



Compton and Shawford Parish Council

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Minutes of the Compton and Shawford Parish Council meeting held at 7.30pm Tuesday 6 March 2018, in the Compton Room, Shawford Parish Hall.

Present: Councillors M Goulding (chairman), M Bell, T Hunt, R Jordan, J Lockett, M Southgate, F Strange, R Webster, M Wilkinson and Mr D Drake (Clerk).

In attendance: County & District Councillor J Warwick (until 8.15 pm) District Councillor B Laming (until 8.15pm) and four members of the public.

1. Apologies and Declarations of Interest

Councillor Hunt declared an interest in planning applications in Southdown.

2. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 9 January 2018 had been circulated, together with the agenda. Since no amendments had been proposed prior to the meeting, they were taken as read. The chairman duly signed the minutes as a true and accurate record.

3. Matters Arising and Outstanding Actions

The chairman reviewed the outstanding actions from the previous meeting. Councillor Webster offered to assist Councillor Wilkinson on action to install Wi-Fi at the parish hall. All other items had either been completed or were for discussion later in the meeting.

4. County and District Councillors' Reports

County Councillor Warwick reported that she would be inviting members of the parish and representatives of Compton and Shawford, Otterbourne and Hursley Parish Councils to join a committee that she would be chairing to monitor activity at the Biomass plant. District Councillor Laming noted that Alfred Homes had submitted an appeal against the WCC planning committee's decision to reject a planning application concerning the development at Smallwood. Since the Parish Council had objected to that application, he hoped that it would be consistent and submit a further objection during the appeal process. Councillor Strange commented upon the difficulties that she had encountered in obtaining a response, to her telephone inquiries, from one of the Winchester City Council (WCC) planning department case officers. Councillor Laming undertook to investigate. In response to question from Councillor Bell, Councillor Warwick advised that the concrete security blocks in Winchester would be replaced by "something more aesthetically pleasing".

5. Public Session

Members of the Shawford Village Residents' Association (SVRA) were concerned that the Parish Council had seemed to object to the proposal to introduce parking restrictions in Shawford Lane, Twyford. Councillor Bell, supported by the chairman, Councillor Goulding, explained that the council had not 'objected' to the proposal. It had 'not been supported' because, to have done so, would have been inconsistent with the council's policy of seeking a complete solution to the parking problems in Shawford: one that included rail users. It was hoped that discussions between South Western Railways and Walcon would result in increased parking at the station, but much would depend upon the commercial viability of the project.

6. Finance & Administration

Councillor Webster presented his report.

The council noted the financial statement, dated 28 February 2018, and accepted that the budget for the current financial year was likely to be exceeded by around £6000. This was mainly because of essential playing field and play area maintenance. Nevertheless, council reserves were sufficient to meet the sum allocated to the structural, maintenance and play equipment sinking fund and other essential expenditure.

The council noted the list of payments made since 9 January 2018.

The council noted that the current asset register showed that it had assets valued at £1,557,371, an increase of £912 on the previous year. Those assets are insured for the sum of £2,107,868.

The council discussed the request for a grant, received from Twyford Meads and Berry Meadow Management Committee (TMBMMC). Following discussion, it was noted that the organisation had not fully met the conditions attached to the grant announced at the previous meeting. The chairman undertook to explain to the committee that the council needed more information, on the number of potential funding companies that had been approached, before it could proceed with the proposed grant of £500 towards the restoration of Compton Lock.

<p>Action: Chairman to explain to TMBMMC that the council requires more information before it can proceed with the proposed grant of £500 towards the restoration of Compton Lock.</p>

The council discussed the amount of the Sports Club's annual contribution for the next five years, (2018 -2022). It agreed that the cost of repairing the outdoor gymnasium should not be included in the 'cost neutral' list of council expenditure on the pavilion, over the past five years. The total expenditure was £9091.59, which, when divided by five, produced an annual contribution figure of £1818.32, to which the cost of servicing the outdoor gymnasium (£220 pa) needed to be added, i.e. a total of £2038.32. It was noted that the Sports Club had expressed concern about this substantial increase on the current figure of £1420 but had, nevertheless, offered to pay £2000 pa to include the cost of servicing the outdoor gymnasium. Councillor Bell moved that the Sports Club's annual contribution for the years 2018 -2022 (inclusive) should be 'rounded down' to £2000 pa and that the Sports Club should no longer be required to meet the cost of servicing the outdoor gymnasium.

Vote: Unanimous

The council discussed the programme for compiling the annual report on the council's activities and expenditure in the current financial year. The chairman agreed to write the report and asked for contributions from councillors by 31 March 2018. The Annual Parish Meeting is scheduled for Thursday 17 May 2018 at 7.30pm.

<p>Action: Councillors to produce contributions to the annual report by 31 March 2018.</p>

The chairman advised that the next meeting of the council would be its Annual Council Meeting, when council appointments would need to be made. He intended to put his name forward as chairman.

7. Telephone Kiosks

Councillor Webster reported that, with the assistance of the SVRA, the Shawford kiosk had been extensively cleaned. The renovation of the Compton kiosk was also complete. The installation of defibrillators in both kiosks is expected shortly, following which will begin the final tasks of public awareness, handover and signage.

8. Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)

The council noted that, once the grant towards the improvements to the MPF car park drainage had been completed, the CIL allocation would be fully spent.

9. Planning

The council considered County Councillor Warwick's invitation to be represented on the Biomass plant committee and agreed that, once a date for the first meeting had been established, a councillor should be nominated to attend.

Councillor Jordan announced that he had made an appointment with a WCC official to see what support and guidance could be obtained from the city council to assist with updating the Village Design Statement. In response to a request from Councillor Bell, he received an assurance, from Councillor Jordan, that he would be invited to the meeting.

Following District Councillor Laming's request, it was agreed that the council should object to the Alfred Homes appeal against the WCC planning committee's decision to oppose the company's second Smallwood planning application (17/01964/FUL).

Action: Councillor Jordan to submit an objection to the Alfred Homes appeal on Smallwood.

The council discussed the terms of reference for the planning team led by Councillor Jordan. The chairman asked them to produce a paper, to be circulated to all councillors within two weeks (20 March 2018).

Action: Planning team to produce a paper outlining their terms of reference by 20 March 2018.

10. Playing Fields Management

Councillor Wilkinson reported that the November play inspection report had highlighted a 'moderate risk' to some items of play equipment. The repairs to the multi-play unit at the MPF had now been completed, at a cost of £765. Since this figure was above the portfolio holder's delegated authority of £750, the chairman's permission had been obtained before the work was commissioned. The chairman had also approved the purchase and installation of new swing seats and chains at the QEII Field, at a cost of £833.76. Both projects were considered essential, on public safety grounds. When added to the cost of replacing the AstroTurf at the QEII Field, the repairs had resulted in a budget maintenance figure of £10,000 for the current financial year.

The trimming of vegetation around the MPF was nearly complete and mould on the safety surfaces will be removed in time for the Easter holidays. Work to improve the MPF car park drainage should begin shortly. The Lengthsman had done an excellent job of clearing vegetation away from the tarmac footpath, from Southdown to the base of Shawford Down.

11. Footpaths and Environment

The council discussed Councillor Wilkinson's draft notice, concerning litter at Compton Lock, which was approved with very minor modifications. Councillor Wilkinson reported that scrub clearance and maintenance on Shawford Down, by the Countryside Rangers, is continuing.

12. Highways and Public Transport

Councillor Bell was pleased to say that, after considerable effort, Hampshire County Council (HCC) had cleaned out the drains adjacent to the south side bus shelter in Otterbourne Road. Flooding was no longer a problem. An unpleasant mess in the same bus shelter had also been removed by a WCC contractor. (Again, after considerable effort.)

Councillor Bell expressed concern that he was unaware of any developments between South Western Railway (SWR) and Walcon on proposals to increase parking capacity at the railway station. Following a suggestion from Councillor Southgate, it was agreed that he (Councillor Bell) should contact Phil Dominey SWR to request that the Parish Council be kept up to date of developments.

Councillor Hunt's briefing paper on improvements to the M3, including the junction with the A34, was noted. To ensure that parishioners are kept aware of any developments, it was agreed that links to the Highways England website should be available on the parish website.

Action: Councillor Bell to contact SWR regarding parking at Shawford railway station.

13. CASCA

The council discussed Mr Walmsley's request that CASCA should publish guidance on how to arrange hall bookings on the parish website. It was agreed that the council should support his request. Councillor Wilkinson agreed to convey the message to the CASCA committee.

The council noted that CASCA's chairman and treasurer are due to retire in November. It was agreed that this would be a good time to re-assess the relationship between the Parish Council and CASCA. Councillors Southgate and Wilkinson subsequently agreed to liaise with the CASCA committee and to report back with their recommendations at the next meeting on 1 May 2018.

Action: Councillor Wilkinson agreed to convey the webmaster's message about the hall bookings process to the CASCA committee.

Action: Councillors Southgate and Wilkinson to liaise with the CASCA committee about its relationship with the Parish Council and to report back, with their recommendations, at the next meeting on 1 May 2018.

14. Date and Venue of the Next Meeting

7.30pm Tuesday 1 May 2018 in the Compton Room Shawford parish hall.

The chairman closed the meeting at 9.30 pm

Mike Goulding
Chairman

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