

Compton Parish Council

Chairman: Dave Aldis

Clerk: Ron Palmer

MINUTES of the COUNCIL MEETING

Held on **Monday 4th October 2010 at 7pm** in the Welstead Room, Compton Village Hall.

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

In attendance: R Palmer (Clerk) and 4 members of the public

2164 **Apologies for absence** had been received from Parish Councillor P Whitworth and District Councillor B Alexander

2165 **Any declarations of personal or prejudicial interest by members or the Clerk**
MB declared an interest in item 2183, cheques list

2166 **To receive:**

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

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

Members of the public commented on agenda item 2180 Planning Applications and these are noted in the minute of that item.

2167 **To approve the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 6 September 2010**

Proposed by MP, seconded by LM and carried

2168 **Matters arising from the minutes of the Council Meeting on 6 September 2010**

There were none

2169 **To provide feedback to David Wilson Homes on their performance during the development of Lowbury Gardens**

The Chairman thanked 2 directors of David Wilson Homes – Simon Kirk (Technical) and David McLintock (Construction) - for attending the meeting. Feedback from parish councillors included: Early views of plans had been positive, no pedestrian route onto the High Street and to the shop, housing density too high, lack of green space, insufficient parking, contractors' parking had been a nuisance and sometimes dangerous. Simon and David agreed to look at the small area of land with the sycamore in it and also weed growth along the base of the fence in the alleyway.

2170 **Clerk's report**

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

5. Footpath 5: MB gave feedback on a meeting he and Cllr Whitworth had attended with the owner of Church Farm House

7. Rubbish bins: The Clerk was asked to set up a meeting in Compton with West Berks Council and their refuse collection company to ensure they were aware of all the rubbish bins that needed to be emptied

10 SLCC Branch meeting: The Clerk gave feedback on the meeting he had attended on 18 September

12. Anti-social behaviour: The Clerk was asked to contact A2Dominion Housing

2171 **To receive an update on vandalism and anti-social behaviour (ASB) in the village**

LM said the next NAG meeting was on 20 October and asked members to contact her with details of any issues they would like her to raise

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Chairman

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Date

- 2172 **To consider Sovereign Housing’s local lettings policy and agree any actions that should be taken in relation to the proposed redevelopment of Fairfield**
 As some members had not had an opportunity to read the policy because it had only recently been received from Sovereign Housing, the Chairman asked members to study it before considering it at the next meeting. He also asked the Clerk to invite Mr M Hensby from Sovereign to the meeting.
- 2173 **To consider participating in the Independent Highways Review in western Compton to be conducted in connection with the proposed redevelopment of Fairfield**
 Councillors wished to participate in this review and asked the Clerk to set up a meeting.
- 2174 **To consider the quote of £360 + VAT to supply and lay grass matting in the 2 entrance gates to the children’s play area on the Recreation Ground**
 PS proposed the quote should be accepted. This was seconded by KS and was carried.
- 2175 **To consider a possible change in policy in respect of the leadership model of West Berkshire Council**
 Members had insufficient information to have an informed opinion on this topic. The Clerk was asked to seek views from our District Councillor and also to raise it at the District/Parish conference.
- 2176 **To review the feedback from our internal and external auditors on the 2009/10 accounts and consider appropriate actions**
 The Clerk said that the signed Annual Return and written feedback had still not been received from Mazars, our external auditors, so this item would be considered at the next meeting
- 2177 **To consider which trees to plant on the Recreation Ground to replace the 16 conifers / spruce trees that have been felled and agree actions and a budget not exceeding £500**
 BE proposed the quote of £345 from Almond Arborists (included at Attachment 2) to purchase and plant 3 trees 7ft to 8ft tall – 1 each of red oak, river birch, white beam – be accepted. This was seconded by PS and was carried. A proposal from AS to take a view after 6 to 9 months whether just 3 new trees was adequate was agreed
- 2178 **To consider items for the agenda of the IAH Liaison Meeting to be held on 21 October**
 The following agenda items were agreed:
 ➤ Maintenance of footpath 4a
 ➤ Continuation of the lease of the Scout Hut land
 ➤ Future of village amenities such as the squash court
 ➤ Continuing use of Mayfield Road
 ➤ Assistance with new concrete ‘planters’ by the bus stop in the High Street
 Members asked the Clerk to invite a BBSRC representative via the IAH Director of Operations.
- 2179 **To consider arranging to display old photographs of Compton in the Welstead Room, including seeking permission from the Village Hall Management Committee**
 DA asked MP to seek permission from the Village Hall Management Committee. MB stated that any expenditure on this item should be included in the 2011/12 precept. KS suggested that the money received from the Millennium Fund could be used for this purpose.

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 Chairman

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 Date

2180 **Planning Applications**

a) **To consider the following new applications and agree that the recommendations be forwarded to West Berkshire Council**

App. Ref.	Location	Proposed Work	Recommendation
10/01889/FUL	1 Great Coombe Cottages, Coombe Road, Compton RG20 6RG	Demolish existing house and replace with new detached house and erection of new barn	NO OBJECTION Proposed: MB Seconded: MP Carried
10/02083/OUTD	The Laurels, Ilsley Road, Compton RG20 7PQ	Demolition of existing dwelling and erection of 7 detached dwellings with associated parking and the creation of a new vehicular access	OBJECTION (See Note 1) Proposed: BE Seconded: PS Carried

Note 1: Representations were received from members of the public who objected to this application. Councillors objected because the application contravened:

- i. The following sections of West Berkshire Council's Local Plan:
 - ENV.20 a) Impact on the local environment f) Traffic
 - ENV.23 b) and e) Disproportionate size of development
- ii. PPS3, paragraph 46: The density of housing is out of character with neighbouring housing
- iii. PPS3 Annex B. A letter from DCLC to Chief Planning Officers on 15 June 2010 stated that private residential gardens were now excluded from the definition of previously developed land in PPS3 annex B

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

There were none

2181 **To receive a report from District Councillor Barbara Alexander**

The District Councillor had sent her apologies and no report was therefore presented.

2182 **To receive reports on the following:**

- a) **Recreation Ground:** PS said that, for the 3rd year running, damage had been caused to equipment in the children's play area in early September. The Clerk had obtained new bolts and keys for the Tropicana ramp and PS hoped to repair the ramp this weekend.
- b) **Football Pavilion:** Nothing to report.
- c) **Rights of Way:** Nothing to report.
- d) **Village Hall:** Nothing to report.
- e) **Allotments:** MB said he thought the roof of a shed on one of the allotment plots cleared earlier in the year was made from asbestos. The Clerk was asked to arrange for the shed to be inspected and the asbestos removed / sealed asap.
- f) **Downland Sports Centre:** MP said the next scheduled meeting had again been postponed, now into 2011, because it would not have been quorate.
- g) **Patient Representation:** Nothing to report.
- h) **Web site:** Nothing to report.

2183 **To approve cheques due for payment**

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

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Chairman

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Date	Cheque No.	Payee	Amount	Description
04-Sep	102081	R M Weavers (Note)	£508.79	Grass cutting etc - May 2010
04-Sep	102081	R M Weavers (Note)	£363.08	Grass cutting etc - June 2010
04-Sep	102081	R M Weavers (Note)	£198.59	Grass cutting etc - July 2010
04-Sep	102081	R M Weavers (Note)	£363.08	Grass cutting etc - August 2010
07-Sep	102082	Thames Water	£23.85	Newbury Lane allotments, 7 June to 5 September
07-Sep	102083	Thames Water	£28.94	School Road allotments, 17 June to 5 September
21-Sep	102084	Wicksteed Leisure	£56.20	Bolts and tool for Tropicana panel, children's play area
26-Sep	102085	Mark Birtwistle	£32.00	Expenses, transporting manure to allotments
24-Sep	102086	Southern Electric	£640.83	Unmetred electricity charges 24 June to 23 Sept 2010
27-Sep	102087	Southern Electric Contracting	£709.49	Street lighting maintenance charge - September quarter
04-Oct	102088	Ron Palmer	£477.07	Clerk's salary etc for 4 weeks to 3rd October
30-Sep	102089	D Moss	£55.00	Litter picking - September

Note: One cheque for £1,433.54 was issued to cover invoices 1269 to 1272 from R M Weavers

2184 Correspondence

The Correspondence list is at Attachment 3.

A letter had also been received by the Chairman from Compton Bananaz/Teenscene stating that they wished to be involved in the Berkshire Giants project being organised as part of the West Berkshire Cultural Olympiad.

2185 Matters for consideration and information

- DA said he now had an eps file of the footpath leaflet. The Clerk was asked to obtain quotes for the next meeting for reprinting 1,000 copies
- DA had received a complaint about a bonfire and asked MB to put a reminder in Compilations
- LM said that new street lights had been erected outside The Downs School. The Clerk was asked to write to WBC Highways to ask who owns the lights, what hours they are on and who pays the running costs
- AS asked the Clerk to contact WBC Customer Services to ask them to remove bamboo growing through the footpath in the High Street
- MB asked the Clerk to report a leaking manhole cover in Bradfield, similar to the one that resulted in the death of a motorist last winter on B4000 road because of the build-up of ice.

The meeting closed at 9.17pm.

Forthcoming meeting:

- ◆ **Council Meeting** **Monday 1th November at 7pm**

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Chairman

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Date