



COMPTON PARISH COUNCIL

PARISH OF COMPTON

Minutes of **THE ANNUAL MEETING** of Compton Parish Council held on
Wednesday 17th May 2017 at 7.00pm
In **Pucks Oak Barn** for the transaction of the under mentioned business.

Present: Cllrs P Graham, P Hunt, R Nagaty, C Sharples
2 members of the public

In attendance: The Clerk, Mrs J Cadman

- 44/17 **Election of Chairman:** Members agreed to continue without a chairman or vice chairman. Cllr Graham was elected as Chairman for this meeting.
- 45/17 **Apologies for Absence:** were received from Cllr Patel
Apologies were also noted from Borough Cllr M Parsons and County Cllr M Furniss.
- 46/17 **Declarations of interest:** Cllr Nagaty declared a personal and pecuniary interest in the Blackwater Farm proposals.
- 47/17 **Election of Vice Chairman:** no nominations were put forward.
- 48/17 **Appointment of Member's responsibilities:**
- Local Plan: Cllr Nagaty, who would work with Fiona Curtis and Karen Stevens.
 - Highways: Mr Ken Miller will continue to run this sub committee.
 - Allotments and Environmental Projects: Cllr Sharples
 - Recreation ground: Cllr Patel
 - Watts Gallery and Cemetery: Cllr Nagaty
 - Planning: Cllr Graham
 - Village Hall, including representation on village hall committee: Cllr Graham
- 49/17 **Dates of future meetings:** members reviewed and agreed the current meeting date structure of bi-monthly meetings, starting at 7pm, to be held in Pucks Oak Barn.
The Clerk advised that an additional meeting will be needed in June to approve the Annual Return, following the Internal audit. It was agreed to hold this meeting in the parish office at the Gallery, on a Thursday afternoon, and to advertise the meeting in the normal way. The Clerk will circulate proposed dates once the audit is complete.
- 50/17 **Minutes of Meeting held 15th March 2017:** were agreed as a correct record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman.
- 51/17 **Matters Arising:**
- 26/17: Compton United Charities:* Cllr Graham had spoken to Martin Foran, a Trustee. He is of the same view as the Clerk, that the charity should be kept going if at all possible. He is currently exploring with the Charities Commission whether the area that the charity covers can be widened to include GU7. If they agree, the next step will be to appoint new trustees.
- 26/17: Renovation of adopted phone box:* Cllr Sharples has not met with the benefactor recently, but understands that he intends to use someone from his estate to do the work.
- 41/17: Compton Album:* once this is copied, the original will be sent to the History Centre in Woking. The Clerk will ascertain whether Fiona Curtis took a full copy and whether this linked to the website.
- 41/17: Toddler Group:* members agreed that no further action will be taken in this respect for the time being, but noted that the newly refurbished playground is attracting more families.
- 52/17 **Reports from Borough and County Cllrs:**
No reports had been received.
- 53/17 **Police report:** Crime figures for the area for the month of February as follows: 1 violence and sexual assault in Eastbury Lane, 1 bicycle theft near Priors Close, 1 anti social behaviour in open space near Down Lane.
- 54/17 **Public Forum:**
- Drains:* Mr Miller reported a problem with a manhole cover in the road at the crossing to the church. It receives a lot of wear and tear and although it has been mended on more than one occasion, it is still very noisy.
 - Eastbury Manor wall:* a lot of debris has gathered along the wall, and this is now blocking the gutter.

3. *Compton Fete*: this had again been very successful and realised a profit of around £10,500, for the 6th year running. It will not be possible to increase the profit beyond this point, as there is no capacity to make the fete bigger or park more cars. Next year, the fete will be held on either the 12th or 19th May.
4. *Compo*: the Village Association have released the restricted funds of £35,000 that were to have been used towards the new bus, and earmarked them for village projects. Mr Miller wishes to agree a statement with the Parish Council, to go into the Compton News, advising residents that the village has considerable resources for projects, so that they can be involved in the decision making process in some way. A decision needs to be made on whether to take on one large project or a number of small ones. The Village Association and the Parish Council will work together on this and it was agreed that Mr Miller and the Clerk will liaise.
5. *Bridleway 290*: Alexa advised that this is completely overgrown and it is not now possible to ride on it. It was noted that the adjoining residents should cut back their hedges. The Clerk will contact SCC Rights of Way for advice.

55/17 **Members Report: Highways**

1. *Avenue*: SCC officers are due to visit the Avenue, following a Compton resident being knocked off his bike by a passing car.
2. *The Down Lane "Quiet Lane" initiative* has now been concluded. However, there are a number of dangerous holes on the side of the road which need filling in - SCC are aware of this.
3. *VAS*: We are waiting for final details of the data logger to be attached to the VAS near Cypress Farm and this will then be ordered and paid for by the CVA Traffic Fund.
4. *NO2 levels* are above acceptable levels at the monitoring site on the B3000 according to preliminary information. This will now be calibrated and a report prepared by GBC by the end of June. SCC will be involved in any action which results.

56/17 **Members Report: Allotments and Environmental Projects**

1. *Willows at Withies Lane*: planning permission to pollard has been received and the work scheduled for late August.
2. *Allotment ditches*: the clerk will continue to try to make contact with Ian Fowler.
3. *Himalayan Balsam*: this will be pulled in a June working party. Cllr Sharples will contact the usual volunteers and it is hoped to find some new ones.

57/17 **Members Report: Recreation ground**

- a) *The Green*: the Clerk advised that one or two residents had voiced their unhappiness at the ditch and bund, viewing this as unsafe and too close to the road. It was noted that the ditch and bund is common practice to secure an area, and had been chosen so that there would not be posts all around the common. The retention of water in the ditch will be monitored. It was also noted that the Parish Council had taken the advice of the Borough Council. It was agreed that the silver drop down posts at the two ends of the Green should be painted green, and highlighted with tape at the top.
- b) *Playground equipment*: Members **agreed** to now consider Stage 2 of the project, which could encompass a zip wire and adult exercise equipment. The Clerk will obtain quotes and explore grant funding.

58/17 **Members Report: Watts Gallery and Cemetery**

1. *Chapel*: At the last cemetery meeting, particular comment had been made about the overgrown yews and laurels outside the chapel. These, together with a large holly, are overshadowing the chapel and causing damp problems. They are also unsightly. Cllr Hunt confirmed that the outside of the Chapel will be addressed at the same time as the internal refurbishments.
2. *Golf buggy*: the custodian needs this to transport tools and equipment from the Gallery to the Chapel, at a cost of £2,500. This will be discussed at the next cemetery meeting, due to be held at the end of June.
3. *Volunteer working party*: the clerk will place a request in the News for volunteers to make up a working party to clear graves of weeds and old tributes, under the supervision of the custodian.

59/17 **Members Report: Planning**

Cllr Graham reported that there had been 10 planning applications since the last meeting, none of which had been controversial.

60/17 **Members report: Local Plan**

Report from Karen Stevens

The Waverley Local Plan will go to Public Examination at the end of June. The plan includes a proposal to build 35 houses at site 571 (on junction between New Pond Road and Binscombe Lane). Binscombe is a conservation area and the site falls within the Area of Great Landscape Value. It is the only green belt site around Godalming that has been put forward in Waverley's

Worplesdon PC is keen to contribute 50% of the cost of the updated study.

Cllr Graham PROPOSED that Compton Parish Council agree to the updated study and pay the associated costs. This proposal was SECONDED by Cllr Sharples, with all in favour. Members noted Worplesdon's informal offer to fund 50% of the costs, for which they were grateful.

61/17 **Members Report: Village Hall**

Cllr Graham reported that bookings are slightly down compared with this time last year and the hall has sustained some significant spending, due to a broken waste pipe, but the committee are still expecting to make a profit. He noted that the village hall management committee look after the hall very well.

62/17 **Village sign**

Cllr Sharples was pleased to report that the terracotta sign is now being made. A quotation had been received for the oak frame, at £2,500, to include installation. Total cost will therefore be in the region of £5,000.

63/17 **Finance**

- a) Schedule of income and payments to end of financial year had been circulated prior to the meeting and the spend for March of £36,189 was noted and approved.
- b) *Management report to end March 2017* had been circulated prior to the meeting. Members noted that capital reserves had reduced by over £20,000, monies having been spent as allocated on the recreation ground and on technical advice concerning the Local Plan. Members noted and agreed that, with the support of the Village Association, further improvements could be made to the recreation facility, for adults as well as older children.
- c) *Projects*: Members were in agreement that the Gallery's proposal to site a cast of 'Physical Energy', a Watts sculpture, on the sliproad from the A3, was worthy of support as a project with benefit for the local community. Cllr Graham PROPOSED, SECONDED by Cllr Nagaty, that a grant of £1,000 be given to this project.
- d) *Financial Regulations*: members reviewed and approved the Council's financial regulations, circulated prior to the meeting.

64/17 **Clerk's report**

- a) *Standing Orders*: members reviewed and approved the Council's Standing Orders, circulated prior to the meeting.

65/17 **Councillors Business:** *any further business arising from the meeting, to be noted or dealt with on a future agenda*

- a) *New councillors*: Cllr Sharples asked members to bear in mind the need for new councillors when they meet local people.
- b) *Facebook*: Cllr Sharples had noted that Godalming Town council has a Facebook page and wondered if Compton should do the same. The Clerk advised that she is currently looking into this means of communication.

66/17 **Correspondence:** No new correspondence has been received.

67/17 **Dates of meetings:**

There will be a short meeting in June, held in the Clerk's office at the Gallery but advertised as open to the public as usual, to approve the Annual return after the internal audit.
The next Parish council meeting is scheduled for 19th July 7pm.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.25pm