



Compton Parish Council

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Draft Minutes of the Meeting of Compton Parish Council Held on Wednesday 17th January 2018 at 7:30pm in Compton Parish Rooms

Those Present: Cllr J Popplewell in the chair
A Davies (AD), J Moulton (JM), R Verghese (RV)
District Councillor, Bourne Division, Viral Parikh (left at 20:03)

Public Attendance: 4 members of the public were present

In Attendance: Rachel Foister, Clerk to the Council and RFO

1. Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Bray, Edney and Morgan and from one member of the public

2. No declarations of interest were received.

3. The minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held on the 15th November 2017, were approved by the chairman with one change to Item 7, §1 – ‘Cllr Davies’ was replaced with ‘Cllr Verghese’.

Matters arising from the minutes:

The Chairman confirmed that the school footpath had been reopened and was being used.

Bus shelter – Cllr Verghese has obtained costings the project and is waiting for warmer weather before commencing work

Post Office – The chairman has spoken to the Post Office who are keen to keep residents informed of closures, but warned that traffic issues remain.

4. Reports were received from District and County and Parish councillors.

The chairman welcomed District Councillor Viral Parikh, who presented his report:

A27. Cistra has now been awarded the consultancy project and a conclusion is expected by the end of Easter.

Community Initiative Fund. This fund is available to any company or member of the public doing exceptional work in the community and funds are currently available. Cllr Parikh can sign off for applications of under £1000. Cllr Popplewell suggested that the Recreation Ground Committee might consider applying for a grant towards improvements in the school path at the southern end.

Action JP. In response to a question from Cllr Davies, Cllr Parikh confirmed that the project and the individual or company applying would both have to be located in this division.

Parish Councillors reports:

Cllr Moulton highlighted the dangerous flooding on the B2146 at Clue’s corner, North of Compton and just outside the Parish boundary. She requested that the Parish Council contact the clerk of Harting Parish Council. **Action RF**

Cllr Davies has been in contact with WSCC Highways and reported that the potholes and erosion on Locksash Lane had still not been addressed since they were marked back in May 2017. Cllr Parikh asked to be copied in on this correspondence and suggested that Cllr Davies speak with Chris Dye. Further potholes were also noted in Forestside, part of Stoughton Parish.

Cllr Davies presented on two initiatives to mark 100 years since the end of World War 1. Chichester District Council is encouraging Parishes to light centenary beacons and will contribute £250 to Parish Councils towards costs.

The Royal British Legion is promoting its 'Silent Soldier initiative, a metal silhouette of a soldier, as a sponsored memorial. Cllr Davies will ask a representative from RBL to attend the next meeting to explain the project further. **Action AD.**

Cllr Verghese reported that information on all the Parish's trees have been uploaded onto the Parish Online System GIS mapping system and he is intending to also add the play equipment and salt bins.

5) Chairman's report

The chairman expressed his thanks to the farming community in the Parish for all their help in a variety of projects. Specifically, he wished to thank:

Stuart Reid and Danny at Locksash Farm for generously repairing the Sussex fingerpost sign to Locksash that had been broken last year. The fingerpost is now reinstalled.

Martin Edney, West Marden Farm for the excellent work in trimming the trees and hedges on the Southern approach to the village.

James and Nick Bray, 100 Acre Farm for clearing the culvert on Compton Green. Cllr Edney confirmed that he will clear the field end of the culvert when the ground is drier.

The Chairman pointed out that councillors should consider future projects for Watershed funding as this had proved very worthwhile.

There will be a free talk hosted by Markwells Wood Watch and given by Dr Tony Whitbread on 23rd January in Compton School and Community Hall on ancient woodlands at 7pm.

On the 21st January Katy Bourne, invited by Bourne division councillors, will be giving a talk on her role, to be held at Compton School and Community Hall – the Chairman encouraged councillors to attend.

6) Planning - SDNP/17/06461/TPO (Highbury House Compton)

Councillors had visited the property and were supportive of the application

7) Affordable Housing Update:

Cllr Davies had no further progress to report. In response to a question from the Chairman, Cllr Davies stated that the Housing Association had not sent him any further information regarding the planning application.

8) Appointment of Data Protection Officer

The Chairman summarised a meeting he had recently attended supported by CDC and given by Maureen Chaffe of Process Matters 2 regarding the new General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) which will come into force in May 2018. These strengthen the current Data Protection Act by tidying up procedures and imposing legal action against organisations that fail to conform. Data protection officers must be external to a Parish Council. The clerk will be attending a seminar shortly on the topic. The Chairman recommended that the Parish Council investigate group training, possibly with neighbouring Parish Councils for all councillors. He also noted that it may be necessary for the Parish Council to put in place separate email addresses for councillors to use instead of their personal email addresses.

Item 9) was deferred to after item 10)

10) Visit by WSCC, Senior Community Solutions Officer

The Chairman had recently met with Darren Rolf, regarding helping volunteers in the area. Mr Rolf will be happy to offer training in use of the new trimmers to representatives from the Church and the Parish Council. He was also eager to discuss the WSCC Green Offer through which WSCC are setting up tool centres – locked storage for tools available for use by volunteer groups. These centres must be sited on public ground accessible by a variety of groups. It was of the general opinion of Councillors that the risk of theft was too high for such a scheme in this area.

9) and 11) The clerk summarised the audit requirements for 2017/18, stating that as an 'opted in' Parish Council we had been assigned a new external auditor. If after the May meeting Councillors were satisfied that the Parish Council had complied effectively with the requirements of the Transparency Code and, as a Parish Council with a turnover of under £25,000, we may then vote not to complete an external audit.

Precept: Councillors voted unanimously to maintain the Parish Council precept at the previous years' level of £12,400

The clerk presented the bank reconciliation and statement of accounts. Expenditure since the previous meeting amounted to £2286.47. The current account stands at £20417.71

12. The next meeting will be held on the 21st March 2018 in Compton Parish Rooms at 7:30pm

The Chairman thanked councillors and the public for attending and the meeting closed at 8:36pm

Chairman

Date