

Compton Parish Council

Chairman: Dave Aldis

Clerk: Ron Palmer

MINUTES of the COUNCIL MEETING

Held on **Monday 2nd April 2012 at 7pm** in the Welstead Room, Compton Village Hall.

Those present: Councillors D Aldis (chair), M Pinfold, P Whitworth, A Strong, P Shanks and P Burnett

In attendance: The Parish Clerk

The meeting started at 7.00pm. The Chairman welcomed Patricia Burnett to this, her first, meeting.

-
- 2639 **Apologies for absence** had been received from Parish Councillors L Moss, K Simms and M Birtwistle and from District Councillor V von Celsing
- 2640 **Any declarations of personal or prejudicial interest by members or the Clerk**
- The Clerk declared a personal interest in agenda item 2661, procedure to recruit a new clerk
- 2641 **To receive:**
➤ **Questions or comments from members of the public**
➤ **Representations from any member who has declared a prejudicial interest**
There were none
- 2642 **To approve the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 5 March 2012**
Proposed by AS, seconded by MP and carried. They were then signed by the Chairman.
- 2643 **Matters arising from the minutes of the Council Meeting on 5 March 2012**
2636: MP said the football pitches had only been used once by The Downs School
- 2644 **Declaration of acceptance of office by co-opted Councillor Mrs P Burnett**
Ms Burnett signed the Declaration of acceptance of office – see Attachment 1.
- 2645 **To agree Councillor Burnett's specific areas of interest and responsibility**
PB expressed an interest in District/Parish conferences and Sovereign Housing Association
- 2646 **To consider the Clerk's report**
The Clerk went through his report, which is at Attachment 2.
2 Nominating a Parish Councillor to the Schools Governing Bodies would be discussed further at the AGM
9 Ground clearance: The Clerk would send a note of thanks
12 Jubilee service: Members were happy for this to go ahead but asked the Clerk to advise Rev Cawte that it would not be covered by Parish Council insurance
- 2647 **To receive a report from our District Councillor, Virginia von Celsing**
VvC had sent her apologies to the meeting. No report was presented.
- 2648 **To receive an update on vandalism and anti-social behaviour (ASB) in the village**
A report from LM had been circulated. The Chairman said that everyone should be vigilant and observant as incidents and crime seemed to be on the increase. The police had attended an incident at The Primary School recently concerning a family dispute. PS was asked to pass onto our PCSO via LM two registration numbers of offending vehicles.
- 2649 **To purchase 504 mugs to give to local children to mark the Diamond Jubilee of Her Majesty the Queen (change to previous decision).**
Proposed by MP, seconded by PW and carried. DA said a notice had been put in Compilations. People could register their children either on the website or in the village shop.

.....
Chairman

.....
Date

2650 To receive a report from the group set up to consider possible celebrations / events in Compton to mark the Diamond Jubilee of Her Majesty the Queen in 2012

A report which LM had circulated was discussed.

2651 To consider quotes from contractors to erect fencing between the car park and the Recreation Ground and improve the fencing of Newbury Lane allotments

Following discussion, AS proposed the quote from our existing grounds maintenance contractor to erect 125mm diameter x 500mm high posts at 1m intervals between the car park and the Recreation Ground at a cost of £1,583.78 be accepted. This also included a 2.4m sliding gateway with padlock and keys. She also proposed that a notice be purchased instructing people not to obstruct the gateway. This was seconded by PS and was carried.

Following discussion, it was decided not to improve the fencing of Newbury Lane allotments at present. Members were asked to visit the site and propose a course of action.

2652 To agree the fees to be paid by allotment holders for the year commencing April 2012 and discuss any implications of the recently-announced hosepipe bans

The spread sheet of income and expenditure over the past 4 years prepared by the Clerk was studied. The Chairman proposed that the fees should be increased immediately for the year 2012/13 by £2.50 for a full plot and £1.25 for a half-plot and that the same increase should be applied in 2014/15. This was seconded by PS and was carried.

2653 To agree to purchase 2 “No unauthorised entry” signs for Newbury Lane allotments at a cost of £22.75 each + VAT

Proposed by DA, seconded by AS and carried.

2654 To agree to hire skips to remove the soil etc cleared from behind the football pavilion at a cost of £1,152, including VAT

Proposed by MP, seconded by PS and carried.

2655 To consider re-seeding the ground cleared behind the football pavilion and agree to spend up to £500 for this purpose

DA proposed that we ask our existing grounds maintenance contractor for a quote and that the Clerk be authorised to accept it if it was less than £500. This was seconded by PW and was carried.

2656 To agree a donation of £30 to the Royal British Legion poppy appeal

Proposed by PW, seconded by AS and carried

2657 To consider using our Bank of Ireland account solely for earmarked reserves

The Clerk explained the rationale behind this proposal. DA proposed that this should be done and that £38,073 be transferred from our HSBC account to the Bank of Ireland account. This was seconded by MP and was carried.

2658 To consider the agenda for the Annual Parish Meeting to be held on Monday 21st May

The Clerk said that the West Berkshire planners who were preparing the IAH supplementary planning document had agreed to attend the meeting. DA also asked the Clerk to invite an Environment Agency spokesman to talk about Riparian Owners’ responsibilities. AS also proposed we invite a representative from Thames Water to talk about installation of solar panels in view of the recent experience at East Ilsley – see item 2667 below.

2659 To authorise the Clerk to acknowledge receipt of £47,879.85 from a S106 agreement for planning application 07/01383/FULMAJ (33 new dwellings at Lowbury House, Compton), the money to be used for improvements to the Recreation Ground and to assist with the extension of the graveyard

Proposed by DA, seconded by PW and carried.

.....
Chairman

.....
Date

2660 **To authorise the Clerk to acknowledge receipt of £7,254.82 from a S106 agreement for planning application 10/03147/OUTD (3 new dwellings at The Laurels, Isley Road, Compton), the money to be used towards an extension of the burial ground**
Proposed by DA, seconded by PS and carried.

2661 **To agree the procedure to recruit a new Parish Clerk**
DA said that an advert had been placed in the latest edition of Compilations and one would also be put on our website. If these did not elicit any interest by the end of April, he would liaise with the Clerk to advertise in the Newbury Weekly News.

2662 **To discuss the response from West Berkshire Council to our letter complaining about planning application 11/01766/COMIND: New science block at The Downs School**
Members discussed the response from West Berkshire Council and were still not happy because there was no clear statement in the Minutes of the Planning Meeting stating why members went against the recommendations of the planning officers. AS proposed the Clerk should reply saying that, before we consider referring the matter to the Local Government Ombudsman, please let us have:

- A copy of the letter sent to the chairs of the Planning Committees (points 2 and 3) and any response received.
- A copy of the rules on lobbying and ask how parish councils can participate in the lobbying process.

This was seconded by DA and was carried.

2663 **Planning Applications**

a) **To consider the following planning applications and send recommendations to West Berkshire Council:**

App. Ref.	Location	Proposed Work	Recommendation
12/00301/FULD	20 Manor Crescent, Compton RG20 6NR	New 2 storey dwelling	OBJECTION Proposer: DA Seconder: AS Carried
The reasons for objecting were:			
1. It is contrary to the Compton Village Design Statement, which states “13. The pleasant visual character of the street scene should be maintained by new development by avoiding overbearing extensions and inappropriate in-filling which can have a terracing effect”.			
2. The development cannot even be classed as ‘in-filling’ as there is NO space available between 20 and 22 Manor Crescent.			
3. The plans are unclear as to exactly where this new dwelling would be located. The space in the rear garden of 20 Manor Crescent is very limited and it is difficult to see how any new property built there would not be overbearing and have a seriously detrimental effect on neighbouring properties.			
12/00413/FUL	Compton Stores, High Street, Compton RG20 6NL	Single storey side extension, internal refurbishment to increase shop area. Confirmation of A1 use.	SUPPORT Proposer: AS Seconder: MP Carried
12/00498/HOUSE	Oak Cottage, Aldworth Road, Compton RG20 6RD	Bay window to dining room	NO OBJECTION Proposer: PS Seconder: PB Carried

.....
Chairman

.....
Date

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

App. Ref.	Location	Proposed Work	Compton PC Recommendation	WBC Decision
11/02277/FULD	Pangside, School Road, Compton RG20 6QU	Construction of a pair of semi-detached dwellings with associated access, amenity space and parking on the land to the rear of Pangside, School Road	OBJECTION	GRANTED

2664 To receive reports on the following:

- a) **Recreation Ground:** PS said motor cycles are driving onto the Recreation Ground. Now that The Downs School pupils are using the car park during the building of the new Science Block, which is due for completion in May 2013, problems are being caused for those attending the Day Care Centre and Pre-school. The Clerk was asked to write to the school asking them to remind pupils to park appropriately and not to endanger people, especially mothers and toddlers, through excessive speed. He should also advise them about the forthcoming fencing project. AS asked that 'procedures for parking there' be included on the next Council agenda.
- d) **Village Hall:** MP said a successful Bingo evening had been held recently.
- f) **Patient Representation:** PB said the Practice Manager had now left the practice.

2665 To approve cheques due for payment

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

Date	Cheque No.	Payee	Amount	Description
22-Mar	102216	Chilton Waste Services	£576.00	Hire of 3 skips to remove rubbish from behind football pavilion
22-Mar	102217	Chilton Waste Services	£576.00	Hire of 3 skips to remove rubbish from behind football pavilion
07-Mar	102218	Thames Water	£59.51	Water bill for Newbury Lane allotments: 9 December to 5 March
15-Mar	102219	Thames Water	£8.34	Water bill for School Road allotments: 9 December to 14 March
23-Mar	102220	G Parsons	£80.00	Supply and install new tap at Newbury Lane (N L) allotments
26-Mar	102221	Kingdom Signs	£54.60	Purchase of 2 "No Unauthorised Entry" signs for N L allotments
21-Mar	102222	SSE Contracting	£670.61	Street lighting maintenance charge for March 2012 quarter
27-Mar	102223	Southern Electric	£724.36	Unmetred electricity supply: 24 December to 26 March
30-Mar	102224	D Moss	£55.00	Litter picking - March
01-Apr	102225	Ron Palmer	£514.33	Clerk's salary and expenses for 4 weeks to 1st April

2666 Correspondence

The Correspondence list is at Attachment 3.

PB expressed an interest in attending the initial meeting on 2nd May to consider setting up a District Association of Local Councils - the Clerk would progress. The Clerk also reminded members about the "Building Stronger Communities Conference" at Newbury College on Saturday 28th April and asked any interested members to let him know as soon as possible.

.....
Chairman

.....
Date

2667 **Matters for consideration and information**

- The Clerk said that there had been 2 new planning applications received today which needed to be considered before the end of April. The Chairman said that he would call an extra Council meeting on 23rd April.
- AS said that she had been approached by a parishioner concerned that Thames Water was about to erect solar panels at the pumping station without planning permission, as had happened recently at East Ilsley. Ground works had already taken place. The Clerk was asked to contact West Berkshire Council planners saying that Compton Parish Councillors do not want similar solar panels erected in Compton without prior consultation and appropriate planning permission.
- The Clerk had previously advised that no invoices had been received from West Berkshire Council (WBC) print room for printing Compilations since June/July 2011. He had now received an invoice charging £605.71 per edition, compared with the agreed price of £395. He and the Chairman had complained about this 53% rise in cost without prior notification. WBC had now agreed to charge £395 for the last 5 editions, but said that from now on the price would be £577.28. The Clerk was asked to get alternative quotes.
- The Clerk had received an email complaining about overgrown brambles on Newbury Lane allotments. DA asked members to visit the site to understand the scale of the problem. He asked the Clerk to write back to the complainant asking him to propose a solution to the problem for members to consider at the meeting on 23rd April.

The meeting closed at 9.10pm.

Dates and times of next meetings:

Extra Council Meeting	Monday 23rd April at 7pm	In the Welstead Room, Village Hall
Annual General Meeting	Monday 14th May at 7pm	In the Welstead Room, Village Hall
Annual Parish Meeting	Monday 21st May at 7.30pm	In the Downs School Dining Room

.....
Chairman

.....
Date