

# COMPTON AND SHAWFORD PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

HELD ON TUESDAY, 2 MAY 2000, IN SHAWFORD PARISH HALL,  
STARTING AT 7.30 PM

Present:

Mr NJ Campbell-White (Chairman); Mr AD Walmsley; Mrs JM Millar; Mr D Ellis; Mr A Lockett; Mr K Staunton; Mr R Wilmshurst; Mr R Whitaker, Mr T Threlfall

In attendance:

County Councillor Mrs A Bailey  
City Councillor Mrs M Campbell-White  
Police Constable C. Barham

**Apologies for Absence.** Received from Mrs J Pitt, Mrs M Wise, Mr & Mrs P Ashcroft

**Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting held on 29 April 1999.** The minutes were adopted following a proposal by Mr Nicholson and seconded by Mr Taylor.

**Matters arising on the Minutes.** No points were raised.

**Chairman's Report.** The Chairman welcomed 72 parishioners to the meeting and said that the past year has been dominated by three events; the heart attack of Dennis Richman, the Parish Clerk, the modernisation of the Parish Hall and the proposals for a new pavilion. The Chairman thanked all those who covered the absence of Mr Richman enabling Parish business to continue uninterrupted. Councillor Campbell-White reported the refurbishment of the Village Hall was complete and hoped all agreed it was a great asset that could not have been achieved without the considerable energy and enthusiasm of the CASCA Committee. The Chairman stated that a modified bid for a Sports England Lottery grant was near completion. He said that despite a vocal minority objecting to the new pavilion proposal the Parish Council had considered all the factors, assessed the needs of the Parish and were convinced the proposal for a new pavilion would meet village needs not only for the present but for generations to come. The Chairman ended by thanking all the Councillors for their time and effort given to the Parish over the past year.

**Finance & Administration Sub-committee.** Councillor Walmsley explained the audited accounts for 1998/1999. The accounts were adopted following a proposal by Mrs Brace and seconded by Mr Gorrod. The Parish finances stand at approximately £100,000, most of which is currently committed to the pavilion project. The financial responsibility for the parish hall has now passed to CASCA but the Parish Council will act as a financial long stop and has laid aside £1,000 as contingency. It was pointed out that the Parish Council was tightly controlled on what it could spend its finances. For example it could not make grants to schools as the Education Authorities covered this. However, under Section 137 of the Local Government Act, Councils could spend up to £3.50 per elector for the benefit

of the parish. Under this rule the Parish Council is granting Compton Primary School £2,000 per year for the next three years towards its building fund.

**Planning Sub-committee.** Councillor Millar reported that during the year there have been 4 applications for new houses with one refusal. Twenty-eight extensions to houses and garages were granted, 4 refused and 5 applications are awaiting decision. There were two applications to build stables within the parish, which have been opposed by neighbouring residents. One on the Western perimeter of the parish may well be granted but with many restrictions on its use. The application in Shawford Park awaits a decision whilst experts in ecology and environment are studying the environmental issues.

**Playing Fields Sub-committee.** Councillor Wilmshurst stated that he has held meetings with Winchester City Council on equipment safety and confirmed that all parish play equipment meets current Statuary but not advisory regulations in place. The new EU regulations would cover newly installed equipment. All playground equipment was inspected by our insurance inspector and passed as safe on 1 February 2000. A plan is being formulated to improve the two sites in the parish. Currently professional advice is being sought and costs obtained. The Open Space Fund holds £14,000 for the parish and it is from this fund that improvements will be financed.

**Highways, Byways & Environment Sub-committee.** Councillor Ellis stated that the most serious item was the pumping of sewage sludge and controlled waste on farmland within the parish. The complaints had all been taken up with the Environment Agency but in all cases the Agency reported back that there has been no contravention of the regulations controlling these activities. The lighting of the traffic refuge at the junction of Compton Street and the Main Road is now completed and Hampshire County Council has paid half the cost of the work. Two new notice boards have been installed in the parish as part of a replacement programme and are of very high quality. A fully enclosed bus shelter at Southdown, almost opposite Shepherds Lane Bridge, is to be installed by Hampshire County Council within the next few weeks.

**Footpaths Representative and Tree Warden.** Councillor Threlfall reported that Winchester City Council quickly dealt with any trees blocking footpaths. The Department of the Environment was particularly quick to clear fallen trees that obstruct the Itchen Navigation and its towpath. The Hockley Railway Viaduct now has a pleasant footpath along it and is about to be furnished with a viewing platform. There were plans to launch a "Friends of Hockley Viaduct" to raise funds for future development as the structure is not yet listed and therefore will have difficulty attracting other funding. The Twyford Meads scheme, which affects the Itchen Navigation at the eastern edge of the parish, is progressing on schedule as funds build up. The Environment Agency will start work on the restoration of Compton Lock in the near future.

**Parish Hall.** Mr Mathews, Chairman CASCA, reported that this time last year the stores were just being roofed, the main extension was half built and 3 grant application results were awaited. Now he could report that the store was completed in May, the main extension was completed in July and opened in August with the Post Office completed in November and opened in December. The car park was almost completed but there is a dispute over the colours of the pavers on the terrace. The Heathcote Room, which is not part of initial improvements, will be brought back into use by September. An audio and

staging system are planned but depends on the success of a grant application. Total expenditure is £265K and £259K has been received from funds acquired or local donations. Over the last 6 months income is up by 50% on last year.

**New Pavilion Sub-committee.** Councillor Staunton reported that the Parish Council is working towards providing suitable sporting facilities in keeping with the new millennium standards and needs. The proposal is not just to build a new pavilion but also associated facilities such as a car park, third tennis court, resurfacing of old courts, two practice nets for cricket and a petanque pitch. The total cost at April 1999 was £365,000, of which £250,000 was for the pavilion, compared with £265,000 spent on the parish hall. The initial submission for a Lottery Grant was given a “soft” rejection by Sport England and the Parish Council decided to resubmit an improved bid taking account of Sport England’s comments. Councillor Staunton said the draft bid would be presented at the next Parish Council meeting for discussion and would be available to the electorate through local councillors. The bid, once agreed by the Parish Council, will be submitted in its final form to Sport England.

**Guest Speaker.** At this point the Chairman closed the meeting and introduced the guest speaker, Mr Gazzard, Headmaster of Shepherd’s Down School. Mr Gazzard gave an excellent presentation on the imminent expansion of the school and answered questions from the audience. On completion the meeting was reopened.

**School Governor’s Report.** Councillor Wilmshurst reported that the parish is very fortunate to have such a successful school and he is proud to be a governor. In January the school was subjected to a mini Ofsted inspection. The inspectors concluded that academic standards are very high, the head teacher is providing determined and effective leadership and the quality of teaching is a considerable strength of the school. The school is still awaiting final confirmation of a grant to build permanent classrooms to replace the temporary ones. Planning permission has been obtained and the school has raised half of the £90,000 it has to contribute towards the cost.

**Police Report.** Police Constable Barham gave a brief review of crime statistics in the parish over the last four years. In general crime has reduced significantly. There will be some organisational changes with the amalgamation of the Twyford section and Alresford section, renamed the Itchen Valley Section. The police station will remain and the changes should result in a small increase in policing.

### **Question Time.**

- a. Mr M. Dawson asked if the keys to the notice boards could be made more easily available to parishioners. Cllr Ellis replied that a system is being introduced.
- b. Mrs J. Lockett asked when the tree guards on the M3 trees would be removed. Cllr Ellis said it is Hampshire County Council’s responsibility and it would not remove the guards whilst there is a danger of damage from rabbits.
- c. Mr C. Jones asked for the locations of the two green field sites bordering the parish, which are being considered for possible development. Cllr Campbell-White advised the sites are at Olivers Battery and Hare Lane, Twyford.

- d. Mr R Wilson asked for the Chairman to clarify that the two Councillors not seeking re-election come from Compton Down. The Chairman said he was happy to do this.
- e. Mr M. Bell asked if it is not important for a wide spread of views to be represented. Residents Associations could also provide feedback to the Parish Council. The Chairman said he accepted this point.
- f. Mrs J. Hazlitt requested that the new bus shelter planned opposite Shepherd's Lane should be angled so that awaiting passengers can see approaching buses from within the shelter. Cllr Ellis advised that the new bus shelter was fully glazed and passengers would have full view of approaching traffic.
- g. Mr K. Douglas said that bus drivers could not see passengers waiting in the Southdown shelter because of the gallows put up for the Romanse project. The Chairman responded that this problem would be passed to the appropriate convenor at the new Parish Council.
- h. Mrs C. Sorsbie asked who was responsible for the maintenance of the towpath, particularly the dog fouling and the tar macadam. Cllr Whitaker responded that there were two dog wardens with Winchester City Council and they should be contacted and made aware of the problem. The Chairman advised that the question of tarmacing the path would be passed onto the next Parish Council.
- i. Mr M. Harber asked for an update on the Shawford Park stables application. The Chairman asked City Council Mrs M Campbell-White to make a statement. She reported that the planning officer would like to reject the application. However, the applicant has threatened to go to appeal if all the information being obtained is not first considered. Winchester City Council is awaiting the reports.
- j. Mr T. Hunt asked whether the parish is opposed to the National Cycle Network having a route through the parish. Cllr Threlfall replied that the Parish Council would condone the use of bridleways but not footpaths.
- k. Mr M. Harber returned to the question of dog fouling and asked whether the Council intend to put bins in car parks and footpaths. Cllr Whitaker responded that it was a question of costs, and no bins had yet been agreed.
- l. Mr Peake asked for clarification on the application for TPOs to be put on the trees on the Memorial playing fields. Cllr Wilmshurst replied that a parishioner with this request had approached him. A plan was produced at the last Parish Council meeting and he had been asked to approach parishioners for their views. The general view is opposed to the suggestion and a decision will be taken at the next Parish Council meeting.
- m. Mr Wilson asked whether the Internet could be used to publicize the submission for the new pavilion. Cllr Staunton responded that this might be tried but the document consisted of about 80 pages and this might cause problems.
- n. Mr J. Gray asked that as 300 people were opposed to the pavilion project, especially those living alongside the playing field, some representation from this group on the committee is necessary if all views were to be heard. Cllr Staunton replied there would be a new Parish Council from the 4 May and at the next meeting a new committee would be elected which would include the views of those who were against the project.
- o. Mr R. Jordon indicated that on the new Council there would be differing views and Councillors should work together on all aspects of Council business with all views taken into account. The Chairman replied that he was in total agreement with that view.

There being no further questions the Chairman thanked all who attended and closed the meeting at 10.05 pm.