

# **Compton Parish Council**

**Chairman: Dave Aldis**

**Clerk: Ron Palmer**

## **MINUTES of the COUNCIL MEETING**

Held on **Monday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2011 at 7pm** in the Welstead Room, Compton Village Hall.

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

In attendance: R Palmer (Clerk) and 1 member of the public

The meeting started at 7pm

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2237 **Apologies for absence** had been received from District Councillor B Alexander and Parish Councillors D Aldis, M Birtwistle and A Strong

2238 **Any declarations of personal or prejudicial interest by members or the Clerk**  
KS, as a member of the Scouts, declared a personal interest in agenda item 2247

2239 **To receive:**

- **Questions or comments from members of the public**
  - **Representations from any member who has declared a prejudicial interest**
- There were none.

2240 **To approve the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 6 December 2010**

The Chairman corrected a mistake in agenda item 2236, point 3: the word 'bins' should have read 'bags'. Proposed by KS, seconded by LM and carried

2241 **Matters arising from the minutes of the Council Meeting on 6 December 2010**

There were none.

2242 **Clerk's report**

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

4. Asbestos: MB had reported to the Clerk prior to the meeting that new felt was required on the roof of the shed from which the asbestos had been removed. Members agreed that a proposal for MB to spend up to £100 should be an agenda item at the next meeting.

2243 **To receive an update on vandalism and anti-social behaviour (ASB) in the village**

LM presented a written report to the meeting which is at Attachment 2. It included a report from the last NAG meeting on 22 December, which provided an update on the 3 existing priorities. LM asked members to consider whether she should put forward any new priority from Compton at the next meeting on 23 February. Members said that a car and a shed had been broken into recently.

2244 **To consider applying for Village Green status for the green area in Gordon Crescent**

The Clerk had confirmed that West Berkshire Council is the Registration Authority. He had received from the Registration Officer an Application Form and guidance notes from Defra. LM proposed that a sub-committee be set up to investigate this further. This was seconded by PW and was carried.

PW and LM agreed to be members of this sub-committee; DA and AS were also proposed. The Clerk was asked to contact these 4 Councillors with a view to confirming membership and a date for an initial meeting. Members felt it was important that some of the affected residents should also be involved.

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Chairman

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**2245 To receive an update on the redevelopment of Fairfield**

The Clerk had contacted Sovereign Housing and was told that a meeting with WBC to discuss the Local Lettings Plan before Christmas had been called off because of illness.

**2246 To consider renewing the contract for grass cutting and hedge cutting with our current contractor at an annual cost in 2011 of £2,758 + VAT, the same as 2010 (Specification v5 dated 3 January 2011)**

Since the publication of the agenda, the Clerk had updated the specification – see Attachment 3 - to include the grass around the Scout Hut, following prompting from KS. KS proposed that the last part of the motion be amended to read “at an annual cost in 2011 of £3,094 + VAT, the same as 2010 (Specification v6 dated 8 January 2011).” This was seconded by PW and was carried.

Members stated that they were happy with the existing contractor and, as this contract was for “work to be executed which constituted an extension of an existing contract” (Financial Regulations v4 section 11.1(iv)), 3 quotes were not required. KS then proposed the motion **To consider renewing the contract for grass cutting and hedge cutting with our current contractor at an annual cost in 2011 of £3,094 + VAT, the same as 2010 (Specification v6 dated 8 January 2011).**” This was seconded by BE and was carried.

**2247 To consider requests to increase S137 grants to the following organisations in 2011:**

- Compton Scouts £540
- Compton Bananaz £400

BE reminded members that the ‘normal’ annual S137 grant to these 2 organisations was £200 each and these were requests for additional funding to meet special circumstances this year. He then proposed that the normal grant of £200 each should remain within our 2011/12 budget and that the additional one-off grants of £540 and £200 be taken out of Reserves. This was seconded by MP and was carried.

**2248 To approve the Council Budget for 2011/12 and agree that the Precept remains the same as 2010/11 at £25,135**

The Clerk updated the proposed budget to take account of the proposals approved in items 2246 and 2247 above. Version 4 of the budget, dated 10 January, is at Attachment 4.

KS proposed that this budget be approved and the 2011/12 precept be set at £25,135. This was seconded by LM and was carried.

**2249 To consider the current churchyard situation and respond to a request from the Parochial Church Council**

A letter had been received from the Team Minister for Compton and East Ilsley which asked the Parish Council to investigate the provision of additional land for burials. It was not possible to extend the existing churchyard to the west because this land was a SSSI – LM agreed to send members a map showing the extent of the SSSI.

BE proposed the Clerk should:

- Contact the owner of the land on the other side of Aldworth Road opposite the church to ascertain if he would be willing to provide land for this purpose.
- Contact the neighbouring Councils of Cold Ash and Hermitage who had made provision of this sort in recent years
- Ascertain what would be the on-going responsibilities of the Parish Council

This was seconded by PW and was carried.

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**2250 To consider a possible footway from Lowbury Gardens along the south side of the High Street to the village shop**

BE said that the first action was to get the views of those residents of Lowbury Gardens who owned the land between their properties and the River Pang. He proposed that the Clerk should contact A2Dominion to find out if they owned any of these properties and then write to them and the private owners to ascertain their views. This was seconded by KS and was carried.

**2251 To approve the updated Asset Register (v4 dated January 2011)**

Members proposed changes to the Asset Register and these are now incorporated in v5, which is at Attachment 5. Approval was proposed by PS, seconded by MP and carried.

**2252 To approve the updated Risk Register (v3 dated January 2011)**

Members proposed changes to the Risk Register and these are now incorporated in v4, which is at Attachment 6. Approval was proposed by LM, seconded by PS and carried.

**2253 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
10/02984/HOUSE	Woodrush, Newbury Lane, Compton, RG20 6PB	Conservatory to side elevation of property	<b>NO OBJECTION</b> Proposed: BE Seconded: PW Carried

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

App. Ref.	Location	Proposed Work	Compton PC Recommendation	WBC Decision
10/02532/HOUSE	1 Lansdowne Cottages, Ilsley Road, Compton RG20 7PQ	Erection of wooden double garage	OBJECTION	<b>WITHDRAWN by applicant</b>
10/02555/HOUSE	Hillfoot Farm, Aldworth Road, Compton RG20 6RD	2 Storey additions to existing house. Demolition of store room and conservatory	NO OBJECTION	<b>GRANTED</b>

**2254 To receive a report from District Councillor Barbara Alexander**

No report was given, as Councillor Alexander had sent her apologies

**2255 To receive reports on the following:**

f) **Downland Sports Centre:** PS said the next meeting would hopefully be on 18 January

No other reports were presented.

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**2256 To approve cheques due for payment**

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

Date	Cheque No.	Payee	Amount	Description
10-Dec	102107	PS Environmental Services Ltd	£352.50	Removal & disposal of asbestos roof on allotment plot
20-Dec	102108	Thames Water	£40.07	School Road allotments water bill, 6 Sep to 5 Dec, 2010
23-Dec	102109	West Berkshire Council	£395.00	Compilations printing, Dec/Jan.
23-Dec	102110	Southern Electric Contracting	£709.49	Street lighting maintenance charge for December quarter
24-Dec	102111	Southern Electric	£669.65	Electricity supply charges for quarter 3, 2010/11
31-Dec	102112	D Moss	£55.00	Litter picking – December 2010
02-Jan	102113	Ron Palmer	£446.12	Clerk's salary etc. for 4 weeks to 2nd January 2011

**2257 Correspondence**

The Correspondence list is at Attachment 7.

**2258 Matters for consideration and information**

- BE provided members with the following brief notes on the reform of the planning system contained within the Localism Bill.
  - ◆ Some of the Infrastructure Levy to be passed to the Parish Council (PC)
  - ◆ A new right for the PC to shape its community. A PC plan will enable the PC to permit development, full or outline, without planning permission
  - ◆ A PC could identify land, sources of finance and secure support to take forward development provided they had 50% support of the parish in a referendum
  - ◆ To strengthen the role of the PC in planning, developers would have to consult with the PC before submitting applications for large developments. Developers would be required to have regard to any questions raised during the consultation before submitting the application
- BE gave a synopsis of a meeting he had attended on 5 January concerning the closure of the Downland Day Centre by the end of September announced by West Berkshire Council. His notes are at Attachment 8. He believed the Parish Council could play a useful role in coordinating a meeting of groups who would be interested in investigating the provision of an on-going service at the Day Care Centre. He asked the Clerk to put this on the agenda of the next meeting and to carry out some preliminary work before this meeting.
- KS asked if the Primary School could use the small pitch on the Recreation Ground for football matches as they currently had to play all games away from home. Members had no objection.
- LM asked the Clerk to arrange to move the litter bin currently located on the corner of the High Street and Cheap Street to a more useful position between the Notice Board and the Bus Stop on the north side of the High Street.
- LM said the Rural Navigator bus for 14-19 year olds planned to come to Compton on Tuesdays 18 January, 15 February and 15 March. She was not certain of the arrival and departure times. A possible location in the winter months was the car park in front of the Village Hall in Burrell Road.
- PW advised the meeting that he would be planting a commemorative tree by the side of Station Road shortly.

The meeting closed at 9.07pm.

**Forthcoming meeting:**

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

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Date