

Compton Parish Council

Chairman: Dave Aldis

Clerk: Ron Palmer

MINUTES of the COUNCIL MEETING

Held on **Monday 11th June 2012 at 7pm** in the Welstead Room, Compton Village Hall.

Those present: Councillors D Aldis (chair), P Shanks, P Burnett, M Birtwistle, K Simms, L Moss, and M Pinfold

In attendance: The Parish Clerk

The meeting started at 7.00pm.

2712 **Apologies for absence** had been received from Councillor A Strong and District Councillor V von Celsing

2713 **Any declarations of personal or prejudicial interest by members or the Clerk**

Personal interests were declared by:

- LM in items 2723 (Downs School planning application) and 2731 (cheques)
- DA in item 2731 (cheques)

2714 **To receive:**

- **Questions or comments from members of the public**
- **Representations from any member who has declared a prejudicial interest**

There were none

2715 **To approve the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 14 May 2012**

It was noted that PS, not KS, had proposed the chairman's allowance be increased, minute 2692. The Chairman made and initialled this amendment. KS then proposed that the amended minutes be approved as a true record of the meeting. This was seconded by MP and was carried. They were then signed by the Chairman.

2716 **Matters arising from the minutes of the Council Meeting on 14 May 2012**

There were none

2717 **To consider the Clerk's report**

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

2718 **To receive a report from our District Councillor, Virginia von Celsing**

VvC had sent her apologies to the meeting. No report was presented.

2719 **To approve and sign the updated 2011/12 accounting statements, section 1 of the Annual Return**

The Clerk explained the reasons put forward by the Internal Auditor for amending the statement. KS proposed that the Chairman sign the amended statement; this was seconded by MB. The Chairman and Clerk then initialled and signed the amended statement.

2720 **To consider the 3 recommendations from the Internal Auditor concerning the 2011/12 accounts**

The Clerk had circulated to members the Internal Audit report which included the following 3 recommendations:

1. That boxes 3 and 7 of the Annual Return be amended and initialled by the Chair and RFO
2. That box 8 of the Annual Return be amended and initialled by the Chair and RFO and that the Council addresses the issue of the end-of-year discrepancy of £71.68
3. That the Council should review the valuation of assets as recorded in the Asset Register

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Chairman

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Date

ACTIONS:

1. Completed at this meeting – see minute 2719 above
2. The Clerk agreed to investigate the discrepancy which goes back many years and include in the 2012/13 accounts summary as an adjustment an additional expense of £71.68
3. The Chairman asked that the Asset Register be included in the agenda of the next meeting. He also asked that 2 Councillors be appointed to conduct an internal review later in 2012/13.

MB proposed acceptance of actions 1 to 3 above. This was seconded by KS and was carried.

2721 To receive an update on vandalism and anti-social behaviour (ASB) in the village

LM said she had nothing to report, but had seen police patrol cars recently in the village. PS said that litter still continued to be a problem, especially at weekends. See also item 2727 below. The Clerk said he had invited our new PCSO, Paul Smith, to the next meeting.

2722 To receive a report on the Diamond Jubilee picnic and agree future sales of Diamond Jubilee mugs

LM described the different activities at the picnic on June 4th and said the event had been well supported by villagers and enjoyed by all who had attended. The prizes given to the children who had won the design competition had been appreciated.

Jubilee mugs: 160 mugs had been collected for local children at the picnic and there were 24 mugs still to be collected for children whose names had been registered. A further 82 mugs had been sold along with 6 ‘Story of Compton’ books. It was agreed that the annual fete on July 7th presented another opportunity to sell the mugs and any consumables left over from the picnic would be used at the fete.

The Council had voted a sum of up to £500 towards the picnic expenses. Total expenditure had been £487.15, but the Council had received a donation of £300 from Baxter Healthcare, which the Clerk had duly acknowledged.

DA expressed thanks to LM and the committee for all the hard work they had put in to organising what had obviously been a very successful event.

2723 To consider whether to take our complaint about planning application 11/01766/COMIND: New science block at The Downs School to the Local Government Ombudsman

Following discussion KS proposed that our complaint should be referred to the Ombudsman. This was seconded by MB and was carried.

2724 To consider whether to request West Berkshire Council to paint double yellow lines at the brow of the hill alongside the allotments near The Downs School

It was agreed that the current parking situation was exacerbated by the development of the new science block, but that there was an on-going parking problem at the school. It was noted that West Berkshire Council (WBC) owned the land to the west of the Compton - Hampstead Norreys road outside the school and KS proposed that the Clerk should write to WBC Highways to ask if the road could be re-aligned to utilise this land and enable a lay-by to be constructed to the east of this road immediately outside the school. This was seconded by MB and was carried.

2725 To consider actions required as a result of the play area RoSPA safety inspection

PS said that all risks were categorised as Low except for potential trip hazards where the grass surface had dropped next to the kerb edges of the safety surfaces. He proposed that we should get a quote from our grounds maintenance contractor to raise the level of the grass in these places. This was seconded by LM and was carried.

2726 To discuss the funding of Compilations and agree action concerning payment from East Ilsley Parish Council

DA said he had not yet been able to confirm the number of copies of Compilations distributed in East Ilsley. When he had done this he would contact the Chair of East Ilsley Parish Council and report back to the next meeting.

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Chairman

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Date

2727 To consider the state of the football pavilion following recent vandalism and discuss remedial actions

DA said that recent vandalism, which had caused damage to the external structure – bricks and tiles – had left the building in a poor state. MB agreed to attempt to patch up the worst parts if he was able to purchase the tiles. Members discussed possible longer term aspirations for a pavilion and were also asked to investigate medium term solutions, such as a new roof.

2728 To consider a letter about trespass on private land on the Downs above Compton

MB proposed that, when our footpath leaflet was next updated, it should include a statement that there was ‘no right to roam’ on the Downs. DA said that, while the Parish Council was sympathetic to the problems being experienced by the land owner, we could not police the situation. He suggested the solicitors should contact the local police and also possibly put an article in Compilations. This was seconded by PS and was carried.

2729 Planning Applications

a) To consider the following planning application and agree that recommendations should be sent to West Berkshire Council:

App. Ref.	Location	Proposed Work	Recommendation
12/01257/TPC	Roden House, Wallingford Road Compton RG20 6QR	Fell horse chestnut tree in paddocks east of Roden House (in a Conservation Area).	No documentation had been received, so it was not discussed.

b) To receive a report on West Berkshire Council recent planning decision

App. Ref.	Location	Proposed Work	Compton PC Recommendation	WBC Decision
12/00632/FUL	Unit 5, Old Station Business Park, RG20 6NE	Erection of 2 external flues	No Objection	Approved
12/00642/HOUSE	33 Manor Crescent, RG20 6NU	Conversion of loft space to bedrooms, with 2 dormer windows to the rear.	No Objection	Approved

2730 To receive reports on the following:

d) **Village Hall:** MP said that a quiz evening was planned on Friday 22nd June

2731 To approve cheques due for payment

PS proposed that the following cheques be approved. This was seconded by KS and was carried.

Invoice Date	Cheque No.	Payee	Amount	Description
01-May	102239	Royal British Legion	£30.00	Donation (Minute 2656)
14-May	102240	R M Weavers	£341.47	Grounds maintenance - April
25-May	102241	Heelis and Lodge	£145.00	2011/12 Internal Audit
31-May	102242	D Aldis	£105.00	Chairman's allowance 2012/13 (Minute 2692)
30-Apr	102243	D Moss	£70.00	Litter picking - May
04-Jun	102244	Carole Gould	£11.24	Diamond Jubilee picnic expenses
04-Jun	102245	Joli Beattie	£142.82	Diamond Jubilee picnic expenses
04-Jun	102246	Jean Eastabrook	£129.71	Diamond Jubilee picnic expenses
04-Jun	102247	Dave Morris	£41.00	Diamond Jubilee picnic expenses
04-Jun	102248	Elaine Brewin	£27.00	Diamond Jubilee picnic expenses
04-Jun	102249	Linda Moss	£135.38	Diamond Jubilee picnic expenses
10-Jun	102250	Ron Palmer	£544.80	Clerk's salary and expenses for 5 weeks to 10th June

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Chairman

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Date

2732 Correspondence

The Correspondence Report was presented and is at Attachment 2.

2733 Matters for consideration and information

- KS said his son had recently broken his arm while playing on the monkey bars and it had taken 3 minutes for the 999 call to be answered and a further 26 minutes for the ambulance to arrive.
- MB had noticed children getting out of the play area through the hedge and across the Pang onto School Road. PS said he would investigate.
- LM said nettles were obstructing both sides of footpath 15, which runs from Burrell Road to the High Street. The Clerk was asked to contact Sovereign Housing and West Berkshire Council.
- LM said the triangle of grass behind the Village Hall was not being cut. The Clerk was asked to contact our grounds maintenance contractor.
- PB said there was a large hole in Ilsley Road near to Churn Road which was a danger to all road users, especially motor cyclists. DA said this section of road was due to be resurfaced shortly and asked PB to contact WBC Highways direct.
- PB said she had looked at the 'Changing Faces' information and would consider progressing as a personal matter.
- DA asked KS to put details of what items could be included for recycling in the roadside collection on our website.
- DA asked the Clerk to chase S106 money from the development of 3 detached dwellings in the grounds of The Laurels, Ilsley Road (App. Ref 10/03147/OUTD)

The meeting closed at 8.35pm.

Dates and times of next meetings:

Council Meeting	Monday 9 July at 7pm	In the Wellstead Room, Village Hall
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Chairman

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Date