



# COMPTON PARISH COUNCIL

**PARISH OF COMPTON**  
**NOTICE OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**Local Government Act 1972**

Minutes of a meeting of Compton Parish Council held on  
**Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2012 at 7.00pm**  
In the **Village Hall** for the transaction of the under mentioned business.

**Present:** Cllr F Curtis (in the chair), Cllrs M Bills, D Haskins, J Palmer  
County Cllr S Gimson  
Borough Cllr J Palmer  
3 members of the public

In attendance: The Clerk, Mrs J Cadman

95/12 **Apologies for Absence:** were received from Cllrs P Burzio and K Patel

96/12 **Declarations of interest:** none were made.

97/12 **Minutes of Meeting held 18<sup>th</sup> July 2012:** were agreed as a correct record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman.

98/12 **Councillor co-option:** the prospective candidate was unable to attend the meeting. There was concern that his commitments might mean that this was not the right time for him to take on this role, and it was therefore agreed to re-advertise the vacancy.

99/12 **Matters Arising:**

*79/12: Down Lane:* Speed limit: Cllr Gimson undertook to follow this up.

*79/12: Down Lane: Footpath and electric fence:* Cllr Parsons has left a note at the residence and called twice, without any success. He will continue to try to make contact

*79/12: Hedge:* The Clerk has reported the hedge to Highways, but so far no action has been taken. Cllr Gimson undertook to follow this up.

*89/12: Grant Aid:* An application has been submitted, which covers the items suggested at the July meeting: Cemetery records: £1,000; posts on common £1,000; conservation work to memorial: £1,000; chapel shed £1,000. With regard to the Chapel shed, if this application is successful, the grant will not become available until next April and the shed is now a security risk. Cllr Palmer undertook to ask GBC Financial Services if this grant could be brought forward to this financial year.

*90/12: Watts Gallery and Chapel:* there is currently nothing further to report. The Gallery are currently applying for Lottery funding for Limnerslease, but Cllr Bills confirmed that the Gallery would wish to continue with the Lease on the Chapel, Cemetery and Lodge whether they are successful or otherwise

*91/12 Parish Plan:* Cllr Parsons requested that this item be deferred.

100/12 **Chairman's Report:**

1) *Attended meeting - Guildford Plan*

Concern was expressed by a large number of people about approving a major new scheme before a traffic scheme was in place or indeed results were known. After consultation with Councillors, an email was sent to Cllr. Palmer, supporting the concerns of Guildford Vision group, but also supporting the need to balance any proposed changes to Guildford with the impact on a wider scale. Are any plans to discourage traffic in the town centre would move it to the periphery, with likelihood of current gridlocked traffic being nearer to villages on the outskirts and beyond. Given Cllr. Palmer's assurance that due to the complexity and time taken for the project to reach completion, traffic modelling would fit in and should any major changes result from its findings, the plans would account for this. **We therefore seek clarification as to why the proposal did not go ahead on 6th Sept?**

Cllr Palmer advised that this consultation is on the Interim Town Centre Framework and concentrates just on the town centre, and is not connected with the Local Plan. Consultation on the Local Plan will start later this year.

The Town Centre Framework has been put on hold for the time being because of a legal challenge

by the Guildford Vision Group and officers have been asked to start a new wave of public consultation.

County and Borough are working closely together on identifying areas where traffic management could be better. A plan will be worked up which is ready to be implemented when funding becomes available. There are a number of things that can be done to ease congestion in the town centre. Cllr Gimson advised that the Highways Agency, who control the A3, are doing some work to this road to widen the approach to the M25. They are also undertaking a study on the effect of the Hindhead Tunnel, and are also looking at the junction of the A31 and A3.

The County are doing some work around the hospital area. Once traffic lights are in place and the roundabout removed, the situation should improve. GBC planners will be applying to build a Park and Ride at the Sports Park for 550 cars.

Other strategic planning work is being undertaken to relieve pressure on the roads. Major flows of people are being looked at with the aim of moving people into other forms of transport.

The aim was to deal with traffic issues block by block rather than by one huge master plan that will never be financed.

## 2. *Surrey Minerals*

Gillian Heine from CPRE has confirmed that current plans should not affect Compton.

## 3 *Personal Injury Claim*

Former caretaker, Chris Harvey has, via a solicitor informed CPC of his intention to seek damages for personal injury following a fall in the cemetery, the day after he formally resigned, approx. 18 months ago. The matter is currently with CPC insurers who have yet to advise of a course of action.

## 4 *Enforcement Report*

The scrutiny committee's findings have been published. This is seen as a positive step and we applaud steps that will improve the system. CPC submitted the following comments and omissions, to Cllr. Palmer;

*The report does not include weaknesses in the reports considered at appeal. The Inspectorate commented in both reports that information given or not given by GBC gave him no choice but to make the decision he did.*

*The report for MHGF excludes information and offers as mitigation the fact that GBC Officers hadn't seen the barn conversion and instead concentrated on outbuildings. It excludes a file of photographs and reports compiled by CPC that clearly outlined which building was in question and which 'went missing' in the hands of GBC. GBC's unwillingness to make any further comment is based on a full enquiry having been carried out and ignores the matter that FACTS that were KEY to the case were omitted after written and photographic evidence was submitted in (and possibly prior to) 2006 and discussed at a meeting in 2006.*

*The report includes the number of cases upheld, but excludes the number dismissed.*

*Some cases referred to as 'resolved' came about by an Inspectorate decision that had to be given due to lack of decision / action (i.e. 4 year rule). The term is rather misleading and for the sake of clarity a differentiation between 'upheld, dismissed and resolved by negotiation would have been useful. This is met, in part by appendix 4.*

*Where an objection has been made by a Parish Council, why not include a member of the Parish Council on the site visit to ensure the GBC officer's report refers to the correct piece of land / building?*

*To gain a balanced view, at site visits, would it not be useful to speak to those objecting (neighbours) as well as the site owner, each time? In the case of MHGF, neighbours were threatened by Mr Hunt's henchmen after making written objections which were published on the internet. Could not the identity those under threat be protected?*

*As 'timings' are an issue and a problem put forward by the majority of those taking part in the survey, could each case have 'alerts' in place on a shared diary with actions linked to those within the Group so everyone knows what is needed / has been done / needs doing and deadlines? This is very simple and probably already exists but if it does, then the question as to how deadlines are missed would need to be addressed*

*Can a member of Parish Council be copied into emails concerning specific cases by request? This could save a lot of time later on?*

*Where costs are an issue, [- ENF/07/00796- Ripley] can a claim be made against the perpetrators (via the agent where the known whereabouts of the travellers are not known)?*

*Will the Inspectorate discuss the type of appeal representation (written or otherwise) with GBC /*

*Parish Councils?*

*Use of up-to-date GPS mapping and Skype might help reduce burden on the team in some instances?*

*Residents also asked about accountability within the Department.*

5 *Broadband*

Delighted to see that Surrey is to get faster broadband and await any further info from Cllr. Gimson re time frames.

Cllr Gimson undertook to try to find out when this will come into effect. Surrey is aiming for a 98 to 99% coverage.

6 *Pucks Oak*

The Chairman met Charlotte Williams from Pucks Oak Barn to discuss installation of a ceramic plaque, produce by eminent local Artist, Mary Wondrausch.

There may be costs attributed to this, however for now we are leaving this for Mary and Charlotte to discuss. There is however some confusion as to whether this is a 'community' Orchard or not and what this means? Charlotte is going to dig out legal papers and in the meantime the Chairman agreed not to advertise the orchard on the website / newsletter.

Members **agreed** a grant of £50 towards this installation. Cllr Gimson offered support from his allowance.

7 *Parking*

CPC agreed to temporary parking on the edge of the Green for motor cycles for a post funeral group. We also permitted parking on the mesh at the far end for cars, residents were informed. The Club expressed their thanks for this and let it be known that residents understood and were pleased they were kept informed. We were also informed by some residents that attendees were noisy when they left and that the green was not left undamaged, highlighting the need to make this an exception rather than a rule.

8 *CPRE*

James Parsons and the Chairman will meet Tim Harrold from CPRE in October to discuss boundaries and any other issues.

101/12 **Reports from Borough and County Cllrs:**

*County Councillor:* Cllr Gimson reported that the new Community Highway Officer for SCC is Jason Lewis. He was due to meet with him in October and they would discuss the safety of pedestrians in Down Lane. Cllr Gimson stated that he would be happy to support any initiative to improve permissive footpaths in this area. He also advised that the traffic order for the speed limit in Down Lane will work its way through the system.

The cost for brown signs on the A3 to sign Watts Gallery had reduced in price from £125,000 to £25,000. The Gallery is currently trying to find the funding, as these signs are very important for footfall.

Cllr Gimson said that he wished to allocate his members allowance before Christmas and asked to be advised of any projects as soon as possible.

*Borough Councillor:* Cllr Palmer advised that GBC is looking at changing the bin collection system to on all recycling, to be collected the alternate week from refuse.

102/12 **Report from the Police:** It was understood that shed break-ins are on the increase again.

103/12 **Public Forum:**

- a) *British Legion Club: Fire Regulations:* Duncan Foster advised that Fire Regulations mean that they need to have a fire assembly point on Spiceall Green, and the fire officer had recommended that a sign for this should be erected near the play area. Cllr Gimson suggested that the club have a sign on a post, which the person in charge takes to the green and holds in position and this was agreed to be a good idea.
- b) *British Legion Club: parking:* Mr Foster advised that parking for the Club presents a serious problem and, if they hope to attract more customers, needs to be addressed. He asked if a car park, comprising webbing under the grass, could be constructed along a strip of the green. Cllr Curtis said that the problem with this is that the green is boggy and there

appears to be a broken drain somewhere in the vicinity. A survey to find the drain would be very expensive. In addition the green belongs partly to GBC and partly to the Parish Council, and permission would have to be sought to do this. The idea was discussed further, and Mr Foster said that they were considering parking for 30 cars, and suggested that there should be some removable posts to prevent the parking area being used outside club opening hours. It was agreed that SCC would give advice on this, and Cllr Gimson would talk to Jason Lewis.

- c) *British Legion Club: Signage:* The Club requested a non-illuminated sign in the area of the telephone box. Mr Foster was advised that they would need to submit an application to GBC.
- d) *The Green: Goal post:* In response to a question about the broken post, the Clerk advised that it had become dangerous, probably by being swung on, and there had been sharp metal edges. The village handyman had taken the crossbar away and would remove the uprights shortly. This goal post was made out of scaffolding poles and had been erected by a resident at some stage, so would not be replaced at present.
- e) *On pavement parking at Spiceall:* this is causing a problem as the cars leave hardly enough room for pedestrians. It is unclear why they are doing this, but possibly because of the speed of cars driving through. Cllr Curtis proposed that the police be asked to place warning tickets on the offending cars.

*Cllr Curtis left the meeting at 8.30pm and Cllr Haskins took the chair.*

104/12 **Members Report: Highways**

There are a number of outstanding things, it is hopeful that these will be progressed with JL. Cllr Haskins advised that Mat Redfern had asked for a list of volunteers for training to use the VAS. It was agreed to put a piece in Compton News asking for volunteers for this and for CSW, those interested to contact Cllr Haskins.

Speed watch: A meeting has been arranged for Friday 28<sup>th</sup> September, to talk about strategies.

105/12 **Members Report: Allotments and Environmental Projects**

*Allotments:* The annual billing cycle is about to commence, and rents have been increased slightly. There are 3 or 4 plots free this autumn, and an item will be put in Compton News asking anyone interested in obtaining one to contact Cllr Haskins.

*Environmental Projects:* the common and pond project would be undertaken once the autumn leaves have fallen. There is Japanese knotweed from the corner of Withies Lane, down the side of the common. The Clerk would report this to GBC. Cllr Haskins will give the Clerk the date of the pond project, probably in November, for Compton News.

Fly tipping: there is a form on the GBC website to report this, residents will be informed via the Compton News.

The suggestion was made that funds be found to pay someone to tour the parish on a weekly basis, so that nuisances such as rubbish, fly tipping, overgrown hedges, etc, could be reported and dealt with.

Cllr Haskins advised that he had invited a representative from Harley Davidson to attend a Parish Council meeting to explain their policy on noise. He intended that they should be asked for a voluntary code, and suggested that Compton acquire some decibel reading equipment to get some data. Mr Ken Miller would be asked for his help.

106/12 **Members Report: Recreation ground and playground**

- a) *Quotations for safer surfacing renewal/repairs:* two companies had submitted quotations for the repair of the wetpour safer surfacing in the recreation ground. RTC had quoted a sum of £3366 + vat, Greenspan had quoted £790.00 + vat for the same work. The Clerk had met with both companies and had been impressed by Greenspan. Cllr Haskins PROPOSED that Greenspan be given the contract to undertake the repairs. This was SECONDED by Cllr Bills, with all in favour.
- b) Rutting on the common – Cllr Haskins would take a look and report back.
- c) Paul Monks had undertaken to complete the outstanding jobs on the common and recreation ground in the next couple of weeks.

- 107/12 **Members Report: Watts Chapel and Cemetery**  
Draft minutes from meeting held 10<sup>th</sup> August had been circulated prior to the meeting.
- 108/12 **Members Report: Planning**  
Cllr Parsons submitted an update on the number and status of current planning applications.
- 109/12 **Members Report: Village Hall**  
No report had been received.
- 110/12 **Finance**  
a) *Management Report to 1/9/12* had been circulated prior to the meeting  
b) *Receipts and payments to 1/9/12* had been circulated prior to the meeting  
c) *Report on external audit*: BDO, the appointed external auditors, had reported as follows: on the basis of their review, in their opinion the information in the annual return is in accordance with proper practices and no matters have come to their attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met. Acceptance of the auditors report was PROPOSED by Cllr Bills, SECONDED by Cllr Haskins, with all in favour.
- 111/12 **Councillors Business:** *any further business arising from the meeting, to be noted or dealt with on a future agenda*  
a) Cllr Bills advised that building work to construct new toilets would commence at Watts Gallery in 3 weeks' time and would last for six months. There should not be a great deal of construction traffic.
- 112/12 **Compton News**  
All items for the News had been noted.
- 113/12 **Dates of meetings:**  
21<sup>st</sup> November, 15<sup>th</sup> January, 20<sup>th</sup> March.  
Annual Parish meeting: 24<sup>th</sup> April  
Annual Meeting: 15<sup>th</sup> May

Dated this 14<sup>th</sup> day September signed: J Cadman, Parish Clerk

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.50pm.