

COMPTON PARISH COUNCIL
Parish Clerk:

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**MINUTES OF MEETING OF COMPTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN COMPTON VILLAGE
HALL ON WEDNESDAY 15 September 2010 - 7.30pm**

Present –

Councillor Fiona Curtis (Chairman)

Councillor Marian Williams (Deputy Chairman)

Councillor Martin J Foran (part)

Councillor Mark Bills

Councillor Kanak Patel

Also Present: PCSO Voller, Surrey Police and Anne Bott, Locum Clerk

9162 Apologies for Absence: Councillor Carolyn Maslin, Councillor David Haskins the Clerk Maryon Lordan and Borough Councillor Tony Rooth.

9163 Declarations of Interests

Cllr Foran advised that Members must remember to declare the existence and nature of any personal interest in an Agenda Item where they have an interest, Anne Bott advised that members should familiarise themselves with the Code of Conduct as there may be circumstances where they will have a prejudicial interest requiring them to leave the Meeting Room.

9164 – Minutes of the last Meeting held on the 14th July 2010.

The Minutes were approved and the Chairman signed them as a true record.

9165 - Matters arising from the Minutes

Village Signs - Cllr Foran advised that whilst the proposed village sign would enhance the village he did not believe the Parish Council could justify the cost in the current climate.

9166 Reports from Borough/County Councillors and Neighbourhood Police Officer.

There were no Borough/County Councillors present.

PCSO Voller, local Community Officer reported the following;

- An increase in bike theft in the Guildford area. Surrey Police are encouraging bike owners to leave their bikes in secure/safe areas such as locked sheds, areas covered by CCTV. Members were informed of a website - www.immobilise.com - where serial and identification numbers can be registered. It is a free service. Surrey Police access this site when they find property to see if they can identify the owner;

- He has undertaken speed checks in the area and had not registered many speeding vehicles which may be due to people being warned. John Dobson mentioned that the Community Speedwatch had registered over 30 speeding vehicles in 2 hours. A number of factors could influence the figures;
- the Automated Number Plate Recognition vehicle had been successful but it records for a wide variety of purposes, not just speeding;
- Police have new uniforms. The black and white uniform has been replaced by more practical attire for modern day policing removing the black and white look, shirt and ties;
- Street a week – the aim is to visit 30 properties a week in a street. Rotating round several villages
- He will be holding a surgery in the British Legion hall to enable residents to drop in and talk on a confidential basis.

The Chairman thanked PCSO Voller for his report

Meeting adjourned for the Public Forum

The condition of the village green was raised. An un-named person parks and drives over the Green.

Agreed that Cllr Foran would write to all residents adjoining the green advising that there is no specific right to park/drive on the green which is owned and managed by the Parish Council. **MF**

9167 – Planning Matters

Nothing to report on day-to-day matters.

Monks Hatch Garden Farm – now that the Planning Inspector has given his decision in favour of the owners, the Parish Council cannot do anything about the development. The Chairman circulated a response from a Planning Officer to the Parish Council's letter to the Chief Executive asking for an enquiry into the handling of the planning process

Members expressed unhappiness with the inadequate response and considered a proposed reply also circulated.

It was agreed that the letter should be revisited to ensure that it is clear that the Council is seeking a full explanation of what happened in the process. MF to liaise with the author and agree the final letter to be sent to the Chief Executive. MF/ML

Travellers/retrospective planning - David Haskins is monitoring the situation .

Compton Common Conservation – a working party is to be set up for November 2010. GBC is providing guidance.

Eashing Quarry – John Dobson provided a full update. He explained that an Inspector has now been appointed and a full timetable has been published which started with the pre-hearing on the 14th September. He attended together with the Chairman of Shackleford PC. The enquiry is expected to last 2/3 weeks. If Eashing Quarry was to be included the traffic implications for Compton could be serious as 28/44 tonne lorries will have to use Jackson's Corner in order to access Eashing Quarry from the A3. At the moment it is not in the Plan.

Item 9(b) – Approval of Schedule of Income and Expenditure was brought forward as Councillor Foran had to leave the meeting early. The record of discussions and decisions are recorded under Finance below.

9168 To receive Standing Reports.

(a) Traffic Report

It was reported that the purple pipes had now been removed and that the ERH work, taking place from the nursery had finished on time.

The Traffic Committee further reported-

- the recent public survey showed support for a footpath in Down Lane, though funding could be an issue. The committee has begun the process of seeking agreements in principal from landowners. The suggestion of a one way system has general but not unanimous support but there is a need to address all concerns and reach a balanced view having consulted with the various organisations including SCC, Surrey Police, Stagecoach, the latter having indicated that they are open to discussion.
- John Dobson provided a written and verbal update on speedwatch. John has taken over as CSW co-ordinator having recently taken over from Colin Walkinshaw who he thanked for all his hard work to date. There are now 20 trained volunteers, 19 of whom play a regular role in CSW. John reported that 30 speeders had been reported last week, confirming the need to continued CSW and police activity.
 - The Chairman reminded members that at the previous meeting concerns had been expressed over HGVs increasing use of the B3000 into Godalming. The Chairman circulated a draft letter to be sent to the Companies which was approved by members. **Agreed – Clerk to send letter as drafted. ML**

(b) Recreation Ground and Playground

Complaints have been received about dog fouling on the Village Green. It was proposed that there should be an item in the Compton News about the risks to young children, advising dog owners/walkers to take bags, poop scoops so that it can be deposited in the bins. **FC**

(c) Allotments It was reported that there was a harvest celebration this week and a brunch on the 3 October. No action to be taken as this would be publicised in the Compton Newsletter. The Chairman advised that a request for £77.90 for rat catchers fees at the allotment had been submitted. **Agreed** that this was a tenant cost.

(d) Watts Chapel and Cemetery –cemetery committee report

Cllr Williams presented the Report relating to the Gallery Chapel.

Cllr Williams and Cllr Bills confirmed that negotiations were now in place to affirm a collaborative scheme that would benefit the chapel and the gallery. The desired outcome should alleviate the Parish Council of some of the costs associated with the Chapel, permitting a more healthy bank balance which would in turn benefit the Parish. The Council gave Cllr. Williams and Cllr. Bills their support and authority to move forward with these negotiations and bring them to a conclusion, with final sign off from Perdita Hunt, Fiona Curtis and Ken Miller.

The Chairman advised that David Haskins is in possession of cemetery records and the Parish Council extended its thanks to the late Michael Palmer and Doramie Rothwell for this. It will greatly assist Councillor Haskins in digitising the records.

(e) **United Charities** - No Report received.

(f) **Village Hall** – It was reported that a balance of the grant aid for recent works to the village hall had now been received.

9169 - Finance

(a) **Annual Return**

Members received a report at the last meeting. The External Auditor has approved the accounts for year 09/10. The Parish Council extended its appreciation to the Clerk and Ken Miller for the hard work in preparation of the accounts.

(b) **Approval of Schedule of Income and Expenditure to 31st August 2010**

- The accounts have been circulated. The Chairman reminded members that the original aim of the Parish Council had been to create a surplus of between £5,000-£6,000. There is a shortfall due to a decrease in cemetery fees and receiving fewer symposium donations than expected. If the contingency is spent the surplus will be £4,008 as opposed to £5,650. It is hoped by the third quarter that the contingency can be retained and the cottage restoration can happen. The Parish Council needs to be mindful that there may be a reduction in grants from the GBC in the next financial year.
- Cllr Bills requested that the Invoice to Watts Gallery be raised for painting, framing and glazing and he will arrange payment. **Agreed - ML**
- The Chairman advised that £1000 had been set aside for donations, reduced to £500. The Chairman asked how the money should be allocated.
- VAS systems can be purchased from Surrey Police .The cost of purchasing two systems had previously been estimated between £8500-£12,000. However, the cost would be £5,500 if bought as part of a bulk order. PC Redfern currently has 5/6 villages that could meet the criteria. Compton Village Association has agreed to underwrite the costs and it is proposed to raise monies to refund this cost (less a max of £1500 which CVA will fund subject to conditions) through grant aid from GBC and other local fundraising activities. There is a need to clarify matters around insurance, ongoing maintenance liabilities, the ability of the Parish Council to control use, and the permanency of the arrangement. **It was agreed to proceed and allocate the £500 donation towards VAS purchase, unless good reason makes it unsupportable. ML**The Accounts were approved.

(c) **Grant Aid 2011-2012**

Grant aid is being sought for traffic calming (£2,600), village map (£500), replacement wet pour area at the play area (£1,500) and path for new cemetery area [zone 5] (£2,500) each of these amounts to be matched from Parish Council funds.

(d) **Approval of salary increase for Caretaker as from October 2010.**

Agreed to an increase in the Caretaker's wage to £825 a month.

9170 – Other Business

a) Anne Bott gave a brief summary on the benefits to a Parish Council in adopting the Power of Well Being which allows Councils more freedom in the services they could provide. The Localism Agenda may also give parish councils greater powers. **Agreed members should consider having a visioning event facilitated by SCAPTC to address priorities and the Localism agenda. ML**

b) Telephone kiosk on village green – The Chairman presented a table indicating support for retention. Requests for comments concerning the retention / use of the BT telephone box near the Green resulted in 10 responses, six of the ten requesting that it stay in its current location. A specific donation of £1000, by way of a gift, from an unnamed donor has been offered to the Parish Council. **Agreed** that subject to no major additional costs appearing, the offer should be accepted and the box be adopted, after which consideration can be given for it's use. The idea of an 'Art Box / Information Box' was a popular and acceptable choice. **FC/ML**

c. Hogs Back lay-by closure – there was nothing to .update. The chairman reported that she had informed the Chairman of Puttenham Parish Council that Compton Parish Council had every sympathy with their situation and would support their case if needed.

d Cemetery fees – to be reviewed, deferred to next meeting..

e Village map on village green – deferred to next meeting..

f Film location/fundraising – deferred to next Meeting.

9171 – Items for the Compton News

Chairman agreed to select items by the week-end when draft Minutes had been received from the locum clerk .

9172 – Dates of Future Meetings of the Parish Council.

Noted.

Date of Next Meeting – 17th November 2010

Meeting finished at 10.03pm