



COMPTON PARISH COUNCIL

PARISH OF COMPTON

Local Government Act 1972

Minutes of a meeting of Compton Parish Council held on

Wednesday 17th March 2021 at 7.00pm

BY REMOTE ACCESS for the transaction of the under mentioned business.

Present: Cllrs A Burtenshaw, D Haskins, S Mallet, J Palca, J Saunders, C Sharples.
Borough and Parish Cllr R Nagaty
Borough Cllr C Blow
Mr Paul Lackford
1 member of the public

In attendance: The Clerk, Mrs J Cadman

Cllr Blow introduced the SCC candidate for the elections to be held on the 6th May. Cecilia Taylor advised that she was closely involved in the area as a local resident.

020/21 **Election of Chairman:** Cllr Palca, proposed by Cllr Haskins, Seconded by Cllr Sharples, all in favour.

021/21 **Apologies for Absence:** all members were present.

022/21 **Co-option of Councillor:** Mr Mallett introduced himself and advised members that he had lived on Priorsfield Road for the last 25 years. Up to now, he had been involved in the parish mainly through the church, but now he had more time to give to local affairs. Members were very pleased to have someone to represent the Priorsfield Road end of the Parish and all were in favour of Mr Garnett's co-option to Council. Cllr Mallett signed the Acceptance of Office and joined the meeting.

023/21 **Declarations of interest:**
Cllr Burtenshaw declared an interest in agenda item 033/21, as Director of Watts Gallery. Cllr Sharples also declared an interest in agenda item 033/21 as an employee of the Gallery.

024/21 **Minutes of January full council meeting:** These were agreed as a correct record of the meeting.

025/21 **Matters Arising:**
017/21a: *Neighbourhood Plan.* The Clerk had emailed information on the production of a Neighbourhood Plan to all members prior to the meeting. Cllr Nagaty believed that it was increasingly a good thing, as it helped protect parishes against unwanted development and put in place procedures for ensuring structured future growth of the parish. Members discussed the steps required to complete a Neighbourhood Plan and agreed to explore this. It was agreed to meet with Burpham, who have had a NP in place for some time, and then meet again to discuss the next steps, which would include forming a sub-committee to take this forward.

019/21: *Annual Parish meeting:* members agreed to hold this meeting on the 19th May, to discuss a potential Neighbourhood Plan with residents.

19/21: *Annual Statutory meeting:* the Clerk explained that it would not be legal to hold a meeting by remote access on and after the 7th May, and at that stage it would not be easily possible to meet in public. Restrictions are due to ease in this respect from the 17th May, but this date depends on data. Members therefore agreed to hold this meeting on the 6th May, at 6pm.

026/21 **Report from County Cllr:**
None had been received.

027/21 **Reports from Borough Cllrs:**

- a) *Monks Hatch:* a number of trees have been cut down and burnt, together with other rubbish that has been brought onto site. However, this is not sufficient for Enforcement to take any action.
- b) *The Ponsey site:* the site is improving, the family are helping to clear it up.
- c) *A31:* a consultation has been started on reducing the speed limit at the Down Lane section of the A31 to 40mph.
- d) *Planning: 28 Almsgate:* the planning permission has been granted. *No 1 Spiceall* has been turned down. *Linden Cottage* is still pending.

028/21 e) *Guildford*: work has started on a master plan to improve traffic pollution and housing.
Report on police and crime statistics: 4 crimes were reported in January: 1 antisocial behaviour on New Pond Road; 1 violence and sexual offences on Priorsfield Road; 1 violence and sexual offences and 1 other offences on the Green.
Noted.

029/21 **Members Report: local Plan:** Mrs Gilbert's report :

Surrey Hills AONB Boundary Review

Natural England has announced this week that it will be proceeding with the Surrey Hills AONB Boundary Review this year. Before undertaking the formal process, the Surrey Hills review will focus on early engagement with parish councils and other key stakeholders to identify areas of sufficient natural beauty to be included in the review.

In 2016, Compton PC, together with Worplesdon and Wanborough PCs commissioned an independent landscape assessment of Blackwell Farm, which concluded that the vast majority of the area merited AONB status should be included in the review. The then Guildford MP Anne Milton submitted the assessment to Natural England on the parishes' behalf.

Recommended action

Whilst it is likely that Natural England will not consider any land that has been earmarked for development in an adopted local plan, the Local Plan Sub Committee recommends that Compton Parish Council puts forward a request that the whole of Blackwell Farm is included in the boundary review. This was **agreed**.

A3 widening

As you are aware, the A3 widening scheme, on which much of the Local Plan was predicated, has been dropped from the Government's Road Investment Strategy. Blackwell Farm was one of the sites that GBC said could not come forward without this piece of infrastructure. This leaves the developer (the University of Surrey) with two options:

1. To push for the A3 widening scheme to be reinstated in the Government's Road Investment Strategy. Cllr John Rigg (Lead Councillor for Major Projects) is already lobbying for this and has written to MPs on the matter. Highways England has also confirmed that it would resubmit the widening scheme to the government "if it was deemed necessary".
2. To mitigate the lack of capacity on the A3 (potentially by providing additional roads on and off the site). This presents problems to the University:
 - a. a route west (through Flexford) would be nonsense in planning terms, requiring drivers to travel a long distance away from Guildford and then to use other very congested roads back into town;
 - b. a route north (through Wood St Village) would involve crossing a railway line and common land (requiring an Act of Parliament). Both routes would involve buying land from third parties and both would create additional congestion on the A323.
 - c. An upgraded road system on the northern approach to the Blackwell Farm site (Gill Avenue and Egerton Road). Cllr John Rigg stated at the recent Scrutiny and Overview Committee that this would take years and cost millions of pounds.

030/21 **Members Report: Highways:**

Report from Cllr Haskins:

- a) The rebuild of the New Pond Road bridge is a great improvement on last time.
- b) Potholes are developing in the road by the new vicarage.
- c) The VAS is up and running, but it has not yet been established whether there will be any funding from SCC.
- d) The trees in Polsted Lane that came down in the storm have been removed.

Members discussed the traffic calming measures proposed by Paul Lackford and which he had discussed with our County Councillor. He explained that any measures would need County Council approval. Some could be done for no cost, some would need investment from the Parish Council, for example: 20mph in the middle of the village, and raised tables. Cllr Furniss had said that he was happy to support the Parish Council and it was agreed to put together a working party to draw up a scheme. The working party members would be as follows: Cllrs Burtenshaw, Haskins and Sharples, Mr Paul Lackford.

031/21

Members Report: Allotments and Environment

- a) Work to allotment entrances: the work will commence as soon as the weather improves.
- b) Cllr Haskins reported that there is a waiting list for an allotment.
- c) Footpaths meeting: Cllr Saunders reported that they were currently waiting for a SSC course before becoming footpath wardens. A message should be put out to the village on how to report problems with footpaths to SCC.
- d) Litter pick – has been arranged for Saturday 27th March, starting at 10am. A number of volunteers have signed up to do a socially distanced litter pick, using their own equipment.

032/21

Members Report: youth and recreation

- a) Gate spring: a replacement has been requested, free of charge.
- b) Inside of playground: the clerk and the handyman will meet soon to discuss how to improve the drainage/hardstanding into the park and will report.
- c) Some of the posts around the green have rotten bases. The Clerk will discuss with the handyman.

033/21

Members Report: Watts Gallery and Cemetery

- a) Report from Gallery director:

National Lockdown

Following the announcement of a national lockdown on 4 January the Watts Gallery Artists' Village site including the Chapel has remained closed to the public. The government have now set out their road map for coming out of the lockdown which has allowed us to begin plans for reopening. These are very much dependant on the government confirming each stage of the road map can go ahead as planned. Our expected dates are:

26 April 2021 – Grounds, The Chapel, Shop (including the contemporary gallery) and Tea Shop (for take away only) open to the public

17 May 2021 – Gallery opens to the public and Tea Shop able to offer indoor service

Summer 2021 – Limnerslease and the Studios reopen

Tickets are now on sale for dates from 17 May and updates to our plans will be provided on our website. As before we are committed to the safety of our staff, volunteers, visitors and local community and are monitoring advice carefully to make sure we have robust plans in place.

Chapel Restoration

We have carried out an initial review of the proposal for the next phase of work to the interior of the chapel. This has come in significantly higher than expected and we will need to carry out a more detailed review and tender process before we are able to progress the work.

Physical Energy

We were given technical approval for Physical Energy by Highways England on 29 January and our planning conditions were discharged by Guildford Borough Council on 5 February. In the week commencing 8 February our contractors carried out works on Watts Gallery Trust land including electrical ducting trench works and tree removal.

Bench 1

We have been granted planning approval for Bench 1, the woodland auditorium designed by Practice Architecture. There will be a slight delay in works as we are now waiting delivery of the timber for the structure, but it's hoped work can begin on site in the last week of April and will take around 5 weeks.

We are looking for a self-contained rental property or properties for the period of the build so the team can create a bubble together whilst they are working and stay safe. We are looking for a 2-bed property for a week and a 4-bed property for 3 weeks with the workers staying during the working week. If anyone has any recommendations, they'd be gratefully received by Claire Griffin, Head of Operations on

Claire.griffin@wattsgallery.org.uk

Limnerslease

We have now tendered for the work needed to restore Limnerslease and the Studios after the September 2020 electrical fire and are in the process of appointing a contractor. The programme of work is likely to take 10 weeks followed by an 8-week re-install of our collection although we are looking to reduce the build time. Once the contractor has been appointed and initial site meetings have been completed, we will be able to have a much clearer idea of reopening schedules.

Planning Applications

A planning application was submitted to Guildford Borough Council and formally accepted on 8 March 2021 for the new boundary fence on both the Limnerslease, main gallery and Verey play wood sites, new gates at both the gallery and Limnerslease sides of the site and a series of retractable awnings on the side of the Foyle, the rear of the Clore learning space at the Studios and the Tea Shop.

Each element of the planning application will allow us to make better use of our sites and will support our recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

- b) *Cemetery committee*: a meeting is being arranged.

c) *Cemetery agreement*: a meeting was arranged for 31st March at 3pm. Cllr Burtenshaw will issue a paper beforehand to outline the Gallery's proposals going forward.

d) *Noticeboard outside gallery*. Deferred.

034/21 **Members Report: Planning:**

a) Planning applications received and members responses: circulated before the meeting and noted.

035/21 **Members Report: Village Hall:**

Cllr Sharples reported that the hall is run well and there are no problems.

036/21 **Community Projects**

a) Gilbert White and Compton: Cllr Sharples would like to see a simple tablet memorial to commemorate Gilbert White's association with Compton. It was agreed to be a good idea and Cllr Sharples was asked to provide a design for a tablet.

b) Compton Fete: this will not take place again this year, but the draw will, which will raise some money for local projects.

c) National day of reflection 23rd March (anniversary of the first lockdown): Members supported the Church's proposal to open the north door to allow accessibility and welcomed the new Rector's proposals and willingness to be engaged with the parish.

036/21 **Finance**

a) *Schedule of income and payments*: members approved the expenditure of £2,400.02 for January and February.

b) *Management report to end Feb 2021*. noted and approved. Cllr Palca would like to see a use for the parish support fund. Cllr Haskins suggested that safer surfacing is considered for the whole of the playground, not just under equipment, as it gets so muddy in the winter. This was agreed and the Clerk will seek quotes. Cllr Burtenshaw requested that consideration be given to a grant for the Gallery's community learning programme.

037/21 **Councillors Business:** *any further business arising from the meeting, to be noted or dealt with on a future agenda*

a) Cllr Nagaty advised that the future of the Debenhams site is up for consultation.

038/21 **Correspondence:**

Surrey Air Ambulance: had written detailing their work. Members agreed to a grant of £200.00.

039/21 **Dates of meetings:**

Annual Meeting: 6th May, 6pm

The meeting closed at 20.35pm.