



Compton and Shawford Parish Council

PO Box 565, Winchester,
Hampshire SO23 3HG

Telephone: 01962 600198

email: clerk@comptonshawford-pc.gov.uk

Minutes of the Compton and Shawford Parish Council meeting held at 7.30pm Tuesday 10 January 2017 at the Reeves Scout Hall, Compton.

Present: Councillors M Southgate (chairman), M Bell, M Goulding, U Stevens, R Webster, and Mr D Drake (clerk).

In attendance: District Councillor J Warwick (until 8.30) and seven members of the public.

1. Apologies and Declarations of Interest

The council accepted apologies from Councillors R Jordan, and M Wilkinson, County Councillor P Bailey and District Councillors B Laming and E Bell. In anticipation of the discussions on the budget and parking in Shawford, Councillor Southgate declared that he was chairman of Sparrowgrove and Oakwood Copse Conservation Trust (SOCCT) and the Shawford Rail Users Group (SRUG).

2. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 1 November 2016 had been circulated, together with the agenda. Since no amendments had been proposed, they were taken as read.

All matters arising/outstanding actions had been completed or were on the agenda for the current meeting.

3. Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)

The clerk advised the council that he had received assurances, from the 5th Winchester Scouts, that the organisation intended to renew its lease with Winchester City Council (WCC), when it expires in 2020, and that it would continue to make the hall available for reasonable public use. WCC's senior surveyor had also confirmed that she was about to start discussions with the Scouts about granting the organisation an extension to the lease. In light of these assurances, Councillor Goulding had authorised the payment of a grant of £5000 to 5th Winchester Scouts to assist with funding the Reeves Scout Hall renovations. [The chairman presented the Scout Group Leader, Will Bradshaw, with a cheque for that amount, prior to the commencement of the meeting.]

4. County and District Councillors' Reports

The council noted the report submitted by District Councillors Bell, Laming and Warwick. In response to a question, Councillor Warwick added that Badger Farm PC had raised concerns about transport access to the proposed development at Bushfield Camp.

5. Public Session

Following a recent accident, concern was raised about the speed limit on Otterbourne Road and the failure of drivers to observe the current speed limit. Concern was also raised about the proposed development on the site of Parsonage Barn, Compton Street, which did not appear to comply with the Village Design Statement (VDS) nor take into consideration that Compton Street was designated as a conservation area.

5. Highways and Public Transport

The council noted Councillor Bell's report in which he had included the following comments from Hampshire County Council (HCC)'s Team Leader, Traffic Management (East):

"HCC's Traffic & Safety Group has access to the Police database of all injury-accidents reported in Hampshire and this is used to prioritise our programmes of traffic and safety schemes. In the current 5-year period for which data is available (up to 31.10.16) there have been four other injury-accidents reported on the section of Otterbourne Road between Poles Lane and Southdown Road, three of which were in fairly close proximity to the recent accident. However, none of these incidents has excess speed noted as a contributory factor and there are no particular patterns or similarities to the reported causes that would be treatable with any engineering measures. Also, three of these incidents occurred in 2013 with the latest in March 2015, which suggests an improving trend in safety on this route.

Based on the current injury-accident record, Otterbourne Road is not justified for inclusion on our safety programmes compared to other less fortunate routes. However, we will continue to monitor the accident database and any deterioration in the safety record will of course be investigated."

Considering these comments and, having received an assurance that the HCC traffic management team will continue to monitor the situation, the council decided to take no further action on a suggestion that it should consider recommending that the speed limit on Otterbourne Road be lowered to 30mph.

Following a discussion on parking in Shawford, the council agreed that, while recognising HCC has primacy on highways issues, it would not, in principle, support the introduction of additional parking restrictions in the village without prior consultation with local resident associations, neighbouring parish councils and rail user groups.

The council considered the problem of logs/rocks being placed on grass verges throughout the parish. Councillor Bell reported that he had spoken to HCC highways and had been informed that if such items were placed on HCC land, prior permission was required, on private land, it was a private matter. The council agreed that parishioners, who place obstructions on grass verges, should be reminded that they may be liable for any damage/accidents caused by such obstructions.

Councillor Stevens mentioned the difficulties caused by cars parked close to the junction of Hurdle Way and Otterbourne Road. The line of sight was particularly difficult for vehicles trying to exit Hurdle Way, she hoped that some restrictions could be imposed on cars parking close to the junction. It was agreed that Councillor Bell would liaise with District Councillor Warwick, about the painting of white lines on Hurdle Way at the junction with Otterbourne Road.

Action: Councillor Bell to liaise with District Councillor Warwick, about the painting of white lines on Hurdle Way at the junction with Otterbourne Road.

The chairman advised the council that a decision on the rail franchise had been deferred until April. The successful franchisee would commence services in August.

6. BT Telephone Boxes

Councillor Webster presented his report. He moved that he should be asked to work with local groups to provide a proposal for the use of the BT telephone boxes in Martins Fields and Shawford village. The proposal to be presented to the council on 7 March 2017. In the meantime, the clerk to advise Winchester City Council that the Parish Council would like to begin the process of adopting the two telephone boxes.

Vote: Unanimous

Action: Councillor Webster to produce a proposal on the adoption of the parish's two telephone boxes by 7 March 2017.

Action: Clerk to advise WCC that the Parish Council would like to begin the process of adopting the two telephone boxes.

7. Planning

Councillor Stevens presented her report. She had been involved in regular discussions with the neighbours over an application for formal permission for a lawful development certificate (LDC) for the "use of a building as a private residential dwelling" relating to Winton on Shawford Road. The applicant has converted a summerhouse and adjacent garage into a separate dwelling that includes a kitchen and bathroom with access onto Pearson Lane. The application will be decided by a member of WCC's Legal Team, not by the Planning Department. She advised that, on behalf of the council, she would object to this application most vigorously. There were no dissenters.

Councillor Stevens also advised that the application to construct two four-bedroom room dwellings and one three-bedroom (self-build) dwelling, garaging, parking and new access at Parsonage Barn Compton Street would be considered by the WCC Planning Committee on 12th January. She would attend the meeting and, if allowed to speak, would express concern over the nature of the proposed development, which will be constructed within a conservation area. The Compton Village Association and District Councillor Warwick will also be in attendance and will express similar concerns.

8. Playing Fields Management

The council considered Councillor Wilkinson's report. Councillor Southgate moved that the three-year contract for grass cutting at the MPF and QEII, should be awarded to the company that had provided the lowest bid (£10,530), Grass and Grounds Ltd. The company had provided a satisfactory service to the council over the past four years.

Vote: Unanimous

Following discussion, it was agreed that a decision upon whether (or not) CIL funds should be used to meet the cost of replacing the AstroTurf around the goal mouths at the QEII Field, should be deferred to the next meeting, by which time the required third quote should have been obtained.

The council agreed that tenders should be invited for the re-staining of the Jubilee Pavilion and its shed.

The council also agreed that a slate commemorative plaque should be installed alongside the oak tree at the MPF, planted in honour of The Queen's Diamond Jubilee. Since she was chairman at the time, Councillor Stevens agreed to liaise with Councillor Wilkinson over the precise wording of the inscription.

9. Finance and Administration

Councillor Goulding presented his report. He moved that the council should approve the financial statement dated 31 December 2016.

Vote: Unanimous

Councillor Goulding moved that the council should approve the budget as laid out in the clerk's paper of 4 January 2017.

Vote: Unanimous

The chairman noted that WCC funding figure had remained at its current level of £27,170, since 2010/11.

The council noted the list of payments made since 1 November 2016 and that Councillor Goulding had completed the Council's Review of Internal Audit for the financial year 2016/17.

Following discussion, during which it was noted that two councillors were unable to participate, Councillor Goulding agreed to seek the views of each councillor on a suggestion that the council

consider holding more frequent council meetings. He would report his findings, when the council next meets on 7 March 2017.

Action: Councillor Goulding to seek the views of each councillor on a suggestion that the council consider holding more frequent council meetings.

10. Annual Parish meeting (APM)

The council discussed Councillor Bell's paper, which suggested that the council should consider reverting to the previous format for the APM, where convenors/portfolio holders produced a short summary of their activities for publication in a document that was freely delivered throughout the parish. At the APM, the convenors could then make a short presentation or answer questions on the contents of the published document. It was agreed that Councillors Goulding and Bell should produce a recommendation on the format of the next APM, including the date upon which it should be held, in time for the next council meeting on 7 March 2017.

Action: Councillors Goulding and Bell to produce a recommendation on the format of the next APM, including the date upon which it should be held, in time for the next council meeting on 7 March.

11. Casual Vacancy

The chairman advised that only one person had expressed an interest in joining the council. That individual had subsequently withdrawn when it became apparent that personal details would be published on the website. [Part 1, Chapter 7, Section 29 of the Localism Act 2011, para 7 states that "a parish council must, if it has a website, secure that its register is published on its website".] It was noted that, since 2011 identity fraud had become a major concern for many people and that both the clerk and WCC Democratic Services keep a register of councillors' interests, which can be consulted by members of the public, upon request. It was agreed that the chairman should write to WCC's senior legal officer questioning whether the requirement to publish on the website was sensible, particularly since it is becoming an obstruction to the recruitment of councillors.

Action: Chairman to write to the WCC senior legal officer questioning whether the requirement to publish on the website was sensible, particularly since it is becoming an obstruction to the recruitment of councillors.

12. Footpaths and Environment

The chairman noted that the lengthsman was due to visit the parish in the week beginning 13 February 2017. He asked councillors to email Councillor Wilkinson with suggestions for his work schedule by 31 January 2017.

13. Date and Venue of Next Meeting

7.30pm Tuesday 7 March 2017 in the Compton Room, Shawford Parish Hall.

M G Southgate
Chairman

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