



Compton and Shawford Parish Council

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Minutes of the Compton and Shawford Parish Council Meeting held at 7.30pm Tuesday 1 March 2016, Compton Room, Shawford Parish Hall.

Present: Councillors M Southgate (chairman), A Cordery, M Goulding, U Stevens, M Townell, A Walmsley, M Wilkinson, N Sadler (from 8.00) and Mr D Drake (clerk).

In attendance: Three members of the public.

1. Apologies and Declarations of Interest

The council accepted apologies from County Councillor P Bailey and PCSO M Wilkinson. Councillor Southgate announced that Councillor Jeffrey had resigned with effect from 25 February 2016: he had thanked her for her considerable contribution to the council's work over the past four years. Councillor Southgate declared a pecuniary precautionary interest in matters that might relate to Sparrowgrove and Oakwood Copse Conservation Trust (SOCCT) and Shawford railway station. (He is chairman of both SOCCT and the Shawford Rail Users Group.)

2. Minutes

Councillor Southgate moved that the minutes of the meeting of 12 January 2016 were a true record.

Vote: 6 For 1 Abstention

3. Matters Arising and Outstanding Actions

Councillor Southgate noted that, due to time constraints, there had been no nominations for the Winchester City Council (WCC) Mayor's Award. It was agreed that, in future, the council should consider starting the nomination process at a much earlier stage. Councillor Stevens expressed doubts about the viability of a beacon lighting ceremony on Shawford Down as part of The Queen's Birthday celebrations. She suggested that it might be more appropriate to join in the programme of events scheduled for The Queen's official birthday in June 2016. All agreed. Councillors Stevens and Sadler subsequently agreed to consider possible options. There were no other outstanding actions from the last meeting.

4. Police Report

The clerk advised that he had been informed that, with the introduction of 'Hampshire Alerts', the police will no longer be providing police reports for parish councils. Crime information can be obtained by visiting www.police.uk. The council subsequently agreed to drop 'Police Report' as future agenda item.

5. District Councillors' Report

In his capacity as District Councillor, Councillor Southgate briefed the council on a number of Winchester City Council issues, including a meeting between Steve Brine MP, District Councillor Jan Warwick and representatives of the Shawford Village Residents' Association, to discuss the parking problems caused by rail commuters. Since the rail service is an important asset to the community as a whole, there was some concern that the Parish Council had not received a formal invitation to attend the meeting. It was agreed that the council's policy, outlined in the clerk's letter to the

South Western Consultation Co-ordinator of 5 February 2016, should be made freely available to all parishioners. [A copy is attached to these minutes.] Councillor Southgate added that he had recently met the Stagecoach Rail bid manager and advised him about the SVRA's proposal to use the Walcon yard for additional parking. He had also provided the SVRA's representative with direct access to the bid manager.

He was disappointed that little progress had been made on the proposed cycle route through Compton, Shawford and Otterbourne. Sustrans had indicated that it could undertake a detailed study of the route for a fee of £5000. However, with budgets so tight, WCC was reluctant to commit to such a sum. He agreed to continue to pursue this issue.

Councillor Southgate noted that WCC had approved its first increase in council tax for six years. When added to that of Hampshire County Council (HCC), police, fire etc., the average Band D property could expect a bill of £1504.81.

6. Chairman's Report

Councillor Southgate asked the council to note that a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) had been signed between WCC and Southampton International Airport, which places the onus on the airport operator to comply with best Civil Aviation Authority practice and to consult the city council on any variations to flight paths. He thanked the chairman of the Winchester Air Group, Robin Tice, for his advice and efforts in helping to draft the MoU.

He was pleased to confirm that South West Trains (SWT) had installed the cycle storage facility at Shawford Station. He also acknowledged the work of some parishioners in helping to cut back overgrown vegetation, particularly on the path from Southdown to the station, and the collection of litter. He had offered them support in the provision of equipment, black bags, gloves etc.

He also noted that, having withdrawn its proposal to construct an additional court on the green area of the MPF, the Lawn Tennis Club (LTC) had not yet notified the council on plans for an alternative site for the fourth tennis court

The meeting was suspended to permit statements, observations and questions from members of the public.

Concern was raised about the LTC's apparent unwillingness to address issues/concerns raised by a resident, who lives close to the MPF. It was hoped that the Parish Council would continue to keep parishioners abreast of any significant developments with regard to the fourth tennis court. Councillor Southgate confirmed that this would be the case.

There being no further comments from members of the public, the meeting was reconvened.

7. Planning

Councillor Stevens presented her report. She was continuing to monitor closely the proposed developments at Warner's Farm, Smallwood and Cross Way.

8. Highways

Councillor Cordery presented her report. The new bench had been installed in Compton Street and instructions had been given for Clive Goodyear to install a bench in the bus shelter at the top Shawford Hill. The Lengthsman had visited the parish on 16 February, when amongst other tasks, he had cleaned the footpath between Compton Street and Hurdle Way. Councillor Cordery had also received a request for the street lights to be dimmed in Martins Fields. She had advised the parishioner that the council had recently participated in an HCC consultation, which could result in the street lights being switched off between midnight and 5am.

Councillor Cordery also raised the issue of cars parked at the end of Compton Street, near the junction with the main road. She asked whether it was possible to get yellow lines painted on the road. Councillor Southgate agreed to ask WCC Traffic Officers to look into the issue.

9. Playing Fields Management

Councillor Wilkinson presented her report. An oak tree, to replace the one wrongly strimmed by contractors, had been planted at the QEII Field. A photograph of the planting ceremony could be found on the WCC web site. A recent play inspection report had rated all of the council's play equipment as either 'low' or 'very low' risk but some of the timber structures required attention. Plans were in hand to have any rough edges sanded down. During his visit to the parish, the Lengthsman had treated the wet pour surfaces on both play areas and removed moss and algae.

10. CASCA

Councillor Wilkinson reported on CASCA's recent committee meeting. Finances were healthy and there was the prospect of extra bookings on Fridays. The front of the hall would be painted this summer. Concern was expressed about access problems caused by cars being parked too close to the entrance to the hall car park. Councillor Southgate agreed to consult WCC about the possibility of painting white lines on the road in Pearson Lane, either side of the entrance.

<p>Action: Councillor Southgate to contact WCC traffic officers about painting white lines either side of the entrance to the parish hall car park.</p>
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11. Footpaths and Environment

Councillor Wilkinson reported that the scrub clearing on Shawford Down was continuing as planned. It was gradually reverting to its natural state.

12. Web Site

Councillor Walmsley presented his report. The new web site was now in operation. He proposed that the council should change to the new web address in mid-March. All agreed. Councillor Southgate thanked Councillor Walmsley for his excellent work on this project.

13 Hampshire & Isle of Wight Devolution

Councillor Walmsley reported on the meeting that he had attended during the afternoon. The leader of Hampshire County Council, Councillor Roy Perry, is not impressed with government plans to consider the creation of a combined authority with an elected mayor in the Solent area. This is a different proposal to the Hampshire and Isle of Wight devolution project, which covers the whole of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. Councillor Perry believes that the most important economic axis for the Solent area is north to the rest of Hampshire, and then diminishing to Surrey, London, the M4 and the Midlands. But whatever the eventual outcome, devolution will mean changes to the way parish and town councils operate.

14. Finance and Administration

The council approved the financial statement and noted the clerk's comments that a balanced budget was the most likely outcome for the current financial year. Depending upon whether, or not, invoices were received from HCC by 31 March 2016, there was a possibility of a small surplus.

The council also noted the list of payments made since 12 January 2016 and agreed the 'Key Risks' document.

Councillor Cordery moved an amendment to the Asset Register. During the HCC street lighting upgrading programme, the floodlight attached to Lighting Unit 1A (ID44) had been removed. The clerk concurred. The amendment was agreed without dissent.

The clerk briefed the council on the Hampshire Association of Local Council (HALC)'s recommendation not to support an increase in the National Association of Local Council's levy: likely to increase by between 17 - 25%. The council agreed to await HALC's recommendation on alternative partners before making a decision on whether to pay the increased levy.

The council noted that Annual Parish Meeting would take place on 21 April 2016 in Shawford parish hall. It agreed that the chairman's letter would be distributed electronically to all residents' associations. It would also be posted on the parish web site and Facebook page. A draft letter would be circulated to councillors by 15 March 2016 with the intention of it being published in the April edition of the parish magazine.

Since this would be the last council meeting before the parish council election on 5 May 2016, Councillor Southgate thanked everyone for their support and hard work over the past year. He reminded councillors that the first item on the agenda for the meeting on 10 May 2016 would be the election of a chairman followed by, if one is desired, a vice-chairman.

14. Date and Venue of Next Meeting

7.30pm Tuesday 10 May 2016 in the Main Room, Shawford Parish Hall.

M G Southgate
Chairman

*Copies of all the reports mentioned above can be obtained from the clerk.



Compton and Shawford Parish Council

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South Western Consultation Co-ordinator
Department for Transport
4/15 Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Road
London SW1P 4DR

5 February 2016

Dear Co-ordinator,

South Western Rail Franchise Consultation Document: Shawford Station

I am writing on behalf of Compton and Shawford Parish Council, in response to the South Western Franchise Consultation Document.

Shawford Station, south of Winchester, serves a large population and those villages between the major stations of Winchester and Eastleigh. The station has shown strong growth over the last decade and provides a vital and valued transport service to the community. It is used for long distance, local commuting and recreational journeys. It enables the local population to travel from a local station, without the need to travel into a city centre, creating congestion and other environmental issues. Whilst local car parking remains an issue, there has been a noticeable shift to other forms of transport to the station, such as cycling and walking.

The Parish Council would like to make the following specific points relating to Shawford Railway Station:

- α) Service pattern - That the current seven-day peak and off peak service pattern, including first and last services with Southampton as the primary southern destination, is retained as the minimum contracted service for the new franchise. The council would not support 'skip stopping' for Shawford and fails to see how this would help.
- β) More investment in the Shawford Station infrastructure - particularly increases to on site car and cycle parking. The council considers that there is Network Rail land, in the form of an old station house and other land, which could be available for such use.

The council supports the local Rail User Group and the concerns expressed by the local residents' association, which relate to parking in the vicinity of the railway station.

Yours faithfully,

David A Drake

David A Drake OBE
Clerk