



Compton Parish Council

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Minutes of the Compton Parish Council Meeting held at Compton Parish Rooms on Wednesday 20th November 2019

Those Present: Cllr J Popplewell in the chair (JP)
Cllrs J Bray (JB), A Davies (AD), M Edney (ME), J Moulton (JM),
S Reid (SR)

Also in Attendance: District Councillor Bourne Division, Cllr R Briscoe (RB), Edward Platt and John Wigg, Governors to Compton and Up Marden CE School

Public Attendance: 8 members of the public were present

The meeting commenced at 7:32pm.

1. Apologies for absence were received from:

Cllr J Bray (JB)

2. The Chairman welcomed those present to the meeting.

3. Declarations of interest. The Chairman asked Council members to declare any interests now or on addressing relevant items.

4. The Minutes of Compton Parish Council Meeting, held on Wednesday 18th Sept 2019 were approved unanimously by the Council and signed as a true record by the Chairman.

5. On agreement with Cllrs, Item 5 was moved down the agenda as PCSO Reed was not yet present

6. WSCC Small Schools Consultation. School Governors, J Wigg and E Platt spoke from the floor thanking all those from the Parish who had attended the 11th November meeting at the school. 240 people attended, including parents and local residents. Individuals had been encouraged to make a submission to the WSCC Have Your Say website by the 25th November, and local groups that would be affected by changes to the school were also encouraged to write directly to WSCC. It is understood that WSCC's intentions will be signalled in early January. The governors expressed their desire to continue these excellent levels of community involvement with the school into the future. It was agreed amongst councillors that school items should be added to the Parish Council agenda at the governors' request whenever necessary. **Action RDF.** Cllr Davies asked if the LEA had been contacted by phone to correct errors in data they have used. Mr Platt confirmed that the Headmistress had spoken with the LEA yesterday. Councillors discussed key points for submission and Cllr Moulton volunteered to collate the information and send in the Parish Council response before the 25th November deadline.

Cllr Verghese commented that the consultation had not focussed nearly enough on the education provided to children at the school

Cllr Davies pointed out that the LEA do not own all the school buildings or land. There is an 1847 conveyance concerning the ownership of the land on which the school is built as well as a school trust which paid for some of the buildings. Any change of use would be very difficult to accomplish in light of these as well as the lack of support by SDNP Planning, as made clear at the 11th November meeting.

7. Funding Proposals for the No. 54 Bus. Cllr Popplewell clarified that it was the 7:34am South Harting to Chichester weekday journey, costing WSCC £8000, that was under threat of closure. The 5 Parish Councils on the route had been asked to contribute towards keeping it running. Contributions were based on numbers on the electoral roll of each parish and Compton's would be £657 per year. Cllr

Popplewell emphasised the importance of this route as it was used by secondary school and college pupils as well as several employees (approximately 7 regular users). He noted that Stoughton and South Harting Parish Councils had already voted not to contribute, but that these decisions would not affect the level of contribution requested of Compton. Cllr Edney commented that reductions in bus services combined with the loss of the mobile library, threat of school closure etc was contributing to a trend towards rural social isolation in our area.

After some discussion including the suggestion that other timings be cut back instead of the 7:34 service, WSCCs recent commitment to purchase light up bus signage in Chichester at considerable expense and the legality of the contribution under Section 137 legislation, Cllrs agreed unanimously to make our contribution with the proviso that the situation with WSCC and their commitment to helping young people to get to school be reviewed after 2 years. Cllr Popplewell to respond to WSCC. **Action JP**

8. West Marden Phone Mast. Cllr Verghese reported on progress, including plans for a reduction in height of the mast from 15m to 12.5m, the removal of the satellite dish brackets and planting around the base. Cllrs expressed concern regarding the long term viability of this arrangement and reiterated their desire for erection of a shared mast suitable for 5G in a much more suitable location. Cllr Popplewell thanks Cllr Verghese for all his hard work in writing numerous letters many of which are still yet to be responded to or acknowledged by the parties concerned.

9. Reports from the Chairman and Councillors.

Cllr Roy Briscoe from the floor, encouraged residents to vote at the forthcoming Bourne Division elections on the 21st November as well as the UK General Election on the 12th December. He noted that in the Chichester Local Plan review extra housing is planned for the Southbourne area as well as a new primary school.

Height Restriction Barrier for the Recreation Ground. Due to delivery issues the barrier will not be installed until the new year.

Fly Tipping. Although it had been noted that there had been a recent decrease in fly tipping in the area, recent dumping of grass clippings on West Marden Green had been observed.

Health and Wellbeing in the Community. The new Compton Coffee mornings on the third Tuesday of each month in Compton Parish Room had been well attended and local residents of all ages are encouraged to attend.

Mobile Library. The service has now been cancelled with little hope of restarting. Alternative methods are available online for those who are unable to travel to the library such as Home Library Direct and Digital Library Plus. Further information can be found here.

<https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/libraries/using-library-services/library-access-for-all/>

Affordable Housing. Cllr Davies summarised the activities of the working group over the past year and restated his desire for affordable housing to be available in the Parish.

Remembrance – Cllr Davies requested the Cllrs agree to a £40 donation to the British Legion for this year's poppy wreath. Cllr agreed unanimously.

Winter Preparations. Cllr Reid reported on behalf of Cllr Bray that salt supplies were good and the snow plough was ready for use.

West Marden Bus Shelter – Cllr agreed to repaint the shelter.

Drains and Waterways. Cllr Verghese reported his concerns that although the drain near West Marden Hall drive was cleared, it wasn't rodded through.

Signage – Cllr Davies reported that he had as yet received no response from Littlegreen School regarding their new signage. Cllr Moulton pointed out that many road signs in the area were rusty at the base. Highways were cutting back on works to maintain verges and to remove foliage in front of signage, with the desire that local parishes will take on board some of this work using volunteers etc. It was noted that although Cllrs cannot do this work in an official capacity, residents/landowners/ are able to cut back foliage etc independently.

Recent Meetings – Cllr Moulton reported on her attendance at the recent North Chichester Local Council's (NCLC) meeting and the Chichester District Association of Local Councils (CDALC) meeting. She noted that the later had been particularly useful with a presentation by John Carter, Police Divisional Commander. She reiterated that residents should be encouraged to report all crimes to the police - 999 if the crime is occurring at that moment, otherwise 101 (although there is a 10 minute wait), or online at the Sussex police website. Volume of reported crime informs police deployment in the area.

School Christmas Fayre – this will be held on the 13th December in the School Hall.

5. **PCSO Baylee Reed** introduced himself as the new PCSO for the Bourne area. He will be working closely with Colin Booker who covers rural crime in the Chichester and Arundel areas and both will be patrolling the area by car and on foot. This style of policing will be reviewed again in 6 months. In response to a question from Cllr Davies, PCSO Reed affirmed that surveillance to prevent car park crime would continue. PCSO Reed agreed to provide the Parish Clerk with his photo for publication on the Parish Council website. **Action PCSO Reed and RDF.**

10. **Parish Council Budget 2020/21.** Rachel Foister, Parish Clerk and RFO presented suggestions for discussion amongst councillors prior to seeking approval at the January meeting.

11. **Climate Change and the Environment.** Cllr Popplewell noted that Friends of the earth were encouraging Parish Councils to become more actively involved and that he would welcome report and further information from farmers for the next meeting.

12. **Planning Applications:** SDNP/19/04795/TPO and SDNP/19/04965/TCA had both been visited by councillors and both applications were supported by the Council. There has been no further news concerning the enforcement order at Cowdown farm.

13. **Grievance and Disciplinary Policies.** Cllr Davies requested that the proforma policies prepared by NALC be adjusted to better suit the needs of a small Parish Council and requested that the adoption be delayed until the next meeting after adjustments have been made.

14. The next meeting will be held on the Wednesday the 15th January 2020 at 7:30pm in the Compton Parish Room.

The Chairman thanked all present for attending.

The meeting closed at 21:38

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