



Compton and Shawford Parish Council

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Minutes of the Compton and Shawford Parish Council meeting held at 7.30pm Tuesday 2 July 2019, Compton Room, Shawford Parish Hall.

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

In attendance: District Councillor B Laming (until 8.05pm), County Councillor J Warwick (from 7.45), District Councillor H Williams (from 8.15pm) and 3 members of the public.

1. Apologies and Declarations of Interest

Apologies had been received from Councillor J Lockett (holiday) and District Councillor E Bell (mayoral duties). As a committee member of the Compton Down Society (CDS), Councillor Bell declared an interest in agenda items relating to Compton Down.

2. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 7 May 2019 had been circulated, together with the agenda. There being no comments they were taken as read. The chairman duly signed the amended minutes as a true and accurate record.

3. Matters Arising and Outstanding Actions

All outstanding actions had either been completed or were agenda items.

4. County & District Councillors' Reports

Both County and District Councillors' reports were taken as read. The chairman asked for them to be published on the parish website.

5. Public Session

No issues were raised by members of the public

6. Annual Parish Meeting (APM)

The Council agreed that the Clerk's record of the annual parish meeting held on 16 May 2019 was an accurate report of the proceedings. The chairman acknowledged, from feedback, that the Council should revert to house to house distribution of the annual report. He suggested that the report should be in the form of a one-page newsletter. Councillor Hunt confirmed that he had been invited to participate in the forum on the proposed changes to the airspace above Southampton International Airport.

7. Planning

Councillor Strange presented her report. The Council noted that the planning terms of reference had been revised to include a provision for the planning portfolio holder to engage with developers, prior to the submission of a planning application, but that such contact would not restrict it from commenting adversely on any applications, once submitted.

The Council approved the revised text of the Village Design Statement and suggested that any photographs should be included in an appendix to the document. It noted that Winchester City Council (WCC)'s Strategic Planning Manager (SPM) had advised that there was 'basically no difference between a village or neighbourhood or local design statement'. However, this conflicted with advice that had been received by Councillor Bell. District Councillor Laming undertook to contact WCC planners to seek clarification on this issue.

Action: DC Laming to seek clear guidance on the status of the VDS and LADS in the planning process.

Councillor Strange reported upon her meeting on affordable housing, with Debbie Rhodes and Nigel Baldwin. She had been informed that plans for affordable housing and rural exception sites could not be considered in isolation and that a meeting had been arranged with Catherine Kirkham to discuss the possibility of conducting a housing needs survey. In response to a question from the chairman, Councillor Strange confirmed that the requirement, for affordable housing plans and rural exception sites to be considered at the same time, will mean that it will be difficult to progress plans for affordable housing on the Beckett's nursery site.

The Council noted Councillor Strange's paper on plans for a parish charter between the WCC and the town and parish councils.

Councillor Strange advised that she had given careful consideration to the proposed amendment to the Southgate development but could not find any reasons to object. She had also agreed to become a member of the WCC Enforcement focus group.

8. Highways

Councillor Bell presented his report. It was agreed that since a reference to inconsiderate parking by contractors' vehicles had been included in the annual report, there was no requirement for further action. He mentioned that he had been approached by a parishioner, who would like to see traffic calming measures implemented in Compton Street. The Council agreed to monitor the situation but noted that traffic calming measures, such as sleeping policemen, increased pollution.

Councillor Bell thanked Councillor Southgate for his assistance in trying to resolve the problems with the 'road' from Shawford road to the Malms, which is shown on the Hampshire County Council (HCC) highways road map as a 'footpath'. He suggested that the only solution was for the residents to check their deeds to see who was responsible for maintaining the access 'road' to the Malms. Councillor Southgate added that he had met County Councillor Warwick and HCC Countryside officials to consider options to overcome the parking problems associated with the 'road' and plans to improve the footpath between Southdown and Shawford, which, in time, could become a bridleway. No timetable had been set but he was willing to act as a link between HCC and the Parish Council and would report on progress at the next meeting in September.

Councillor Bell advised that he had been trying to resolve the uncertainty surrounding the safety of the junction of Shepherds Lane and Otterbourne Road. He had been in consultation with County Councillor Warwick and HCC officials: a site meeting had been scheduled for 4 July 2019.

Councillor Warwick reported that it was unlikely the M3 would be closed during its upgrade to a 'smart motorway'. Councillor Laming advised that his meeting to discuss potential diversion routes had been postponed, since council officials were currently concentrating on the M3 Junction 9 consultation process.

9. Finance and Administration

Councillor Webster presented his report. The Council noted the financial statement dated 30 June 2019; the list of payments made since 7 May 2019; and that notices, advertising the public's right to scrutinise the Council's accounts, had been posted on the parish website and noticeboards on 14 June 2019.

Councillor Webster advised that the parish hall (£1,211,000) and caretaker's cottage (£182,000) had been revalued for insurances purposes. CASCA, which is responsible for insuring both properties, is taking appropriate action.

To avoid confusion, when contacting members of the public or public organisations, it was agreed to standardise councillors' signature blocks in the following manner:

Richard Webster
Parish Councillor
{Finance and Administration Portfolio Holder}

10. Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)

Councillor Webster advised the Council that he had received an inquiry from Councillor Bell about the possibility of using CIL funds to update the LADS. While clarification of the issues raised earlier (under planning) were resolved, it was agreed to defer discussion on this matter. Councillor Webster reported that All Saints School had two potential projects (installing play equipment and a rubberised track around the playing field to permit exercise when the weather is inclement), for which a request for financial assistance is likely to be forthcoming.

Councillor Wilkinson asked the Council to consider a request for CIL funds to pay for a brown [tourist] sign indicating the 12th century church in Compton village. Although not on the agenda, since the amount involved was only £300, no-one objected to discussing this issue and making a decision at the current meeting. Councillor Wilkinson formally moved that the Council should commit £300 of CIL funds to meet 50% of the cost of installing the brown sign. (The remaining 50% will be met by the Parochial Church Council.)

Vote: Unanimous.

Councillor Wilkinson added that the PCC was considering using Church Field as an all-weather parking area and may request financial assistance, from the Council, for this project.

11. Playing Fields Management, Footpaths and the Environment

Councillor Wilkinson presented her report. She advised that a recent play inspection report had mentioned there was a moderate risk associated with the multi-play unit (mpu) at the QEII Field. Two quotations had been received to rectify the problem and to replace the missing pigeon spikes. Work was due to be completed by the middle of July. She had also received two quotes for the replacement of the mpu at the Memorial Playing Field (MPF), but both were in excess of £20,000. However, she had just received a brochure from another company, which had included more realistic prices for play equipment. She would continue to pursue this issue.

The meeting on Compton Lock, which was held on 22 May 2019 in Twyford village hall, was well attended. Since it became clear that the police and neighbourhood services were largely unaware of the problems of anti-social behaviour at the Lock, it was suggested by Shawford residents that there should be more active reporting of such incidents. Councillor Wilkinson added that she had made a plea for clearer no cycling signs: the Twyford Clerk agreed to pursue with HCC.

Following concerns, raised at the APM, about litter in the Itchen Navigation affecting the water levels, Andy Roberts, Environmental Agency, had visited the site. He reported that, although there was some litter, there was no evidence that it was affecting water levels. He had also checked the gates and grills.

12. Lengthsman

Councillor Hunt mentioned that the lengthsman was due to visit in August. It was suggested that priority should be given to cutting back vegetation along the footpath that runs along Otterbourne Road, from Southdown Road to Shawford Road, and Shepherds Lane, from the junction with Otterbourne Road to the junction with the school road, which also needed weeding. If time permitted, he could also remove the moss from the wooden bus shelter on the corner of Compton Street and Otterbourne Road.

Councillor Hunt confirmed that five adversely leaning cherry trees at the MPF had been felled. He had also received a request from a parishioner for a seat to be installed at the northbound bus stop in Otterbourne Road, close to the junction with Highways Road. Councillor Bell agreed to consider this request.

Action: Councillor Bell to consider the installation of a bench at the northbound bus stop in Otterbourne Road.

17. Date and Venue of Next Meeting

7.30pm Tuesday 3 September 2019 in the Compton Room, Shawford Parish Hall.

The chairman closed the meeting at 8.40pm.

Mike Goulding
Chairman

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