



Compton and Shawford Parish Council

PO Box 565, Winchester,
Hampshire SO23 3HG

Phone: 01962 600198

email: clerk@compton.pariah.hants.gov.uk

Record of the Annual Parish Meeting: 7.30pm Thursday 25 April 2013, Shawford Parish Hall

Present: Councillors U Stevens, (chairman), J Evans, M Goulding, A Jeffrey, N Sadler, M Townell, A Walmsley, M Wilkinson and Mr D Drake (Clerk).

In attendance: County Councillor C Bailey, PCSO M Wilkinson and 40 members of the public.

Apologies for absence: Councillor M Southgate, District Councillor J Warwick, Mr & Mrs J Richardson and Mr M Shipster.

Review of the Year

1. Councillor Stevens welcomed everyone to the meeting. It had been a good year for the community. The four days of celebrations for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee had gone extremely well and had raised £15,000 for worthy causes in the community. The lighting of a beacon on Shawford Down had been an emotional occasion and had shown the village at its very best. The community had also been runners up in the Hampshire Village of the Year Competition and been placed first in the Diamond Jubilee and Olympics category, which had included an Inspirational Individual award for the chairman. Thanks to Councillor Walmsley's considerable efforts, Compton and Shawford had also been awarded the HALC shield for the best local council web site.

2. The council intended to build upon these excellent foundations. The Compton Street playing field had recently been renamed as the Queen Elizabeth II Field and registered as a permanently protected playing field. Plans were underway for a wildflower meadow at the base of Shawford Down; the planting of a community orchard and possible improvements to the appearance of Shawford railway station. The council had also registered with the organisers of South & South East in Bloom, for which the judging would take place in July.

3. With regard to the continuing problem of M3 noise, the local MP, Steve Brine, had arranged a meeting on 14 May 2013 with the Minister for Roads, Steven Hammond MP. He would be accompanied by herself, Councillor Southgate and Mrs Caffyn, who has had a long and close connection with Shepherds Down School. Being adjacent to the M3, the school suffered badly from vehicle noise.

4. Finally, Councillor Stevens noted that County Councillor Charlotte Bailey would be standing down at the forthcoming local election. She thanked her for her considerable efforts over the past eight years and, on behalf of the community, presented her with a large bouquet of flowers. Mrs Bailey was warmly applauded by all present.

Finance and Administration

5. Councillor Walmsley noted that despite the burden of considerable legislation and the introduction of a new Code of Conduct, the council had managed to maintain its precept (funds received from Winchester City Council) at £27,170 for the fourth year in a row. In order to keep the precept unchanged, the council has reduced the annual contributions to the sinking funds, which are now quite healthy. He also advised that the end of year accounts had been distorted by income from WCC's Open Spaces Fund and subsequent expenditure on improvements to the parish's playing fields and play areas.

Police Report

6. PCSO Michelle Gay advised that there had been 39 incidents reported to the police in the past year. They included seven thefts from vehicles parked in the vicinity of Shawford Down. She advised parishioners that it was no longer safe to lock valuables in the boot of a car and recommended that anyone using the Down car parks should leave their valuables at home. She was pleased to announce that PC John Worsdell had been appointed as the new beat constable. He was due to start on 7 May 2013.

Playing Fields

7. Councillor Wilkinson reported that the official opening of the QEII Field on Saturday 6 April 2013 had been well attended. She thanked all those that had helped with the clearing of scrub around the playing field and the planting of the 420 saplings, which, in a few years, will grow into a woodland hedge providing shelter and food for wildlife. She was currently working closely with local organisations on the provision of improved sporting and child play facilities within the parish. These could include a multi-use games area, outdoor gym equipment and a heritage map board at the memorial Playing Fields.

Future Development within the Parish

8. Councillor Jeffrey advised that the council generally takes a broadly neutral approach to planning applications and to object if they conflict with planning policy or the guidelines in the village Design Statement. She commented upon the Winchester District Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA), which had identified three sites in the parish: one in Shepherds lane for 106 units of accommodation between 2017 -2022 and two further sites between the east end of Compton street and the M3, for 15 units and 23 units respectively. The long running issue of affordable housing had been addressed during the past year and the exhibition held on 30 November 2012 had acted as a catalyst for galvanising the views from part of the parish. Some of the sites identified at the exhibition had not proved to be appropriate but three had been prioritised for further consideration. A detailed report on those sites should issue shortly.

Focus on Shawford Down and environs

9. Councillor Stevens expanded upon the plans to improve the look of the area at the base of Shawford Down and around the railway station. These would include liaison with Network Rail and SUSTRANS. The landlord of the Bridge Hotel had also offered support.

10. Before opening the meeting for questions, Councillor Stevens offered her sincere thanks to the parish hall caretaker, Frank Smith, for his support to the community over the past year. This was warmly supported by all present.

Open Session

11. In response to a question about the Compton Village Association (CVA) survey on affordable housing, the chairman advised that the council had noted that 90% of those responding had been opposed to development but it had also noted that 65% of households had not responded. She confirmed that, once councillors had had time to study the HARA report on sites 11, 5 and 4, it would be made available to the public. Councillor Walmsley noted that, among their objections to the development of Old Orchard, the CVA had cited increased traffic. The organisation had expressed similar concerns about the development of affordable housing. He was not convinced that Old Orchard had resulted in a significant increase in traffic flows along Compton Street and he felt caution needed to be exercised about using traffic congestion as an objection to any further housing development in Compton village.

12. It was noted that Otterbourne Parish Council was seeking a transfer of funds from Compton and Shawford's Open Spaces Fund for a project in Otterbourne: priority needed to be given to projects within the parish. Councillor Wilkinson explained that many parishioners on the boundary with Otterbourne used the facilities provided by Otterbourne PC but, as explained earlier, she was working with local organisations to identify playing field and play area projects within the parish. These would be given priority over all other claims.

13. Concern was expressed that the Parish Council had not been represented at the recent WCC Planning Committee, which had decided upon the proposed development at Cartersland. Councillor Stevens explained that the only ground for objection was non compliance with the Village Design Statement: this would have been covered by the planning officer.

14. Finally, in response to a request for a pedestrian crossing near the Bushfield Roundabout to provide safe access to the Hockley Viaduct, County Councillor Bailey noted that HCC was monitoring the situation and was expected to make a decision later in the year. Councillor Stevens added that the Parish Council would monitor the situation and, if necessary, provide HCC with encouragement to proceed.

David Drake
Clerk