



COMPTON PARISH COUNCIL

Local Government Act 1972

Minutes of a MEETING of Compton Parish Council
held on **Wednesday 20th March 2024 at 7pm**

At Pucks Oak Barn

For the transaction of the under mentioned business

Present: Cllr S Mallet (in the chair), Cllrs K Hecker-Meschede, S James, R Nagaty,
C Sharples

45 members of the public

In attendance: The Clerk, Mrs J Cadman

Open Forum: *Allotments:* the Allotment committee are looking to replace their 80 year old toilet with a composting toilet. Members agreed in principle, subject to further detail.

019/24 Apologies for Absence: were received from Cllrs Palca and Saunders.

020/24 Declarations of interest :

Cllrs James and Sharples declared a non pecuniary interest in agenda item 032/24 as they are both employees of the Gallery.

Cllr Nagaty declared a pecuniary interest in agenda item 025/24 as a neighbour of the development.

021/24 Minutes of meeting held 17th January 2024 : were agreed as a correct record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman.

022/24 Matters arising

- *Blocked drain on Withies Lane:* it was agreed to ask our County Cllr to chase this up, as nothing further had been heard from SCC Highways.
- *017/24b: Assets of Community Value:* it had been established that it would not be possible to register the Harrow car park as an ACV as it is private property.

023/24 Land acquisition: the Clerk has been waiting for the Licence for some weeks now and is constantly chasing our solicitor, being aware that it is important that this matter is concluded before the end of the month, in order for the grazing licence on the land to be authorised by the Parish Council.

024/24 The Harrow: there have been no developments since the last meeting. The first application has gone to appeal, with no hearing date at present, the second application is still with the Borough Council.

025/24 Solar Farm, Surrey University: GBC had recently agreed the sale of the ransom strip at Blackwell Farm, which allows access for the building of the solar farm. A meeting will be arranged with the University shortly, now that emails from the Clerk are being responded to. A meeting will be held with our Borough Cllrs to be brought up to date with the issues on the 22nd April.

It was agreed that, although there was a view in favour of solar farms in general, there were a number of contentious issues, such as the fact that it is on Green Belt.

026/24 Report from County Cllr: nothing had been received.

027/24 Report from Borough Cllrs: nothing had been received.

028/24 Members report: Local Plan

The contents of the report from Mrs Stevens were noted and will be brought forward to the meeting with Borough Cllrs in April.

Members were advised that MP Angela Richardson had raised the issue of over development in villages because of the Local Plan.

029/24 Members report: Highways: Cllr Saunders and Cllr Sharples

- i. Placemaker:* the drop in consultation had gone well, with a good turnout.
- ii. Damage to verges at Spiceall:* this is a Borough Council issue
- iii. Yellow lines on the corner of Spiceall to prevent parking:* our County Cllr has placed this on the list for Highways.
- iv. VAS devices:* Cllr James confirmed that the Gallery would be happy to maintain any devices on Down Lane.
- v. Eastbury Manor:* a complaint has been received about tree branches overhanging the wall, this has been reported to SCC.

030/24 Members report: Allotments and Environment : Cllr Sharples

- a) Report on annual litter pick:* it had gone well, with a good turnout. Thanks were recorded to everyone who attended. As the attendance was so good, the litter pick took no longer than an hour, which made soup very early. It was agreed, next year, to start at 9.30am and finish at 10.30 to 11am with coffee and cake.

031/24 Members report: Youth and Recreation: Cllr Saunders

Recommendation for refurbishment of playground: The Clerk tabled a report on the companies she had sought quotations and designs from. She recommended accepting the quotation from Fawn Playgrounds, who had provided the most realistic design at a reasonable price. Members agreed as follows:

- a. To accept the quotation from Playtime by Fawn. Proposed by Cllr Mallet, Seconded by Cllr Nagaty. All in favour.
- b. To agree an expenditure of £30,000, noting that the total price is £53,577.50. Proposed by Cllr Mallet, Seconded by Cllr Sharples. All in favour.
- c. The Clerk to seek additional funding to complete the project, or decide which elements to keep and which to remove.
- d. To ask the handyman to remove the existing equipment, a more cost effective solution than using the company.

032/24 Members report: Watts Gallery and Cemetery

- a) Gallery report:* received with thanks. It was noted that the Gallery had received a very large water bill as a result of a leak in the cemetery water supply and, as a result, the water had been turned off. It had not been possible to date to find the supply pipe.
- b) Proposal to digitalise cemetery records:* The Clerk presented two options to the Council, circulated prior to the meeting. Members **agreed** to accept the option put forward by David Herbert, as it would be a bespoke package, with a one off cost, compared with the commercial packages which would have a substantial annual fee and would be less personal to Watts Cemetery. Proposed by Cllr Mallet, Seconded by Cllr Nagaty, all in favour. Cllr Hecker-Meschede expressed concern that the version of Visio recommended

by Mr Herbert was 25 years old, and questioned its security. The Clerk would discuss this with Mr Herbert and report her findings to Cllr Hecker-Meschede for approval or further discussion.

033/24 Planning: there were no objections to recent planning applications

034/24 Finance

- a) Schedule of payments to end February: the total expenditure of £3,055.80 for the period was noted and approved.
- b) *Management report to end February* noted and approved.
- c) *Bank reconciliation to end February* noted and approved.

035/24 Councillors Business: any further business arising from the meeting to be noted or dealt with on a future agenda.

- a) *Parish Council mailing list:* Cllr Mallet confirmed that this had been outsourced to Mrs Curtis, who ran the Parish Council website. Residents would be asked, via the Compton News, to contact the Clerk if they wished to be on the mailing list.
- b) *Meeting with Borough Councillors re Solar Farm and Ransom strip:* Mrs Stevens had asked that councillors from Worplesdon and Onslow be invited to this meeting.

036/24 Date of next meeting: Annual meeting: 15th May
Annual Parish meeting: 1st May