



Compton Parish Council

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Draft Minutes of the Meeting of Compton Parish Council Held on Wednesday 21st November 2018 at 7:30pm in Compton Parish Rooms

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

Public Attendance: 11 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 Anthony Davies (AD), Cllr Brian Morgan (BM) and 1 member of the public

2. No declarations of interest were received.

3. The minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on the 19th September 2018, were approved unanimously by the council and duly signed by the Chairman.

4. Reports from District and County Councillors.

Cllr Parikh apologised for being unable to attend the last meeting.

He encouraged residents to do everything they can to support the continuation of the 54 bus route and noted that Westbourne had obtained 1000 signatures on a petition objecting to the closure of the route. He noted that it is unlikely that a full time schedule will be retained if the bus route were to continue and that using the bus for supplementary purposes was under consideration.

Subsequent to the government's pledge to provide more funding to highway repair he was eager to see pothole issues addressed quickly. It was noted that potholes on the road from Hundred Acres to Keepers Cottage were particularly bad.

He encouraged attendees at Chichester Local Committee meetings to check the agenda carefully on the WSCC website before attending the meetings. He would be happy to send through public document packs on request.

A new social prescriber is in place in Westbourne tasked with connecting people with non-medical support, such as day centres, charities or community groups, in the community to improve their wellbeing and tackle social isolation.

Cllr Parikh encouraged residents to obtain flu jabs from their local pharmacy, noting that the virus strain in use this year is particularly effective.

He also noted the WSCC refill scheme whereby local businesses can offer free water bottle refills to help cut down on plastic waste. It was observed from the floor that if local businesses paid for metered water, there would be costs involved for them. Cllr Parikh would investigate if there were schemes available to assist.

5. Rachel Foister, Parish Clerk, RFO for the Parish Council and administrator for the Ecclesiastical Parish of the Octagon reported on plans to create a community based intranet and data protection system to help both organisations, volunteers in the parish working in many local groups and, it is envisaged, other businesses and organisations in the area to become **GDPR** compliant. The aim of the project would be to combine resources to provide a cost effective solution to this pressing need and to better assist and protect all those working for the public good in responding appropriately to the requirements of GDPR. She gave a brief overview of the process which would include the services of a Data Protection Officer as well as the creation of a cloud based intranet system based on MS Sharepoint. The project would include installation of the necessary software on computer systems, training, and ongoing computer support as well as guidance and advice in ensuring that systems remain compliant, protected and up to date. The project will be scalable to allow new groups to join at a later date, but she encouraged all Cllrs and volunteers to take part in set up and training at the outset. She envisaged that the system will be set up in the first half of the new year. Initial funding for the project will amount to £1400 for the first year, with the option to extend support for an annual fee. She requested support from Cllrs for half the cost of the project, the other half coming from the Octagon Parish. JP voted in support of the proposal, seconded by JM. All voted in favour to support the project.

6. Cllr Verghese reported on the **Affordable Housing Project**. Cllr Davies had been working hard behind the scenes to progress the project. The architects and Hastoe Housing Association are still keen to progress the project and are working with SDNP to adjust the plans to satisfy their requirements. Irwin Shaw Solicitors have advised that as the Recreation Ground Committee is already Charity Commission compliant there should be no need to make a further application to them in order to sell the land.

7. Cllr Popplewell reported on a meeting of the Rogate Bus Steering Group. The **number 54 bus** is the most at risk of the bus services covered by the group as it doesn't cover additional activities. Use of the bus has increased and passengers have found the service to be clean, reliable and comfortable. Bus use could be increased with an improved timetable. The WSCC survey has been handed out by Cllrs to all known users, the results of this survey will be published next week. The next meeting of the bus steering group is on the 27th November. Phil Hughes will be attending as Cllrs are unavailable.

8. Cllr Popplewell discussed the **draft budget and precept request** for next year prepared by the RFO and circulated to councillors before the meeting. He asked Cllrs for their comments. He pointed out that spending had been below budget so far this year, but that we had 2 solicitors working on the project with fees pending. He was keen not to increase the precept in 2019 and councillors agreed with this. It was noted that funding for the GDPR project be moved to a separate heading and that a further £300 be set aside for any extra costs associated with the project or for responding to data protection issues. In his capacity as Secretary to the Recreation Ground Committee, Cllr Popplewell noted that the committee had voted not to increase their £1500 grant request. The final budget and precept request will be voted on at the next meeting.

9. Reports from Parish councillors and the Chairman

Cllr Popplewell reported that installations at the Markwell's Wood drilling site will be removed and the site restored.

He reported that collections across the Parish for **Remembrance Day** had amounted to around £4000. The Parish Council had lent their support by purchasing a coin counting machine costing £100 which it is hoped could also be used by other community fundraising groups in future. There was some discussion as to the permanence and location of the **Silent Soldier**, currently sited at the bottom of Locksash lane, one time referred to as Recruitment Hill, being the first stage of the journey young men from the villages took to head to the recruitment offices. It was agreed amongst councillors that the soldier should remain in place for a full year to mark this the 100th Anniversary.

Litter picking. Cllr Popplewell reported that a young member of the community had carried out litter picking once per week for three months between Old House Lane and Compton as part of her Duke of Edinburgh Award and that he had been delighted to sign to confirm she had completed

the project. In addition to a range of litter she collected 95 plastic bottles and reported 2 incidents of fly tipping.

Car Parking in the Square continues to present problems. School parents had been using the recreation ground car park, but a recent spate of **thefts from cars** has had a very deleterious effect. PCSO Booker has reported that thefts have increased greatly as thieves are heading to new areas. One man has been arrested and imprisoned and Compton has been added to the police patrol route. Appropriate signage has been added to the Recreation Ground carpark. Cllr Popplewell urged residents to remain vigilant to any unusual activity.

Christmas. Cllr Popplewell noted that the new landlords of the Coach and Horses were delighted to continue with the tradition of supplying the electricity for the Christmas tree lights.

Green Dogs Scheme. CDC has set up the scheme to encourage dog walkers to clear up after their dogs and help others to do the same. He pointed out that some years ago the Council had applied for a dog waste bin, but that the application had been refused as the most suitable location was too close to the school.

Velo South. WSCC will be holding meetings with the Parishes involved although it was noted from the floor that the event may not be going ahead.

Cllr Bray reported that he was now in receipt of the 4 new **winter grit bins** which will be located at farms in the area. They will be moved to suitable locations if needed. The winter plan has been submitted to WSCC and Stuart Reid at Locksash Farm will be informed as to which roads he will be responsible for snow ploughing. Cllr Bray also noted there was a new Sussex Cold Alert Service, recently launched, to provide cold weather alerts to subscribers. Further details here - <http://www.coldalert.info/AboutColdAlert.aspx>

Cllr Popplewell reported on the **Sussex Watch Service** which will combine various reporting groups related to rural crime such as Farmwatch. It was noted by Cllrs and from the floor that the Farmwatch system had not been effective and that local farmers communicated concerns via Whatsapp which was then reported directly to the police. They have also found that calling 101 had been slow and frustrating.

Cllr Popplewell reported that Rachel Foister had agreed to be the new area **public rights of way** link and that any concerns regarding footpaths and bridleways could be reported to her.

Cllr Moulton reported that there was a **fox** in the village, with 4 hens already taken. She encouraged chicken owners to be vigilant. She also noted that the village **Christmas Fair** would be taking place on the 1st December in the School Hall, raising money for a variety of good causes.

10. Planning Applications:

- SDNP/18/05383/TCA – Mead Cottage. Cllrs Morgan and Verghese had visited the property and were in support of the tree work.

- SDNP/18/05297/TCA - Compton House. Cllrs Moulton and Popplewell had visited the property and were in support of the proposed tree works. The owner of the property noted from the floor that she had altered the original application in response to an objection by an unknown resident.

- SDNP/17/04390/PA16 - West Marden Vodafone mast (submitted 2017). An enforcement order has been put in place after works started on the installation of this mast at the Telephone Exchange at West Marden. Cllr Edney and Verghese have put in considerable effort to discover why works had commenced on an application that had been refused, and to ensure that they were halted as soon as possible. Various issues in relation to SDNP's refusal date and the validity of the documents originally being submitted are being investigated by the planning department. Cllr Popplewell thanked councillors for their prompt action on this issue and stated that the Parish Council were not against the installation of phone masts in appropriate locations and pointed out the council's support of an application for Telegraph Hill. A mast located near the current emergency mast installation on Locksah Hill was also mentioned as being suitable.

- Cowdown Farm. Cllr Edney reported that an enforcement order on works at Cowdown Farm had been served in September, and the date for restoration of the site had now passed. It was noted by a Cllr from Westbourne Parish Council, attending as a member of the public, that in his experience, Cllrs should chase up enforcement and recommended that Cllrs contact Shona Archer at CDC. **Action ME**

11. The latest bank reconciliation will be circulated to councillors shortly. It was noted by the RFO that the accounts remained healthy, with several budgeted payments recently going out, including the £1500 grant to the Recreation Ground Committee. Updated details of payments to date in 2018/19 will be published on the website in compliance with the Transparency Code.

There were no further questions from the floor.

The next meeting is scheduled for the 16th January 2019 in Compton Parish Rooms at 07:30pm.
The meeting closed at 09:06pm.

Chairman

Date

Abbreviations used:

Cllr(s) – Councillor(s)

SDNP – South Downs National Park

WSSC - West Sussex County Council

CDC – Chichester District Council

TPO – tree preservation order

RFO – responsible financial officer