



# COMPTON PARISH COUNCIL

## PARISH OF COMPTON

### Local Government Act 1972

Minutes of a meeting of Compton Parish Council held on

**Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> July 2020 at 7.00pm**

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

**Present:** Cllrs A Burtenshaw, P Graham, D Haskins, R Nagaty (also Borough Cllr).  
County Cllr M Furniss  
Borough Cllr C Blow

**In attendance:** The Clerk, Mrs J Cadman

Cllr Graham announced his resignation from the Council. He is leaving as he is shortly to relocate to Farnham, but expressed his sorrow at leaving the Council. He has left papers with the Clerk outlining the duties of his roles on council. Members thanked him very much for his service over a number of years, wished him well, and were very sorry to see him go. Mr Graham left the meeting.

051/20 **Election of Meeting Chairman:** Cllr Nagaty, Proposed by Cllr Burtenshaw, Seconded by Cllr Haskins.

052/20 **Apologies for Absence:** were received from Cllrs Palca, Patel and Sharples.

053/20 **Declarations of interest:** Cllr Burtenshaw declared an interest in agenda item 063/20, as Director of Watts Gallery.

054/20 **Minutes of May full council meeting:** to be approved at the September meeting, as insufficient members at this meeting were present at that meeting.

**Minutes of July Extraordinary Council meeting:** to be approved at the September meeting, as insufficient members at this meeting were present at that meeting.

055/20 **Matters Arising:**

- a) scaffolding at the Chapel: Cllr Burtenshaw advised that it was due to be removed the following Monday.

056/20 **Reports from County Cllr:** Cllr Furniss reported as follows:

- a) Following the death on the B3000, Cllr Furniss had asked the Road Safety team to consider double white lines, to prevent overtaking, and double yellow lines at the junctions to prevent parked cars obstructing sight lines.
- b) Talks are progressing with Loseley Estate on a proposed footpath link from the town centre to Watts Gallery. A link from Farncombe station to Watts Gallery is also being investigated. Cllr Burtenshaw asked if a continuation of the demarked shared space walkway on Down Lane from the Watts Gallery to the Chapel could be considered from the Chapel to the Street to link to existing footpath on The Street
- c) SCC will continue to look at ways of promoting walking and cycling.
- d) The speed limit on the Avenue has been dropped to 30mph.
- e) Surface dressing to Binscombe road will take place this financial year.
- f) The B3000 bridge at New Pond Road will be repaired by Network Rail, with the supervision of SCC Highways engineers, to ensure the quality of work. The bridge will be closed for two weeks in August. Cllr Burtenshaw expressed concern about the impact of the road closure on Watts Gallery and Cllr Furniss agreed that it was not good timing. He and Cllr Burtenshaw will discuss this further. Cllr Furniss hoped that it might be possible for the road to be partially closed, with traffic lights.
- g) Cllr Hawkins referred to the quality of the road surface at the site of the accident. He questioned whether the number of potholes might have contributed. Cllr Furniss understood that agreed, although speed may also be a factor. The accident was still under investigation.
- h) Cllr Furniss drew members attention to two new interactive maps on the SCC website, aimed at working with residents to improve the roads and pavements in Surrey.

057/20 **Report from Borough Cllrs:** Cllr Blows reported on behalf of himself and Cllr Nagaty:

- a) There has been change in membership of committees at GBC. Eight Conservatives have split into two groups of four, one GGG member has sadly died. There has also been a change of leadership, with James Bigmore taking over as Leader from Caroline Reeves.

- b) The council has reviewed an emergency budget, in the event that it gets no help from government. The council has reserves, but doesn't want to use these unless absolutely necessary.
- c) The council is considering the need to postpone 4 projects within the portfolio: a contribution to work needed to the A331 roundabout; the museum, bike share; and major work near Chapel Street. This has not yet been approved, although it has been acknowledged that economies need to be made.
- d) Cllr Burtenshaw thanked Cllr Nagaty for speaking to GBC about financial support for the Gallery. Unfortunately, there was no funding available.

*Cllr Furniss left the meeting.*

058/20 **Report on police and crime statistics:** 6 crimes were reported in May: 1 violence and sexual offences and 1 anti-social behaviour at Spiceall; 1 anti-social behaviour at Withies Lane; 1 drugs offence at Down Lane; 2 public order at Priorsfield Road.

Noted.

The Clerk will ask the Borough Commander for more specific details on reported crimes.

059/20 **Members Report: local Plan:**

Members noted Mrs Stevens' report, circulated prior to the meeting.

Cllr Nagaty reported that GBC will proceed with the Local Plan. They are seeking a solution to development proceeding without infrastructure. It does not seem at present that Blackwell Farm will go ahead for at least a year, as it will be necessary for Slyfield to progress first.

Cllr Nagaty recorded thanks to Karen Stevens and Fiona Curtis for all their hard work. Mrs Stevens is currently preparing a response to the design document.

060/20 **Members Report: Highways:**

GBC's AQMA report had been circulated prior to the meeting. Cllr Haskins is hoping to be able to discuss this in some detail with Mr Miller.

He hopes to be able to relate the AQMA to vehicle movements, which would be very helpful.

Cllr Burtenshaw reported that the 'no right turn' into Down Lane continued to be abused. An additional hazard was caused by cars exiting the A3 on the roundabout not expecting cars to be going round to go back to Down Lane. Cllr Nagaty would discuss this with SCC.

061/20 **Members Report: Allotments and Environment**

No report had been received.

062/20 **Members Report: youth and recreation**

- a) The Clerk reported that the playground had been re-opened when regulations had allowed, at the beginning of the month. All equipment had been checked and cleaned, and Covid 19 notices erected in all relevant places, including the entry, to remind users of social distancing and cleanliness. So far it appeared to be working well.
- b) Tree on corner of Green: the Clerk has asked 'Out on a Limb' for a quotation to reduce the tree
- c) Trees and vegetation overhanging the pavements: Deferred to September meeting.

063/20 **Members Report: Watts Gallery and Cemetery**

- a) Cllr Burtenshaw reported as follows:

Watts Gallery's Shop, Contemporary Gallery exhibition *Norman Ackroyd: Etching the Archipelago* and grounds reopened on Monday 6 July 2020. The historic galleries will reopen on Monday 3 August with the temporary exhibition galleries and sculpture gallery reopening on Monday 17 August so that *Unto This Last: 200 Years of John Ruskin* can be shown for the 11 weeks remaining and dovetail with the next exhibition, opening in November. It is expected that the Studios and Limnerslease will not reopen until the Autumn, although it is hoped that some form of exclusive prebooked visit may be possible sooner.

The scaffolding is being taken down at the Chapel following the successful exterior restoration work to the Chapel and Cloisters and it is hoped that the Chapel will reopen in the coming days. All admissions will be by online timed pre-booking and tickets go on sale to members from 16 July and to the wider public from 20 July. Tickets can be bought from the website – [www.wattsgallery.org.uk](http://www.wattsgallery.org.uk) where information can also be found on the safety measures that have been put in place.

In advance of reopening, the historic galleries have been rehung to allow for a safe one way system around the galleries – starting with entry through the door via the second

logia, closest to the Curator's House, at the far end of the gallery lawn (with thanks to the gallery's architect, Christopher Hatton Turnor, for envisaging a one way route through the gallery when it was designed and built 116 years ago)! As a result, the galleries have been redisplayed to allow for the new visitor route and fundraising is under way to cover the costs of the opening redisplay.

Watts Gallery Trust continues to expect a structural deficit for the year of at least £300,000 as a result of the pandemic and would welcome donations and support for its Hope 2020 Appeal which aims to fundraise for this deficit.

My thanks to everyone who has supported us by visiting the shop in the last week and to Cllr. Chris Sharples for spreading the word. Taking out a Friends or Patrons membership or buying items in the shop is a great way to support the gallery.

We look forward to welcoming the Parish back to Watts Gallery – Artists' Village over the coming weeks and thank everyone for their support at this difficult time.

- b) Agreement:** It was agreed to wait until it is possible to physically meet. Members also agreed to review the budget for 2021/22 for possible extra funding for the Gallery.

064/20

**Members Report: Planning:**

Cllr Graham had reported as follows:

At our last meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> May there were no undecided Tree Applications; and since that meeting there have been no further Applications.

In May, I reported one Planning Application was undecided: replacing tile hanging with render at Monkshatch Cottage; this has now been approved.

Since then there have been 6 further Planning Applications for sites in the Parish:

1. Brickfields: details of the renovation work proposed.
2. Compton Glebe: resubmission of plans for a garage, following withdrawal of an earlier application.
3. Broadbridges Cottage: resubmission of plans modified to be more sympathetic to the surroundings; the applicant addressed a previous PC meeting.
4. Coneycroft Farm: addition of 2 Velux windows to the previously upgraded barn.
5. Watts Gallery: replacement of a fence on the north side of Limnerslease.
6. 1 Linden Cottage: erection of an extension after demolition of conservatory; resubmission following pre-application advice, following an earlier refusal.

After studying all the documents on the GBC website for each application, I have no objections to any of these proposals.

We have been approached by the residents of Monkshatch about the continuing development work on a piece of land whose owner previously felled trees without a licence, and has not made credible response to requests for information about the proposed use of the land. GBC have been informed, but thus far no regulations have been breached, and Guildford will not take action until there is a breach. The residents are frustrated and worried, but it seems there is little we can do.

On behalf of the Parish Council I have undertaken to progress the provision of car parking on the Green; partly because the Green in large part belongs to the Parish Council, and partly to maintain control over the project. The main beneficiary would be the Village Hall, who currently lose a number of bookings each year (mainly wedding receptions) because of lack of parking, but the Club and the Village Association have also been supportive of the scheme, and the PC, VA and VH would likely all contribute to the cost. There is a steering committee, but this project needs to be moved forward. I will hand over the file to Joanna

Members **agreed** the Clerk's recommendation that, from now on, all members would see planning applications and respond to the Clerk, who will report at the subsequent meeting.

065/20

**Members Report: Village Hall:**

The Village Hall Committee met on 8<sup>th</sup> June by Zoom, and held its AGM as well as its regular 3-monthly meeting. The Village Hall Committee of management is a Registered Charity, and at the AGM each year all the trustees resign and are re-elected or replaced.

There are four nominated trustees representing the Parish Council, the Parochial Church Council, the Compton Little Theatre and the Village Association, and I have held the PC nomination for a number of years.

During lockdown the Village Hall was closed to its normal regular and one-off hirers, in common with other similar venues. However, Uniquefruit, a greengrocer, used the main hall (and paid for so

doing) as a despatch depot for their online delivery business.

The Chairman, Secretary and Hire Secretary have waded through the government and other advice and guidance and are now in the process of gradually making the Hall available again to hirers, with limits on numbers, sanitising precautions in place, extra cleaning and so on.

Appointment of representative to Village Hall committee: Cllr Haskins agreed to take this role for the time being.

066/20 **Finance**

- a) Schedule of income and payments May and June: the total payments of £2167.80 for this period were noted and agreed
- b) *Management report to end June 2020*: noted and agreed.
- c) *Bank reconciliation to end June 2020*: noted and agreed.

067/20 **Councillors Business:** *any further business arising from the meeting, to be noted or dealt with on a future agenda*

- a) *Zip wire*: members noted that the GBC matched funding for this piece of equipment had now expired, due to parish council funds not being available, but agreed that it would probably not have been in the right place where originally envisaged.
- b) *Village Club*: hopes to open up at the end of this month. Cllr Haskins will keep members informed if support is needed.
- c) *Parking*: it was agreed not to take any action at present, but wait to see what decisions the Club makes.
- d) *Unitary authority proposals from SCC*: This is in early stages of discussion. It appears that it would be necessary to have different authorities in different areas of Surrey, as it is spread from outer London to rural Surrey.

068/20 **Correspondence:** .

The Winter edition of the Local Council review has been received. No other correspondence.

069/20 **Dates of meetings:**

*Bi-monthly meetings*: 16<sup>th</sup> September, 18<sup>th</sup> November.

The meeting closed at 8.33pm.