional planning applications, which had led to a serious backlog in determinations. The situation was now improving, with 82% of applications being dealt with within the agreed time frame.
- iii. *Local planning issues:* Cllr Houston would report back to the September meeting on the current situation with regard to the Harrow and Eastbury Manor.
- iv. *North Street Development:* outline permission had been for a building of 13 stories, the most recent application was for 11 stories.

081/23 **Members Report: local Plan:**

Mrs Stevens had reported as follows: a consultation response to the proposed AONB had been submitted on behalf of the PC.

The solar farm has not yet gone to the planning committee. And things are quiet on the Local Plan front generally.

082/23 **Members Report: Highways: Cllrs Saunders and Sharples**

- a) *Speed check:* There had been a speed check at the end of the Street on morning of the meeting.
- b) *20mph in adjoining parishes:* Cllr Houston reported that a lot of work was being carried out in Shalford and Peasmarsh towards a 20mph speed zone. Peasmarsh traffic average speed is less than 24mph so they will be able to have a 20mph speed limit, in Shalford the average speed is over 24mph, so a consultation will be carried out.
- c) *Down Lane:* Drivers ignore the 'no right turn' into Down Lane. A resident believed that the notice was too close to the turning.
- d) *20mph in Compton:* It was agreed to speak to the 20mph campaign to ascertain if they can give this parish some support.
- e) *Average speed cameras:* the Clerk to ascertain whether the parish can go ahead with this element of the traffic calming scheme, at its own expense.
- f) *Traffic calming plans:* members were concerned at the length of time it was taking to progress this, and were reminded that the current plan is for the feasibility study to take place this year and the work to be undertaken next year.

083/23 **Members Report: Allotments and Environment: Cllr Sharples**

Cllr Sharples recalled that the roundabout and both sides of the road at the top of the village used to be full of wild flowers, planted by Catherine McAlmont. These are now gone and the areas are full of bramble and weeds. He will discuss restoring the wild flowers with Cllr Furniss.

084/23 **Members Report: youth and recreation: Cllr Saunders**

- a) *Draft proposals from Playdale:* were tabled. The Clerk is still waiting for two other companies to quote, but in the meantime will meet with the two residents who, with her, make up the playground working group, and discuss the proposals received.
- b) *Paddle Courts:* a resident had expressed an interest in building (and, via a company he has set up, paying for) two paddle courts, near where the old basketball court is on the green. They would take up the space of about a tennis court. He thinks that paddle is a game for the future, and fun to play at all levels and ages. The court has netting and special glass round it, and is open to the elements. Cllr Palca, who he had approached, will discuss this with him in more detail.

085/23 **Members Report: Watts Gallery and Cemetery: Cllr James**

- a) *Gallery Report:* was tabled.
- b) *Repair of Lych gate:* there will be no access to the cemetery through the gate whilst the work is being carried out, so it will be necessary to effect a different entrance for this time. The Gallery are proposing to remove part of the wall for access for funerals and visitors.
- c) *Abandoned car:* GBC say that this car, abandoned in the layby, has not been there long enough to be termed abandoned.

- 086/23 **Planning:**
23/P/00892 and 23/P/00893 Mellersh Farm
Rebuild tithe barn for continued use as farm shop and café
Access to the shop is very difficult as there is no pavement along the B3000. Members requested that a permissive footpath from the village be a condition of any planning permission.
- 087/23 **Dropbox management and maintenance**
Members agreed the following:
- i. All annexes to be published on the website with the agenda for each meeting.
 - ii. Dropbox to contain this information, and any other parish records, and to be maintained by Mrs Curtis, our webmaster.
 - iii. All members to have access to Dropbox if they wish.
 - iv. Recording of decisions regarding planning applications to be refined at the September meeting.
- 088/23 **Compton Club**
The Club is now closed while it considers its future. They are currently deciding whether to let out half as a shop, café, business or nursery, and retain the other half. Members were happy to support this proposal, but would keep a watching brief on concerns such as increased traffic.
- 089/23 **Parish Climate Action initiative**
Members **agreed** to pass a motion at the September meeting to declare a climate emergency.
- 090/23 **Finance**
- a) Schedule of income and payments to end June: the expenditure for the period from 1/4/23 to 30/6/23 of £7305.36 was noted and approved.,
 - b) *Management report to end June* noted and approved
 - c) *Bank reconciliation to end June* noted and approved
 - d) Our village handyman had requested an increase in his day rate of 15%, the first increase since he started work for the Council. In monetary terms, this will increase his day rate from £200 to £230. This was noted and approved.
- 091/23 **Councillors Business:** *any further business arising from the meeting, to be noted or dealt with on a future agenda*
- a) *Big Give:* Cllr James drew members attention to this initiative, raising money for community work. On the 25th November a choir will perform in the Chapel. There will be a Christmas tree, decorated by items made by volunteers. Compton residents will be invited and there will be a reception in the Cloisters.
- 092/23 **Date of next meeting:** Wednesday 20th September 2023
- 093/23 **EXCLUSION OF MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS**
- The Motion: "In accordance with the provisions of section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (admission to Meetings) Act 1960 the press and public be excluded from the meeting by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted: staffing matters
- Deferred to the September meeting*

The meeting closed at 9.05pm.