

Compton Parish Council

Chairman: Dave Aldis

Clerk: Sarah Marshman

MINUTES of the PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Monday 2nd October, 2017 at 7:30pm in the Wilkins Centre, Burrell Road.

Those present: Councillors D. Aldis (Chair), L. Moss, R. Pinfold, K. Simms, A. Strong and I. Tong

In attendance: District Councillor Virginia von Celsing and the Parish Clerk.
1 member of the public.

4261 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors M. Birtwistle, P. Burnett and M. Pinfold.

4262 Any declarations of pecuniary interests by members or the Clerk

There were none.

4263 To receive: Questions or comments from members of the public

Representations from any member who has declared a pecuniary interest

There were none.

4264 To approve the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 4th September, 2017

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

4265 Matters arising from the minutes of the Council Meeting on 4th September, 2017

It was queried what the terms of the agreement with the Sunday football team is. This is dealt with by Compton Football Club. Comments have been received regarding the language used by players of both the Saturday and Sunday teams.

4266 To receive a report from our District Councillor

VvC highlighted the ward boundary consultation.

4267 Clerk's report

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

The Clerk was requested to report to West Berkshire Council that the footpath from the High Street to Burrell Road is in need of weed removal and the area outside Lowbury Gardens needs cutting.

4268 Planning Applications

a) To consider the following new applications:

App. Ref.	Location	Proposed Work	Recommendation
17/02483/ HOUSE	1 Lowbury Gardens, Compton, RG20 6NN	Formation of habitable room in roof space with front and rear velux roof lights	NO OBJECTIONS
17/02545/ HOUSE	1 School Road, Compton, RG20 6QU	Demolition of concrete garage and construction of two storey side extension with integral garage and single storey rear extension.	NO OBJECTIONS

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Chairman

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17/02623/ CERTP	Cedar Bungalow, Wallingford Road, Compton, RG20 6PS	Extension.	No response submitted
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Further information:
As the Parish Council are not considered formal consultees on this application, it was resolved not to make comment at this time. However, the Clerk was requested to contact the planning consultant to ask for confirmation whether this application was valid for a certificate of lawfulness. If his opinion is that it is not then the Clerk is to request he writes a formal comment to be submitted.

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

It was resolved not to request any of these applications be called in.

c) To consider whether to refer any planning applications for further response from our planning consultants

It was resolved to refer 17/02623/CERTP for assessment and possible comment as above.

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

App. Ref.	Location	Proposed Work	Response from CPC	Decision
17/01674/ FUL	10-12 Old Station Business Park, Compton	Section 73A: Variation of Condition 1 - 'Plans approved' of previously approved application 00/00964/FUL - Construction of three two storey light industrial units in one block of three units.	No objections	Approved
17/01816/ COMIND	Land at Badgergate Farm, Coombe Road, Compton	Small barn for 1 to 2 equines and small flock of sheep. Type of use remains mixed equestrian and agricultural.	No objections	Approved

4269 To consider setting a budget for the Christmas events

It was resolved to budget £250 for consumables for the Christmas events.

Suggestion for a charity where any donations should be given were discussed. It was agreed this should go to the community Christmas Day lunch.

4270 To consider a response to consultation on the Ward Boundary Review: Draft Recommendations

The draft recommendations suggest that Compton should become part of a 'Basildon and Compton Ward', along with the following parishes: West Ilsley, East Ilsley, Hampstead Norreys, Aldworth, Ashampstead, Yattendon, Streatley and Basildon. The proposal suggests there will be two councillors for this ward.

The Parish Council feel the proposed ward is too large and would request that the ward is split so that the ward has a single councillor that represents the rural interests of Compton and the surrounding villages. It is natural to include West and East Ilsley with the villages that are currently in the Compton ward due to their similar rural nature. However, they believe these villages have very little in common with Basildon and Streatley and therefore believe the ward would be better split.

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Chairman

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- 4271 **To consider purchasing wreaths and event poppies for Remembrance Sunday and a donation to the Royal British Legion**
It was resolved to purchase ten event poppies and three wreaths: one for the parade; one for the parish war memorial and one for the memorial plaque, and to make a donation of £50 to the Royal British Legion.
- 4272 **To consider setting a budget to make and install doors for the Football Pavilion**
The labour for making the doors will be free of charge by Oxford University. It was resolved to pay £73.98 for the cost of timber.
A quote has not yet been received for the installation of the doors so this will need to be considered at a future meeting.
- 4273 **To consider adopting an employer policy statement for the pension scheme**
This was deferred.
- 4274 **To review the budget**
The budget was reviewed by the council.
- 4275 **To consider the advertising rates for Compilations for 2018**
Advertising rates have stayed static since 2010, however, the level of revenue has fallen recently. It was resolved to increase the cost of a full page advert from £24 to £27.
- 4276 **To discuss the installation of a village sign**
The sign will have four segments. Suggestions for the segments were agricultural, horse racing, and science along with either education/children or the stones that are positioned near The Swan. Possible locations for the sign were discussed, the most popular of the suggestions was near the telephone box on the High Street.
- 4277 **To consider whether to digitise The Story of Compton book**
The author has agreed to this however, it was thought that the remaining approximately 30 copies of the book should be sold before a digital copy can be made available. This will be revisited in around 6 months time.
- 4278 **To discuss the upcoming changes to the data protection regulations**
The 12 Steps to prepare for the General Data Protection Regulation has been sent to all councillors. The first step is awareness that the law is changing which the council agreed had been achieved.
- 4279 **To consider quotes for the street lighting maintenance contract**
This was deferred.
- 4280 **To receive an update on vandalism and anti-social behaviour (ASB) in the village**
There has been police activity on a few occasions lately. A post at the Recreation Ground had been knocked out and a car entered the field.
- 4281 **To receive reports on the following:**
b) Football Pavilion
A formal assessment of the football pavilion with regards to the risk of legionella is needed. The Clerk is currently obtaining quotes. It was discussed whether, if the football club are hiring the pavilion out to other football clubs, they should be performing the necessary checks and carrying out maintenance.

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Chairman

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d) Village Hall

The Parish Council had received a request from the Management Committee that they move their meetings to the Wellstead Room as a group wished to use the Wilkins Centre every Monday evening. The Parish Council agreed they were unwilling to move as the Welstead Room is no longer adequate for the needs of meetings with the Wilkins Centre being more flexible and offering the space required. Also the filing cabinet has been moved over to the Wilkins Centre and it is used as the Parish Council postal address and is therefore felt to be the home of the Parish Council, and therefore the Parish Council wish to remain there.

f) Patient Representation

At the recent meeting it had been reported that a donation of £5,000 had been made to the Downland Practice and they were considering installing automatic doors. The phone number will now show on telephone calls rather than stating it is withheld. Dr. Wardle will be retiring from the practice shortly.

h) Groundwater

The Pang Valley Flood Forum met last week and received updates from me on both the dialogue with Beeswax Dyson and the Birmingham University Project. On the former, Beeswax Dyson is now fully appraised of the flood related and renewable energy implications of sensitive planting on the restricted land. A dialogue with The Downs School has been established.

The main points in the Birmingham project report are:

1. The West Berkshire Groundwater Scheme has enough grunt to make a 2m difference (reduction) in groundwater level in Compton.
2. Triggering (on and off) can be accomplished with objective criteria and without many runs that prove to have been unnecessary.
3. Operation needs to be from 'early enough' to beyond the groundwater peak.
4. This has consequences for the effects downstream of the discharge point.
5. Recovery is reasonably rapid and completed in the following season.

In regard to point 4: (i) There are inconsistencies in the numbers used to assess this that need to be reconciled. (ii) No allowance has yet been made for the fact that reducing the groundwater level should reduce the flow upstream of Bucklebury (as measured for example at Frilsham) and I estimate this could halve the rise downstream of the discharge point. (iii) The EA model used in this work was not well calibrated for the Pang and did not include 2014 but it has since been updated and this version could be expected to be available for follow-on work. My view is that a follow on project is required and these three points identify the substance of it. To push this further, endorsement by the PVFF Technical Committee, Environment Agency and Thames Water is being sought.

The aquifer is atypically low, only 14% full and the level is still falling. From this position even a wet winter would be unlikely to cause a flood, though river flow through the village is possible.

i) Parish Assets & Management

A meeting of the working party will be organised soon.

j) Neighbourhood Development Plan

Two drop in evenings have been organised for the 7th and 15th November.

4282 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.

4283 Correspondence

The Correspondence Report was presented and is at Attachment 3.

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Chairman

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4284 **Matters for future consideration and information**

A recent complaint about the hedge along the side of the Recreation Ground alongside Lowbury Gardens was discussed. The tree surgeon has advised that the hedge has been allowed to grow too tall and needs cutting back to 8ft. The ownership of the hedge was discussed as some members thought that hedge used to be maintained by Lady Wilson.

Meeting closed 9:05pm.

Date and time of next scheduled meeting:

➤ **Parish Council Meeting:** **Monday 6th November, 2017 at 7pm** in the Wilkins Centre

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Chairman

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Date