



# COMPTON PARISH COUNCIL

Local government Act 1972

Minutes of a meeting of Compton Parish Council, held on

**Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2016 at 7.00pm**

At **Pucks Oak Barn** for the transaction of the under mentioned business

The meeting commenced at 7.00pm with an informal question time during which two members of the public asked questions relevant to the work of the Council. The Parish Council commenced at 7.15pm.

**Present:** Cllr F Curtis (in the chair), Cllrs P Graham, R Nagaty, C Sharples, K Stevens.

In attendance: The Clerk, Mrs J Cadman

76/16 **Apologies for absence:** were received from Cllr Hunt and Cllr Patel.

77/16 **Declarations of interest:** Cllr Nagaty and Cllr Stevens declared a pecuniary interest in the Blackwell Farm Development.

78/16 **Minutes of Annual Meeting May 2016:** these were agreed as a correct record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman, after the following amendment:

62/16: last sentence should read: to be carried out.

79/16 **Matters Arising**

*71/16a: landscape study:* Cllr Stevens reported the results of discussions with Surrey Hills AONB Planning advisor, following the independent review by Land Management Services, commissioned by 3 Parish Councils (including Compton) after the omission of the area from review by SCC / Surrey Hills AONB Board. Land Management Services had found that most of the Blackwell Farm site not only met AONB criteria but that the quality of some of the landscape on this eastern edge of the Hog's Back was superior to land further west which had been put forward by Surrey Hills AONB Board as a candidate area for inclusion within the forthcoming boundary review. The report will be forwarded to SCC and Surrey Hills AONB Board, requesting that they include Blackwell Farm as a candidate area in the forthcoming review. Cllr Stevens had met with Clive Smith, Planning Advisor to the Surrey Hills AONB Board, to discuss the report, following which Mr Smith objected to the inclusion of the site in the Local Plan subject to the AONB boundary review taking place. Members agreed that, if Surrey Hills did not put the site forward to Natural England as a candidate area for inclusion within the revised AONB boundary, this Council would.

80/16 **Chairman's report**

a) *Parish Council review:* the following was agreed:

- i. The Council will continue with bi-monthly meetings, and review the situation again in November.
- ii. The action list will be used to monitor progress and results. It will be up to the person in charge of a particular project to take it forward. The action list will be kept in Dropbox and actions updated by the person responsible.
- iii. The Clerk will work from the Parish for two hours a week when possible, if a suitable venue can be found. The Parish Council will purchase a laptop for this purpose, the Clerk will source this and the software. This will start from September.
- iv. Cllrs will cc the Clerk in all Council related correspondence and the Clerk will cc the Chairman and relevant Cllr.

b) *Meeting H Jurk:* In order to prevent future incursions of the Green, Mr Jurk suggested a ditch and bund and or posts. He will provide quotations to the Clerk, and this work will be done in conjunction with the work that GBC will need to do to secure their part of the Green. It is understood that Mr Jurk plans to do similar work on the left hand side of the Avenue, which is the responsibility of GBC. Cllr Graham requested that the possibility of parking on the Green be reviewed, now that there would be controlled access. Cllr Stevens reminded Cllrs

that an agreement had been reached in January that occasional parking on the Green would continue to be permitted by consent but that general parking was not a viable option.

- c) *Additions to Local Plan, SHMA, Study & Traffic info:* members expressed dissatisfaction with our Borough Cllrs, who had voted for Blackwell Farm to stay in the Local Plan. Cllr Graham advised that the residents of Priorsfield Road don't understand the significance of the Local Plan for them, and need to be kept in the loop. Cllr Curtis said she was concerned that very few residents were fully aware of the consequences and that the meeting on the 5th July had helped clarify the situation for those who attended, but that she didn't know what else the Parish Council could do to raise awareness, other than reiteration via the NEWS. Cllr Curtis invited members to submit ideas as to how this could be addressed. Cllr Curtis reported that residents were unhappy with the proposals put forward in Guildford Borough Council's Submission Draft of the Local Plan. In particular, they were concerned about the high levels of housing being proposed across the borough, the allocation of site A26 (Blackwell Farm) and the impact of these in terms of traffic flows through the village. At the Local Plan meeting on July 5, Cllr Curtis had asked attendees whether they felt that the Parish Council should spend its funds on a professional, who would represent the Parish in opposing the Local Plan and the allocation of site A25 in the forthcoming Public Examination. The residents had voted unanimously in favour of this expenditure, and one resident commented that he could think of nothing more worthwhile for the PC to spend money on.
- d) *The Street:* Anne Milton had written to SCC Highways as a result of a letter from a resident concerned about safety issues on the Street. Highways had responded to say that a crossing is not possible, because of sightlines, and there is nothing else that can be done. The Council will write to say that the lack of possible solutions to safety concerns combined with a steady increase in volume of traffic and known pollution problems means the road is not fit for purpose as a major route and that alternative solutions should now be considered.

81/16 **Report from County Cllr:**

- a) Flexford Gap  
b) Access through the proposed new estate at University Farm: maps  
The Clerk will request an update from Cllr Johnson

82/16 **Report from borough Cllrs**

No reports had been received.

83/16 **Report from the police or on law enforcement related matters**

No report had been received. It was noted that the Police non-emergency number does not work well, as the response time is very slow (20-40 minutes) and people on the switchboard are not inclined to take responsibility.

84/16 **Members report: *local plan***

Cllr Steven's report is attached to the minutes.

85/16 **Members report: *highways***

- a) *Down lane:* the walking strip still needs to be reinstated. The VAS / interface needs to be replaced with a camera image.  
b) *VAS training:* new volunteers are needed.  
c) *Verges:* those on Down Lane and The Avenue have been reported. The Clerk will ask Loseley to cut the corner of the Avenue, as this is their land.

86/16 **Members report: *allotments and environmental projects***

- a) *Allotments:* quotes for the ditch around the outside of the allotments will be tabled at the September meeting.  
b) *Footpath officer:* four people had come forward as a result of the advertisement in the News and Cllr Sharples is hoping to hold a meeting soon. Guildford Ramblers will also provide support.  
c) *Withies Pond:* the project needs to be completed. The soil has settled and will be seeded by

the autumn. Cllr Sharples will put together a working party of volunteers.

- d) *Community Service*: this scheme will not go ahead at present. All work has to be supervised, those in charge have put a number of obstacles in the way of progressing this.

87/16 **Members report: *youth and recreation***

Cllr Curtis tabled outline plans for new equipment, with a total cost of £16,000 which included safer surfacing. It was **agreed** to hold a site visit to view how these plans would work in situ. Cllr Graham suggested viewing other playgrounds and agreed to circulate a map showing where these are.

88/16 **Members report: *Watts Gallery and Cemetery***

Minutes of the June meeting of the Cemetery Committee had been circulated prior to the meeting.

When the Agreement had been drawn up, it had been agreed that the Cemetery Committee would continue and would be made up of representatives from the Parish Council and the Gallery and independents with an interest or expertise. A crucial part of the agreement was that the committee would oversee the work in the cemetery. It was not clear whether the role of the Committee and its relation to the agreement was fully understood by all representatives.

Members questioned the need to re-do the path as the Gallery wish.

*Railing*: It had been agreed that the Parish Council will source a suitable railing and present the details including price to the cemetery committee / gallery/ PC for approval Cllr Curtis had found a cast iron railing at £120 per metre.

*Volunteers*: The Clerk had met with Nicholas Massey and they had agreed that the Gallery would supervise volunteers to tidy the graves. Volunteers will be sought through the News.

It was noted that the Gallery did not want help with any other work in the cemetery, and considered that they had it under control. They plan to re-design Zone 5, as they do not consider that the current design matches the rest of the cemetery. The Clerk has already designated some of the area to graves, and the ashes scattering area has been moved to Zone 5, but the Gallery are aware of this.

89/16 **War Memorial**

The War Memorial Trust will give a grant towards the work, but they stipulate that the work must be managed by a Conservation Architect. Cllr Sharples and Cllr Curtis had met with a Robert George Architects, the previous Tuesday, who had viewed the memorial and the tablet at the back. He had been confident that the two cracks could be dealt with insitu. The back tablet needs to be removed and cleaned and the letters re-painted, but suggested cleaning the stone memorial could exacerbate wear and tear.. The architect will organise three quotations for the work and will liaise with the War Memorial Trust to ensure that the work is compliant.

90/16 **Members report: *planning***

Cllr Graham tabled the list of planning applications considered since the last Parish Council meeting. The Vinery (6/P/01500) was discussed, and concern expressed about this proposed development in a Green Belt / AGLV, albeit with a very small footprint. The application had only just come in and Cllr Graham agreed to summarise the details of the application noting any special circumstances to support it and circulate for comment. More clearing work has been carried out at MonksHatch,

91/16 **Members report: *village hall***

Nothing to report, as all is going well.

92/16 **Village sign**

The Clerk advised that a Section 38 application to erect a structure on Common Land had been submitted, as has a planning application for the sign itself. It had not been possible to complete an online application.

93/16 **Finance**

- a) *Management report to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2016*: had been circulated prior to the meeting and was noted.

- b) *Receipts and expenditure for year to date*: had been circulated prior to the meeting and the expenditure for the year to date of £5416.90 was noted and approved.

94/16 **Clerks report**

- a) *Emergency plan*: the Clerk advised that she is awaiting information from both the Borough

and the County Council, to feed into the draft emergency plan

- b) *Handymans report*: this had been circulated prior to the meeting. Mr Borrett reported that the fencing around the play area was damaged and was advised that it would be replaced as part of the general plans for the recreation area and the green.
- c) *Old Bowling Green*: it had been drawn to the Council's attention that the residents of these cottages were leaving their bins on the pavement all week. *Defibrillator training*: The Clerk has liaised with South East Ambulance service, who will organise a free Defibrillator training session in the village *hall, at a weekend*. A date will be organised for October, and this advertised in the next Compton News.

95/16 **Councillors business:** *for noting or including on a future agenda*

*Compton United charities*: Mr Foran had undertaken to talk to Peter Barnett. Nothing to report at present. **Action**: to establish with the Henry Smith Charity whether funds could be used to help deprived children via schools.

To ask other clerks how they manage the Henry Smith Charity funds.

96/16 **Correspondence:** *to be noted*

*Letter A Milton re litter*

97/16 **Dates of meetings:** 21st September, 16<sup>th</sup> November

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.40pm