

Compton Parish Council

Chairman: Dave Aldis

Clerk: Ron Palmer

MINUTES of the COUNCIL MEETING

Held on **Monday 1st February 2010 at 7pm** in the Welstead Room, Compton Village Hall.

Those present: Councillors D Aldis (Chair), B Evans, P Shanks, M Pinfold, L Moss, K Simms, P Whitworth, M Birtwistle and A Strong

In attendance: District Councillor B Alexander, R Palmer (Clerk) and 2 members of the public

The meeting opened at 7.00pm.

1993 **Apologies for absence.** There were none.

1994 **Any declarations of personal or prejudicial interest by members or the Clerk**

The following personal declarations were made:

- D. Aldis: Item 2007, as a Governor of the Primary School
- P. Shanks: Item 2008, as a relative of the person requesting action

1995 **To receive:**

➤ **Questions or comments from members of the public**

Ms L Hill, Business Manager at The Downs School, outlined plans to cover the outdoor pool and provide changing facilities and asked for support from the Parish Council. She said that this would enable children from the Primary School and members of the public to use the pool all year round. Parish Councillors were pleased to give the project their wholehearted support, subject to the normal planning considerations.

➤ **Representations from any member who has declared a prejudicial interest**

There were none

1996 **To approve the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 4 January 2010**

Proposed by PS, seconded by AS and carried

1997 **Matters arising from the minutes of the Council Meeting on 4 January 2010**

There were none.

1998 **Clerk's report**

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

- He was asked to minute the thanks of members to IAH for providing temporary storage of the boxes of flood gel bags
- PW offered to assist the Clerk in distributing the letters to riparian owners
- Vibrant Villages: It was agreed that more consultation should take place before an application was submitted. It was suggested a possible youth shelter could be an item on the agenda of the next Annual Parish Meeting.
- Lowbury Gardens: PS said there were reinforcing steel spikes and wooden shuttering still visible under the bridge over the Pang; there were also sharp concrete edges at the base of the new fence. The Clerk was asked to contact the developers again.
- Reparation Scheme: The Clerk was arranging to meet the YOT supervisor to view 2 possible projects. MB said he could be available on the afternoon of Thursday 4th February.

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Chairman

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Date

1999 To receive feedback on the recent NAG meeting and an update on vandalism and anti-social behaviour (ASB) in the village

LM reported that there will be a speed camera in Compton once a month, starting this week.

A young people's survey will be given to all Compton pupils of The Downs School this week. This will help to define the needs of young people in the village.

The police are now allowed to inform parishes if anyone in their community has been released from prison after serving a sentence for anti-social behaviour issues. There is one person in Compton, who had a drink-related problem.

LM emphasised the need for everyone to continue reporting any incidents of anti-social behaviour immediately to the police on 0845 850 5505

2000 To receive an update on the closure of the Institute for Animal Health

BA provided feedback from a partnership meeting she had attended. She said that plans were being drawn up to vacate the site by March 2013 and that thought was being given to the future of the site after that. Her view was that it should not become a strategic housing site, although a few houses would be acceptable. It would be better to have some new businesses that could re-employ some of the non-scientific staff currently working for IAH.

The Clerk was asked to invite Richard Shaw, IAH Director of Operations to the next Annual Parish Meeting on 17 May.

2001 To consider quotations received to improve the track that runs from Burrell Road to the Recreation Ground alongside the Village Hall (S106 grant of £11,776 available)

The requested quotes had still not been received and the Clerk was asked to chase them up.

2002 To consider possible Highway safety improvements in Compton, given that a S106 grant of £23,500 is available

The Clerk reported on a site visit with an officer from WBC Highways to consider the following 3 possible options:

- Speed indicator signs: Members had wished to hear the view of WBC about positioning signs at each end of the village and also in the High Street. An email had been received by the Clerk after the visit to say that WBC no longer installed vehicle-activated signs warning motorists of excess speed. If the Clerk received a further email saying that the Council could purchase such signs privately, he should then research possible suppliers.
- Footpath from Lowbury Gardens to the Recreation Ground: The developers had already constructed a footpath from the middle of the development. The Clerk was asked to contact both WBC Planning and David Wilson to ascertain whether this is a public right of way.
- Railings: The Clerk said that WBC did not consider that new railings could be justified with this S106 money and neither could it be used to renovate the existing dilapidated railings.

The WBC officer did suggest that extra parking areas could be provided to reduce the number of instances of residents parking on the green verges etc.

2003 To consider a response from Southern Electric Contracting to replace Pole Bracket No. 3, Opposite No. 8, School Road, Compton

The Clerk said that the following quotations had now been received to carry out this work:

- Disconnection and reconnection	£148.98 + £26.07 VAT = £175.05
- Removal & replacement of bracket	£298.09 + £52.17 VAT = <u>£350.26</u>
	TOTAL = £525.31

KS proposed that these quotes be accepted. This was seconded by LM and was carried.

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2004 To consider purchasing salt/grit and a suitable storage container

DA proposed that a sum of £30 be set aside to purchase salt/grit, possibly later in the year. This was seconded by BE and was carried. The Clerk would propose to the next meeting a suitable container to hold both the gel bags and the grit bags.

2005 To propose that the Clerk drafts a letter to the Village Hall Management Committee seeking their confirmation that the land the Committee manages is “the parcel of land which the hall sits upon, that which is to the rear and enclosed by fencing and the open land at the front to the footway”

MB proposed that the Clerk should draft such a letter and circulate it to members via email for approval, but also that the Parish Council should take responsibility for the maintenance of the Memorial Garden, including flower beds and benches. This was seconded by BE and was carried.

2006 To consider erecting a suitable disclaimer sign in the car park area

MB proposed that the Clerk purchase 2 signs stating that people park there at their own risk. This was seconded by KS and was carried.

2007 To consider a request from Compton Primary School to use the Recreation Ground for cross country running

The Clerk had received a letter requesting permission for Primary School children to use the Recreation Ground on Wednesday lunchtimes on 24 February and 3, 10, 17 and 24 March from 12.15 to 12.45 to prepare for the Downlands Cross Country event on 25 March. Members asked the Clerk to say they were happy to accede to this request with the usual provisos concerning the state of the ground.

2008 To consider a request for a fir tree on the Recreation Ground to be cut down

Some members believed that, to cut the tree down, would set a dangerous precedent. AS proposed that the Clerk contact WBC Tree Officer to ask him to examine the health of this and other trees of the same species on the Recreation Ground, as a similar tree by the children’s playground had to be felled last year as it was diseased. DA seconded this proposal, which was carried.

2009 Planning Applications

a) There were no new applications to consider.

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

App. Ref.	Location	Proposed Work	Compton PC Recommendation	WBC Decision
09/02028/FUL	The Coppice, High Street, Compton RG20 6QT	Replacement garage	No Objection	Granted
09/02080/FUL	Institute for Animal Health, High Street, Compton RG20 7NN	Installation of a nitrate reduction plant to the pump house and a storage tank, both set on top of concrete hard standings	No Objection	Granted

2010 To receive a report from District Councillor Barbara Alexander

DA said members were pleased to see BA back at this meeting following her recent operation.

BA said that much of her time recently had been taken up with weather-related work. She also said that District Councillors were looking seriously at what was going to be a very difficult budget for 2010/11.

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2011 To receive reports on the following:

- a) **Recreation Ground:** PS reported there had been a recent increase in dog fouling. It was agreed that MB will write a short article for Compilations, PS would take down the existing Dog Exercise Area signs and the Clerk would obtain 4 No dog fouling signs from WBC.
- b) **Football Pavilion:** Nothing to report.
- c) **Rights of Way:** AS said that the request to divert footpath 16a which runs across The Downs School playing fields would be the subject of a Public Inquiry. She updated members on progress towards restoring Byway 2 to a satisfactory condition. MB reported a recent increase of motorised vehicles along The Ridgeway.
- d) **Village Hall:** MP said preparation for this year's fete had started in earnest and that there was to be a Bingo evening on 13th February.
- e) **Downland Sports Centre:** Nothing to report.
- f) **Patient Representation:** AS said she had been advised of the date of the last meeting the day after it had taken place! Following discussion, DA asked her to keep a log of non-medical and other problems experienced and report these back to the Council.
- g) **Web site:** KS said he had added an events calendar and a list of local clubs and societies to the site and asked members and others to let him have details for inclusion. He was also now able to tell how many visitors the site had.

2012 To approve cheques due for payment

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

Date	Cheque No.	Payee	Amount	Description
31-Dec	102024	West Berkshire Council	£329.53	Dog bin emptying 2009/10
25-Jan	102025	Southern Electric Power Dist.	£175.05	Engineering work, pole bracket 3 School Road
31-Jan	102026	Mr D Moss	£38.10	Litter Picking - January
01-Feb	102027	Ron Palmer	£477.79	Clerk's salary & expenses, 4 weeks to 1 February
31-Jan	102028	Birds of Berkshire Atlas Group	£100.00	Donation - see agenda item 1983

2013 Correspondence

The Correspondence list is at Attachment 2.

DA had also received a letter from the organiser of the Bananaz youth group requesting a donation from the Council to meet increasing costs. He said that £100 was already in the budget for 2009/10 and asked the Clerk to prepare a cheque for the next Council meeting. He also asked that the meeting include an agenda item to give an additional donation of £200 to cover the cost of recent CRB checks and first aid training.

LM would ask the police to arrange to visit the youth group.

2014 Matters for consideration and information

MB said that the letters requesting allotment fees for 2010/11 would be sent out next month and asked members whether any increase in rents should be made. It was thought that, given the prevailing economic conditions, it would be inappropriate to raise charges this year. MB also said that acquiring manure was becoming increasingly difficult and suggestions of possible sources of supply were put forward.

The meeting closed at 9.10pm.

Next Council Meeting: Monday 1 March 2010 at 7pm

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