

Compton Parish Council

Chairman: Dave Aldis

Clerk: Ron Palmer

MINUTES of the COUNCIL MEETING

Held on **Monday 1st November 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, A Strong and P Whitworth

In attendance: District Councillor B Alexander, R Palmer (Clerk) and 3 members of the public

The meeting started at 7pm

2186 **Apologies for absence.** There were none

2187 **Any declarations of personal or prejudicial interest by members or the Clerk**

- AS and MB declared a personal interest in agenda item 2197: extra salt bins
- PS declared a personal interest in item 2202, planning application 10/01751/HOUSE

2188 **To receive:**

- **Questions or comments from members of the public**
- **Representations from any member who has declared a prejudicial interest**
Members of the public commented on agenda item 2191 Sovereign Housing Local Lettings Plan.

2189 **To approve the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 4 October 2010**

Proposed by KS, seconded by PS and carried

2190 **Matters arising from the minutes of the Council Meeting on 4 October 2010**

2179: MP said that the Village Hall Management Committee had given permission for the Parish Council to arrange to display old photographs of Compton in the Welstead Room. The Chairman said this topic would be revisited in the New Year.

2191 **To consider Sovereign Housing's local lettings policy and agree any actions that should be taken in relation to the proposed redevelopment of Fairfield**

Mr M Hensby from Sovereign Housing said he had discussed the possibility of a local lettings plan for the proposed Fairfield redevelopment with the West Berkshire Council (WBC) Housing Manager. He said that evidence of "local housing need" was a key factor. DA said that the recent Housing Needs Survey showed that there was a local need for affordable accommodation.

KS proposed that the Parish Council participate in a Local Lettings Plan (LLP) for this redevelopment. This was seconded by AS and was carried.

Mr Hensby will now draft a LLP and agree it with WBC Housing Manager. He will report back to the Parish Council on progress in December or January. He said the planning application had been submitted to WBC and he expected work to start in February/March and lettings to be allocated towards the end of 2011.

2192 **Clerk's report**

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

11. New street lights: The Clerk was asked to write back to WBC objecting to the new street lights by The Downs School, saying that they were inappropriate for a village etc.
14. The Clerk was asked to contact WBC again about removing bamboo growing through the footpath in the High Street

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Chairman

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15. Asbestos removal: It was suggested that the Clerk contact WBC environment department and attempt to find a local company who would undertake to remove the asbestos.

2193 To receive an update on vandalism and anti-social behaviour (ASB) in the village and a report on the last NAG meeting

LM reported that, at the last NAG meeting, it was proposed that ‘Anti-social behaviour in Compton’ be removed as a priority because few incidents had been reported recently. Councillors said that incidents **were** still occurring and were not being reported. The Clerk agreed to keep a log of incidents (Case no., incident type, etc) if these were reported to him by email or ‘phone. MB was asked to write a short article for Compilations to this effect.

2194 To review the feedback from our internal and external auditors on the 2009/10 accounts and consider appropriate actions

The Clerk said that both the Internal and External Auditors had signed off the 2009/10 Annual Return. Whilst the Internal Auditors had been happy with all of our systems and procedures, the External Auditors (Mazars) had a few comments on the documentation and procedures that needed addressing and one matter that required action; these are summarised in the feedback report produced by the Clerk – see Attachment 2.

One of the comments from Mazars was that they were concerned that the Council should see the tax returns produced by the Clerk (who is self-employed). The Clerk presented his 2009/10 tax returns to the Council and these were then initialled by the Council Chairman.

Finally, Mazars stated that an adequate and effective system of internal audit of the council accounting records and control systems should be maintained and that a review of the effectiveness of the internal audit procedure should be carried out during the year.

MB and BE proposed that the Feedback Report be accepted and also agreed to carry out the above review. This proposal was carried unanimously.

2195 To consider and approve the charges for West Berkshire Council to install and empty 2 new dog waste bins: Installation £60; Weekly emptying £33.34 per bin per annum.

Proposed by LM, seconded by AS and carried

2196 To consider and approve the charges for West Berkshire Council to empty 3 Parish Council rubbish bins: Weekly emptying £39.95 per bin per annum

Proposed by PS, seconded by AS and carried

2197 To approve the charge of £370 for West Berkshire Council to install 2 additional salt bins in Shepherds Mount (outside 31) and Newbury Lane

Proposed by KS, seconded by PS and carried.

The Clerk was asked to write to WBC to request them to take the charge out of our S106 Highways Safety monies.

2198 To consider quotes of up to £372 to reprint 1,000 copies of the Compton Footpaths leaflet

The Clerk said that quotes had been received from:

- West Berkshire Council: £410.00
- EVC Design and Print: £371.88
- Clere Design and Print: £356.00

KS proposed that the quote from Clere be accepted. This was seconded by AS and was carried. The Clerk will email Clere to accept their quote and KS will then liaise with them to arrange for the leaflets to be printed.

2199 To consider a request for a donation to help ensure the da Vinci medical robot (“Robbie”) remains at the Royal Berkshire Hospital

DA proposed that a donation be made but, as there was no seconder, the motion fell.

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Chairman

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2200 To consider how the Parish Council communicates with residents etc

The Chairman introduced the item and said that we should continually examine ways of improving our communications with residents.

The Clerk agreed to put councillor responsibilities and dates of future meetings on the notice board. KS agreed to summarise the website contents for the Chairman who would consider whether his report to the last Annual Parish Meeting could form the basis of an article in Compilations.

2201 To discuss the IAH / Parish Councils liaison meeting to be held on 10th November

The draft agenda was discussed and amended. Following discussions, DA and MP decided not to attend the meeting as they had prejudicial interests in the matters to be considered. BE will chair the meeting. Councillors asked the Clerk to invite 2 members of the West Berkshire Partnership to the meeting.

2202 Planning Applications

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

App. Ref.	Location	Proposed Work	Recommendation
10/01751/HOUSE	1 Lowbury Gardens, Compton, RG20 6NN	Retrospective – Erection of 1.7m closeboard fence to the boundary	NO OBJECTION Proposed: BE Seconded: MP Carried
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 Proposed: BE Seconded: MB Carried

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

App. Ref.	Location	Proposed Work	Compton PC Recommendation	WBC Decision
10/01978/FULD	Uplands Stables Coombe Road Compton RG20 6RQ	Retrospective in part - Temporary siting of four mobile homes (3 years)	OBJECTION	GRANTED
10/02011/CERTE	Uplands Stables Coombe Road Compton RG20 6RQ	Application for a Certificate of Lawful Use relating to the use of an agricultural building as a single residential unit	NO OBSERVATIONS	GRANTED

2203 To receive a report from District Councillor Barbara Alexander

Following the Coalition’s comprehensive spending review, central government funding cuts to WBC of around 25% have been confirmed. This will mean the current level of services will not be maintained, that many staff will lose their jobs and the situation will be particularly challenging in years 3 and 4. WBC will be holding a special District / Parish Conference to discuss the proposed response to the cuts on 9th November.

2204 To receive reports on the following:

- a) **Recreation Ground:** PS said that the grass protection mats had been fitted, as had the replacement tamper-proof bolts. Litter continued to be a problem at weekends.
- d) **Allotments:** MB said there was only 1 spare allotment plot at School Road now.

No other reports were presented.

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Chairman

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2205 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
08-Oct-	102090	Playground Services	£423.00	Supplying and laying 12 sq.m of grass tiles in play area gates
20-Oct-	102091	R M Weavers	£351.33	September grass cutting etc
22-Oct-	102092	Southern Electric Contracting	£30.44	Street lighting rechargeable repairs - September quarter
31-Oct-	102093	Ron Palmer	£457.72	Clerk's salary etc for 4 weeks to 31st October
31-Oct-	102094	D Moss	£55.00	Litter picking – October
01-Oct-	102095	Mazars	£334.88	External audit to 31 March 2010
26-Oct-	102096	Glasdon UK Ltd	£330.57	New dog waste bin

2206 Correspondence

The Correspondence list is at Attachment 3.

The Clerk and Chairman would try to go to the extra District / Parish Conference on 9th November

A letter had also been received from the members of the Committee of Compton Bananaz / Teenscene setting out the activities that take place at The Hut (formerly known as Scout/Guide Hut) in Mayfields Road and their concern about its future when the IAH closes in 2013. The Hut lease is due for renewal in 2012 and the Committee asked the Parish and District Councillors to do all they can to safeguard its future.

2207 Matters for consideration and information

- DA had moved all the gel bags to the storage container outside the Compton Swan
- BE had examined the old notice board and reported that it was structurally sound and just needed to be cleaned and treated
- BE gave an example of a ‘declaration of interest’ from a recent Standards Board judgement concerning a planning application
- MP asked the Clerk to contact WBC Highways to ask them to repair a trench in the High Street near the entrance to Lowbury Gardens
- MB said the church had submitted a planning application for a lych gate
- LM asked the Clerk to report again the defective street light in Cheap Street

The meeting closed at 9.29pm.

Forthcoming meeting:

- ◆ **Council Meeting** Monday 6th December at 7pm

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Chairman

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Date