



COMPTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Compton Parish Council
held on **Wednesday 18th July 2018 at 7.00pm**
At Pucks Oak Barn for the transaction of the under mentioned business

Present: Cllrs P Graham, R Nagaty, K Patel, C Sharples
4 members of the public
In attendance: The Clerk, Mrs J Cadman

80/18 **Election of meeting Chairman:** Cllr Graham, Proposed by Cllr Nagaty, Seconded by Cllr Sharples, all in favour.

81/18 **Apologies for absence:** Were received from Cllr Terry. Apologies were also noted from Mr Birtenshaw.
Cllr Graham apologised for not attending the Extraordinary Meeting in June.

82/18 **Declarations of interest:** Cllr Nagaty declared a pecuniary interest in the Blackwater Farm development..

83/18 **Minutes of Parish Council meeting May and Extraordinary Parish Council meeting June 2018**
Were agreed as a correct record of the meetings and signed by the **Chairman**. [PG1]

84/18 **Matters Arising**

To consider any matters not dealt with by the agenda

- a) *Travellers:* The Clerk reported that five travellers vans had taken up residence on the Green and had been met by Cllrs Sharples and Patel, who they told that they planned to stay for a week. The Clerk had undertaken a welfare check and had provided a portaloos and they had left two days after their planned departure date. She understood that they wanted to settle but there are no spaces on the permanent sites in Surrey and Hampshire. Cllrs Sharples and Patel, and the Clerk, were thanked for their actions and all were pleased to note that the travellers had left the Green in good condition.
The Clerk had discussed the access onto the Green with Hendryk Juerk at GBC, and he advised that it was planned to extend the ditch and bund.
- b) *Compton United Charities:* Mr Foran had been advised by the Charities Commission that the Charity was able to re-consider how it used its money and it can also widen its area of operation to adjacent postcodes. A clause in the 1936 deeds permits the charity to work through charities and other organisations and this enabled the Charity to work with CAB, who came across many incidences of people who could be helped within the terms of the charity. Members welcomed this proposal and asked Mr Foran and the Clerk to take this forward. They noted that the Parish Council has the power to appoint **trustees**. [PG2].
- c) *Parking in the village:* notes from a recent meeting had been circulated. GBC had rejected the preferred option of putting parking at the front of the Green, as this is common land. The Parish Council would continue to work on this, with the likely option of placing parking on the Green opposite the Club.
- d) *Time capsule:* Report deferred.
- e) *Communications:* Members supported the proposal to have a Facebook profile for the Council, and recorded thanks to Cllr Terry for taking this forward. A Guildford newspaper had asked for a regular column from the Parish, and members agreed to ask Cllr Terry and Fiona Curtis if they would collaborate on this.
- f) *GBC grants in kind:* applications are invited. Members agreed to apply for a grant for adult

keep fit equipment, to match the funding committed by the Village Association.

g)

85/18

Report from County Cllr:

Cllr Furniss had reported as follows:

Following the declaration of the AQMA in Compton a public consultation was conducted on a draft action plan. The measures consulted on were:

Option 1: Banning HGVs to travel through the declared AQMA

Option 2: Introduction of a 20mph zone along The Street, Compton

Option 3: Introduction of traffic signals along The Street in order to relieve congestion in the AQMA area

Option 4: *Combined*; Options 1 (Banning HGVs travelling through the declared AQMA) and 2 (Introduction of a 20mph zone along The Street, Compton)

Option 5: *Combined*; Options 1 (Banning HGVs travel through the declared AQMA) and 3 (Introduction of traffic signals along The Street in order to relieve congestion in the AQMA)

GBC are currently analysing the results with the assistance of a consultant and are in the process of forming a technical steering group of relevant colleagues at both Surrey CC and internally at Guildford BC for the action plan. There has been no decision on the measures to be included in the Action Plan which the Council must legal adopt by May 2019.

Members noted that GBC had not consulted SCC, who had said some years ago that they could not ban HGVs from Compton. Neither is a 20mph speed limit possible, as there is too big a gap between that and the current speed and the police would not support it.

86/18

Report from borough Cllrs

No reports had been received.

87/18

Report on police and crime statistics: 9 crimes were reported in Compton in May: 3 violence and sexual offences at Spiceall, 1 anti social behaviour at Almsgate, 2 anti social behaviour and 1 public order at or near Down lane, 1 anti social behaviour at Fowlers Croft, 1 anti social behaviour at Priors Close.

Mr Miller reported that cars are being stolen in the area for hit and run crimes and ram raids and he believed that the police should specifically advise the Parish Council about this.

88/18

Report on Local Plan:

Mrs Stevens report as follows:

IP results

The Planning Inspector has found the Guildford Local Plan to be sound, and he has not recommended the removal of the Blackwell Farm site allocation. This is very disappointing news for Compton PC, especially as our consultants (planning, traffic and landscape experts) presented our case at the hearing so well, albeit under immense time pressure. It is particularly disappointing that the Inspector has expressed an intention to take more of the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) than was proposed in the submitted Plan. This would seem contrary to national planning policy, which states that AONB must be given the 'highest level of protection'.

Regrettably, this particular Inspector did not seem to have much time for objectors' arguments/evidence. He would not allow studies produced by traffic and landscape experts on behalf of Compton and Worplesdon PCs to form part of the examination papers, and therefore neither he, nor all the other participants had read them. Arguments presented by our experts verbally at the hearing were extremely rushed because of the Inspectors strict time controls. In the end, it seems that the Inspector did not take on board any of our arguments (except those relating to the safety of the new access road).

Richard Bate (of Green Balance) has said that he will give advice on whether he considers the Inspector's Examination and Report is lawful. The PC may also wish to seek the same

advice from counsel. If we are advised that the Inspector has acted unlawfully, there may be opportunity for a Judicial Review. This will require the appointment of a barrister as this will take place in the High Court.

We will not know whether there is a case for a Judicial Review until the Inspector produces his Examination Report (expected in December 2018), but the PC may want to consider whether it would be appropriate to fund or contribute to funding this. In the meantime, the Local Plan Sub Committee will approach other organisations (such as the Guildford Residents Association, the CPRE, and other parish councils) to see if they are interested in jointly funding a JR, and report back to the PC.

Other outcomes of the Examination are as follows:

- The Inspector has accepted the housing number proposed by Guildford Borough Council (despite strong opposition from groups such as the Guildford Residents Association, and Guildford Green Belt Group). Instead, he has asked for the number of houses across the borough to be increased to make up 25% of Woking's unmet need and to help increase the affordability of houses in the borough. The number of homes that will have to be built across the borough each year will therefore be around 700.
- The Inspector has not recommended the removal of any of the strategic sites (including Blackwell Farm). This is bad news for Compton, which will lose around 25 per cent of its green belt and a large chunk of its Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, but also for other areas of the borough, such as Ockford (Wisley Airfield), Burpham (Gosden Hill), and Ash.
- The Inspector has asked for more housing in the town centre and for more housing to be delivered in the early years of the plan. (This will result in additional sites being put forward for development, including those on the Guildford/Waverley border, which will have to be consulted upon.)

Next steps

- Guildford Borough Council will complete a list of main modifications to the Plan, the first draft of which will be published on July 23. The Inspector will comment on this draft and it will be revised accordingly. There is likely to be six-week consultation on these main modifications, expected to take place early September.
- The Council will then summarise the responses to that consultation, which the Inspector will consider before writing his final report. This is expected to be delivered by late autumn.
- The Local Plan is likely to be adopted early in 2019.

Waverley Local Plan

The High Court has granted permission for a legal challenge by CPRE Surrey, Protect Our Waverley and others seeking a judicial review of the Waverley Local Plan. This will put the spotlight on Waverley Council, the Planning Inspectorate and the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government for their approach to 'housing need'. CPRE's case focuses specifically on the imposition on Waverley of 'unmet need' from Woking, and the consequences of this 'uplift' on Waverley's countryside including Green Belt and AONB.

Charterhouse School planning application

Charterhouse School plans to submit a planning application for 132 new homes on its Broom and Lees playing field - a six-hectare site off Hurtmore Road (opposite the school's main campus) so it can sell the site to a housebuilder. Whilst this potential development is within Godalming, the additional traffic may have an impact on Compton's residents in Priorsfield Road. The PC may want to consider responding to the planning application once it has been submitted.

The Clerk was asked to write to thank Mrs Stevens very much for all she has done on our behalf.

89/18

Members report: *highways*

Mr Miller reported as follows:

1. **Down Lane**
Nothing further to report.
2. **AQMA - Traffic Pollution**

2.1 GBC have until mid-2019 to come up with an action plan to reduce the level of pollution in the AQMA.

2.2 They are commissioning a specialised traffic study in the AQMA next week which provide a breakdown of the type of vehicle using the Street. I queried why so soon after the road reopened as traffic might not be back to normal and the reply was that to leave it any later would be right in the middle of the school holidays.

2.3 The NO2 readings in the AQMA for May (which was while the bridge was shut) were higher than both January and April. This does not make sense and the June figures, which should be available shortly, are awaited with great interest.

2.4 GBC, the new consultant and SCC will be meeting in the next two weeks to discuss the way forward.

3. Average Speed Cameras

Anne Milton raised this subject with SCC's head of Highways and the following is the response:

"Thank you for your email and for forwarding Compton Parish Council's email regarding the possibility of installing average speed cameras in The Street, Compton. This issue has previously been raised by the County Councillor and investigated by the 'Road Safety and Active Travel' Team and the police. Please see below comments that have already been stated.

It is not possible to easily estimate the future on going costs of individual sites. Although the physical equipment maintenance costs may be possible to estimate, it is impossible to know how many offences there are likely to be, and how many of the offences will be eligible for speed awareness courses, or will require the time and effort required to create court files for example. Irrespective of the additional resources to service additional camera sites there is a very clear principle that permanent safety camera enforcement is only introduced at sites that have suffered a serious history of collisions and only after engineering solutions have been considered first. This principle helps maintain public support for speed camera enforcement, and ensures that resources (police and court time) are prioritised at the sites that need the most attention (irrespective of the cost).

In summary it would be hard to justify committing on going resources to processing offences and maintaining equipment at this site in comparison to many other sites across Surrey which have greater speeding issues and levels of casualties.

You might be interested to know that recently new signs, road markings and a vehicle activated sign were introduced in The Street as part of the traffic calming measures in Compton.

I hope you find the above helpful in responding to Ken Miller from the Parish Council.

Regards

Jason Russell - Executive Director, | Highways, Transport & Environment Directorate".

Matt Furniss reported that he had received a similar response from the Police and suggested that "they do not want to do this at any level".

The email from Jason Russell states that it is not possible to estimate ongoing costs but our VAS results give a clear indication of the high percentage of people speeding and the level to which they speed, so working out potential income and costs from this data must be relatively straightforward.

I would also question the comparison with other areas. Certainly in terms of accidents, the B3000 probably does not rate amongst the top accident 'hot spots' in Guildford but in terms of the numbers of speeding vehicles in a residential area, it must be one of the highest.

For these reasons and the fact that the AQMA is not mentioned in the email, I think we should fight on.

- 90/18 **Members report: allotments and environmental projects:**
- a) *Himalayan Balsame*: Cllr Sharples had organised a Balsam pulling party on the common, which had been attended by 8 people, and some very good progress had been made. As it had been so dry this year, there were not many flowers and so it was now manageable. All the outlying areas were not clear, and Cllr Sharples believed that they were 60% of the way to eradicating it.
 - b) *Hedge cutting*: Cllr Sharples will send a list of all hedges that need cutting to the Clerk, so that she can contact the owners and ask them to take action, advising them that the parish council will undertake the work if necessary, and make a charge for doing so.
 - c) *Green*: Cllr Sharples proposed to planting the road side edge of the green with native white cherry and guelder rose in an informal manner to replace the bright pink line of cherry which have now died or are dying. The Clerk will discuss with Hendryk Juerk.
- 91/18 **Members report: youth and recreation**
- a) *RoSPA Playground inspection*: this had been circulated and the content noted. The Clerk will organise any repairs needed.
 - b) *Hole*: Cllr Patel reported a hole in the ground in the recreation ground, the Clerk will ask the handyman to rectify this.
- 92/18 **Members report: Watts Gallery and Cemetery**
- a) *Cleaning of Terracotta Headstones*: Although headstones are the responsibility of relatives, it was agreed a good idea to clean them, subject to advice on the correct process. The Clerk will consult with the Gallery to obtain conservationists advice.
 - b) *Rail in front of the Well*: Cllr Sharples had received no reply to his emails to the Gallery, which members agreed was ugly and inappropriate, and was not effective in protecting the well. Cllr Graham proposed, seconded by Cllr Nagaty, that the Gallery be asked to remove it and to replace it with something more appropriate.
- 93/18 **War Memorial:**
- The War Memorial Trust met at the end of June, and had advised that the Parish Council would receive a reply approximately 6 weeks after.
- In the meantime, and as the work would be done with or without a grant, the conservationists had been booked to start work in September. Cllr Sharples will now talk to the electrician.
- Sarah Baskerville had asked the Parish Council to request a road closure for the Remembrance Service on the 11th November.
- The Gallery will be asked if the bell in Watts Chapel can be rung at 11am on Remembrance Sunday, the same time as the church bells.
- 94/18 **Members report: planning:**
- Charterhouse Campaign: the proposal is for 132 houses on a playing field, to fund a proposals to make some classes co-educational. Detailed responses will be sought once a planning application has been received.
- 95/18 **Members report: village hall:**
- a) Our handyman will mow the hall grass on a regular basis, to be cross charged.
 - b) The application to erect a shed on the left side of the hall has been approved.
- 96/18 **Finance**
- a) *Management report to 30th June*: circulated prior to the meeting, this was noted and approved
 - b) *Receipts and expenditure for April to June*: Circulated prior to the meeting, the expenditure of £20,766.86 for the three months was noted and approved.
 - c) *Bank reconciliation*: statement to 30/6/2018 was noted and approved.

97/18 **Clerks report**

The Clerk reported the handyman's actions for the past two months.

98/18 **Councillors business:** *for noting or including on a future agenda*

- a) *Garage:* cars without tax or mot's are being parked outside the garage boundaries. Cllr Graham suggested that this be reported to the police.

99/18 **Correspondence:** *to be noted*

None has been received.

100/18 **Dates of meetings:**

Parish Council: 19th September, 21st November. [PG3]

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9pm