

**Compton Parish Council**

Chairman: Dave Aldis

Clerk: Sarah Marshman

**MINUTES of the PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

**Held on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> January, 2017 at 7:00pm** in the Wilkins Centre, Burrell Road.

Those present: Councillors D. Aldis (Chair), M. Birtwistle, P. Burnett, L. Moss, M. Pinfold, K. Simms and I. Tong.

In attendance: The Parish Clerk and District Councillor Virginia von Celsing.

The meeting started at 7:00pm.

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**4044 Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Cllrs. R. Pinfold and A. Strong.

**4045 Any declarations of pecuniary interests by members or the Clerk**

KS declared an interest in item 4053 and 4051 planning application 16/03208/FUL.

**4046 To receive: Questions or comments from members of the public**

**Representations from any member who has declared a pecuniary interest**

There were none.

**4047 To approve the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> December, 2016**

It was resolved that the minutes be accepted as a true record and they were signed by the Chairman.

**4048 Matters arising from the minutes of the Council Meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> December, 2016**

There were none.

**4049 To receive a report from our District Councillor**

The budget consultation for West Berkshire Council has now closed and received 300 responses. Adult social care is the biggest issue for budgets both locally and nationally.

The chancellor announced during the Autumn Budget that an upgrade of the A34 would take place. A safety review will also be taking place. MPs in the area have visited the transport minister to discuss the A34.

West Berkshire Council have made another new call for sites for planning – the Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (HELAA) consultation.

A local boundary review is taking place to reduce the number of wards within West Berks by 10.

The parish council and VvC discussed the library service review that is requesting parish and town councils provide funding towards this service. It was highlighted that not enough information had been provided by West Berkshire Council for the council to be able to determine which power, if any, could be applied in order to provide this funding. Based on advice from BALC, without this information the parish council is unable to provide any funding as they are unable to spend under s137 unless they have ensured there are no other powers that can be used. There is also an issue with using s137 as it cannot be predetermined in the budget as to what s137 funds will be spent on, yet WBC require an initial three year commitment.

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Chairman

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The following response will be sent to West Berkshire Council:

Compton Parish Council chooses not to provide funding towards the library service as we do not believe this is a parish council responsibility. We are currently investigating whether it is possible for parish councils to fund this.

The decision by West Berkshire Council to remove funding and therefore remove all salt bins owned by West Berkshire Council from the village was discussed. The parish council needs to investigate further as to whether they are legally able to supply salt and are currently discussing this matter with the Berkshire Association of Local Councils. If the parish council were to fund this (if able to), this would result in an increase in the precept for the whole village.

The Clerk was requested to write to Roger Croft, Leader of the Council, copying in Nick Carter, Chief Executive Officer, Richard Benyon, MP, and other BALC member councils to state that Compton Parish Council is unwilling to take on any services that should be funded by West Berkshire Council.

**4050 Clerk's report**

The Clerk went through her report, which is at Attachment 1.

**4051 Planning Applications**

**a) To consider the following new applications:**

App. Ref.	Location	Proposed Work	Recommendation
<b>16/03140/ HOUSE</b>	Oakwood House, Coombe Road, Compton, RG20 6RQ	Convert single garage to an annex, rear aspect. New double bayed garage with secure bay for equipment to side aspect (North)	<b>NO OBJECTIONS</b>
<b>16/03208/ FUL</b>	Units 7 - 9 Old Station Business Park, Compton, RG20 6NE	Retrospective application for first floor labs, office and new external plant including	<b>NO OBJECTIONS</b>

**Comments:**  
No objections but we have seen a number of retrospective applications from this site and if this had been submitted to us for approval, while we might not have objected, we would have raised concerns about light pollution from upper floor windows and the lack of screening that we believe was a condition of the original development application.

**b) To consider whether to request our District Councillor call in any planning applications to the Western Area Planning Committee**

There were no applications requiring call in.

**c) To receive a report on West Berkshire Council recent planning decisions**

App. Ref.	Location	Proposed Work	Response from CPC	Decision
Planning Appeal APP/W0340/W/ 16/3154951  15/03431/FULD	Bray Cottage, Cheap Street, Compton, RG20 6QH	Construction of new dwelling with associated curtilage and car parking with modifications to boundary wall (dismantle and reconstruct) and removal of boundary outbuildings.	Object	Appeal granted

The flood warden has raised concerns with WBC about a new bridge being put in over the Roden. WBC stated this needs planning permission so has referred it to the planning enforcement officer.

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**4052 To consider a further response to the West Berkshire Council Library Service Review Consultation and to consider whether the council would contribute £1,560 per year towards the costs**

It was resolved unanimously not to provide this funding because:

- i. The parish council does not have a specific power to fund this;
- ii. A three year commitment is required so s137 cannot be used as s137 expenditure cannot be predetermined in the budget;
- iii. Should s137 be deemed appropriate, the parish council still has concerns whether the amount requested is in proportion to the benefits.

**4053 To consider quotes for a planning advisor to lead the Rule 6 party regarding planning appeal APP/W0340/W/16/3160454: 16/01418/OUTMAJ Land at Old Station Business Park High Street Compton**

It was resolved to set a cap of £600 for the initial work and to ask for a quote for attendance at the inquiry for consideration at the next meeting.

**4054 To consider the response to West Berkshire Council's Housing Site Allocations Development Plan Document - Consultation on Proposed Main Modifications**

The parish council had no comments, however, they have requested the Clerk contact the planning advisor and ask them to look at the documentation and provide a draft comment if they feel appropriate to do so.

**4055 To consider the draft budget for 2017/18**

It was resolved to adopt the budget and to set the precept at £31,320. It was noted this would mean the council would run at a deficit which would be taken from reserves.

**4056 To consider the adoption of a graffiti policy**

This item was deferred.

**4057 To consider creating a policy that Compton Parish Council will request prosecution for any damage to its property, or action (verbal or physical) against any of its members, representatives or officers**

This item was deferred.

**4058 To consider whether to apply for the gates at the entrance to the Pirbright Institute to be listed**

This item was deferred.

**4059 To consider a request to install outdoor gym equipment in the Recreation Ground**

The parish council agreed they would be willing to support this suggestion but have investigated the idea previously and found the costs to be very high. The Clerk will respond to the request asking them to provide further information on what gym equipment they would like installed and possible avenues of funding to help cover costs.

**4060 To receive an update on vandalism and anti-social behaviour (ASB) in the village**

It is believed vehicles have been driving on the Recreation Ground. A pane of glass has been smashed in a resident's house.

**4061 To receive reports on the following:**

**c) Rights of Way**

An email regarding improving the connections between Compton and the Ridgeway was discussed. IT will respond, highlighting the current poor signage.

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Chairman

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**d) Village Hall**

Father Christmas raised over £600 which will be divided between the pre-school, air ambulance and Cornwall Hospice Care in memory of Pete Shanks.

**g) Communications**

The council thanked Cllr. Tong for the donation of a cloud storage device.

**h) Groundwater**

The Environment Agency recently met with the Flood Warden and WBC will be meeting with a resident soon.

**i) Parish Assets & Management**

The parish council was successful in its bid for Lot 25 and the purchaser of the entire estate has offered to pay the purchase price for us so the only costs the parish council will face are the legal costs.

**4062 To receive the finance report and approve payments due**

It was resolved to approve the payments listed on the finance report, which is at Attachment 2.

**4063 Correspondence**

The Correspondence Report was presented and is at Attachment 3.

**4064 Matters for future consideration and information**

The celebrations around the Christmas went very well and it is hoped that the events will grow in the future. There was a good atmosphere and it was a good community event.

Stocks of the footpaths leaflet are very low. The Clerk will obtain quotes to reprint. IT will print some copies for now.

The Christmas Day event organised by PB went very well. The only expenditure was for the hire of the Wilkins Centre. PB thanked everyone for their support.

The Clerk will be attending a cemetery legal compliance course in May.

Meeting closed 9:10pm.

Date and time of next scheduled meeting:

➤ **Parish Council Meeting: Monday 6<sup>th</sup> February, 2017 at 7pm in the Wilkins Centre**

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Chairman

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Date