



COMPTON PARISH COUNCIL

PARISH OF COMPTON
NOTICE OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
Local Government Act 1972

Minutes of a meeting of Compton Parish Council held on
Wednesday 21st November 2012 at 7.00pm

In the **Village Hall meeting room** for the transaction of the under mentioned business.

Present: Cllr F Curtis (in the chair), Cllrs M Bills, P Burzio, D Haskins, J Parsons, K Patel
PC Matt Taylor
2 members of the public
In attendance: The Clerk, Mrs J Cadman

114/12 **Apologies for Absence:**

Cllr S Gimson and Cllr J Palmer had sent their apologies.

115/12 **Declarations of disclosable prejudicial and other interests:** none were made

116/12 **Minutes of Meeting held 19th September 2012:** these were agreed as a correct record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman.

117/12 **Matters Arising:**

99/12:79/12: Down Lane Speed Limit: notice of the proposed imposition of 30mph on part of D97 Down Lane has been issued and the objection period has now expired. Implementation should be within the next two months,

99/12:79/12 Down Lane footpath and fence: no progress has been made to date.

99/12:79/12: Hedge in Down Lane: deferred for a report from Cllr Gimson

99/12:89/12: the Council's application for grant aid for all items has been approved, subject to funding ratification by GBC. The Clerk has received confirmation that the shed can be erected now, although grant aid will not be received until April 2012.

103/12b: Parking at the British Legion Club: A meeting would be arranged with Jason Lewis, the new community highways officer, to investigate the possibilities. Cllr Curtis has spoken to the Harrow, who have received a quote of £7,000 to flatten and level the area beyond their car park. The brewery would not be happy for them to sub-let it, but would consider a 'gentleman's agreement'.

103/12d: Goal posts: members **agreed** that the Council should engage a handyman on a one off basis to deal with the list of outstanding small works. The tenancy at the Lodge should not include an agreement to carry out village caretaker work and a caretaker will be engaged separately.

118/12 **Chairman's Report:**

Horses - There were mixed feelings about the presence of a horse on the green. Whatever one's personal feelings it couldn't stay and has now been moved. There have been 3 incidents of horses escaping from the field off Down Lane. They made the news when they escaped onto the A3 a few weeks ago but also ran amok through the village during the evening of Thursday 16th and again on Friday 17th Nov, when one was hit by a car, which was also damaged.

Compton is in the news: Following the excellent report from Jon Maslin and Nick Palmer produced with the aim of getting more volunteers for CSW and VAS management, the Surrey Ad produced an article. There have been 39 on-line responses to date (greater than any other of the same period including police elections). BBC Radio Surrey ran a follow up story on the same subject. The headlines of both (which were not instigated by CPC or CSW) were not entirely accurate but the points made were all valid and true. The point was to appeal to drivers to slow down through Compton for whilst we are all trying our best to do something about it, we still have an issue. It was interesting and not surprising to see that some doubted the statistics / figures used.

Mention was made of an accident site called 'crashmap' which is very useful.

<http://www.crashmap.co.uk>.

Cemetery Data

Joanna has now completed the cemetery data and will liaise with David Haskins, how best to add this to the website and link to a map of the cemetery.

Guildford Plan

The plan for a new Waitrose and 168 parking spaces with 48 new homes (18 of which will be affordable) plus a community centre has been approved by GBC. The application supports Government national planning policy, which favours town centre development. The policy also favours protection of rural communities so it will be interesting to see how the two will succeed when rural communities such as ours lie within close proximity of a growing City. Congratulations to Cllr. James Palmer who in addition to playing a major role in the Guildford plan is now deputy leader of GBC.

Insurance

Joanna, Maryon and I met with our insurers to discuss the claim being made by Chris Harvey. Despite many verbal instructions not to go on the roof alone CPC, like many small Parish Councils does not have a comprehensive written health and safety policy for workers and had the situation gone to court, our case would have been weakened by this. Subject to a medical, the Insurance Company felt that on balance the best course of action was to agree to an out of court settlement. Work is now sub-contracted to individuals and our only member of staff is Joanna / Clerk who is responsible for the risk assessment.

Photo Albums

Many thanks to Doromai Rothwell, who recently gave CPC two photo albums for the archives. The photographs were taken by Desmond Rothwell in 1987 and include many properties in the village. I have many files that belong to the Parish Council as does Joanna and at some point, it would be pertinent to discuss an appropriate place for longer term storage of these.

Watts Gallery

The memorandum of Understanding approved at the last meeting is in the hands of our solicitor who produced an initial draft a few weeks ago. Martin, Joanna and I have requested a few minor amendments and the first version should be with the Perdita and the Gallery at any time. It is hopeful that the agreement will be finalised within the first quarter of next year, but we have budgeted for end of 2nd quarter just in case we hit any sticking points.

Bench

I spoke to the son of Mr. and Mrs. Newbiggin, the couple to whom the bench near the memorial is dedicated. He confirmed that the bench was originally placed there by his father, following the death of his mother in the 1980's and thought it was sanctioned by the Rector at the time. Its purpose was to act as a resting place for those visiting the Church.

Some time ago, a delivery van hit the entrance gate and bench whilst visiting Eastbury Manor and Eastbury replaced the bench. The original bench sat in the recess but the new one sits in front of the memorial and as well as detracting from the memorial, is in the way of those gathered for Armistice day. Informal conversations lead us to believe that the land is unregistered and should be registered to CPC. This task is now in hand, after which CPC will continue to liaise with Mr Newbiggin and the Parochial Church Council regarding the repositioning of the bench before the Centenary next year.

The base needs re-doing as much of it has disintegrated leaving an uneven surface. It would be timely to deal with the base and the bench before or during the restoration work of the memorial itself, which is scheduled for April 2013.

Unfortunately Eastbury have concreted the bench onto the base and feel unable to rectify the situation, as to do so would result in one of the legs being on a different level to the remainder, posing a health and safety risk. An option would be to look for a bench that isn't so deep, build a small base for the unstable leg, or seek an alternative position within near the Church wall

Tenancy

Paul Monks will leave Chapel Lodge at the end of this month. A prospective tenant maybe happy to rent the cottage on a short term rental, subject to viewing, and agreement of rental figure. The market rental is £1200+, but this may take a few months to achieve. A reduced rental (say £700) plus 12 hours work would delay the need to look for a handyman but there are problems linked to

this arrangement (namely monitoring and getting work done in wet weather when tenancy is short).

Members **agreed** to seek a local person to rent the cottage at a rent of around £900 per month, for 6 months, with an option to agree to 12 months if necessary.

Members also **agreed** to engage a village handyman for 12 hours per month. It was agreed to be helpful if the handyman would check round the parish on a regular basis for work that needs to be done, flytipping, etc, and report back. This might require increasing the hours allocated, but this would be reviewed when necessary.

Pet Search

Nick Palmer recently suggested setting up a 'pet search' team in Compton, whereby volunteers would be notified by him if a pet goes missing and asked to search in a specific area (close by) / put up / remove posters, if the pet owner can supply images / information. The team needs an A3 laminator and pouches and some leads and whistles and odd bits, pieces to start up. Cllr Curtis **PROPOSED** that the Parish Council give a grant of £120 towards these costs. This was **SECONDED** by Cllr Parsons, with all in favour.

Speed Limits

There are a number of traffic surveys taking place in and around Guildford at the moment and new traffic orders relating to speed limits and their start / finishing points will be forthcoming. During this time there will be some disruption to the speed reduction programmes but both police, CSW and VAS will continue to have a presence to make drivers aware of the need to slow down and this could be an opportunity for us to explore new possibilities? Cllr. Haskins has experience in dealing with traffic orders and Cllr Curtis proposed that he works with Cllr. Burzio to liaise with the authorities on behalf of the various traffic related committees here in Compton. This was **agreed**,

119/12 **Reports from Borough and County Cllrs:** no reports had been received.

120/12 **Report from the Police:** PC Matt Taylor reported as follows:

Horses: the police are trying to find out who owns the field between the footpath and Down Lane, which the horses are constantly escaping from, and also who owns the horses. Mr Miller advised that this field had been brought and split up by a company who then tried to market the plots. The last time the title had been researched was 4 to 5 years ago and nothing had been registered. Mr Miller had heard that the person who owned the horses lives in Wales. PC Taylor advised that he would be doing a foot patrol of this area more often, and that he would enlist the help of PC Ryan, the Community Officer for Park Barn, who is the police's wildlife officer. The road traffic accident involving a horse had not resulted in any injuries, and the horse was also uninjured.

The Clerk will advise the public, through the newsletter, that the police should be contacted on 101 if the matter is non-urgent, and 999 if it is urgent.

Fly tipping: the camera erected in Down Lane to try to catch the habitual offenders, has been stolen. It was noted that the gate entrance where fly tipping occurs is the entrance to the horse field.

Shed break-ins: there had only been two sheds broken into in Compton, whereas in Peaslake there had been 65. One of the residents in Peaslake had the presence of mind to report suspicious behaviour, which had resulted in the offender being identified and now being wanted for questioning. Since then, there had only been one further break in during the last few weeks.

121/12 **Public Forum:**

Car Parking: The club representatives tabled a small plan of the Green. The proposal was for two rows of cars, parked in a herringbone system. The entrance to the car park would be at the recreation ground end, the exit nearer the road, at the exit used by fete vehicles, which already has a dropped kerb. The area will be marked by either a post and rail fence, small posts, or ornamental shrubs. Questions raised regarding this proposal were as follows:

1. How much will this impact on activities on the field
2. How will this impact on the fete
3. Will the parking be able to be controlled so that people don't use it all the time. It was suggested that the Club would hold the key.

Mr Foster said that he would send a plan to the Clerk by e-mail, so that all councillors could examine it in detail.

Sign for village club: the club is currently working on the art work and will come back with some options for the parish council to look at. They are aiming for something discreet, but that will be obvious to someone looking for the Club.

122/12 **Members Report: Highways:** Cllr Burzio reported as follows:

1. Shalford have offered their speed watch equipment for sale
2. There was a reported accident on the 7th November between Down Lane and the Street, but Cllr Burzio had not received any further information about it.
3. Cllr Burzio will keep an eye on the SCC website where the reports of planned road works are reported.

123/12 **Members Report: Allotments and Environmental Projects:** Cllr Haskins reported as follows:

Allotments: the re-letting period had been very successful.

Cllr Haskins had been asked by Milford Parish Council to talk to them about allotments. They have some new ones and are seeking advice on their management. Compton's success lies in the fact that they are very flexible, allowing people to try out the idea with a small plot and move on to a bigger one if they enjoy what they are doing.

Environment: Compton Common: a work day had been organised for the coming Sunday and the intention is to carry out an audit of the trees on the common, as it was agreed that it was the wrong time of year for pond work, because of the problems of getting machinery onto boggy areas. The work party will meet at the Withies at 10am.

124/12 **Members Report: Recreation ground and playground**

106/12a: Safer Surfacing: the contract to repair the safer surfacing has been awarded to Greenspan and a start date is awaited.

Playground fence: Cllr Patel asked if the fence could be painted in bright colours. Concern was expressed about the future upkeep of a painted fence. *Action:* the Clerk to table a picture of the fence at the January meeting.

Parking on Green: members discussed the Club proposal, which, they noted, would include the area where the basketball net and hard standing is. Concern was expressed about the proposal that the parking would be just for the hall and village club and it was suggested that they pay for the benefit, so that the proceeds can be used for the benefit of the village.

106/12b: rutting on the common: Cllr Haskins had taken a look, but it was agreed that very little could be done.

106/12c: outstanding jobs on common: these jobs have not been attended to. Members were referred to 117/12 above in this respect.

125/12 **Members Report: Watts Chapel and Cemetery**

Minutes from meeting held 19th October had been circulated before the meeting.

Congratulations were recorded to the Gallery for their success in the first round of bidding for the Heritage Lottery fund. The planning stage, which is the next step, will take between 9 and 12 months.

Chapel: the Clerk will obtain some grit for the paths, and a container.

126/12 **Members Report: Planning**

Cllr Parsons reported that it had been a very quiet two months in respect of planning. He had noted that GBC had tightened up on planning applications recently, with some applications not going through now that would have done so a few months ago.

127/12 **Members Report: Village Hall**

Cllr Curtis reported that the Council is working towards regularising the position of the agreement with the village hall. There is a 1934 conveyance and the Parish Council holds the title, which has allowed it in the past to claim grant aid for structural work, however there have been questions raised which it is hoped that the Title Deeds, now with the village hall committee's solicitors, will resolve.

Hearing Loop: The Clerk will ask Martin Foran to take the proposal of funding for the village hall hearing loop to Compton United Charities.

128/12 **Finance**

- a) *Management Report to 1/11/12* had been circulated before the meeting and was agreed.
- b) *Receipts and payments to 1/11/12* had been circulated before the meeting and was agreed.
- c) *Budget for 2013/14*: members considered the proposed budget for 2013/14., which had been circulated before the meeting, and which was explained in detail by the Clerk. Its acceptance was PROPOSED by Cllr Parsons, SECONDED by Cllr Curtis, with all in favour, and will now form the basis for the Borough Council Precept request.

129/12 **Action list:** this had been circulated before the meeting and it was agreed that it would form an agenda item at each meeting.

130/12 **Councillors Business:**

- a) *Parish Plan*: Cllr Parsons tabled a list of headings for a potential questionnaire, and asked members to contact him if they wished to add other questions. He noted that the plan would need to take the GBC Local Plan into account. Cllr Parsons and the Clerk would liaise over a plan of action, which will be tabled at the January meeting.
- b) *Polsted Lane*: the grass verges are growing over the tarmac.
- c) *Withies Lane*: there are potholes at the junction of Withies Lane and the B3000. The vegetation is causing a problem with sightlines at this junction.

131/12 **Compton News:**

To include: vacancy for a councillor; police contact number; caretaker vacancy; need for speed watch volunteers; congratulations to the Gallery.

132/12 **New correspondence:**

- a) *Draft Surrey Local Flood Management Strategy*
- b) *Pre-consultation on draft Water Resources Management plan*

The Clerk would circulate the website addresses for each of these, so that members can respond on their own behalf.

133/12 **Dates of meetings:**

16th January, 20th March.
Annual Parish meeting: 24th April
Annual Meeting: 15th May

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.35pm