



COMPTON PARISH COUNCIL

Notice of Parish Council meeting

Local government Act 1972

Minutes of a meeting of Compton Parish Council, held on

Wednesday 18th September 2013 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 D Haskins, J Parsons, K Patel, E Ricketts
8 members of the public

In attendance: The Clerk, Mrs J Cadman

95/13 **Apologies for Absence:** were received from Cllr Graham
Borough and County Cllr had also sent their apologies.

96/13 **Declarations of interest:** none were made

97/13 **Minutes of meeting held 17th July 2013:** were agreed as a correct record of the meeting and signed by
the Chairman.

98/13 **Matters arising**

81/13: Village Mapping: deferred to the November meeting.

94/13: Borough Honorary Remembrancer report: Cllr Haskins had read this report, which documented
the borough year. The Clerk would retain it for future reference.

SALC Councillors briefing: It had not been possible for Cllr Ricketts to attend the meeting, the Clerk will
ask for a report.

99/13 **Chairman's report**

100/13 **Reports from Borough and County Cllrs**

Borough Cllr: Cllr Curtis had spoken to Cllr Palmer as follows:

Campaign to Save the Hogs Back: this referred to the outline proposal for homes in the Surrey
University complex. Cllr Palmer had explained that proposals are on the table at present, not plans. A
process had to be followed which would determine the number of houses needed to support GBC both
in terms of the economy and in the number of houses needed. This process can be challenged, but first
it is essential to know exactly what is planned and who will benefit from the proposals. There will be a
number of opportunities to object. Cllr Palmer says that the push is coming from the university, who
have employed a specialist to do a feasibility study, and who at the moment are raising awareness. The
Consultation paper called Options & Issues, will be published before the end of October, and this will be
the opportunity to voice opinions.

Karen Stevens, representing the Campaign to save the Hog's Back had been to a meeting the previous
evening which had been attended by Anne Milton, who had said that this was not a proposal, but rather
an audit. But the university has announced that it plans to build 2000 houses on the two farms that it
owns, not for students but for economic growth in Guildford. As a result, the value of the farmland has
increased from £5,000 an acre to £500,000 an acre. The audit decides where the Green Belt designation
should be lifted. As well as being greenbelt, the land in question is AONB in part and is steeped in
history. For the first time in history, travellers will see a housing estate, where before they had seen the
countryside of Surrey and Hampshire.

The Campaign believes that the Council should stop plans to build within Greenbelt and AONB, stop the sprawl of Guildford, and help Guildford regenerate within its boundaries. There is a lot of opportunity in Guildford to use land that is currently not in use. They are gathering information on the availability of brown field sites and will feed this back. There are other issues to take into account, such as school places, infrastructure, etc.

It was noted that Natural England is submitting an application this autumn to extend two areas of the AONB, one of which is the area under discussion.

CLlr Curtis advised that the next step should be to wait for the Issues and Options paper and then take advice from the myriad of evidence based papers produced and clarify concerns with GBC planning dept, Cllrs Parsons and Cllr Palmer.

Mr Miller suggested linking up with Onslow and Wanborough, who will be concerned with these proposals as well.

101/13 **Report from the Police:** No report had been received.

Horses: Both the Chairman and the Clerk had asked PC Stephens for a report about the horses, discussed at the previous meeting, which were very neglected, but had received nothing. It was hoped that this meant that the issue was being dealt with, and that a report would be received afterwards. There was a concern that horses which had previously been held elsewhere were now being brought back here as their owner was no longer able to pay for others to keep them.

Community speed watch training: unfortunately, there had been such a delay in providing this, that there were now only 3 out of the original 6 people still interested.

CSW data: the police are experiencing a technical problem with this, Cllr Haskins has been able to help them.

VAS data: a speed of 90mph through Compton had been recorded, near Withies Lane.

102/13 **Public Forum:**

1. *Parking at Spiceall:* the Village Club raised the possibility of providing parking on the common opposite the village club, to provide parking for the club and the village hall at busy times. They suggested that the car park be fenced so that it can be locked when not in use, and it would be completely emptied at the end of each function. There could be parking for up to 30 cars, and the surface would be mesh in the grass. As this had been discussed at a few parish council meetings now, it was **agreed** to put an article in Compton News to gauge the opinion of residents.
2. *Pet Crematorium:* a member of the public advised of his search for suitable premises for a pet crematorium. He is looking for around 800 sq ft for an office and a cremator, and advised that this would not need planning permission. This was noted.

103/13 **Members report: Highways**

- a) *Signs on A3:* Godalming is signed through Compton, despite there being an A road alternative. SCC Highways had agreed in principle that this is not in line with national guidelines but a meeting on signage, in which Compton's interests had been recognised, had been redacted. The committee is arranging a meeting with John Hilder, SCC, to establish why traffic is not being directed along A routes.
- b) *Down Lane:* a meeting with SCC had agreed in principle that there are safety issues for pedestrians, particularly those walking from the Gallery to the Chapel. Other attendees at this meeting had been the Surrey Hills Society, Watts Gallery and the Parish Council. SCC will submit recommendations to the local task force, and these will be taken to the Local Committee, with the aim of budgeting for work in 2014/15.

The possible recommendations will include entrance gates at each end, signage to indicate that this is a 'special area', cobble strips at each entrance and also at the crossing to Limnerslease, and improvements to the side of the road where pedestrians walk. Investigations would be made into the possibility of a permissive path. The white lines down the middle of the road will be removed, as they encourage people to drive faster.
The drain is being investigated and the road will not be re-surfaced until this is resolved.

104/13 **Members report: Allotments and Environmental Projects**

Allotments: there have been a series of break ins over the summer. The new gates are on order and will hopefully make a difference to security. The Village Club is to hold a flower show on the 28th September.

Environment: A Good Woods project, sponsored by B&Q, is able to survey the common land at Compton and make recommendations for its future upkeep. Cllr Haskins and the Clerk have arranged to meet with the surveyor on Wednesday 24th September, for a 4 hour survey.

105/13 **Members report: Youth and recreation**

87/13: safer surfacing: The Clerk reported that the company engaged to do the repair work, Greenspan, had misunderstood the final brief and had done much more extensive work to the surfacing. The original agreed quote had been for £790 + vat and the final bill had been for £3105 + vat. Members discussed this, and the fact that a much more thorough job had been done, and agreed that a sum of 1500 maximum should be paid for this work, once the company's breakdown of costs had been received.

Youth projects: Cllr Rickman believes that youth is not discussed enough and that it would be helpful to think of some activities for children in the area. She suggested that it might be possible to organise something once a month for children to do, perhaps a trip to see Mane Chance, Watts Gallery or the allotments. Perhaps a book swap or a toy swap could be organised. She had spoken to a few people and thinks there would be an interest in this sort of thing.

She was aware that a children's club used the village club on a Tuesday morning, and would like to find out more of what they did and what might be done for them.

She suggested that it might be possible to get the children in the village to design a Christmas card for Compton, with funds to benefit the church.

It was agreed that Cllrs Rickman, Patel and Cosgun would meet to discuss this further.

106/13 **Members report: Watts Gallery and Cemetery**

Minutes from the Cemetery meeting held Friday 6th September had been circulated.

Maintenance: Cllr Haskins reported that maintenance is now very good. There had been a meeting in July to discuss the poor maintenance at that time, as there was concern that there should be issues with the Gallery's management of the cemetery before the agreement was signed. The Chairman and the Cemetery Committee had subsequently met with Perdita, Simon and Nick and were reassured by a very positive meeting, where it was confirmed that future management would combine added resource, good communication and enthusiasm to ensure success.

Proposed agreement: A meeting had taken place with the appointed solicitor, Roger Taylor, where the necessary autonomy of the cemetery committee was discussed and agreed. It was clear that Perdita Hunt is very supportive of this and it is anticipated that the Gallery have the best interests of the village at heart, which means that decisions will be made for the right reasons.

Members agreed that the Parish Council should move ahead with the agreement. The Solicitor has been asked to ensure that all outstanding issues are covered in the agreement, which will then be sent to the Gallery's solicitors. When all parties are ready to move forward, the parish will be advised and invited to ask questions through an article in Compton News.

Waste Tankering services: Cllr Haskins asked if this cost should be covered by the tenant at the Lodge, but was advised that this is not included in the rental agreement. Cllr Parsons was of the opinion that it was better done by the Parish Council, to ensure that it is done on a regular basis.

Tenancy of Chapel Lodge: the tenancy expires at the end of November, and the tenant will be offered a further 6 months at the same rental. The Gallery will be advised.

Regular services in Chapel: The Parish Council had been approached by the English Orthodox Parish of St Michael, Guildford, to hold some of its services on a regular basis in the Chapel. It was agreed that the Chapel should not be rented out on a regular basis, as it is there for the residents of Compton and should be accessible to them.

107/13 **Members report: Planning**

Enforcement:

- Monks Hatch Sheep Farm: the caravan has been removed.
- Old Forge: trees behind had been removed without permission in a conservation area.

Planning application:

- Priorsfield School: the application for floodlights is to be determined by committee.

108/13 **Members report: Village Hall**

80/13:75/13: Solicitor's opinion: following a meeting with Roger Taylor, the Surrey SALC Solicitor, he had written summarising his opinion regarding the 1934 conveyance, as follows:

The legal title to the property is held in the name of the Parish Council as Custodian Trustee for the charity known as Compton Village Hall. At the date of registration the Land Registry would not note the register to the effect that they were a Trustee, but this can now be done. As a custodian Trustee, the Hall is not an asset of the Parish Council and the Council has no legal responsibility to contribute towards the cost of repairs of any of the expenses of the hall. The Parish Council, as custodian Trustee, has a responsibility to ensure that the objects of the charity are maintained and has to receive any capital sums which belong to the Charity and invest the same for the benefit of the charity. There are no management responsibilities involved in being a Custodian Trustee and the Managing Trustees cannot require the Parish Council, as custodian Trustee, to contribute towards the costs of running the facility or for repairs or other works.

109/13 **Finance**

- a) *Management accounts to 31st August* had been circulated prior to the meeting and were accepted.
- b) *Schedule of income and expenditure to 31st August* had been circulated prior to the meeting and were accepted.
- c) *Salary review:* An agreement has been reached by the National Joint Council for Local Government Services, and NALC have recommended an increase in salary scales by 1% for the current year, to be backdated to April. Members approved a salary for the Clerk of £7049.16 per annum, an increase of £69.84 per annum.
- d) *External Audit:* the Clerk advised that BDO had returned a clear audit, but had requested that the asset list is presented differently. The Clerk was thanked for her work.

110/13 **Action list:** had been circulated prior to the meeting and was noted.

Items currently outstanding are;

Cemetery Data - work in progress

A3 signage through Compton - Using FOI & awaiting a meeting with SCC Highways

Fencing on Green - broken since March 2012!

111/13 **Councillors business:** *any further business arising from the meeting, for noting or including on a future agenda*
a) *Compton Conservation work:* Cllr Haskins reminded the meeting that a work party has been arranged for Sunday 22nd, starting at 10am.

112/13 **Compton News**
The Clerk would give a brief outline of the proposals for providing parking on the Green, and ask for comments.

113/13 **Correspondence:** there was no new correspondence.

114/13 **Dates of meetings**
20th November, 15th January, 19th March

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.40pm.