



# COMPTON PARISH COUNCIL

## PARISH OF COMPTON

### Local Government Act 1972

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

**Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2023 at 7.00pm**

for the transaction of the under mentioned business.

**Present:** Cllr S Mallet (in the chair), Cllrs J Palca, R Nagaty, J Saunders, C Sharples  
4 members of the public  
**In attendance:** The Clerk, Mrs J Cadman

In the open session, the Chairman and Mr Palmer had a brief discussion about current status of the land acquisition. The only item left outstanding is an agreement concerning the right of way over Mr Palmer's land.

Mr Foran, Chairman and Trustee of the United Charities of Compton, asked members to raise awareness of the charity and to encourage people to contact the charity if they were in need. Currently the charity was helping young people enrolled. It had been dormant for some time, following unsuccessful attempts to find worthy recipients earlier in the century, but was now reinvigorated.

Mr Palmer reminded the Council that he was still in possession of 2 VAS which were still in working order, but which were no longer practical for this parish. The Clerk would have another attempt at finding another council who would like to have them.

094/23 **Apologies for Absence:** Were received from Cllr James

095/23 **Declarations of interest:** Cllr Sharples declared a non pecuniary interest in agenda item 105/23 as an employee at Watts Gallery.

096/23 **Minutes of Meeting held July 2023:** were agreed as a correct record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman.

097/23 **Matters arising**

*Ditch at Withies Lane:* Mr Bagnall had send the following update: As requested, I did contact Surrey CC again but they aren't willing to consider replacing the blocked pipe. They do still have the unblocking work scheduled for November providing they don't have unexpected emergencies. I think the best course of action is to let that happen and then consider the long term action needed to stop it reoccurring. Having spoken to the company that did the camera survey for me, I suspect replacing the section of damaged pipe would be anything between £1,000 and £2,000 depending on what is found when it is uncovered. Clearing the silt that has blocked the first 10 metres or so might well cost another £1,000. However let's see what work Surrey CC do and we can then explore what further work we think is worth doing and the means of funding it after November.

*099/23 Neighbourhood Plan:* members agreed not to pursue this further at this time.

098/23 **Land acquisition in Compton:**

The Right of Way is the only outstanding issue.

It was noted that there is no intention to do other with the land but to use it for agricultural purposes, in the same way as it has been used for a considerable time now.

Members were reminded that the chairman and vice chairman had authority to sign the transfer in the presence of the Clerk once all matters were resolved.

099/23 **Report from County Cllr:** No report had been received.

100/23 **Report from Borough Cllrs:**

Cllr Houston reported as follows:

**Budget and Council Finances** Work continues at pace to find savings for this financial year and then beyond. Everyone is aware that difficult decisions will need to be made. An advisory budget cross party working group has been set up to go through the current budget and council assets, in order to advise the Executive where cuts and savings can be made. This group meets on a fortnightly basis.

You may already have read that the Executive are considering temporarily pausing funding to hanging baskets and planters in the town centre to save £40k per year.

Concurrent Grant Funding to Parish Councils has been stopped in line with the majority of councils across the UK. This will save £90k per year but the timing of the announcement is to allow parish councils to write their annual budgets and set precepts.

An interim S151 (Finance) Officer has been appointed for six months to cover whilst a permanent hire is recruited.

Social Housing and the Housing Revenue account are ring-fenced.

Statutory services and support for the vulnerable and disadvantaged will be protected.

#### **Community Fund Guildford**

A new round of funding for community projects through Crowdfund Guildford is opening up shortly; this scheme is funded by the government. If there are any community projects which need funds, we urge them to attend the virtual workshop on 3rd October to find out more.

#### **Planning Department**

The Planning Department continues to improve its performance with over 80% of applications now decided within the statutory 8-week period. External planning consultants are no longer required to assist with the catch up. Four additional planning officers were recruited over the summer. The planning team have been split into two with teams covering either east or west of the borough. Compton comes under West team. This enables planning officers to become familiar with a smaller area and to travel to sites more easily with less travel time involved. This will further improve efficiency of the department.

#### **Planning Applications**

*The Harrow* - This has not yet been decided. It is with a new planning officer after the original officer left GBC. If the decision is to recommend approval the earliest it can come to planning committee will be November. The PC asked Cllr Houston for her help in making sure that the views of the PC and Compton residents were properly considered by the GBC planning committee, and Cllr Palca agreed to send her a briefing paper on this.

*Robertsons Care Home* - This was approved in May. However, the portal has not been updated as there are still some legal agreements to tie up.

#### **Community Engagement**

Our last drop-in surgery was on Thursday 14th September at The Olde Ship Inn, Artington. Our next is on 25th November 9.30-10.30 at Snooty Fox Café.

- 101/23 **Members Report: local Plan:** the contents of Mrs Steven's report, circulated prior to the meeting, were noted and thanks were recorded to Mrs Stevens for all her work on the Parish Council's behalf. Cllr Nagaty advised members that a consultation was running on reducing the speed on the Farnham Road to 30mph. It was currently 40mph, recently reduced from 50mph.
- 102/23 **Members Report: Highways: Cllrs Saunders and Sharples**  
Cllr Saunders undertook to speak to Cllr Furniss about the current status of the Compton traffic calming scheme and also to MP Angela Richardson about air quality issues.
- 103/23 **Members Report: Allotments and Environment: Cllr Sharples**  
Nothing to report
- 104/23 **Members Report: youth and recreation: Cllr Saunders**  
The Clerk reported as follows:  
To date I have met with 4 companies, as follows:  
Playdale  
Faun  
Kompan  
Educational Play Environments  
The playground working group are waiting for one more site visit from another company.  
Each company was asked to produce recommendations for a complete refurbishment of the playground.  
I have received recommendations from 3 of the 4 companies and met with the residents who comprise the playground working group to compare them and to agree on priorities. I have gone back to the preferred companies to ask for amendments and am currently awaiting these. We have also undertaken a site visit to Puttenham playground.  
At the parish council meeting I will show you one set of plans to illustrate how our plans and ideas are progressing.  
After members' feedback, and having received amendments, I intend to bring final recommendations to our November meeting, with a view to placing the contract before the end of the year, so that the work can be completed before the spring of 2024.  
She showed members one set of plans, which show a good layout of new equipment for all young ages, at an achievable budget. Members were happy to support current progress.
- Cllr Saunders thanked the Clerk for her work on this to date. He advised that a table tennis table would also be welcomed by residents, and that he would seek extra funding through grants if this was required. The Clerk will send him details of current proposals.
- Cllr Saunders, the Clerk and the two residents will meet before the next full council meeting in order to bring final proposals to that meeting.
- 105/23 **Members Report: Watts Gallery and Cemetery: Cllr James**
- Gallery Report:* this had been circulated before the meeting and was noted.
  - Request for grant for tree work in cemetery:* members agreed to a grant of 50% of the cost of £5535. Proposed by Cllr Mallet, Seconded by Cllr Saunders, all in favour.
  - Cemetery committee meeting:* 16<sup>th</sup> November. 2pm. Prior to that, Cllr Palca and the Clerk would agree the terms of reference, to be approved by circulation to members.
  - Cemetery data:* Mrs Curtis' comments were noted and it was agreed that the cemetery spreadsheet should be accessible on the Parish Council's website and a plan or key devised so that the site of graves can be identified.
  - Website:* the website will be updated with all relevant documents.
- 106/23 **Planning:**  
*Current applications:*  
23/PI/01157 1 Brook House, New Pond Road

Variation of condition 2 (drawing numbers) of application 22/p/01566 which granted planning permission for the construction of a new single storey rear extension with roof lantern following part demolition of existing extension

**No objection**

**23/P/01296 The Pottery, Brickfields, New Pond Road**

Planning application for permanent use of the C3 dwellinghouse together with fenestration changes (retrospective)

**No objection**

**23/P/01502 Priors, Priorsfield Road**

Erection of an open fronted two bay traditional oak framed carport

**No objection**

**EN/23/00354** - Without planning permission alleged development consisting of the erection of a fence, a building and the laying of hard surface. **Land at Monkshatch Garden Farm, Down Lane, Compton, GU3 1EA:** members agreed to emphasise the Council's ongoing concerns to Enforcement at GBC and to copy in our Borough Councillors.

*Eastbury Manor:* the first sale did not complete, the agent is now talking to earlier bidders, who are apparently still interested.

*Harrow:* the solicitors acting for Field Place believe that some of the land designated in the Harrow planning proposals is not Harrow land. Cllr Sharples undertook to investigate the status of this issue.

107/23 **Parish Climate Action initiative**

Members agreed to declare a climate emergency and to take any action in its power to mitigate the effects of global warming in this parish.

108/23 **Finance**

- a) Schedule of payments to end August: members noted and agreed the expenditure of £3,029.20
- b) *Management report to end August* : noted and approved.
- c) *Bank reconciliation to end August* : noted and approved
- d) *External auditors report.* The AGAR sections 1,2 and 3, together with the notification of public rights, have been uploaded to the website: noted and approved.

109/23 **Councillors Business:** *any further business arising from the meeting, to be noted or dealt with on a future agenda*

- i. *Compton Club:* the front half of the club may be hired by a playgroup. Members were happy to support this initiative.

110/23 **Date of next meeting:** Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2023

111/23 **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

The meeting closed at 8.35pm.