



Compton and Shawford Parish Council

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Minutes of the Compton and Shawford Parish Council meeting held at 7.30pm Tuesday 3 March 2020, in the Compton Room, Shawford Parish Hall.

Present: Councillors M Goulding (Chairman) J Lockett, M Bell, R Jordan, M Southgate (until 8.15) F Strange, R Webster, M Wilkinson and Mr D Drake (Clerk).

In attendance: County Councillor J Warwick, District Councillor H Williams (from 7.50pm) and 28 members of the public (some of whom were watching from outside the room because of a limit on numbers able to attend meetings in the Compton Room).

1. Apologies

Apologies had been received from Councillor Hunt (holiday), and District Councillors E Bell and B Laming.

2. Public Session

Given the large number of people attending the meeting, the Chairman brought forward the public session.

The public expressed frustration over the perceived lack of consultation.

Councillor Goulding said that the Parish Council agreed with most of the points raised. Councillors had considered a lot of options over the past five years and, perhaps, it could have done more to keep parishioners informed *. HCC and SWR had indicated that there is a deadline on the availability of funds for the project. He added that the Council must balance commitment with a potential loss of process.

He moved that there should be a public meeting, chaired by HCC, to which representatives of SWR should be invited. In advance of that meeting, it would be useful if Shawford residents could suggest 3 or 4 people to represent the village at a pre-meeting with representatives of the Parish Council. The results of the pre-meeting could then be made available to HCC and SWR before the public meeting. The Council voted as follows:

For 7 Against 1**

Following a suggestion (from a member of the public) that any public consultation should be open to all parishioners, not just those that live in Shawford village, the chairman agreed that it would be appropriate for a parishioner from outside the village to attend the pre-meeting. He accepted that the railway was an asset to the community as a whole.

[Councillor Southgate and most members of the public departed at this stage: six members of the public remained.]

**Chair note added - Subsequent to the meeting, the Chair met with the Highways Convener and established that consultation had taken place. Addendum 1 outlines the background and consultation carried out.*

*** This vote took place during the public session and therefore outside of the Parish Council meeting.*

3. Declarations of Interest

As secretary to the Compton Village Association (CVA) Councillor Strange declared an interest in the provision of superfast broadband in Compton.

4. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 7 January 2020 had been circulated prior to the meeting. No amendments had been proposed and the chairman signed them as a true record.

5. Matters Arising and Outstanding Actions

There were no matters arising and the two outstanding actions had been actioned.

6. County & District Councillors' Reports

The County and District Councillors' reports were taken as read. Councillor Warwick advised that someone had contracted the coronavirus in Winchester and was now in a London hospital. Councillor Williams announced that, in an attempt to reduce pollution in the city centre, parking charges in the city's central car parks would be extended to 1900. A member of the public wondered whether the production of a 'newspaper' describing the City Council's green credentials was the most appropriate way of doing so. Another expressed concern about the lack of CCTV cameras in Winchester city car parks. (He been the victim of catalytic converter theft.) Councillor Goulding confirmed that he had raised the latter issue with city councillors and officials.

7. Community Infrastructure Levy

Mr Walmsley briefed the Council on progress towards the installation of superfast broadband throughout Compton village. BT Openreach had indicated that the group needed to raise £44,971. Supported by the CVA, he had obtained pledges from villagers amounting to £63,000. They now needed the Council's support in establishing a Community Interest Company to enter a contract with BT Openreach. Councillor Webster moved that the Parish Council should be prepared to contribute up to £1500 of CIL funds to help the CVA to establish the Community Interest Company.

Vote: For 6, Abstentions 1 (Councillor Strange)

Decision: The PC to contribute up to £1500 from CIL towards the cost of establishing a Community Interest Company to enter a contract with BT Openreach, to provide superfast broadband throughout Compton.
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8. Shawford Station Parking

Councillor Bell considered much of the criticism received during the public session was unfair. He had invested a considerable amount of his time in discussions with Shawford residents and representatives of HCC and SWR. Councillor Southgate had also committed a lot of his time to finding a solution to Shawford's parking problems, while seeking to maintain the viability of the station. Councillor Wilkinson added that she had been subjected to malicious comments on this issue and that statements, indicating that she had deliberately misled some individuals, were just not true. The chairman acknowledged their concerns and hoped that the proposed pre-meeting could produce a better understanding of the issues.

9. Highways

Councillor Bell reported that the Otterbourne Road bus stop bench had been delivered and was awaiting installation, which he hoped that would take place by 31 March 2020. The Council noted his suggestions on creating a policy on the attachment of memorial plaques on council benches and agreed that he should produce a formal proposal at the next meeting in May.

Action: Councillor Bell to produce a formal motion on memorial plaques for consideration in May.

10. Planning

Councillor Strange presented her report. Both she and Councillor Bell had attended a meeting with Lee Smith, WCC Planning Policy, who had informed them that the updated Village Design Statement (VDS) counted as a new document and evidence of public consultation would be required. The Council agreed that a 'comments requested document' could be distributed together with the Annual Report and that the VDS would be an agenda item for the Annual Parish Meeting (APM).

Mr Smith had recommended that the Local Area Design Statement (LADS) and VDS should be treated as separate documents and that WCC would require evidence that the updated LADS had also been subjected to a public consultation process. The Council agreed that LADS should be an agenda item for the APM and noted that Councillors Bell and Strange had arranged to meet to review both the LADS and VDS and to agree what items should be in which document.

The Council noted that Footstep Living had taken over the lead for the proposal to build affordable housing on the site of Beckett's Nursery. It agreed that Councillor Strange should proceed with her suggestion of a project to encourage pupils at All Saints School to save energy and water.

Councillor Strange confirmed that she had submitted comments on the proposal for the manufacturing of urea solution at Four Dells Farm, stating, amongst other things, that the Council is concerned about more development on the site.

11. Playing Fields Management

Councillor Wilkinson presented her report. The new multi-play unit had been installed and feedback had, in the main, been good. Councillor Bell offered to supply '2" wide fence panels' to replace the gaps in the picket fence surrounding the MPF play area.

Following the pavilion's electrical certification inspection (cost £700), several issues had needed to be addressed before a certificate could be issued. These had resulted in additional costs of £550. The council now faced a further bill of £735 for remedial work to the pavilion's emergency lighting system. The Council agreed that work on the emergency lighting should proceed.

Councillor Wilkinson noted that the CSSC Football Section had decided not to apply to perform at a higher level, which means that there is no longer a need for a barrier or hard standing to the north of the main football pitch. The Clerk has met the new grass cutting contractor, who confirmed that he could set his blades at a level that meets the requirements of both the football and cricket sections.

12. Footpaths and the Environment

Councillor Wilkinson noted that several trees had suffered damage in recent storms. Chris Sparkes had removed several dangerous branches overhanging 'horse poo alley' and one tree had been removed by Hampshire Heartwood: total cost £230. Work is due to commence on improvements to the new bridleway and should be completed before the bird nesting season begins.

13. Lengthsman

It was agreed that the lengthsman had done a good job in clearing the footpath across Shawford Down.

14. Finance and Administration

Councillor Webster presented his report. Because of the cost of the new multi-play unit (mpu), the Council faced a budget deficit of £6000 in the current financial year. Since £1000 had set been aside for contingency in the budget for 2020/21 and the mpu VAT refund of £2651 would not be received until April, he moved that the current contingency figure of £4000 should be reduced to zero. This would bring the General Fund in line with NALC guidelines and provide a contingency figure of £3652 in 20/21.

Vote For 7, Against 0

Councillor Webster moved that John Murray should be appointed internal auditor at a fee of £280.

Vote For 7 Against 0

Councillor Webster moved that the Council should approve the updated asset register.

Vote For 7 Against 0

The Council noted the financial statement dated 29 February 2020 and payments made since 7 January 2020. It also noted that parish council elections would take place on 7 May 2020 and that the first item on the agenda for the Annual Council Meeting, on 12 May 2020, will be the election of a chairman.

15. Annual Parish Meeting (APM)

The chairman announced that he would not be available on 21 May 2020 and suggested that the APM should be rearranged for either the 14th or 28th. [It was subsequently agreed to change the date of the APM to 14 May 2020.] Councillor Bell confirmed that the Three Rivers Community Rail Partnership would be happy to make a presentation at the APM. The chairman asked for all contributions to the Annual Report to be submitted to him by 31 March 2020.

16. CASCA

The Council noted that Alison Witheyman would become chairman of CASCA on 1 April 2020 and that a new treasurer, Richard Sorsbie, had been appointed.

17. Role of the Chairman

Following discussion, there was a consensus that, before any document is distributed in the name of Compton and Shawford Parish Council, it should be cleared by the Chairman and Clerk. There was also consensus on councillors discussing issues, for which they were not directly responsible, with parishioners but that such discussions should be relayed to the portfolio holder and Clerk, as a matter of courtesy.

18. Date and Venue of Next Meeting

7.30pm Tuesday 12 May 2020 in the Compton Room, Shawford Parish Hall.

The chairman closed the meeting at 9.29pm.

Mike Goulding
Chairman

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

Addendum 1 to the Compton & Shawford Parish Council Minutes

03.03.2020



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Shawford Parking

Current process

- The Parish Council has always been supportive of the need for additional car parking to help alleviate parking problems in the village and around Shawford Down.
- It has been in discussions with Hampshire County Council (HCC) for over a year regarding the management and parking options for the area around the Downs; one successful outcome was the recently announced bridle way.
- The Parish Council was asked by the Shawford Village Residents Association (SVRA) in autumn 2019 to show support for a car park, during any discussions with SWR. Council representatives have complied with this request.
- The Parish Council had previously been consulted over the development of the Walcon site, however following the breakdown of negotiations for the Walcon site, the 'triangle' was confirmed on 17th December by South Western Railway (SWR) /HCC as the only option for a credible car park in the timetable available to SWR. This was confirmed at a further meeting with three SVRA members and a Parish Councillor at an onsite meeting on 24th December 2019.
- While the Parish Council is a stakeholder in the process, the plan, timetable and decision to proceed are the responsibilities of HCC/SWR.

Triangle of land

- The triangle of land, to the immediate left of the road to the Malms, has always been an option for parking, since it was previously rejected for use as a play area. The Parish Council is aware that this site could create concerns for a number of residents and is prepared take action to reduce any negative visual impacts.
- The Parish Council confirmed, at its 7th January 2020 meeting, that its support for the use of the 'triangle' for parking was subject to seeing a detailed plan. This 'conditional' support was intended to keep the momentum going, as requested by the SVRA.
- An outline plan was produced at a HCC meeting on 23rd January 2020, called in order to respond to the various matters that had been raised over the year: SWR was a late additional attendee. This meeting had originally been scheduled for November but had been delayed to January.
- The two Parish Councillors present (and the County Councillor) made a number of comments on behalf of the most directly affected (Shawford and Malms access road) residents. Some comments were immediately agreed by HCC/SWR, while others needed further consideration.
- A more detailed plan was commissioned for broader discussion with all interested parties. However, this would be dependent on the conclusion, or not, of commercial discussions between the owners of the land, HCC and SWR.
- A summary of the key points was distributed to the Chair of the SVRA a few days after the meeting and, subsequently, to other affected parties. The Parish Council also asked HCC whether it could release their notes of the meeting, to which it agreed, and these were also distributed.
- The intention is, if and when the plan and details are available, to hold a public meeting where it will be presented. This will take place before the planning application is submitted. SWR and HCC are working to financial deadlines and it is those organisations that will dictate the timetable

Triangle of land - Additional Factors

- HCC considers parking on the Down as a potential revenue generating opportunity, as well as helping to regulate the current all-day parking problems along this access road, as raised previously by residents of the Malms. The technology of ANPR cameras now makes this a viable option. If the arrangements with SWR fail, HCC is likely to pursue its own car park but without the benefit of access via the station entrance.
- HCC and SWR have their own tight financial targets to meet in order to proceed with the car park.
- Parish Councillors have kept Winchester City Council (WCC) informed of progress and understand that their parking officers will respond, once a decision has been taken on the proposed car park, details of capacity, closeness to the station etc., have been established.
- The Parish Council has attempted to keep the most affected parties informed through the SVRA, those using the Malms access road, and rail users.
- SWR and HCC have always been clear that, to make the car park work commercially and to deliver parking spaces at an affordable rate to rail users, it needs to be of a certain size and scale.
- Ultimately, the Parish Council will need to decide whether to support the revised plan as being in the best interest of the parish in tackling on street parking concerns and providing support for the rail users. The Parish Council is comprised of representatives from across the parish, to ensure such a balance is reflected.

Other considerations

- Walcon negotiations - these have been driven by the SVRA. The Parish Council has largely been excluded, as the SVRA had the original contact through one of their members. The issue concerning the sitting tenant was raised at a very early point. This was a commercial negotiation between SWR and Walcon to run a car park on a profitable basis. It may be worth noting that WCC also explored a car park on the Walcon site, which the PC understands also failed the commercial test.
- Park and Ride running a bus to Shawford. This has been raised regularly since the Park and Ride opened almost ten years ago on 19th April 2010. The P & R is intended to be attractive to conveying passengers into and out of Winchester, speedily. To divert, via Shawford station, would delay this journey. The last P & R bus is at 19.30. Councillor Southgate raised with Bluestar running additional evening bus services on the Bluestar 1, from Winchester railway station, currently 3.
- Using the lower car park - not enough space, restricted width, unsafe distance as a long walk in a country park, complication with access for Malms residents. HCC and SWR do not consider this to be a safe or commercially viable option.
- Smaller car park - further away from the main road. SWR and HCC say they need scale for commercial viability, as the capital cost of building a 50-space car park isn't much less for that of one for 100. In addition, it wouldn't provide enough capacity to tackle, fully, the all-day parking in the village.
- Compulsory purchase - the PC previously raised this as an option, but it was rejected by HCC as not being possible, or appropriate.
- Parking numbers - The number of parked cars around the village is estimated at around 80 to 100, although not all relate to station use.
- Lighting for security - It is not possible to turn the lights off completely. The proposal is lights will be dimmed to 20% after 9pm but individual sensors on lamps will increase that lamp to 100% for users and security.

Mike Southgate
Councillor
11 March 2020