



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 7 January 2020, Compton Room, Shawford Parish Hall.

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

In attendance: District Councillor H Williams (from 8.33pm) and 3 members of the public.

1. Apologies and Declarations of Interest

Apologies had been received from Councillor Southgate (holiday), County Councillor J Warwick and District Councillor B Laming. There were no declarations of interest.

2. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 12 November 2019 had been circulated prior to the meeting. No amendments had been proposed and the chairman duly signed them as a true record.

3. Matters Arising and Outstanding Actions

Councillor Webster had been in contact with the school about the proposed Church Field car park and was awaiting a detailed reply. All other outstanding other actions had either been completed or were agenda items.

4. County & District Councillors' Reports

The County and District Councillors' reports were taken as read. It was noted that a new permit system will be introduced later this year for members of the public wishing to use the Household Waste Recycling Centres. Hampshire residents will need to register their vehicles on the following website www.hants.gov.uk/vehicle-registration-hwrc to avoid having to pay a fee of £5 per visit.

5. Public Session

Concern was raised about plans for a car park near the station, which, without other measures being introduced, could lead to vehicles being parked elsewhere in the parish. Councillor Goulding reassured the parishioner that a comprehensive plan was being produced by representatives of Hampshire County Council (HCC), Winchester City Council (WCC) the Parish Council and South Western Railways (SWR), that would include parking fees and parking restrictions on Shawford roads. The Shawford Village Residents' Association (SVRA) was also involved. The next meeting was scheduled for 23 January 2020.

6. Compton Village Broadband

Councillor Goulding thanked Mr Walmsley for his comprehensive paper on the lack of superfast broadband to 117 properties in Compton village and invited him to address the Council. Mr Walmsley advised that HCC's Superfast Broadband rollout project does not cover Martins Fields, Attwoods Drive, nor the western part of Compton Street. There is no prospect of those areas getting superfast broadband except through BT Openreach's Community Fibre Partnership programme, which will require the affected householders to raise funds towards the cost, currently estimated at £56,097. A further complication is that some

householders are tied to existing long-term (non-superfast) broadband contracts and may not wish to apply for Department of Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) vouchers, under the Government's Rural Gigabit Connectivity programme (£3500 for business and £1500 for private households). Supported by the Compton Village Association (CVA) chairman, he wondered whether the Parish Council would be prepared to offer a top-up grant to those householders and small businesses who apply for DCMS vouchers and, to save the cost of creating a new limited company, would be prepared to enter into an agreement with BT Openreach to supply superfast broadband to the affected households.

Following discussion, Councillor Goulding advised that the Parish Council would not be comfortable with underwriting the cost of the project. It would be useful if Mr Walmsley and the CVA could identify how many households would be prepared to apply for DCMS vouchers. The Council could then revisit the subject at its next meeting in March.

7. Planning

Councillor Strange reported that WCC has requested more evidence of public involvement in the revision of the Village Design Statement (VDS), in contradiction to the advice provided by the former Strategic Planning Manager, Jenny Nell. It was agreed that Councillor Strange should seek clarification of the position from WCC. If 'full public consultation' is required, then it might be better to await the draft of the revised WCC Local Plan before taking any action.

Councillor Strange advised that Action Hampshire had quoted £5,300 to produce a housing needs survey. It was noted that Community Action Hampshire had undertaken an exercise on affordable housing in 2012. The Clerk agreed to provide Councillor Strange with the relevant documentation.

Action: Clerk to provide Councillor Strange with the 2012 documentation relating to affordable housing.

Councillor Strange had been advised that an application for planning permission, for a permanent building to replace the temporary structure at Shepherds Down School, could be expected within the next month and a decision taken by HCC by the end of March. Councillor Bell noted that the plans should contain adequate parking provisions.

Councillor Bell expressed concern about the request for planning permission to reduce and fell trees at Elizabeth House. Councillor Hunt agreed to consult the WCC tree officer, Lloyd Fursdon.

Action: Councillor Hunt to consult the WCC tree officer, Lloyd Fursdon about trees at Elizabeth House.

8. Highways

Councillor Bell briefed the Council on the discussions that had taken place between representatives of SWR, HCC, WCC, CSPC and the SVRA. Since the Walcon site is no longer available, SWR and HCC had identified an adjacent site (on the triangle of land immediately to the left of the road leading to the Malms), which could provide additional car parking but representatives of the SVRA had expressed concern about the visual impact of a car park on that site. A further meeting to discuss detailed plans had been scheduled for 23 January in Shawford parish hall. Following discussion, the Council agreed to support the proposed use of the site for additional car parking, subject to a sight of the final plan.

Councillor Bell advised the Council that a new bench, to be installed at the bus stop on the west side of Otterbourne Road, had been ordered. He hoped that installation would take place by 31 March 2020. Councillor Bell also advised that he was in discussions with Councillor Goulding and the Clerk about the need for the Council to develop a policy on the siting of memorial plaques on parish benches.

9. Playing Fields Management

Councillor Wilkinson was pleased to announce that work, on the installation of a replacement multi-play unit (mpu) at the Memorial Playing Fields, had begun on 6 January 2020. It was agreed that the Council should aim to salvage those parts of the old mpu, which could still be used, e.g. the slide and posts, with

the aim of raising additional funds through online sites, such as eBay. Councillor Wilkinson agreed to speak to the contractor and arrange for the salvaged parts to be stored in the MPF shed.

Councillor Wilkinson advised that the weather had been too cold to apply moss killer to the MeGA; the QEII Field mpu had been successfully repaired, following fire damage, and that the latest quarterly play equipment report had listed the risk level of play equipment, at both play areas, as either 'low' or 'very low'.

10. Footpaths and the Environment

Councillor Wilkinson reported that, on 17 December 2019, HCC had issued the order for the footpath between Southdown Road and the railway station to become a public bridleway. HCC had also been advised of the Council's priorities for the Countryside Access Area Teams 2020 footpath vegetation cutting programme.

11. Lengthsman

Councillor Hunt reported that the Lengthsman was due to visit the parish in February. He proposed to task him with clearing the footpath across Shawford Down to Southdown. Following discussion, it was agreed that he should also task the Lengthsman with cutting back some of the vegetation along the new bridleway.

12. Finance and Administration

Councillor Webster introduced his report. Following a short discussion, he moved that the Council should accept the tender from James Kimber Landscapes of £185 per cut, for the three-year grass cutting contract, beginning in March 2020, which amounts to £9,990 over the three years.

Vote: Unanimous

Decision: Three-year grass cutting contract to be awarded to James Kimber Landscapes.
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The Council noted the financial statement dated 31 December 2019 and the list of payments made since 12 November 2019.

The Council also noted that a Parish Council election is scheduled for 7 May 2020 and that, despite activities in neighbouring parishes, there were no plans to celebrate VE Day in Compton and Shawford.

13. Annual Parish Meeting (APM)

The Council noted that the APM will take place on 21 May 2020. Councillor Bell agreed to contact the Three Rivers Community Rail Partnership to see if the organisation is willing to provide a speaker. If not, then WCC could be asked to provide a speaker on how parishes can lower their carbon footprint. The chairman asked for contributions to the Annual Report by 31 March 2020 and agreed that, following feedback from last year, it would be hand delivered.

Action: Councillor Bell to contact the Three Rivers Community Rail Partnership to see if the organisation is willing to provide a speaker for the APM.

14. CASCA

The council noted that the CASCA AGM had taken place on Thursday 28 November in Shawford Parish Hall and that the new management team had settled in well.

14. Date and Venue of Next Meeting

7.30pm Tuesday 3 March 2020 in the Compton Room, Shawford Parish Hall.

The chairman closed the meeting at 8.58pm.

Mike Goulding
Chairman

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