

**Compton Parish Council**

Chairman: Dave Aldis

Clerk: Ron Palmer

**MINUTES of the COUNCIL MEETING**

Held on **Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2011 at 7pm** in the Welstead Room, Compton Village Hall.

Those present: Councillors D Aldis (chair), P Shanks, M Pinfold, L Moss, K Simms, and P Whitworth

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

The meeting started at 7.05pm.

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**2382 Apologies for absence**

Apologies had been received from Parish Councillors A Strong and M Birtwistle and District Councillor Virginia von Celsing

**2383 Any declarations of personal or prejudicial interest by members or the Clerk**

LM declared a prejudicial interest in item 2398 (litter picker)

DA and KS declared a personal interest in item 2405 (cheques)

**2384 Declaration of acceptance of office by Councillor Aldis:**

- **As Chairman of the Council for the year 2011/12**

- **As a Councillor for the period 2011 to 2015**

Councillor Aldis signed the two declarations, which were then countersigned by the Clerk.

**2385 To receive statements from – and ask questions of - members of the public who wish to be co-opted on to Compton Parish Council to fill the one vacancy**

Two people who wished to become parish councillors gave a short introduction and were then asked questions by councillors – see minute 2409 below.

**2386 To receive:**

➤ **Questions or comments from members of the public**

➤ **Representations from any member who has declared a prejudicial interest**

A question was asked about the boat parked on Ilsley Road.

LM gave details of the work of the litter picker and answered questions.

**2387 To approve the minutes of the Council Meeting (AGM) held on 9 May 2011**

Proposed by LM, seconded by PS and carried. They were then signed by the Chairman.

**2388 Matters arising from the minutes of the Council Meeting on 9 May 2011**

The Clerk said he was still awaiting confirmation of the name of the owner of the land from which hedges and trees were overhanging Station Road.

**2389 To approve the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 16 May 2011**

Proposed by KS, seconded by MP and carried. They were then signed by the Chairman.

**2390 Matters arising from the minutes of the Council Meeting on 16 May 2011**

There were none.

**2391 Clerk's report**

The Clerk went through his report, which is at Attachment 1. He agreed to chase Southern Electric and the other contractor who were doing work on the football pavilion.

**2392 To receive an update on vandalism and anti-social behaviour (ASB) in the village**

LM said that no NAG meeting had been held recently. She said that a car window had been smashed last week; DA said there had been a spate of burglaries of garden furniture etc

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**2393 To receive a report on the actions being taken to investigate the possible continuance of service provision at the Downlands Day Care Centre after it closes in September**

The Chairman said there was encouraging news, as a group proposed to use the centre 3 days a week, which could mean that continuation of the Day Care Centre could be viable.

**2394 To receive an update on the redevelopment of Fairfield**

The Clerk said that the new planning application had not yet been considered by West Berkshire Council.

**2395 To receive an update on the current churchyard situation**

The Clerk said he had received a second letter from the owner of land that could possibly be used as an extension to the existing churchyard. The owner had discussed the situation with his agent and he advised that this land would be under cultivation until the middle of September, after which tests of the land could go ahead.

KS said that the Council should also consider other possible sites in case this one proved unsuitable. Land adjacent to and above Newbury Lane allotments was suggested and also other land nearer the church. He proposed that the Clerk should make enquiries (possibly with the Environment Agency) to find out what initial tests could be done to ascertain whether or not any of the identified pieces of land would be suitable for use as a churchyard. This was seconded by DA and was carried.

**2396 To receive a report from the sub-committee set up to open discussions with Powis-Hughes on how best the Parish Council can support BBSRC in its withdrawal from the village**

KS said the sub-committee had not met since the last meeting.

**2397 To receive an update on West Berkshire Council (WBC) planning for the future of the IAH site, including the production of the Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)**

No report had been received since the presentation at the Annual Parish meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> May. The Clerk was asked to contact WBC to find out what were their immediate plans.

**2398 To receive a report from the sub-committee set up to consider use of the Recreation Ground football pitches**

The sub-committee still had not met and the Chairman asked them to agree this evening a date for the meeting.

**2399 To consider changing the contract of the Village Litter Picker and increasing the number of litter bins and/or changing their locations**

Following discussions, DA proposed that the monthly remuneration of the litter picker be increased from £55 to £70 per month for the months of May, June and July each year. This was seconded by PS and was carried.

The Clerk was asked to contact West Berkshire Council about a litter bin missing from the Recreation Ground

**2400 To consider the recent RoSPA play area safety inspection report and approve any required works and recommendations**

The Clerk said that most of the risks identified in the report were categorised as ‘Low’, although a few were ‘Medium’. These were mainly trip hazards caused by uneven or worn surfaces. The Clerk was asked to contact Wicksteed Leisure about a repair kit for one of their surfaces and also find out if a volunteer group would be willing to help improve the play area surfaces.

**2401 To consider the recommendations in the i-Transport Review Report (November 2010), the comments in the letter from West Berkshire Highways (21 January 2011) and the quote for a VAS Modular sign system and agree how best to spend the S106 money available for highway safety improvements**

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Following discussion, DA proposed that the Clerk should ask West Berkshire Highways about  
a) erecting vehicle-activated signs on the approaches to Compton from East Ilsley and Aldworth,  
and b) constructing a footway on the south side of the High Street between Lowbury Gardens and  
the village shop. This was seconded by KS and was carried.

**2402 Planning Applications**

a) **To consider the following new applications and agree that the recommendations be forwarded to West Berkshire Council.** There were no new applications

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

App. Ref.	Location	Proposed Work	Compton PC Recommendation	WBC Decision
11/00430/LBC 11/00431/HOUSE	Old Post Office, Cheap Street, Compton RG20 6NH	Demolition of existing glazed roof and rebuilding at steeper pitch. Other internal and external alterations.	NO OBJECTION	GRANTED
10/01889/FUL	1 Great Coombe Cottages, Compton RG20 6RG	Demolish existing house and replace with new detached house and erection of new barn.	NO OBJECTION	REFUSED.  An appeal to the Planning Inspectorate was DISMISSED

**2403 To receive a report from District Councillor Virginia van Celsing**

No report was given as the new District Councillor had tendered her apologies for absence

**2404 To receive reports on the following:**

- a) **Recreation Ground:** PS said that the Council should look out for grants towards possible new adult exercise equipment. The Clerk was also asked to chase S106 monies from the Lowbury Gardens development. PW suggested a ball wall could also be erected.
- d) **Village Hall:** MP said preparations were continuing for the annual fete on 2<sup>nd</sup> July. The Clerk said he would chase WBC Planning concerning their attendance as part of the IAH redevelopment consultation exercise.
- h) **Parish Council Web Site:** KS said that agendas / minutes were now being posted on the site.

**2405 To approve cheques due for payment**

PS proposed that the following cheques be approved. This was seconded by MP and was carried.

Date	Cheque No.	Payee	Amount	Description
09-May	102141	D Aldis	£100.00	Chairman's allowance 2011/12 (minute 2351)
08-May	102142	R M Weavers	£519.60	Grass cutting etc, April 2011
17-May	102151	Glasdon UK Ltd	£294.31	New dog waste bin on Recreation Ground
24-May	102152	West Berkshire Council	£335.88	Delivery of 2 new salt bins + initial supply of salt
25-May	102153	Mr K Simms	£46.99	Renewal of web hosting for parish council web site
04-Jun	102154	Ron Palmer	£552.55	Clerk's salary etc for 5 weeks to 4th June
31-May	102155	D Moss	£55.00	Litter picking - May
03-Jun	102156	R M Weavers	£370.80	Grass cutting etc in May
16-May	102157	Playsafety Ltd	£90.00	Annual play area RoSPA inspection

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2406 **Correspondence**

The Correspondence list is at Attachment 2.

- **Dog waste:** Following a phone call from a resident the Clerk was asked to investigate whether WBC a) provided a service for cleaning up dog waste b) would dispose of it if we cleared it up c) provided appropriate signs. The Clerk would also contact the resident again.
- **The big tree plant funding:** DA reminded Councillors of an email received saying that, from April 2011, £4.2m will be available to support community groups to plant trees in towns, cities and residential areas throughout England. The funding is for community and civic groups, or other non-profit organisations to establish community-led tree planting projects in areas that would benefit most. The website address is <http://thebigtreeplant.direct.gov.uk/funding.html>

2407 **Matters for consideration and information**

- DA asked the Clerk to contact the Environment Agency about their plans to clear up the bed and bank of the River Pang.
- PS asked the Clerk to report a leaning street light
- PS asked the Clerk to contact IAH about the long grass in Gordon Crescent
- PW said that he had watered the trees planted last year on the Recreation Ground which were suffering because of the prolonged dry weather
- LM asked the Clerk to contact Sovereign Housing about the garden waste, bicycle frames etc that had been dumped around the garages near footpath 15
- KS was asked if he would represent the Parish Council at the AGM of the 2 committees that ran the Scouts & Guides Hut.
- DA asked the Clerk to follow up with David Wilson Homes the sprouting tree stump adjacent to footpath 15

2408 **That in view of the special nature of the business about to be transacted concerning the co-option of a new Councillor, it is advisable that the press and public be temporarily excluded and they are instructed to withdraw. (Standing Orders 68 & 69)**

Proposed by DA, seconded by PS and carried. Members of the public were then asked to leave.

2409 **To consider the candidates for co-option to the Council and agree which one to co-opt**

Following discussion, members voted to co-opt Mrs T Kent to the Parish Council.

The meeting closed at 8.57pm.

**Next meeting: Council Meeting Monday 4<sup>th</sup> July at 7pm**  
In the Welstead Room, Village Hall, Burrell Road, Compton

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