

# **Compton Parish Council**

**Chairman: Dave Aldis**

**Clerk: Ron Palmer**

## **MINUTES of the COUNCIL MEETING**

Held on **Monday 1<sup>st</sup> March 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: District Councillor B Alexander and R Palmer (Clerk)

The meeting opened at 7.00pm.

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2015 **Apologies for absence.** There were none.

2016 **Any declarations of personal or prejudicial interest by members or the Clerk**

The following personal declarations were made:

- A Strong and K Simms: Item 2026, as interested parties in the Scouts
- M Birtwistle: Item 2027, as an allotment holder

2017 **To receive:**

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

2018 **To approve the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 1 February 2010**

Proposed by KS, seconded by DA and carried

2019 **Matters arising from the minutes of the Council Meeting on 1 February 2010**

The Clerk apologised for failing to include a proposal on Compton Bananaz as an item on this agenda– see minute 2013.

2020 **Clerk's report**

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

- Environment Agency representative: Members agreed on a site visit with Mark Heelis at 6pm on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> April before he attended the AGM on 10<sup>th</sup> May
- Lowbury Gardens: Members agreed to invite the David Wilson Director to the AGM on 10<sup>th</sup> May so that he could receive feedback on this development from Compton residents
- Members were happy for CSA to hold a mini-soccer tournament in August / September
- The Clerk was asked to respond to a resident who wished to prune a tree at the bottom of his garden, accessing it from the Recreation Ground

2021 **To receive an update on vandalism and anti-social behaviour (ASB) in the village**

LM said she was preparing a report for Compilations about the survey undertaken last year and the subsequent actions taken.

The young people's survey had been given to 125 Compton pupils of The Downs School and 75 had been returned. LM was about to analyse the results which would help to define the needs of young people in the village.

The Clerk was asked to contact Streetcare to ask them to remove the graffiti on the new bus shelter.

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Chairman

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**2022 To receive an update on the closure of the Institute for Animal Health**

Richard Shaw, IAH Director of Operations, had accepted the invitation to attend the next Annual Parish Meeting on 17 May.

MB left the meeting here at 7.45pm

**2023 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)**

These quotations, summarised at Attachment 2, were considered by members. DA proposed that the quote of £15,324.80 from TL Consulting to upgrade both the track and the car park be provisionally accepted, with the additional money coming from the Council’s Reserves, subject to:

- A site meeting being held with the contractors to define/agree exactly what was to be done
- The contractors being asked for a separate quote to do additional work e.g. the area providing access to the children’s playgroup (not to be funded by the S106 money)

KS would circulate a map of the area.

The proposal was seconded by PS and was carried.

**2024 To consider possible Highway safety improvements in Compton, given that a S106 grant of £23,500 is available**

The Clerk said he had not received a reply from West Berkshire Council (WBC) Highways about the Parish Council purchasing privately and erecting vehicle-activated signs warning motorists of excess speed. He would follow this up with WBC.

**2025 To consider purchasing a metal container to store 180 flood gel bags and grit/salt etc at a cost of £399.99 incl. VAT and agree a suitable location for it**

It was suggested that the container be stored in the Village Hall compound which would be a secure location. The Clerk was asked to write to the Village Hall committee to seek their permission. AS proposed that this container be purchased; this was seconded by MP and was carried. LM said the container could be delivered initially to her home.

**2026 To consider adding the cost of cutting the grass at The Scout Hut to the regular cutting carried out by our contractor at a cost of £21 + VAT per cut. The number of cuts will be agreed by the Hut committee and the contractor but would not exceed the number of cuts for the Recreation Ground. This would give a maximum cost of £21 x 16 cuts = £336 + VAT**

PS proposed that the Clerk write to our contractor, copy D Morris, with an amended contract to include 16 cuts of the grass at the Scout Hut, the money to be taken out of Reserves. This was seconded by MP and was carried.

**2027 To consider the fees payable by allotment holders in the year commencing 1<sup>st</sup> April 2010**  
(Note that this item was considered earlier in the meeting when MB was present)

MB gave some background to the fees and allotment situation at both School Road and Newbury Lane and then, having declared a personal interest, did not participate in the discussion or vote.

DA proposed that the fees should remain at £10 per plot this year; this was seconded by BE and was carried. The Clerk was asked to contact the manager of Newbury Lane allotments about a number of issues.

**2028 Planning Applications**

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

App. Ref.	Location	Proposed Work	Recommendation
10/00171/HOUSE	Hamilton Cottages, Hockham Road, Compton RG20 6QL	Demolition of single storey bathrooms, refurbishment and upgrading of the properties and 2 storey side extensions to 1 and 2 Hamilton Cottages	<b>NO OBJECTION</b> Proposed: AS Seconded: DA Carried

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- b) The Clerk reported that West Berkshire Council had recently agreed to a Tree Preservation Order on 3 sycamore trees and 1 walnut tree at Downe Cottage, Ilsley Road, Compton RG20 7PG

**2029 To receive a report from District Councillor Barbara Alexander**

BA said that the West Berkshire Council budget would be approved on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> March and the Council Tax increase would be 1.9%. She said that tough decisions have had to be made and expected that future years would be even more difficult.

She then gave an update on the recent Ofsted inspection at Compton Primary School and members gave their commitment to continue to support staff and governors.

**2030 To receive reports on the following:**

- a) **Recreation Ground:** PS reported that:
- He and MP had asked The Downs School not to use the Recreation Ground for the time being because of the state of the ground.
  - Branches had been dumped behind the Pavilion and he would monitor the ongoing situation.
  - Dog fouling continued to be an issue and, although we now have 'No Fouling' signs to be erected, the Clerk was asked to contact MB to ask him to put an article into the next issue of Compilations quoting penalties for non-observance and who should be contacted if dog owners were observed disregarding the warnings.
- b) **Football Pavilion:** Nothing to report.
- c) **Rights of Way:** AS said that she was compiling a letter for the Clerk to send to senior officers at West Berkshire Council concerning Byway 2 and asked this to be included on the next agenda.
- d) **Village Hall:** Nothing to report.
- e) **Downland Sports Centre:** PS reported that the last meeting had been cancelled because it would not have been quorate.
- f) **Patient Representation:** AS said she had aired some of her concerns informally with the senior doctor in the practice.
- g) **Web site:** Nothing to report.

**2031 To approve cheques due for payment**

DA proposed that the following cheques be approved. This was seconded by BE and was carried.

Date	Cheque No.	Payee	Amount	Description
24-Dec	102029	Southern Electric	£655.40	Unmetred electricity supply for Q3 2009/10
04-Feb	102030	West Berkshire Council	£395.00	Compilations copying, Feb/March 2010 issue
06-Feb	102031	Compton Village Hall	£240.00	Room hire for meetings April 2009 to March 2010
19-Feb	102032	Southern Electric Contracting	£350.26	Supply & fit new pole bracket etc., 3 School Road
15-Feb	102033	Berkshire County Blind Society	£30.00	Annual donation
15-Feb	102034	Compton Bananaz	£100.00	Annual donation
22-Feb	102035	Essy Signs	£84.00	4 disclaimer signs for the car park
01-Mar	102036	Ron Palmer	£454.12	Clerk's salary & expenses, 4 weeks to 1 March
28-Feb	102037	Mr D Moss	£55.00	Litter Picking - January (part) & February

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2032 **Correspondence**

The Correspondence list is at Attachment 3.

2033 **Matters for consideration and information**

BE presented a letter to the bank signed by himself closing the Millennium bank account and transferring the balance to the Council bank account, to be held in reserve and used to aid village enhancement programmes. The letter was countersigned by AS and DA, the 2 other Trustees still in the village

AS asked that members consider the possibility of having planters at the new bus stop and the Clerk was asked to put this item on the agenda of the next meeting. It was also suggested that the Scouts might be asked to maintain the planters.

DA bemoaned the state of Churn Road and Mayfield caused by farm vehicles. PS said he had raised this at the last IAH Liaison meeting and the Clerk was asked to put it on the agenda of the next Liaison meeting. DA said that silt was being washed down Churn Road and was blocking the drain in the lay-by in the High Street to the east of the new bus shelter. The Clerk was instructed to ask Streetcare to clear the drain to prevent the resultant flooding.

The meeting closed at 8.55pm.

**Next Council Meeting: Monday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2010 at 7pm**

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Date