



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 17th July 2013 at 7.00pm

In the **Village Hall meeting room** for the transaction of the under mentioned business.

Present: Cllr F Curtis (in the chair), Cllrs P Graham, D Haskins, J Parsons, K Patel E Ricketts
Borough Cllr J Palmer
County Cllr G Johnson
Sgt Samantha Barwood
PC Ryan Stephens
1 member of the public

In attendance: The Clerk, Mrs J Cadman

- 77/13 **Apologies for Absence:** Were received from Cllr I Cosgun
- 78/13 **Declarations of interest:** none were made
- 79/13 **Minutes of Meeting held 15th May 2013:** were agreed as a correct record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman
- Minutes of meeting held 29th May 2013:** were agreed as a correct record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman
- 80/13 **Matters Arising:**
72/13: *annual return:* the two actions requested by the Internal Auditor have been carried out.
75/13 *village hall:* members **agreed** the appointment of Roger Taylor of Hedleys, the Surrey SALC Solicitor, to act for the Parish Council regarding the interpretation of the 1934 Conveyance.
- 81/13 **Chairman's Report:**
The Chairman thanked the Council for nominating her on behalf of the Parish for the Mayor's Award for Services to the Community. Fiona received the award in April but as the May meeting involved an AGM, amongst many other things, it slipped her mind to thank those who nominated her.

Ken & the Chairman met with Highways Officer Bahram Assadi and Cllr. George Johnson earlier this month, details will be given in the traffic report.

Cllr Curtis attended a **planning meeting at G Live**, which was an introduction to the long awaited Local Plan. There were a number of exhibition stands, each manned by a member of GBC. Each offered information / participatory game linked to potential objections in development, in order to demonstrate that greenbelt, heritage etc can work alongside new developments. The exercise was highly controlled, with little opportunity for general / personal viewpoints which might differ from those presented. Despite attempts to encourage lateral thinking, it was very clear that is the vast majority are of the NIMBY persuasion and that traffic is a major concern to most people.

Informal discussions raised some concerns as there are two Guildford pressure groups that I am aware of, (Guildford Vision Group and Guildford Residents Association) whose primary concern is Guildford. The suggestion to develop 'outer Guildford' in order to protect and improve the town centre is not altogether a surprising one, but the impact on surrounding villages such as Compton should not be underestimated.

We know that during the closure of Charterhouse Rd extra 2,000 vehicles a day came through B3000 in each direction! The difference this made to the already busy road meant that whilst it was difficult to cross before, it was impossible to cross for long periods. People had difficulty getting their cars out of their drives / junctions and tailbacks were a regular occurrence.

There is a surprising lack of understanding of the traffic problems we face here already (as was revealed when B3000 was not initially omitted from the recent congestion programme, hopefully to be amended). Indeed despite Ex Cllr. Gimson's regular attendance at PC meetings and expressions of support, highways stated they had no knowledge of congestion in this area. Before considering a

survey they have asked for us to monitor the situation for several months, as there have been a number of road works schemes (some prolonged), which may they feel might have caused / exacerbated the situation. As July / August is generally quieter, the Chairman suggested we monitor until November.

FAQ's about the new Guildford Plan will be posted on Compton's website. The message is clear that Central Government is 'pro-growth' and wishes to boost development of houses, tourism and shopping to stimulate the economy.

Decisions will be made on a macro level initially (ie looking at the bigger picture, which is Surrey and then the Borough of Guildford to see where housing could go. The options are to build heavily in a few areas and build any necessary infrastructure such as roads and services or to spread the numbers, with each area taking a small number, preferably in an area where the infrastructure exists already. Having a village plan or neighbour plan is helpful, in that this provides the evidence base that can support or object to decisions made.

Compton village is unlikely to be affected to any great extent. The northern tip of the Parish boundary, on the other side of the A3 however may well be nominated for further development in line with developments in and around the business parks. We should be mindful of the impact ANY changes / growth will have on residents, our roads and greenbelt and the impact this has on everyday life.

It is VERY important that residents voice their opinions at the consultation stage. This will be in October 2013 and we should ask Jane to ensure a link to this is given in the October and November NEWS.

There are many good examples of new housing that are in keeping with local design ideals and our very brief consultation at the last Annual meeting showed that houses once suited to larger families are sometimes inhabited by a single elderly resident who could be given the opportunity to move to more suitable accommodation, releasing a family home.

Informal comments also mentioned that need to explore brown field before green belt, to establish a better record in dealing with empty properties and to build student accommodation at the University in order to release the 6000 units currently taken by students in and around the town centre.

Village Plan

At the last meeting, only Ken, Cllr. Parsons and Cllr Curtis were able to attend and given the luke warm response in way of assistance, it was decided to postpone the Plan and revisit it next year. In the meantime Cllr Curtis has requested details of land ownership from GBC (received) and SCC with a view to 'mapping out' the village. It appears there is no quick or cheap way of doing this as land registry details will be needed for each plot to ascertain ownership and land registry has confirmed that there are no discounts available for multiple purchases. It will cost £6 per plot (for boundary details marked on title plan and owner details, marked on register, each of which are £3). It costs a further £9 for flood risk details.

The Chairman proposed that we forget the flood risk option initially at any rate and we add the £500 given by ex Cllr. Gimson to the £1000 grant aid we have applied for, for the Clerk to produce the map. [175 plots x £6 per plot, which is £1,050 plus £450 worth of the Clerk's time]. She further proposed we make a start on the project in the hope that grant aid will be forthcoming with a view to PC funding two thirds of costs, if it is not. This was **agreed**

Cemetery

There were some maintenance issues in June, which will be covered in the cemetery report. This has dented confidence but we hope that these issues can be addressed in order to move forward.

Limnerslease Consultation

Fiona Curtis was unable to go, David Haskins attended and will brief.

Monks Hatch

James Parsons and FC attended a meeting with Jenny Seagrove and James Parsons also met

neighbours to discuss possible solutions.

82/13 **Reports from Borough and County Cllrs:**

Borough Cllr Report: Cllr Palmer referred to the Infrastructure base line study, as he had been advised that although all parishes were consulted, Compton had not contributed. The Chairman and Clerk both knew that a contribution had been made, together with additional comments, and it was agreed to follow this up after the meeting.

The implication of the study is that GBC will be required to create 8,000 homes in the borough over the next 20 years. Cllr Curtis referred to the problem of people living in social housing that is far too big for their needs. Cllr Palmer acknowledged this, and reminded the meeting that council tax is to be increased for houses that are left vacant, to encourage their return to use. Brownfield sites would be used first before other options are considered, and Green Belt boundaries will be reviewed.

Cllr Parsons asked if incentives might be available to encourage Parishes to volunteer a site rather than have quotas of housing imposed on it. Cllr Palmer acknowledged that this might be possible with affordable housing.

GBC is undertaking an estates review, and will sell the land that it does not need. Cllr Palmer cited the example of the piece of land next to the Old School. Mr Bugbird said that there had been visits from officers of the Council, and that he felt threatened, particularly as his house is on the market. He holds a licence for this piece of land for grazing, and he was concerned that, if it was sold, it would lose its protected common land status. Cllr Palmer undertook to make enquiries regarding its status and title.

County Cllr report:

- Watts Gallery: Cllr Johnson had attended a consultation meeting on the development of the Watts Gallery museum. He had put forward the idea of a cobbled road between the chapel and the new museum. This would slow the traffic down. He recognised that a bigger problem is that of providing a pavement. A request had been made of the landowners at Coneycroft for a permissive footpath. The landowners may consider giving up a piece of land for a permissive footpath but felt that more needed to be done regarding the traffic on Down Lane before they would consider this. Cllr Johnson suggested that it might be possible to designate the road unsuitable for HGVs, and possibly install gates to narrow the road.
- Cllr Johnson reported that he had ascertained that the layby in front of the Chapel is not SCC land.
- Down Lane water problem: Cllr Johnson reported that the plan is to create a backward soak away, so that the water drains into the pond.
- Surrey rail strategy: Cllr Johnson recommended this document to the Council.
- The Surrey roads re-surfacing scheme has commenced, and the Old Portsmouth Road has been resurfaced, and Puttenham Heath Road will be done soon.
- Congestion: Cllr Curtis advised that the Council is surprised about the lack of knowledge concerning congestion in Compton. This issue was missing from the congestion programme and, when she had spoken to Barham Assadi, he had been unaware that there was a congestion problem in Compton. He had asked that an assessment wait until October, as current road works might be causing the congestion, but it was clear that the problem had worsened since the opening of the Hindhead Tunnel which coincided with the re-opening of the Gallery. This is the biggest issue in Compton, and has an impact on the quality of life. Cllr Palmer said that congestion was a problem throughout Surrey. Cllr Parsons believed that there were actions that could be taken to improve the situation: The sightlines are very poor at the intersection of the A3 and B3000 and other intersections. Improving sightlines by cutting back undergrowth would improve traffic flow. Cllr Johnson confirmed that a clearance programme is currently going ahead to help resolve these problems.
- On-line reporting: the Clerk would remind people, through Compton News, of the SCC on-line reporting system. The problem is that there is no feed-back, so it is impossible to know when and if a job will be done. Cllr Johnson asked for a list and he would follow this up.
- Air quality management: Cllr Johnson will try to get some measurement figures for Compton..

Cllr Curtis asked both Councillors if they could clarify the circumstances in which the Council would overrule the recommendation of the planners. She understood that Brooklea had been approved against the planners recommendation, as a councillor had said that it would be good to encourage businesses in rural communities and her view was carried. A site visit was vetoed, as photographs

had been included with the application and it was agreed that the application was not of sufficient harm to the Green Belt and the landscape to warrant turning it down. Cllr Palmer undertook to report back.

A3 Signage: Cllr Palmer had spoken to Peter Martin, who had agreed to review this once more. The Highways Agency are carrying out a study of the whole length of the A3, and this review will include signage. Cllr Curtis said that a survey had already taken place, that the Highways Agency had been happy to change the signs, and SCC had agreed. It was hoped that this would now happen.

83/13 Report from the Police:

Cllr Curtis said that a recent meeting with Bahram Assadi had highlighted the fact that SCC accident data and police accident data do not seem to be in line. PC Stephens suggested that PC Matt Redfern, casualty reduction officer, was the best person to speak to in this respect.

PC Stephens reported that he had been working very closely with other agencies since late last year concerning the horse issues, in his secondary role as Rural Communities officer. Two weeks ago the person who owns the horses was in court in Wales and faced 57 counts of animal cruelty. He had been given a sentence of 8 months custody and banned from keeping horses for 5 years, and was ordered to pay the court costs, which were considerable. The custodial sentence had been deferred for 6 months to give him time to arrange care for the horses.

The police and the RSPCA were working together on welfare issues surrounding horses on a nationwide basis, trying to ensure that horses were sold to people who would take care of them.

84/13 Public Forum:

- a) *GBC owned field next to Old School:* See 82/13

85/13 Members Report: Highways: this item was covered by discussions under agenda item 82/13.

86/13 Members Report: Allotments and Environmental Projects

- a) *Compton Common Clearance:* the only attendee at the last working party was Cllr Haskins, but he had managed to clear the path through the wood. A tree has fallen down opposite the Withies. The next common clearance party will be on Sunday 22nd September.
- b) *Love Where you Live:* the work that GBC had agreed to do in Compton will take place on the 16th September. Cllr Curtis requested that outstanding jobs not on their list should go on our action list, so that they can be monitored.
- c) *Allotment gates:* these were discussed under agenda item 91/13d below.

87/13 Members Report: Youth and Recreation

- The recreation ground has been cut, but is a little untidy.
- The safer surfacing needs addressing
- Older children are using the climbing frame. In response to a question, Cllr Patel confirmed that there are not many teenage children around, but it would be good to find out where they are and what they want.

88/13 Members Report: Watts Gallery and Cemetery

- a) *Minutes of the cemetery committee meeting held 7th June* had been circulated. There had been general concern at the maintenance of the cemetery, but this seems to have been resolved to a great extent and the committee is working with Simon on a more detailed programme and will in the near future, build standards into this.
- b) *Cemetery Committee constitution: draft constitution* had been circulated and its acceptance was PROPOSED by Cllr Haskins, SECONDED by Cllr Curtis, with all in favour.
- c) *Chapel Lease:* an agreement is closer, once terms have *been agreed a piece will be put* in the Compton News to update residents.
- d) *Gallery update:* a meeting had been held at Limnerslease, attended by Cllr Haskins, who was happy with the Gallery's plans They had asked if there was any impact in the village as a result of what has been done so far, and it was agreed that there was approximately 10% more trade to the pubs, and more lost people around the village. It was suggested that they look at the public footpaths and ensure that any signs point in the right direction and Cllr Haskins suggested they look at the bigger picture to ensure that the impact on the village is a positive

one

89/13 **Members Report: Planning**

- a) Cllr Parsons reported on changes to permitted development, which came into force from 30th May 2013. He advised that these changes did not change restrictions in an AONB.
- b) *Priorsfield School*: 90 letters of support had been received by GBC, and 20 against.
- c) *Monks Hatch Garden Farm*: new owners are discussing various proposals: a) they wish to re-route the access road so that it does not go past houses at the Limnerslease entrance. b) signing: Tessa Benson had said that the signs had still not gone up and Cllr Parsons received a commitment that temporary signs would go up straight away, with permanent signs to follow. c) the trees will be dealt with by the end of August. Cllr Parsons advised the owners of the need to consult, and to update neighbours on their plans.

90/13 **Members Report: Village Hall**

Cllr Graham, the Parish Council's representative on the village hall committee, is now a Managing Trustee, This will be added to his Register of Interests.

There had been a meeting between representatives of the Parish Council and the Village Hall Committee, chaired by Mr Ken Miller, to discuss the 1934 Conveyance. The Village Hall Committee acknowledged that the Parish Council are taking steps to resolve this.

Tom Crillo has offered to undertake an up to date property survey, which has been gratefully received, Business is good and the hall is solvent.

Cllr Graham is to attend a meeting the following week.

91/13 **Finance**

- a) Management accounts to 30th June attached as **Annex 3**
- b) Schedule of income and payments from 1/5/13 attached as **Annex 4**
- c) Grant aid projects: The Clerk advised that applications had been made for Grant Aid for the allotment gates at £1490.86, website at £1,000, bus shelter refurbishment at £1000 and mapping project at 1,000. If successful, GBC grant aid would amount to 50% of these costs.
- d) Allotment gates: the Clerk had advised that grant aid applications made now would be for projects to be carried out in the financial year commencing 1st April 2014. Cllr Haskins advised that the allotment gates were in urgent need of replacement now, as they were unsafe and there had been some incidents of crime and harassment on the allotments. Cllr Haskins PROPOSED that this project be funded from the £9,000 budgeted in the current financial year for projects. This was SECONDED by Cllr Parsons, with all in favour.

92/13 **Councillors Business:** *any further business arising from the meeting, to be noted or dealt with on a future agenda*

No further business was raised.

93/13 **Compton News**

- To remind residents of Highways on-line reporting
- To remind residents of the police non-emergency number
- Common clearing party 22nd September

94/13 **Correspondence:**

- a) *Borough Honorary Remembrancer*: The report for 2012 was circulated. Cllr Haskins undertook to report back at the September meeting.

b)

94/13 **Dates of meetings:**

18th September, 20th November, 15th January, 19th March

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.35pm