



Compton Parish Council

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Draft Minutes of the Meeting of Compton Parish Council Held on Wednesday 20th March 2019 at 7:30pm in Compton Parish Rooms

Those Present: Cllr J Popplewell in the chair
J Bray (JB), Cllr Anthony Davies (AD), M Edney (ME), J Moulton (JM), R Verghese (RV)

Also in Attendance: Cllr Viral Parikh (VP), County Councillor Bourne Division, Cllr Roy Briscoe, Westbourne Parish Council, Emma Milne (Chair of The Friends of Compton and Up Marden CE School) and Sarah Hill (Parent Governor, Compton and Up Marden CE School)

Public Attendance: 5 members of the public were present

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

The meeting commenced at 7:30pm

1. Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Brian Morgan (BM)

2. No declarations of interest were received.

3. The minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on the 16th January 2019. JM noted a spelling error on pg 2 of the minutes which was corrected, and the minutes were then approved unanimously by the council and signed by the Chairman.

4. Reports from PCSO Booker and District and County Councillors.

The Chairman read out a report prepared by Colin Booker, which included a tree fire in Up Marden and damage reported in the grounds of Compton and Up Marden School.

Cllr Parikh reported that the **54 bus** will remain as current with no changes to the timetable. He thanked the parish councils for their help in campaigning. He will continue to work with the communities to ensure that the service remains. In response to a question from AD, Cllr Parikh had no definitive answer for how long the bus route would be secure. JP who had attended the recent bus steering committee meeting reported that it seemed secure for another year, but that £10,000 in savings would need to be made on the 54 route to ensure its survival.

Cllr Parikh reported that money was now available at county level for highway repairs and encouraged residents to use the Love West Sussex app to report potholes, broken signage etc. WSCC is running an awareness campaign to help young people with special needs to get into work. Please contact him for further information.

5. Reports from Parish Councillors and the Chairman

Cllr ME reported on the **rural crime** and the Country Watch Scheme and Eyes for Trouble app. He noted particularly that combined efforts between farmers to highlight issues have received support

from Hampshire police, but that this has not been the case with West Sussex. Cllr Parikh stated that he will look into possibilities here. RB reported that he was unhappy with the policing of rural crime in the area and that he would be talking to Katy Bourne (Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner), he will also contact the sergeant in Chichester responsible for rural crime, noting that his work covers a very large area. *Action ME to supply Hampshire police contact details to RB.* JP reported that the **Velo South** event will not be running in 2019. Cllr Parikh ensured those present that he has requested that Parishes be consulted first is an event of this nature is planned again.

West Marden Phone Mast – ME and RV met with representatives from O2, Cornerstone (mast erection company), Tim Slaney (SDNP) and Shona Archer (Enforcement CDC) and two other officers from CDC on the 1st March. Cornerstone stated that they would review the 2 alternative sites proposed by councillors, but he also remarked that workers from the company returned a couple of days later to wire up the new mast. RV and ME have written to the CEOs of both companies as well as Gillian Keegan (MP for Chichester) and are awaiting further information. RV reported that the amount of **litter** seen on West Marden Hill has increased. JP noted that West Sussex are running a clean-up campaign, but that there were no plans to organise an event in this area, instead relying on the good works of locals in removing waste as they see it.

Cllr ME reported that he has spoken to the enforcement officer regarding the development at **Cowdown Farm**. There have been considerable delays in enforcement due to a paucity in resources. RB noted that he has experienced similar in his Parish.

JM requested an update from Stoughton Parish Council regarding **potholes** in Forestside. *Action RF*

AD provided an update on the **affordable housing project**. The original solicitors, Burley Geech have confirmed that they will not charge any further costs and Clarke Willmott of Southampton have been instructed as our new solicitors. He confirmed that Hastoe Housing Association will contribute £2,500 towards solicitors' fees for drafting the option to purchase documents and Clarke Willmott have confirmed that this will cost £5,000. Chichester District Council have also confirmed that they will contribute £2,000 towards costs already incurred (these include £900 to Irwin Mitchell and £1732 to Burley Geech) AD will supply a copy of the CDC grant application form *Action AD*. AD would therefore like to request the councils' approval on behalf of the Affordable Housing Working Group, for payment of up to £2500 plus VAT for the remaining costs to Clarke Willmott. AD proposed, JP seconded, all approved the payment.

AD also reported that Karen Hillhouse of Hastoe had now left the company and that he has requested a meeting with her replacement and Holly Nichol of CDC. He hopes that the original strong links with Hastoe will be maintained.

Parish Council Elections – JP stated that councillors nomination papers need to be handed in to Chichester District Council by 4pm on the 3rd April. He encouraged councillors not to leave this until the last minute. He would not be stepping down as Chairman this year. Cllr Morgan has announced that he will be stepping down due to ill health. Thus there will be a vacancy for one new councillor.

Annual Meeting of Parishioners. This year's meeting (to be held before the Annual Parish Council Meeting) will have a theme of 'Community Matters' and will focus on what the community is doing for itself and what is happening in the local area. There will be approximately 8 speakers.

6. Report from **Bus Steering Group Committee** – already covered in VP's report.

7. To receive an update on **GDPR and the community intranet** project. RF reported that that new email address has been created and new addresses will be set up shortly. The dedicated Parish Council email addresses will end @comptonwestsussex-pc.gov.uk. The Parish Council section of the Sharepoint site is largely set up and councillor access will be set up in conjunction with the email changeover.

8. To receive a report from the Chair of the Friends of Compton and Up Marden School. Emma Milne introduced Sarah Hill (Parent Governor of the School) also attending the meeting. She went on to explain that both were keen to set up better links between the school and the community. She explained the various initiatives carried out by the school and the 'Friends' to encourage **safer parking**, including facebook information, posters and raising awareness amongst the pupils too.

She welcomed the opportunity to park in the recreation ground, but highlighted recent problems with gate opening on Robins Way and the long grass from the parking area to the start of Robins Way. JP noted that the Parish Council were committed to improving the route to Robins Way, but could only do so when the affordable housing layouts were confirmed and monies made available. He did confirm that parents were welcome to trim the grass on the route and Stuart Reid from the floor volunteered to look into laying down a temporary surface. JP also noted that one of the culprits behind the recent spate of thefts from cars has been apprehended.

In response to questions from the floor, it was noted that children under 5 cannot travel on the **school buses** and that those living within a certain distance from the school have to pay for the bus. It was also noted that parking on the bend in the B2146 in the village is only illegal if it obstructs the highway. Enforcement by traffic wardens would only occur if double yellow lines were present. JP confirmed that any further extension to the parking area in the recreation ground would be challenged by Fields in Trust.

The **school fete** will be held on the 22nd June this year and will be called the Compton Country Fun Day. Any donations of second-hand items or prizes for the raffle would be very welcome. Residents are encouraged to use the clothing bank, located in the school playground, which can be accessed during school hours and again, raises money for the school.

There has been some concern regarding **dog fouling** near the entrance to the school. Again parents have been contacted and pupils will be preparing signs to encourage responsible dog ownership.

JP thanked Sarah Hill and Emma Milne for attending the meeting.

9. Planning applications.

SDNP/19/01027/TCA (Chapel house) – was supported by councillors

No stopping or parking on school approach road – part of a county wide consultation for all schools. Cllrs were concerned as to who would enforce such an order and felt that it was an unnecessary addition in this area as the current system worked well.

10. To receive the statement of accounts and approve the bank reconciliation. The RFO confirmed that there had been a number of payments recently and that the account now stood at £17985.72.

11. Next meeting. The Annual Parish Meeting will be held at 7pm (doors open 6:45pm) in Compton and up Marden School and Community Hall. The Annual Meeting of the Parish Council will be held immediately after this and in the same location at approximately 8:30pm.

There were no further questions from the floor.

The meeting closed at 8:44pm.

Chairman

Date

Abbreviations used:

Cllr(s) – Councillor(s)

SDNP – South Downs National Park

WSCC - West Sussex County Council

CDC – Chichester District Council

TPO – tree preservation order

RFO – responsible financial officer