

Compton Parish Council

Chairman: Dave Aldis

Clerk: Ron Palmer

MINUTES of the COUNCIL MEETING

Held on **Monday 4th January 2010 at 7pm** in the Welstead Room, Compton Village Hall.

Those present: Councillors D Aldis (Chair), B Evans, P Shanks, M Pinfold, L Moss, K Simms,
P Whitworth, M Birtwistle and A Strong

In attendance: Mr R Palmer (Clerk)

The meeting opened at 7.00pm. The Chairman wished everyone a Happy New Year

1971. **Apologies for absence** – apologies had been received from District Councillor B Alexander. Members wished Cllr Alexander a speedy recovery following her operation.

1972. **Any declarations of personal or prejudicial interest by members or the Clerk**

The following personal declaration was made:

- K Simms: Item 1981 To consider a request from the Playschool

1973. **To receive:**

- **Questions or comments from members of the public**
- **Representations from any member who has declared a prejudicial interest**

There were none.

1974. **To approve the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 7 December 2009**

Proposed by BE, seconded by KS and carried

1975. **Matters arising from the minutes of the Council Meeting on 7 December 2009**

There were none.

1976. **Clerk's report**

The Clerk went through his report, which is at Attachment 2, and the following was noted:

- Village Hall: KS took away the various contractual documents and will review them. AS will circulate a short summary of the legal position and respective responsibilities.
- Disclaimer signs: PS agreed to drill the signs and erect them at the children's play area and MUGA.
- Vibrant Villages: The Clerk will complete a draft application and circulate to all members. Approval of the application will be an item on the next agenda.
- Site meeting: The Clerk, BE and KS hoped to attend the site meeting with an officer of West Berkshire Council on Thursday 7th January at 10am (weather permitting).

1977. **To receive an update on vandalism and anti-social behaviour (ASB) in the village**

LM had nothing to report but asked members to continue to report instances of vandalism and anti-social behaviour. MB confirmed that he had contacted Sovereign Housing about an Open Day.

1978. **To receive an update on the closure of the Institute for Animal Health**

There was nothing to report.

1979. **To approve the Council Budget for 2010/11 (v2 dated 26 December 2009) and agree that the Precept would remain the same as 2009/10 at £25,135**

MB proposed that this budget – shown at Attachment 3 – be accepted. This was seconded by PS and was carried unanimously. The Clerk will complete and return the Precept Form to West Berkshire Council (WBC).

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1980. To consider quotations received to improve the track that runs from Burrell Road to the Recreation Ground alongside the Village Hall (S106 grant of £11,776 available)

The requested quotes had still not been received and the Clerk was asked to chase them up.

1981. To consider a request from the Playschool for an additional donation to help them to provide 1-to-1 support for 2 new children

The Clerk said that the Playschool had now obtained a Sustainability Grant from WBC and would review their situation again during the Summer concerning their likely financial position in the Autumn Term.

1982. To consider supporting the West Berkshire Community Reparation Scheme and agree possible projects in which the young people could be involved

The Clerk was asked to propose the following two possible projects:

- Clearance of the River Pang along its boundary with the Recreation Ground
- Cutting and maintenance of the School Road allotments hedge

The Clerk was also asked to prepare a draft letter to all households whose property bounded the River Pang reminding them of their responsibilities. This would be based on a recent article that MB had written for Compilations and which he would forward to the Clerk. The letter would be delivered by hand to the properties and would be copied to the Environment Agency (EA).

AS suggested it would be useful for an EA representative to attend a Parish Council meeting – the Clerk would send an invitation.

1983. To consider a request from the Birds of Berkshire Atlas Group for a donation of £300

Following discussion, PW proposed a donation of £100 be made to this group. This was seconded by MB and was carried.

1984. To consider renewing the contract for grass cutting and hedge cutting with our current contractor at an annual cost in 2010 of £2,758 + VAT (Specification v3 dated 27 December 2009)

Members asked the Clerk to expand the definition of work required on the roadside boundary hedge to state: ‘Trim by hand or machine the top of the hedge and the side bounding the Recreation Ground and children’s playground and remove the cuttings’. PW proposed that the amended contract then be renewed with our existing contractor. This was seconded by KS and was carried.

The Clerk and KS would also visit the area around the Scout Hut with a view to requesting our contractor cut the grass there.

1985. To consider a response from Southern Electric Contracting to replace Pole Bracket No. 3, Opposite No. 8, School Road, Compton

The Clerk said he had not yet received a quote from SEC and so this item would be carried forward to the next meeting.

1986. To review the actions from the Compton Parish Plan dated April 2005

The actions and target achievements included in the Parish Plan were reviewed and the conclusions are shown at the end of these Minutes, at Attachment 1.

1987. Planning Applications

- a) There were no new applications to consider, just an amended block plan for application 09/02028/HOUSE, replacement garage at The Coppice, High Street, Compton, which was noted.
- b) To receive a report on West Berkshire Council recent planning decisions:

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App. Ref.	Location	Proposed Work	Compton PC Recommendation	WBC Decision
09/02244/FUL	The Lodge, High Elms, Aldworth Road, Compton RG20 6RD	Demolition of existing dwelling and erection of new dwelling with garage	No Objection	Granted

1988. To receive a report from District Councillor Barbara Alexander

No report was given as Cllr Alexander had sent her apologies to the meeting.

1989. To receive reports on the following:

- a) **Recreation Ground:** PS said there had been minor damage to one of the MUGA gates, which he had repaired. Cars had recently been driven onto the Recreation Ground. Branches cut down from the Playschool area needed removing and DA agreed to facilitate their removal.
- b) **Football Pavilion:** Nothing to report.
- c) **Rights of Way:** AS had complained to WBC about the dreadful state of the recently refurbished Byway 2 and hoped to have a site meeting soon.
- d) **Village Hall:** MP said a successful New Year's dance had been held.
- e) **Downland Sports Centre:** Nothing to report.
- f) **Patient Representation:** AS is to draft a letter to be sent to the senior doctor at Compton surgery; this would be circulated to Councillors first then sent by the Clerk, following any comments.
- g) **Web site:** KS has added a number of documents to the site, including the Asset Register.

1990. To approve cheques due for payment

KS proposed that the following cheques be approved. This was seconded by LM and was carried.

Date	Cheque No.	Payee	Amount	Description
07-Dec	102017	Jonathan Evans	£3,575.00	Balance of payment for new bus shelter
11-Dec	102018	Thames Water	£18.92	School Road allotments, 4 Sep to 3 Dec
11-Dec	102019	Thames Water	£24.58	Newbury Lane allotments, 4 Sep to 3 Dec 2009
23-Dec	102020	Southern Electric Contracting	£678.58	Street lighting maintenance charge for Q4'09
24-Dec	102021	Southern Electric Contracting	£60.03	Chargeable repairs for Q4'09
04-Jan	102022	Ron Palmer	£458.00	Clerk's salary etc, 4 weeks to 3 January
31-Dec	102023	Mr D Moss	£55.00	Litter Picking - December

1991. Correspondence

The Correspondence list is at Attachment 4.

1992. Matters for consideration and information

- PS reported that the brickwork on the bridge leading onto the Recreation Ground opposite Station Road was crumbling. The Clerk was asked to report this to the Environment Agency.
- MB said that grit in the bins provided for the hills around Shepherds Mount had been taken by some residents in Burrell Road for use on their private paths. The Clerk would report this to WBC and request another grit/salt bin for the Newbury Lane area.
- KS said that footpath 15 had become dangerously icy recently. LM would attempt to find some salt/grit. The Clerk would include an item on the next agenda for purchasing a) bags of grit and b) a suitable storage container.

The meeting closed at 9.04pm.

Next Council Meeting: Monday 1 February 2010 at 7pm

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Date

Review of Actions and Achievement Targets in the Compton Parish Plan
Dated April 2005 (Minute 1896)

TOPIC	OBJECTIVE	ACTIONS	TARGETS	ACHIEVED
Publicity and Information	To improve the provision of information about amenities, facilities and activities and increase the take-up of these activities in the parish	Provision of new larger notice board in a prominent site in the village. Investigate the use of new technology for further publicity options.	To advertise: 1. Sports and social activities. 2. Bus timetable information and bus information 3. Newbury Hospital information including access arrangements 4. Surgery opening hours 5. The existence and purpose of Patient Representation Group 6. Provision of map of village and rights of way 7. Reporting problems with road quality	Actions Achieved: - New notice board - Compilations magazine - Parish Council web site (See Note 1 below) Targets 1-6 achieved; target 7 to be added to web site.
Provision of new or improved facilities	To provide and/or maintain facilities that enhance village amenities	Investigate means of funding and assist the development of plans to deliver such amenities.	Provision of: 1. Internet Café 2. Shops 3. Bus shelter 4. Parking	Targets 3 & 4 achieved. Target 1 not achieved but WiFi now available at Compton Swan
Disabled facilities	Ensure that those with disability can access facilities and amenities	To assess existing and future need of such provision within the parish	1. To advertise and make aware the requirements for disabled access in the village. 2. To provide disabled access for parish council owned or managed facilities in the village.	Church path has been improved for disabled access; also hearing loop installed (PCC achievements). Some drop kerbs installed.
Amenities & facilities for young and old	To ensure that young and old have information concerning, and access to, amenities, facilities and activities relevant to their needs	Ensure publicity of events which are arranged by voluntary groups and Social Services	1. To ensure continuance of youth project group's work; publicise events and encourage participation 2. To ensure that the elderly have welcoming amenities and facilities	Target 1 achieved. More to do on target 2.
Adult education/ learning	To discuss with the education authorities the potential provision of adult education in the village at convenient times for learning.	Arrange for assessment of interest in such facility. Provide for such.	To gain agreement from an educational establishment to run courses.	Target not achieved

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**Review of Actions and Achievement Targets in the Compton Parish Plan
Dated April 2005 (Minute 1896)**

TOPIC	OBJECTIVE	ACTIONS	TARGETS	ACHIEVED
Scouts/ Guides	To ensure continued provision of these groups.	Assist with continuation of lease of land from the Institute for Animal Health	Negotiation of continuation of lease; call for more volunteer assistance.	Target achieved; Parish Council helped fund start-up of Beavers Scout colony
A clean and tidy environment	To provide a clean and safe environment for outdoor recreation and to maintain the village appearance.	Further investigate ways to keep village clean and tidy.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Install more dog waste bins in the village, not just on the recreation ground 2. Install more litter bins around the village. 3. Investigate possibility of provision of a picnic area 4. Investigate the possibility of the provision of a skateboard facility 	<p>Targets 1 to 4 all achieved.</p> <p>Skateboard area not provided because of noise concerns, MUGA installed instead.</p>
Traffic management	To manage the flow of traffic both within and through the village in a safe and environmentally friendly way.	To be aware of public opinion of traffic management within and around the village. Having obtained this information to approach the relevant bodies regarding any resolution required.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Regular use of Speed Indicating Device (SID) to gain speed level information 2. Reduction of village complaints about parking 	Both targets achieved.
Pavement Safety & Street / Foot way Lighting	Improve pavements and lighting throughout the village	Set up working group to study aspects for whole village	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A foot way through the old railway tunnel and out to the Church. 2. Improved lighting outside the IAH 	Both targets achieved.
Bus Service Improvement	Undertake research to find out what improvement is needed to bus services.		Parish Survey	Survey not yet undertaken.
Business Support	Small Business Support Services needed.	Form Action Group	Establish type of support required	Not achieved.

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Review of Actions and Achievement Targets in the Compton Parish Plan
Dated April 2005 (Minute 1896)

TOPIC	OBJECTIVE	ACTIONS	TARGETS	ACHIEVED
Housing within the village	To ensure controlled & appropriate provision of housing to include social and affordable housing	RHT Survey for developments; WBDC / Sovereign Housing to provide funding	1. Ensure controlled development of new sites 2. Provision of affordable/rented homes 3. Ensure adherence to planning regulations	Rural Housing survey carried out, but not currently proceeding because of impending IAH closure
Health Opportunity	Investigate the "health opportunity" of the "bus" that is to visit the primary school	Meet with organisers of the "bus"	To establish whether there is an opportunity to make use of the facility in the Parish as a whole	The "bus" was discontinued
Healthy living	To provide more healthy activities in the village	Discuss with the manager of the sports centre and other sports organisers in the village how healthy activities can be developed to encourage greater use of the sports centre by more of the village residents.	1. Provision of sports centre healthy courses 2. Provision of other healthy activities in the village	Courses are organised at the Leisure Centre and the IAH Social Club. Also village football team.
Crime awareness	Maintain liaison with Community policing to facilitate community awareness of problem areas/types of crime.	Parish Council to maintain Councillor as liaison for the Parish	1. Feedback of information to parishioners via Compilations, Web Site & Notice Board 2. Increased awareness through Neighbourhood Watch 3. To establish a communication with the Thames Valley Police Anti-social Behaviour Liaison Officer 4. Increase awareness within the community of vehicle safety / security	Targets 1, 3 and 4 achieved. Neighbourhood Watch is under investigation. Parish Councillor appointed as liaison officer with the police
Parish Design	Formulate a Village Design Statement	Form a Working Party	Publish a Village Design Statement	Achieved. Village Design Statement published in April 2006

Note 1: The Compton Parish Council web site address is www.comptonparishcouncil.org

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