



COMPTON PARISH COUNCIL

Local Government Act 1972

Minutes of a MEETING of Compton Parish Council
held on **Wednesday 17th January 2024 at 7pm**

At Pucks Oak Barn

For the transaction of the under mentioned business

Present: Cllr S Mallet (in the chair), Cllrs S James, R Nagaty, C Sharples
Borough Cllrs C Houston and D Williams
13 members of the public

In attendance: The Clerk, Mrs J Cadman

Public Forum:

1. *Blocked Drain on Withies Lane:* Mr Bagnall reported that the clearance of this blocked drain by SCC Highways in November – as arranged by Guy Whittaker – did not happen. Mr Bagnall contacted Guy again in December but Guy suggested he should email highways@surreycc.gov.uk and ask for an update. This was done on 11 December and an automated reply was received promising a response in 5 working days. Since when nothing had been heard.

Mr Bagnall is conscious that SCC don't think this work is their responsibility and so the offer to do so was a goodwill gesture. However, it would be really helpful to know if there is an intention to fulfil that offer or not, as if SCC will not do the work, Mr Bagnall will arrange for it to be done himself. The Clerk will contact our SCC Councillor.

2. *Shepherdsmead Trust:* Mr Paul White introduced himself as a Trustee of this Trust, who are able to give grants for small projects. They had donated a bench at the Gallery and would consider contributing to the playground project.

This was followed by two presentations:

1. **SCC Placemaking:** Jessica Bramley and Deveena Matharu, SCC Placemaking team, had been asked to investigate some traffic calming measures along The Street in Compton, as well as introduce some Placemaking elements to enhance Compton's heritage and highlight to drivers that they are entering a village.

The Placemaking team is designated to improve Surrey's public realm and infrastructure enhancing it environmentally, enhancing health and wellbeing and community involvement. The team's role is heavily involved in creating high quality public spaces by linking priorities from different teams within Surrey CC and also local community groups and businesses.

Down Lane is also to be included in the measures. Discussion took place regarding the 'no right turn' sign, which is generally ignored.

A public meeting has been arranged for the 12th March, in the village hall, enabling residents to talk about their village and share what is important to them. In the interim, councillors will ask residents their views and pass them to the team.

2. **Roots for the Future:** Francesca Fryer Ridgen gave a presentation on suitable tree species for the area around the Green and the Playground, planting times and community involvement.

001/24 Apologies for Absence: were received from Cllrs K Hecker-Meschede, J Palca, J Saunders.

002/24 Declarations of interest: Cllrs James and Sharples declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 014/24 as employees of Watts Gallery.

003/24 Minutes of meeting held 15th November 2023: were agreed as a correct record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman.

004/24 Matters arising: all matters were covered by the agenda.

005/24 Land acquisition: the Parish Council's solicitor had, unbeknown to the Council, been unwell for some time and no progress had been made on the Transfer. The matter had now been taken up by another solicitor, who understands the urgency of completion after this very significant delay.

006/24 The Harrow: the planning application had been refused by GBC Planning Committee. Cllr Mallet had contacted the developers and opened discussions with them on how to move ahead. They had advised that they intend to appeal the decision, but are also prepared to revise their application and go back to GBC Planning, but only if they have village support. They have requested Parish Council support of their proposed revised plan.

It was agreed to be helpful that the developers are now prepared to engage in dialogue. However, the Parish Council cannot support a planning application although it can continue to liaise with the developers and seek views from parishioners on revised proposals.

It was agreed that the sub committee of Cllrs Mallet, Palca and Nagaty will solicit views around the village to the revised plan and take them back to the developers. The sub committee will also continue to liaise with the developers over planning and access issues

007/24 Report from County Cllr: no report had been received

008/24 Report from Borough Cllrs:

Harrow Pub

This application came to the Planning Committee on 3rd January and Cllr Dominique Williams spoke on the application. The planning committee rejected the planning officer's recommendation, mainly due to over-development/bulk.

Blackwell Farm Solar Farm

The current solar farm planning application (22/P/02178) has been withdrawn. Councillors will have a briefing on 28th February regarding this and the concurrent submission of amended proposal in regard to the revised access at Land West of Blackwell Farm, Hogs Back, Guildford, GU3 1DG. Apologies but we have not had time to look at any new application as we only heard this news yesterday.

Local Plan Review/Update

The Local Plan review has taken place and the recommendation is that the Local Plan needs updating. This process will start shortly. Council Leader, Julia McShane has appointed Cllr White to her Executive as Portfolio Holder for Planning in order to have a dedicated lead councillor to oversee the update process when it is formally approved. The update is expected to take a couple of years.

Thames Water

A Thames Water Regional Manager will attend a special Overview and Scrutiny committee meeting on 30th January to answer questions from councillors regarding the week-long water supply issues last November. It is possible for watch this live or within six months by searching online for 'Guildford Borough Council webcasts'

Crowdfund Guildford

Schools and parish councils can now apply for funding for projects with Crowdfund Guildford. There is up to £5,000 funding available for community projects in the Autumn round with a deadline to create a project of 31st January. For more information please visit Crowdfund Guildford. Crowdfund Guildford is supported by the UK Shared Prosperity Fund

Household Support Fund

GBC's Household Support Fund is now open for applications until 31 March 2023, or until funds have been allocated. Households can apply once and could get up to £400 for essentials like food and heating. Any household facing financial difficulty please apply online here Household support fund - Guildford Borough Council. If anyone needs help making an application they should call the Community Services team at The Hive on 01483 458055. Applications are assessed in the order they are received for fairness. With a lot of applications for this fund it is possible that all funds will have been allocated before the team can review all applications. It is important that all relevant information is submitted.

Update on supply of refuse and recycling sacks A change is taking place in GBC's supply of refuse recycling sacks to residents. These have previously been delivered to properties every six months where there isn't space for a wheeled bin. After the next delivery of sacks, GBC will no longer be supplying black refuse sacks. Those residents affected will receive a letter explaining this change to their service. Green recycling sacks will continue to be supplied, but, at the end of this year, they will be delivered annually. GBC are supplying recycling sacks to make sure that they're suitable for the crews to see what they contain. This will ensure material is not collected that the council cannot recycle

Sustainable Travel - A3

GBC recently wrote to businesses about the vision to create an 'Active Travel Network' called "easitGUILDFORD A3" which is part of a package of measures to improve air quality, called the Electric Towns and Cities Initiative. This is funded by National Highways, in partnership with Surrey County Council and is focused on supporting businesses and organisations whose employees travel to work using the A3 through Guildford. It provides practical support to help employers encourage and promote sustainable travel choices to their employees. This will help reduce the number of car journeys made along the A3 in Guildford and save money. Email easit for more information

The Mayor's Award for Service to the Community 2024

Nominations are open for residents to nominate a person or group that has made a significant difference to our borough. Deadline to submit a nomination is Friday 2nd February 2024. The award recognises individuals, groups and organisations serving their local community ● you can submit a nomination online, by email or call 01483 444031 for a form ● successful nominees will be invited to attend an awards event on Saturday 27 April 2024

Budget for 2024 to 2025 and Medium-Term Financial Plan

Last week the council published its draft financial budget for 2024/2025. It proposes ● A balanced budget for the next financial year ● An update on the Medium-Term Financial plan position up to April 2027 The draft budget will be reviewed by a couple of committees during January and then to go to the Executive end of January with a recommendation for full approval by Full Council on 7th February. All indications are that the council will not need to issue a Section 114 (effective bankruptcy) notice.

Changes to "bring sites" (recycling bin sites)

The recycling sites that GBC have situated around the borough were introduced before good kerbside recycling services were introduced. The house to house collection service now collects all items that can be taken to a recycling site via the usual kerbside fortnightly recycling collection. So the decision has been made to close almost all of the borough's recycling sites and this process will start week commencing 22 January 2024

Clean Air Night 24th January 2024

The first 'Clean Air Night' takes place on Wednesday 24 January 2024 which is a chance for everyone to learn more about how wood burning hurts your health, that of your pet and of course is damaging to the planet. Guildford Borough Council are supporting this initiative. Global Action Plan's website has more information.

009/24 Members report: **Local Plan**

No report had been received

010/24 Members report: **Highways: Cllr Saunders and Cllr Sharples**

Mr Palmer suggested that the two VAS devices that he holds could be used in Down Lane. Cllr James will check with the Gallery, but it was agreed a very good idea in principle, with the Gallery being responsible for the batteries.

011/24 Members report: **Allotments and Environment** : *Cllr Sharples*
Nothing to report.

012/24 Members report: **Youth and Recreation**: *Cllr Saunders*
The Clerk has not been able to arrange a meeting with the working group. She will now revise the options herself and bring a proposal back to the working group and to the next parish council meeting, so that this project can progress before the summer.

013/24 Members report: **Watts Gallery and Cemetery**

- a) *Gallery report*: this had been circulated prior to the meeting and was noted. Cllr James advised that access to the cemetery whilst the lych gate was being repaired would be by a ramp over the wall, not by removing part of the wall as originally intended.
- b) *Report on cemetery committee meeting 16th November*: this had been circulated prior to the meeting and the actions were noted.
- c) *Proposal to digitalise cemetery records*: the Clerk demonstrated the current paper records that she worked with, including a paper plan of the cemetery. A past councillor had started to digitalise the records, but this work had not been completed and it appeared that the software was no longer available. She recommended that the records be digitalised in order to make them more accessible, less susceptible to errors, and more permanent. This was agreed, with a proposed initial budget of £2,500, subject to the following:
 - i. The Clerk will seek a contractor and bring a proposal and costings to the next meeting.
 - ii. Cllr James will ascertain whether the software mentioned above is held by the Gallery and whether it can be used for this purpose.

015/24 **Planning:**

23/P/01898 Yeomans, Priorswood: *removal of condition 4 (removal of permitted development rights) of planning application 16/P/00167 approved 24/3/16 to reinstate permitted development rights*

No objection

016/24 **Finance**

- a) Schedule of income and payments to end December was circulated prior to the meeting and the payments totalling £2,900.05 were noted and approved.
- b) *Management report to end December* noted and approved
- c) *Bank reconciliation to end December* noted and approved
- d) *Interim internal audit report* was circulated prior to the meeting and the three action points noted, as follows:
 - i. Fixed assets: the register should include information regarding the inspection of assets
 - ii. Reserves: the general reserve balance is not within the recommended range. A Parish Council does not have the power to accumulate funds.
 - iii. Risk Assessment document: to be updated annually.

- e) *Budget and precept request 2024/25*: Members ratified the budget and the precept request of £26,981. This is a slight increase on last year's precept request of £26,873 but does not have an impact on rates, due to the increase in Band D equivalent properties.
- f) *Cemetery fees*: members agreed to increase all fees by 10%.

017/24 Councillors Business: any further business arising from the meeting to be noted or dealt with on a future agenda.

- a) *Neighbourhood Plan*: Cllr Nagaty questioned whether this should be revisited, in view of applications such as the Harrow, but after discussion it was agreed to remain with the decision not to take this on.
- b) *Assets of Community Value*: this should be investigated, with reference to the Harrow.
- c) *Phone Box*: Cllr Sharples was warmly congratulated on raising £2055 for Crisis through an appeal on the phone box.
- d) *Pothole*: Cllr Sharples had reported a pothole outside his house a week ago, and it had now been repaired, a very good response.

018/24 Date of next meeting: 20th March 2024

Litter Pick: 16th March

Annual Parish Meeting: 17th April, at the Gallery (subject to confirmation)

The meeting closed at 2100