



Compton Parish Council

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Draft Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Compton Parish Council held remotely via MS Teams online meeting platform on Wednesday 15th July 2020 at 7:30pm

Those Present:

Cllr J Popplewell, Cllr A Davies, Cllr M Edney, Cllr J Moulton, Cllr S Reid, Cllr R Verghese (joined the meeting at 20:08), Cllr J Bray (arrived joined the meeting at 20:09)

Also in Attendance:

District Councillor Bourne Division - Cllr R Briscoe, County Cllr Bourne Division – Mike Magill

Public Attendance: 2 members of the public were also present

The meeting commenced at 7:36pm.

1a). Election of a new Chair of Compton Parish Council. Cllr Popplewell welcomed all to the meeting and expressed his thanks to the Clerk and his fellow councillors. He also thanked Cllrs Briscoe and Magill for their work in re-establishing good contact between the Parish Council and the District and County Councils. Cllr Popplewell then nominated Cllr Davies as the new Chair for Compton Parish Council. This was seconded by Cllr Edney. All voted unanimously for his election. Cllr Davies signed the declaration of acceptance of office. Cllr Davies expressed thanks to both John and Maureen Popplewell for their dedicated service over many years.

b) Election of Vice Chair carried over to after point 5.

2. Apologies for absence were received from: PCSO Baylee Reed

3. Declarations of interest. The Chairman asked Council members to declare any interests now or when addressing relevant items. A declaration was received by Cllrs Edney and Bray with respect to planning application SDNP/20/01877/HOUS – Butlers Barn

4. The minutes of Compton Parish Council Meeting, held on Wednesday 20th May 2020 were approved unanimously by those present and signed as a true record by the Chairman.

5. Reports were received from Cllrs on other topics including:

a) Affordable Housing. Cllr Davies presented his report and will continue to keep the Parish Council informed of progress

b) West Marden BT Phone box. The Clerk has been in contact with BT who will repair the broken window

c) West Marden Phone mast. The mast will be reduced by 2.5 meters and the satellite dish brackets will be removed. Vodaphone will be going ahead with the installation but are currently working on other projects.

d) Lockdown developments in the community. The Clerk reported on activities relating to reopening the St Mary's church. The latest information can be found on the church website www.theoctagonparish.org Cllr Moulton expressed thanks to all who had supported Compton Village Shop especially those involved with deliveries and collecting the bread. She also noted that the pub in Compton is doing all they can and that residents should be encouraged to support our local shop and pubs. Cllr Davies will be working with the new landlords of the Victoria Inn and the community defibrillator group to ensure continuity of service.

e) Recreation Ground. Cllr Mouton reported that the recreation ground is now open although some of the play equipment remains closed, noting that the area has received a lot of use recently. As

representative for the Recreation Ground committee she requested the council fund the capital costs for the purchase of a refuse bin for the site to replace the original one that was emptied by local volunteers. This new bin would fit the requirements of CDC for regular emptying by their contractors. Annual costs for emptying by CDC will be covered by Recreation Ground funds. Cost would be approximately £350. Cllrs supported the proposal unanimously.

f) Preparations for winter. Cllr Bray reported that he will check on salt stocks and present an updated winter plan for the next meeting. **Action JB**

g) Signage. John Popplewell proposed that he continue to volunteer to overview maintenance of signage within the villages. This would also include monitoring the West Sussex fingerposts and making recommendations to the council for their repair. It was noted that local residents had volunteered to help with the cost and practical aspects of their repair.

h) Harvest – Cllr Bray noted that harvest is now underway and road users should exercise caution as there will be more large vehicles, tractors etc

i) PitchUp Campsite – In response to questions, Cllr Bray reported that a basic campsite has been established for summer weekends at 100 Acres Farm. The site has 50 pitches and has social distancing measures in place. It is hoped that campers will make good use of the local amenities including the shop and pubs.

1b). Carried over. Election of Vice Chairman. Cllr Davies proposed Cllr Verghese as Vice Chair of the Council, seconded by Cllr Bray. Voted in unanimously.

6. Police report. A report was received by PCSO Booker noting that fly-tipping had seen a significant increase in the area. It was noted that as a result of the fire at the Westhampnet site, sites where a large range of items can be accepted are a significant distance from this area.

Cllr Davies reported on two recent instances of illegal camping at the Recreation Ground and expressed councillors concern regarding the police response.

7. Reports from District and County Cllrs.

Cllr Magill thanked John Popplewell for his support and guidance. He noted that WSCC has a £34 million shortfall in funds this year. He is keen that rural areas do not see further reductions in services as these areas have experienced disproportionate reductions already. He encouraged Cllrs to report any issues related to the increased number of visitors to beauty spots. Cllr Magill explained the new Gigabit scheme which will help groups with poor broadband speeds. Cllr Bray noted that local farmers had cut back verges last year as WSCC had not completed the work and travel was becoming dangerous. MM noted that Highways are responsible for cutting verges and that he would chase them if the work was not completed this year.

Cllr Briscoe thanked John Popplewell for his support, notably at the Bourne Forum. He presented his report which included:

Publication of the CDC Covid-19 recovery plan

Community Recovery and Business Economic Recovery grants would soon become available on a first come first served basis

Leisure Centres will reopen from the 25th July and he encouraged residents to make use of them.

The River Ems is under assessment for listing as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)

CDC has a new Climate Change Officer – Andrea Smith

8. The clerk presented a brief report on footpaths and public rights of way across the parish. She thanked Cllrs Edney and Reed for effecting repairs to the footpath between West Marden and Old House Lane and Cllrs Edney and Davies for replacing the log bench on Compton Down.

9. Macmillan Mighty Hike – item delayed until next meeting

10. Planning applications. Councillors have visited both properties and submitted their comments

11. The Clerk presented her report, making councillors aware of any legislative changes that will affect the running of the council, including website accessibility requirements and a new councillors code of conduct. She requested councillors consider the level and type of computer support needed by the council for the coming year.

12. The annual statement of accounts and bank reconciliation were received and approved by the council. The Chairman signed the Annual Governance and Accountability Return – part 2 (2019/20) and

the Internal audit report. It was agreed that the period for the exercise of public rights should be from the 1st September to the 14th October 2020.

13. The current bank reconciliation and statement of accounts were approved by the Chairman

14. A member of the public who expressed an interest in being a parish councillor was recommended to contact the Clerk.

11. The next meeting will be held on the 16th September. Format and platform/venue to be confirmed.

The meeting closed at 21:23

Chairman Date

Abbreviations used:

Cllr(s) – Councillor(s)

SDNP – South Downs National Park

WSCC - West Sussex County Council

CDC – Chichester District Council

RFO – responsible financial officer