



Compton Parish Council

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Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Wednesday 16th November 2016 at 7.30pm at the Compton Parish Rooms

- Those Present:** Cllr John Popplewell in the Chair
Cllrs J Bray, A Davies, M Edney, B Morgan,
Cllr J Moulton (arrived 7.44pm)
- In Attendance:** Cllr Sandra James, West Sussex County Council, Bourne Division
(arrived 7.35pm)
- Public Attendance:** 14 members of the public were present

1. Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Verghese and for late arrival by Cllr Moulton. No report or apology was received from the District Councillor
2. No declarations of interest were received
3. The minutes of the Council Meeting held on Wednesday 22nd September 2016 were approved as a true and accurate record. Cllr Popplewell signed the minutes.
Matters arising from the minutes. Page 2: Cllr Morgan had reported prior to the meeting that no further information was available on the proposed development on Noredown Way in West Marden.
4. Cllr James delivered her report which included:
 - Markwells Wood. A decision as to whether permission will be granted to UKOG will be made in the first quarter of next year. Stoughton Parish council will attempt to gather funding for a professional to assist in progressing their objection, and may also decide to increase their precept to cover these costs. Parishes in the surrounding areas have also objected. An acidisation project near Fernhurst received 1500 objections. Cllr Davies pointed out that Portsmouth City Council have also just registered their objections.
 - East Marden Well – Chichester District Council have taken ownership of the well and will be effecting repairs to the thatch shortly.
 - WSSC are experiencing considerable financial pressures and increases in council tax are to be expected in the coming year.
 - Policing. Cllr James is keen for the old PCSO system to be reinstated. She is encouraging the Parish Councils to contact Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner Katy Bourne.
 - Closure of Hambrook Waste and Recycling Centre. She has secured a feasibility study to reassess this closure.
 - Cllr Davies highlighted the low levels of funding for education in West Sussex recently highlighted by Jeremy Hunt, West Sussex County Council Cabinet Member for Education and Skills – the lowest funded County Council in the country. Cllr James stated that she was looking into the problem as well as into debt provision for Bourne schools. She pointed out that we could lobby for change, but the final decision rested with central government.
 - Syria – 240 people will be rehoused in the county over the next 5 years.

Flooding – Cllr Edney stated that one of the results of project Emsflow was the recommended creation of flood plains by landowners as part of local flood defences. One landowner (present at the meeting) had agreed to this proposal, but the neighbouring landowner has started filling in the flood plain site. Objections have been made to Stoughton Parish Council in which this problem lies. Their clerk has made objections to the Environment Agency (EA) who will approach the farmer. Cllr James will also discuss the issue with the EA.

5. To approve updates to Parish Council Standing Orders and to approve the Financial Regulations of the Parish Council

Approvals of changes to the standing orders and financial regulations were delayed until the January meeting. The clerk to prepare a detailed summary of changes for all councillors.

Action RF

6. To receive a report from the Chairman

Better broadband campaign. Rick Wates had so far only received 6 replies to his request. The Parish Council will continue to encourage residents to consider his proposals. Cllr Popplewell noted that WSCC will offer support to residents that have a download speed of less than 2Mbps through the better connected West Sussex scheme, and certainly one (Stoughton) resident has benefitted from this.

Volunteers. It is becoming apparent that WSCC will continue to maintain its legal obligations, but budget cuts will mean that it will not be able to offer much more. At a recent meeting of local parish councils, the benefits of creating local volunteer groups was discussed. The WSCC volunteer group continues, but their main role is to act as support for local volunteer projects rather than to replace them. Cllr Popplewell felt that it would be of huge local benefit to have a local volunteer organiser. We have no shortage of individuals in the area who would kindly give their time to improving our local area and someone to organise this resource would be a valuable addition.

Recreation Ground Car Park. The uneven surface will be infilled tomorrow (17th November) to enable more use in the winter and also to try to ease the school parking problems. Cllr Edney highlighted a simple plastic reinforcing system that he had recently discovered, that was more cost effective than other options that had been considered. Cllr Davies stated that at a recent CDC Community Projects meeting he had been told that funding was now available for car parks.

Speedwatch. Compton speedwatch group is in need of more volunteers. Hour long speed checks are carried out, often at school drop off and pick up times to protect children from speeding drivers.

Christmas. Compton Christmas tree will be in place again this year thanks to the efforts of John Strupausis and Patricia Garratt

7. To receive reports from Parish Councillors

Cllr Moulton – enquired on the status of hedge trimming at the S. end of the village. It was the general view that the local farmer should continue to trim this hedge as previously. **Action ME**

Cllr Bray – CDC have offered to replace the rotten grit bags with new empty bags – not a very effective solution as the current bags cannot be picked up. If needed it was decided that the bags could be placed on a pallet. Evidence of Public Liability Insurance is needed for the snow plough driver. **Action Stuart Reid.** Cllr Bray pointed out that ‘no public right of way’ signs had been put up in the area to discourage dog walkers from using the 6m environmental margins of fields that had been created to protect ground nesting birds. In response to a question from the floor it was stated that the gate at Locksash would be closed at night to discourage fly tipping and undesirable access. Horse and cycle access would not be affected.

Cllr Morgan – Referendum principles would not affect Compton Parish Council as we are too small. A WSCC consultation is underway to consider increasing the police precept which would have a direct effect on Council Tax. Please see the website blog for details.

Cllr Davies – BT kiosks. The Parish Council is being consulted regarding the removal of the more modern kiosk in Compton. CDC wish to object to its removal and for its retention as an active box. They cite the fact that 83 calls were made from the box in the past year. Cllr Popplewell recommended that the Parish Council fully support the CDC objection. The box is often used by visitors, and with no mobile phone coverage in the area, is very important if a call for help or emergency services are required. This is particularly vital as the recent application for a mobile phone mast in the area had been rejected by SDNP. In response to a question from the floor, it was confirmed that the red box in West Marden had been bought by Mr T Couzens and had been donated to the parish council some years previously.

Cllr Edney – had recently attended the Farnborough airport consultation with other councillors. The consultation was regarding changes to flight paths, but it soon became apparent that only a small part of the top left corner of the parish would be affected and this would be very minor. The airfield is used for private and business flights and there would be fewer than 50,000 landings per year, all during the daytime. Further information can be found on the website blog.

Potholes. It was noted from the floor that potholes and flooding had been reported on the 'love West sussex' website (link on the Parish Council website). No acknowledgements had been received, but workers were sent out quite rapidly to deal with the flooding on the green. Residents were still awaiting news from WSCC about the pothole at Locksash.

Flytipping. An increase in the quantity and make up of flytipping has been noted by residents. 25 or so bags of woodchippings had been deposited on Old House Lane as well as chipped wood from hedge trimming in Compton. There was general concern about increases due to the introduction of charges at local waste facilities. Cllr Davis reported that he had spoken to David Barling, Cabinet Member for Residents Services. His response had been that his data did not suggest any increases. Residents were encouraged to always report fly tipping and to keep a record of the incidents. It was noted from the floor that fly tipping on private land was also not recorded by WSCC as this did not fall within their remit to clear it. It was also noted from the floor that Westhampnett waste and recycling facility have changed their opening hours.

Flooding. Recent rainfall showed that the work carried out as part of project Emsflow was working very well. Some adjustments to the ditches at West Marden still need to be completed and the two soakaways discovered on the green are awaiting clearing with suitable equipment. Cllr James said that she would follow up. **Action SJ**. Cllr Edney also pointed out that the gully at the bottom of Old House Lane and Locksash Lane and also the one at Watergate lane need clearing. He will send Cllr James maps showing their location **Action ME**. The recent flooding on the green in Compton was highlighted from the floor. The drains were hard to locate and needed clearing, although the soakaway had been recently cleared. Cllr James pointed out that Operation Watershed funding was still available and perhaps this might be a suitable project.

8. Financial report, statement of accounts and bank reconciliation from the RFO.

The clerk presented the financial report and bank reconciliation which were approved by the chairman. Councillors approved the purchase of a Remembrance Day wreath.

9. To receive a report from the recent meeting of the Affordable Housing Working Group.

Cllr Davies reported that there had been no recent meeting of the group. Despite repeated requests since 22nd September when Cllr Davies signed the letter of engagement, no advice from the solicitors had been forthcoming.

10. Planning.

SDNP/16/05100/HOUS (Pitlands Farm) – Cllrs Bray and Verghese had visited the property and recorded no objections.

SDNP/16/04679/CM (Markwell's Wood) – The EA and Portsmouth City Council have now objected to the UKOG proposals. Cllr Davies reported that a forthcoming private meeting between UKOG, the EA and Portsmouth CC is of concern.

SDNP/16/04633/HOUS (Pyers Croft) – Cllrs Popplewell and Moulton visited the property and recorded no objections.

SDNP/16/05490/TCA (Carriers Cottage) – Cllrs Popplewell and Moulton reported that the application is under consideration.

11. To approve dates for Parish Council Meetings in 2017
The list was approved by councillors and will be published on the website and notice boards shortly. **Action RF.** It was noted that all meetings will be held in the Parish Rooms apart from the Annual Parish Meeting and the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council which will be held on the same day in May in Compton and Up Marden School and Community Hall.
It was noted from the floor that the announcement of the meeting in the Octagon magazine was very helpful.
12. The next meeting will be held on the 18th January 2017 in The Parish Rooms, Compton. The Chairman thanked everyone for attending. The meeting closed at 8:55pm

Date:

Chairman: