

# **Compton Parish Council**

**Chairman: Dave Aldis**

**Clerk: Ron Palmer**

## **MINUTES of the COUNCIL MEETING**

Held on **Monday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2010 at 7pm** in the Welstead Room, Compton Village Hall.

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

In attendance: R Palmer (Clerk) and 3 members of the public

The meeting started at 7pm

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2211 **Apologies for absence** had been received from District Councillor B Alexander and Parish Councillor P Whitworth

2212 **Any declarations of personal or prejudicial interest by members or the Clerk**  
- DA and MP declared a personal interest in agenda item 2220: IAH update  
- The Clerk declared a personal interest in item 2227: SLCC membership  
- LM declared a personal interest in item 2231: planning application 10/02643/FULD

2213 **To receive:**

- **Questions or comments from members of the public**
- **Representations from any member who has declared a prejudicial interest**  
Members of the public asked questions on agenda item 2220: IAH update.

2214 **To approve the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 1 November 2010**

Proposed by KS, seconded by LM and carried

2215 **Matters arising from the minutes of the Council Meeting on 1 November 2010**

2192: New street lights: The Clerk read out a response from West Berkshire Council (WBC) to his complaint. This reply justified the new lights as they had a lower carbon footprint and lower energy consumption. Some members were still not happy with the new lights but MB said these factors should be borne in mind when other lights are replaced in future.

2216 **To approve the minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting on 15 November 2010**

Proposed by DA, seconded by PS and carried

2217 **Matters arising from the minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting on 15 November 2010**

There were none.

2218 **Clerk's report**

The Clerk went through his report, which is at Attachment 1.

7. Asbestos: MB reported that the asbestos roof on an allotment shed had now been removed. However, the contractor had used a wheelbarrow owned by the tenant of the plot who said that 'the wheel had been punctured and the plot had been left in a mess'. It was agreed that payment would be withheld until the tenant was satisfied with a response from the contractor.

2219 **To receive an update on vandalism and anti-social behaviour (ASB) in the village**

There had been a couple of attempted break-ins recently. The Clerk had received a report of an attempted garage break-in which had been reported to the police. LM said the next NAG meeting was in 2 weeks and asked members to contact her with any issues she should raise.

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Chairman

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- 2220 **To receive an update on the IAH / Parish Councils Liaison meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> November**  
 BE gave an update on this meeting, which he had chaired and answered questions from the members of the public. KS said that the Scout Association would charge £450 + VAT to renew the lease on the Scout Hut and he hoped the Parish Council would provide financial help.
- 2221 **To consider applying for Village Green status for the green area in Gordon Crescent**  
 The contents of the ‘Commons Act 2006’ were discussed and the Clerk was asked to contact WBC to confirm that they are the Regulatory Authority, to request details of the application process and ask for an application form. The Chairman asked that this be an agenda item at the next meeting.
- 2222 **To receive an update on the redevelopment of Fairfield**  
 A draft Local Lettings Plan (LLP) had been received from Sovereign Housing – this is at Attachment 2. The redevelopment would be in 2 phases: Phase 1 will consist of 7 houses and Phase 2 will involve the development of the existing flats to provide 3 houses and 2 flats. The LLP would only apply to Phase 1. The Clerk had confirmed with Sovereign that the 6 existing flat tenants will be offered 6 out of the 7 houses, leaving only 1 for other Compton residents.
- The Chairman said, if the stated purpose of the LLP was to provide affordable rented housing for families with a specified local connection to the village of Compton, this first draft was patently failing to achieve that objective. He proposed that the Clerk should write to Sovereign stating that the Parish Council wished Phase 2 (not Phase 1) to be the subject of the LLP as this would best meet the local housing need. This was seconded by MB and was carried.
- 2223 **To consider any actions that the Parish Council should take following the transport study conducted by i-Transport LLP on behalf of Sovereign Housing**  
 The various recommendations to improve highway conditions in Western Compton were discussed. The Clerk was instructed to send these to WBC Highways to ask which of them could be funded from the £23,500 S106 money that was available for Highway Safety Improvements.
- The Chairman asked that a proposed footway from Lowbury Gardens to the High Street be put on the next agenda.
- 2224 **To receive an update on the District / Parish Conference on 9<sup>th</sup> November**  
 The Clerk provided an update on the Conference he had attended which focussed on the need for WBC to make additional savings of 9.2% over and above what had already been achieved. Members of the public were asked by WBC to use an on-line Budget Simulator to give their views of where the cuts should be made.
- 2225 **To receive an update on the 2010/11 financial position (actuals vs budget)**  
 The Clerk went through the updated financial situation as at 30th November compared with the 2010/11 Council budget – this is at Attachment 3. He also provided a forecast of what the year-end spend would be at the end of March 2011 and answered questions on his forecast.
- 2226 **To consider the draft Council Budget for 2011/12**  
 Following discussions and suggestions for changes, the Clerk was asked to update his draft budget and distribute it so that the 2011/12 Precept could be finalised at the next meeting.
- 2227 **To consider renewing the clerk’s membership of the Society of Local Council Clerks at an annual cost of £95**  
 Proposed by DA, seconded by BE and carried

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 Chairman

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2228 **To approve the quote from Southern Electric Contracting (SEC) of £2,750.13 + VAT to replace 2 lighting columns on the Recreation Ground by the car park, put 4 time switches on the 4 columns and replace old wiring and switch fuses in the football pavilion**

The Clerk had met with SEC and had now received this revised quote. SEC asked that an initial payment of £1,820 + VAT be sent with the contract acceptance document to enable them to purchase the materials and therefore start the job as soon as possible. This was proposed by MB, seconded by AS and was carried.

2229 **To approve the quote of £300 + VAT to remove the asbestos roof from a shed on School Road allotments**

Proposed by DA, seconded by KS and carried

2230 **To discuss the Parish Council's gritting policy following an email from our insurers**

DA proposed that the Parish Council should grit Footpath 15 which runs from Burrell Road to the High Street. This was seconded by PS and was carried. The Councillors wished to convey their thanks to Mr and Mrs Moss for their work on behalf of the Council.

2231 **Planning Applications**

a) **To consider the following new application and agree that the recommendations be forwarded to West Berkshire Council**

App. Ref.	Location	Proposed Work	Recommendation
10/02643/FULD	Garden to the side of The Hatchery, 1 Mayfield Villas, Warnham Lane, Compton, RG20 7PN	Construction of a 3-bedroom detached dwelling house on part of the garden of 'The Hatchery'	<b>OBJECTION</b> Proposed: BE Seconded: DA Carried
Members objected as they do not support the building of a new dwelling outside the village settlement boundary. They also believe this house would not fit in with the existing street scene.			

b) **To receive a report on West Berkshire Council recent planning decisions**

App. Ref.	Location	Proposed Work	Compton PC Recommendation	WBC Decision
10/01889/FUL	1 Great Coombe Cottages, Coombe Road, Compton RG20 6RG	Demolish existing house and replace with new detached house and erection of new barn	NO OBJECTION	<b>REFUSED</b>
10/02297/HOUSE	Church Farm House, Aldworth Road, Compton, RG20 6RD	Remove brick shed and part of the boundary wall to the north. Creation of new access to stable yard / field and 5 bar gate	NO OBJECTION	<b>GRANTED</b>

2232 **To receive a report from District Councillor Barbara Alexander**

No report was given as Councillor Alexander had sent her apologies

2233 **To receive reports on the following:**

- a) **Recreation Ground:** PS said that one of the floodlights that are being replaced had fallen over and had been made safe
- c) **Rights of Way:** KS had brought the 1,000 new footpath leaflets that had just been printed.
- d) **Village Hall:** MP said a successful Christmas Fair had been held last week

No other reports were presented.

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Chairman

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**2234 To approve cheques due for payment**

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

Date	Cheque No.	Payee	Amount	Description
25-Oct	102097	Almond Arborists	£345.00	Purchase and plant 3 trees on Recreation Ground
1-Nov	102098	Glasdon UK Ltd	£65.00	Extended post and fixings for old dog waste bin
5-Nov	102099	West Berkshire Council	£395.00	Compilations printing - Oct/Nov issue
10-Nov	102100	R M Weavers	£363.08	Grass cutting etc for October
17-Nov	102101	West Berkshire Council	£477.53	Dog waste bin emptying 2010/11
3-Dec	102102	Clere Design and Print Ltd	£356.00	Printing 1000 footpath leaflets
6-Dec	102103	Ron Palmer	£598.79	Clerk's salary etc for 5 weeks to 5th December
6-Dec	102104	D Moss	£55.00	Litter picking - November
6-Dec	102105	Society of Local Council Clerks	£95.00	Clerk's membership fees for 2011
6-Dec	102106	Southern Electric Contracting	£2,138.50	Purchase 2 new floodlights + 4 time switches etc

**2235 Correspondence**

The Correspondence list is at Attachment 4.

The Clerk was asked to reply to:

- Hermitage Scouts, refusing their request for a grant and explaining that we supported our own Scout Group
- The Downs School concerning their request to use the Recreation Ground. It was agreed that the School should be allowed to use the Recreation Ground from the start of next term if the state of the ground allows, but should use the marked pitches sparingly and protect them from excessive damage. PS and MP will advise the Clerk if the ground becomes unfit for use.
- West Berkshire Council's Flood Risk Assessment, adding that the whole of the High Street becomes flooded on occasions.

**2236 Matters for consideration and information**

- BE brought to the attention of members some of the planning provisions in the forthcoming Localism Bill
- LM said the Youth Bus came into Compton in November, offering an internet service and career advice. However, the visit had not been advertised and there was little take-up. It will visit Teenscene on 20 December.
- LM said dog waste bins were being hung on trees by lazy dog walkers
- MB gave an update on the 'grave' position in the churchyard and the Chairman asked the Clerk to put this on the next meeting agenda
- MB said the Pang was overgrown between Shepherds Hill and the railway bridge and the Clerk was asked to write to the landowner
- MB said children were playing 'chicken' by the railway bridge. LM would report this to the police.

The meeting closed at 9.05pm.

**Forthcoming meeting:**

- ◆ **Council Meeting**                      **Monday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2011 at 7pm**

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Chairman

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Date