



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 16th January 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 Burzio, D Haskins, K Patel
County Cllr S Gimson
Borough Cllr J Palmer
2 members of the public

In attendance: The Clerk, Mrs J Cadman

- 01/13 **Apologies for Absence:** were received from Cllrs M Bills and J Parsons
- 02/13 **Declarations of disclosable prejudicial and other interests:** no declarations were made
- 03/13 **Co-option of Councillor:** the co-option of Ilhan Cosgun into the vacancy on the Parish Council was PROPOSED by Cllr Curtis, SECONDED by Cllr Haskins, with all in favour. There were no other nominations. Cllr Cosgun took his place at the meeting and told members that he had moved to Priorsfield Rd. Compton three years ago from London. He has an 18 month old son and another child on the way. His interest is in involving younger members of the community in the village. The Chairman welcomed him to the Council and also welcomed Peter Graham, who had attended the meeting as he is interested in becoming involved.
- 04/13 **Minutes of Meeting held 21st November 2012:** were agreed as a correct record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman
- 05/13 **Matters Arising:**
117/12:99/12: Down Lane Footpath and fence: a letter regarding this had now been sent to Mrs Sartori.
117/12:99/12: Hedge in Down lane: Cllr Gimson advised that he had spoken to Jason Lewis, who hoped to be able to get the gang to cut it back in February. The Clerk was asked to warn him that there is barbed wire in the hedge.
117/12:103/12b: Parking opposite the British Legion Club: members to receive a report from Cllr Curtis on the meeting held with Jason Lewis under *Chairman's Report*.
118/12: Chapel Lodge: this has been let to a local person at a rent of £900 pcm, for a shorthold tenancy period of 6 months.
130/12: Withies Lane: the potholes have been reported to SCC Highways.

Chairman's Report:

Parking: The Chairman and Clerk had met Jason Lewis, Community Highways Officer from Surrey SCC just before Xmas 2012 to discuss his views on parking on the Green and the surface maintenance work in Down Lane. He said that in principle he had no issues with the idea as long as the entrance was at the play area end and the exit, where the entrance is, at present. The kerb would have to be dropped at the play end area. He also suggested angled parking and suggested that for big events where every place is needed, that bays be drawn on the grass or somehow marked on the fence. *Jane Turner has subsequently suggested that wooden markers could be used on the grass, as are used at Watts Gallery.*

SCC (and indeed Compton Parish Council) will however not make any formal comment until they have received a formal plan. This needs to be to scale, giving the reasons for the proposal and the reasons why alternatives may not be suitable. It should also address safety concerns that have already been given and details of the material to be used. The Chairman has suggested to the Club and V Hall Committee that a draft plan is drawn up, outlining how often the area will be used, how it will be monitored etc. There should then be a consultation, which could include PC meeting, NEWS and Parish Meeting, for others to have their say, followed by submission of a formal plan, assuming minimal levels of objection (SCC will not approve plans where there is a great deal of objection or where objections are valid). A copy of the feedback and comments made on the subject to date has been attached.

Sue from the Harrow advised Cllr Curtis that at some point in the future they would like to convert the unused area at the back of the Village Hall into a seating / childrens's play area. Cllr Gimson advised help had been given to a pub in Shackleford to help with the cost of providing a play area. He said that he would be happy to support such a project next year.

Chapel lay by: Maps supplied by GBC / SCC indicate that the area outside the Chapel (lay by for parking) appears to belong to highways and as such we believe that it should be maintained by Highways. As Down Lane is due to be resurfaced in Spring 2013 we have asked Jason to clarify ownership and add this to the existing job list should it be confirmed that SCC do in fact own the lay by.

Jason confirmed that the water issue in Down Lane does need to be resolved before resurfacing can commence and that the work will not take place before Spring as a period of dry weather and reasonable temperature is needed for the materials to set properly. The drain near the Gallery has been fixed and this has resulted in the pond filling up. The area beyond the pond (linked to Gallery) is being monitored and the spring at the top of the lane still needs addressing.

Planning: Fiona Curtis attended the 2nd training session in December. The reason for attending was to get a better understanding of the differences between Neighbourhood Plans, Village Plans and any others and their relevance / importance. The A-Z of how to go about one was probably too much to expect as planning remains rather subjective as to what is and isn't 'appropriate'. The Chairman's impression is that GBC will guide groups willing to take on these plans providing the information is at their disposal. GBC has its own plans to do, which have to conform to wider plans / targets and should information be needed outside that that is already available it will need to be commissioned. It is also impossible for groups to create a plan that is aligned with those of GBC when GBC's remains unpublished. One assumes that one can use the existing plan and hope that

said about other plans. The Chairman has since spoken to Tracey Haskins in the planning Dept. who is most helpful. In summary she explained that the term 'Community Plan' is a generic term for all community led plans. A Parish Plan is usually Parish Council led and can incorporate planning, design etc. We should decide on the aims of the plan before deciding on the format. i.e. List all the questions we have and decide which remain unanswered / important to our future i.e. do we know how many children live in Compton and whether facilities are needed? Do we know about local housing needs, transport needs, business needs, social or village design needs (my interpretation). Do the groups / associations fulfill all our needs, is there repetition / overlap / underrepresentation?

The National Planning policy is in favour of green belt protection but local housing needs cannot be met without using greenbelt land as 89% of Guildford is in greenbelt. The draft plan produced in 2009 has been changed due to changes in national policy and a local challenge of numbers of new homes, being upheld. The new policy (inc. new developments and sites) will be published around Spring 2013 for comment. The policy called infrastructure baseline that looks at roads, transport, schools and health needs relating to new development will be published at the same time. Some greenbelt is deemed more sacred than others (my terminology) i.e. an area within greenbelt that is also AONB would have greater protection than greenbelt alone.

Joanna and the Chairman will arrange a meeting to brainstorm the needs as a baseline for moving forward with the Parish Plan Ken Miller has agreed to be part of this session along with James Parsons and any Parish Councillors with an interest.

The meeting discussed the benefits of a local plan: Cllr Gimson said that a local plan would produce evidence of what would be acceptable in the parish; Cllr Palmer said that a local plan would enable feedback into the Borough Plan of what would work in the village in terms of housing and where it should go. It was agreed to involve Surrey Community Action in the process.

Fatal Accident on B3000: A fatal accident occurred on Friday 21st December involving a car and a lorry on The Street, opposite the junction of Down Lane. Charlie Chambers, of Chambers Waste Management died in hospital shortly after the accident. Charlie lived in Compton near Monks Hatch and formerly lived at Cypress Farm, off The Street. We are awaiting a report from the Police as to what happened and express our condolences to the Chambers family.

Watts Gallery: The draft agreement approved previously by CPC is with the Solicitor representing the Gallery Trustees.

Chapel Unlocking & Locking: Thanks to those who helped with locking and unlocking duties at the Chapel over the Xmas period when James (temp caretaker) was on holiday (namely Jane Turner, David Haskins, James Parsons, Fiona Curtis and volunteers from the Gallery). The previous tenant at Chapel Cottage had a rental arrangement that included this job at weekends / hols on an ad-hoc basis, this is no longer the case with the current tenant and hence it was agreed to pay James £20 per week to do the job at weekends for the foreseeable future.

Cemetery Map: Thanks to Joanna who has completed the data and David Haskins who is linking the data to a map produced by Fiona Curtis.

07/13

Reports from Borough and County Cllrs:

County Council: Cllr Gimson reported as follows:

Strategic Road Plan: work is underway on a 5 year road surfacing plan. This will allow for more efficient use of resources than the current annual plan.

Surrey Rail Strategy: this will enable County Council to make decisions on how best to make use of the railways so that people use them more as traffic and the cost of travelling increases. He was asked whether the County would consider new railway stations so that people did not have to travel so far to their nearest station, but he said that the cost of these would outweigh the benefits, as there was no evidence that more people would use the railways, and some people would be put off as journeys would be slower when there were more stops. There is demand for a railway station near the Royal Surrey Hospital, and this might help ease the traffic pressure on the road there. Trams were discussed, and it was noted that there have been discussions about a tram route through Cranleigh to include Dunsfold, and also one at Bordon. A high volume of use would be needed to make the investment worthwhile.

Cycling: Cllr Haskins said that Compton is disadvantaged in this respect, as there is no cycle route to Guildford. The only option is to go to Farncombe and then follow the river. Cllr Gimson said that he would be interested in looking into this, and would welcome ideas on how it could be done.

Borough Council: Cllr Palmer reported as follows:

Highway Agency concerns: Cllr Palmer clarified that these are covered by Borough as well as County, through the Local Committee.

Signage at A3: it is hoped that a reply from the Highways Agency will be received in the following week.

Congestion in Guildford: work is planned at the old Dennis roundabout and also at Burpham. At present a lot of traffic has to go through Guildford just to access a junction of the A3. A study is expected by June and there will be no proposals for the town centre before this is published. The Borough Council has done some work on this already.

A3/A31 junction: the Highways Agency is giving this close attention. Cllr Gimson confirmed that there is concern about the level of traffic that comes from the A3 through Puttenham to pick up the A31.

Street Cleaning Team: Cllr Haskins wished to record thanks for the very quick response to reports of fly tipping. Cllr Palmer advised that both Customer Service and the Street Cleaning team had won awards recently.

Broadband: Cllr Curtis requested an update: Cllr Gimson advised that the roll out plan will be published in February or early March and the project should be completed by the end of 2014. SCC is paying to fill in the gaps in BT Infinity, as BT will only go where it is in their financial interests to go.

08/13

Report from the Police:

PC Matt Redfern, Casualty Reduction Officer for the Borough, reported as follows:

Accident: this is still being investigated, so PC Redfern could not disclose much, but could advise that speed was not a factor in the case of either vehicle. Once the investigations have been completed, the family will be advised first and then the information passed to the Parish Council. The injured party in the vehicle with the fatality had suffered a burglary while he was in hospital. At present, it was not possible to know whether this was a coincidence or not.

Burglaries: Surrey is suffering from a spate of burglaries countywide. A specific operation is concentrating on this issue.

Speed limit on B3000: PC Redfern reported that Mr Assadi is currently preparing a report on the differing Traffic Regulation Orders that cover the B3000 in Compton. It is probable that the B3000 will have to be covered by two separate TROs, but there will be a two month delay from the production of Mr Assadi's report to when this can be implemented. Cllr Haskins considered this to be an unacceptable delay and suggested that an emergency TRO could be implemented. Cllr Gimson was unhappy that he had not been advised of this problem, and would speak to John Hilder the following day.

VAS and Speedwatch: the training is up to date at present, with all volunteers trained.

PC Redfern advised that 130 tickets had been issued from van use, and 20 to 30 from the use of the hand held device.

It was noted that the residents of Priorsfield Road were not happy to have a VAS installed in the one place that the police and SCC agreed, as it obscures their view. Cllr Curtis would discuss this further with Nick Palmer. Other traffic calming measures were discussed, but a survey of a couple of years back had shown that residents were not supportive of increased signage, and the rumble strips that were installed had to be removed because of the increased noise. PC Redfern would speak to PC Taylor about the possibility of using speed guns on that road, but the problem is the sightlines.

09/13

Public Forum:

1. *Car Parking at RBL Club:* Mr Foster noted the comments made in the Chairman's report and tabled a proposed plan of the car park layout. He advised that the next stage was to assess the location of the trees in relation to the proposed parking, and agreed that it would be helpful to mark the car parking spaces out on the ground and to hold a consultation afternoon to gather ideas and comments. He advised that the entry barrier

would be padlocked when the parking was not in use, so that it could not be used without permission.

10/13 **Members Report: Highways**

Cllr Burzio advised that all matters arising had been covered under the Police report. Cllr Cosgun asked how Priorsfield Road could be made a priority for the Highways Agency. Cllr Curtis advised that the VAS had been agreed, but it had not been possible to agree where it should be sited. Cllr Haskins confirmed that there were specific rules to where a VAS could be sited, and it had not been possible to find a good line of sight. He advised that there was an active speedwatch team covering Priorsfield Road, and suggested that Cllr Cosgun liaise with them. Cllr Curtis drew members' attention to *crashmap* an online index of road accidents in the UK. By putting in a postcode, it was possible to get information on accidents in the area. This facility cost £60pa. Cllr Cosgun understood that the authorities should be able to provide this information free of charge and suggested that this be looked into before signing with Crashmap. *Action: Cllr Cosgun.*

11/13 **Members Report: Allotments and Environmental Projects:**

Allotments: Cllr Haskins advised that there are 2 or 3 vacant allotments at present. Applicants would be sought through the Council's piece in Compton News.

Environment: A survey of the Common had been undertaken in November, and it had been possible to establish the main areas in need of work. There are 4 different types of work to be undertaken, and it is planned to work from the inside to the outside.

Lengthsman Scheme: this scheme encompassed light road maintenance, broken signs, ditches, etc, jobs that are normally undertaken by SCC. The proposal is that the Parish Council takes responsibility for some of this work, in liaison with SCC. There is no funding available, but the benefit would be that the Parish Council would be able to direct the priority of the work done, and would have a better liaison with the SCC teams than at present, which would enable work to be done as and when needed (subject to PC funding). It was **agreed** to undertake a trial period.

Action: Cllr Haskins.

Pond: work cannot be undertaken at the weekend, because of the pub opening hours coinciding with volunteers being available at weekends. It was agreed that this should be progressed and Cllr Haskins would seek quotations from professional pond companies, as most of the work is beyond the remit of volunteers.

12/13 **Members Report: Recreation ground and playground**

106/12a: Safer Surfacing: the contract to repair the safer surfacing has been awarded to Greenspan and a start date is awaited when the weather allows

106/12c: outstanding jobs on common: Roger Deacon has been contracted to carry out this work, which will be completed as soon as the weather allows. To date, he has removed the goal posts.

124/12: fence: a picture of the fence was tabled at the meeting, and it was agreed that it would not be possible to paint it. This would be considered again when the fence needs replacing.

B3000 to Polsted Lane: Cllr Patel advised that the drain is blocked at the corner. *Action: The Clerk to report this*

Swings: Cllr Patel reported that the seats are split. The Clerk will take advice from a playground equipment supplier, as this would not be a job for a handyman.

Handyman: there was no response to the last piece in the Compton News seeking a handyman. A further piece would be put into the next edition.

13/13 **Members Report: Watts Chapel and Cemetery**

1. *Minutes from Cemetery Committee meeting* held Friday 14th December had been circulated prior to the meeting.
2. *Cllr Mark Bills:* members were sad to say goodbye to Mark Bills, Curator at Watts Gallery, who is leaving Compton to take up the post of Director of Gainsborough House. He has been at Watts Gallery for nearly seven years and in that time worked on the planning and delivery of its restoration as well as working on many other projects around G F Watts, Watts Gallery and Victorian art. He has also been a Parish Councillor for half of this time, contributing to decisions at all levels and helping on both a practical and management level in the running of the Cemetery and Chapel (as a member of the Cemetery Committee) and the Village Hall (which was his particular remit). The Council wishes him a successful and happy future at Gainsborough House. His final day as Parish Councillor would be the 14th February.
3. *Wheelbarrow:* it was noted that James, the new groundsman, is in need of a wheelbarrow,

but that it is not practical to buy a new one until the new shed has been put into place. Cllr Burzio offered a wheelbarrow for use until a new one could be purchased, and asked that James collect it. This was gratefully accepted.

4. *Cottage Electricity survey*: the report had been clear and a certificate is awaited.
5. *Cemetery Data*: Cllr Haskins advised that he had started the process of putting the cemetery data, which had been given to the Clerk in a very basic form and expanded and brought up to date by her, into a form where it can be accessed on the internet. A search for a grave would be able to be made using a name, date of death, or other criteria, and clicking on the resulting data would show where the grave is on a map overlaid with Google map.

14/13

Members Report: Planning

- a) *12/P/2155 Brooklea, New Pond road. Erection of office building following demolition of existing, creation of 9 parking spaces and 3 motorcycle spaces, bicycle shed and recycling store*: there are objections to the latest application from neighbours, who are content with a small industrial estate at this property, but are not happy with its increasing size. The Parish Council would object on the following grounds: this area is Green Belt and Open Space, and the access and sightlines are not adequate for a volume of vehicles.
- b) *Parish Plan*: the planning stage had fallen behind schedule because of Christmas, and Cllr Parsons now asked that the Clerk proceed with organising a meeting. Ken Miller is happy to be involved in the initial stages, and the initial meeting would involve: Cllr Curtis, Ken Miller, Cllr Parsons, and the Clerk, and up to two others. Cllr Cosgun expressed an interest in being involved, and Cllr Curtis asked Mr Graham, who had expressed an interest before the meeting in this area of parish life, if he would also join the planning group.
- c) *Emergency Plan*: It was suggested that this might be incorporated into a Parish Plan.

15/13

Members Report: Village Hall

Cllr Curtis explained that, it was necessary to update the management agreement between the Parish Council and the Village Hall Committee. The Parish Council had received advice by solicitor Richard Hutson and after presenting a draft document for discussion, the V Hall Committee had received advice from Surrey Community Action Group, which, differed in part, from the advice given to the Parish Council.

The Village Hall Committee would like to go ahead and update the agreement, however the crucial questions around ownership have yet to be fully understood.

It is hoped that an initial meeting will now take place on the 25th January, between the Parish Council appointed solicitor, the Village Hall trustees and the Parish Council chairman and clerk. The purpose of the meeting is to clarify the current agreement (1934 Conveyance) between the Parish Council and the Village Hall and the relevance of the Title deeds, which are registered to the Parish Council only. The anomaly relates to the ability of the management committee to sell the village hall, if – in their opinion – it is no longer viable.

It was noted that Malcolm Airey, past Parish Clerk, had registered the village hall as a Parish Council asset in 2007.

16/13

Finance

- a) *Management Report to 1/1/13* had been circulated prior to the meeting and was accepted.
- b) *Receipts and payments to 1/1/13* had been circulated prior to the meeting and were agreed.
- c) *Precept request*: the precept request for 2013/14 has been submitted to Guildford Borough Council. The final figure requested is: £28,159 which, with the Local Council Tax Support Scheme Grant of £1841, gives a total precept of £30,000, as agreed. The Government's proposal to introduce a local council tax discount scheme to replace the national council tax discount scheme will have implications for the timing and calculation of the council tax base for 2013-14, and this grant was introduced to avoid any unintended consequences on the Band D council tax of Parish Councils as a result of the introduction of the local scheme.

17/13

Annual Parish Meeting:

The Chairman tabled a proposed draft programme and advised that the Village Association, whose meeting she had attended earlier in the week, had said the 2012 Annual Parish Meeting was very good and very professionally run. Some of the talks had been too long and they would prefer more participation and more opportunity for questions.

The question of how to involve all local organisations without taking too much time was discussed, as even 5 minutes each would take up the first half of the evening. Cllr Curtis suggested giving out a pack at the beginning of the evening, with an A4 sheet from each organisation. Cllr Haskins proposed that all organisations have a poster and stand by it to talk about their organisation at the beginning of the evening, and this was agreed to be the simplest solution.

It was hoped to invite Jenny Seagrove from Mane Chance to talk, and Borough and County Councillors would be asked to say a few words, as would the police.

Parishioners views would be sought by means of post-it notes on boards – this would be a good start to the Parish Plan, which could also be introduced.

The meeting would be held in the round, and it was agreed that the Village Hall was probably the best place this year, for this type of meeting, if available.

Leone Palmer had agreed to do the catering again, the bar would be organised by the Parish Council, to be manned by volunteers.

18/13 **Action list:** this was noted.

19/13 **Councillors Business:**
No further matters were raised.

20/13 **Compton News**
Items raised during the evening would be published in the News. In addition, the Mayors Award for Community Service would be highlighted and nominations invited.
Residents having work done to their houses would be asked to alert suppliers if their access road is unsuitable for HGVs, as a number have become stuck in soft verges recently when trying to access a road that is too small for their vehicle.

21/13 **New correspondence:**
No new correspondence has been received.

22/13 **Dates of meetings:**
20th March.
Annual Parish meeting: 24th April
Annual Meeting: 15th May

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.55pm.