



Compton and Shawford Parish Council

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Minutes of the Compton and Shawford Parish Council meeting held at 7.30pm Tuesday 3rd November 2020, via ZOOM.

Present: Councillors M Goulding, M Bell, T Hunt, R Jordan, F Strange, R Webster, M Wilkinson and Mrs G Heywood-Waddington (Clerk).

In attendance: County Councillor J Warwick (until 9.19pm), District Councillor Eleanor Bell (until 9.14pm), District Councillor Hannah Williams (until 8.48pm) and two members of the public

1. Apologies for absence and Declarations of Interest

Apologies had been received from Councillor Lockett. There were no declarations of interest.

2. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 1 September 2020 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

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

4. County & District Councillors' Reports

The County and District Councillors' reports were taken as read. Councillor Williams advised that there is CIL money available but due to COVID-19 people are not applying for the funding, so the Councillor wants to encourage groups to put themselves forward for funding. Councillor M Bell asked about the CIL funding for the hub and café at Shawford station. The project hasn't started yet, but the funding has been approved for a community centre in the underutilised space at the station and a cycling hub. There is hope that there could be a link up with the Sustrans path and this would tie in neatly with Shawford being a green transport hub. Councillor M Bell will report back when he knows more about the project.

Councillor Warwick reported that household waste recycling centres, country parks and libraries will remain open during lockdown; and a significant amount of finance has come from the government to support district authorities as part of this lockdown. Councillor Warwick is supportive of the Hampshire Green belt and is pleased that Councillor Strange and the other parish councils in the ward have submitted plans. She reported that there is a significant amount of support put through for school meals and Hampshire County Council (HCC) has put forward funding to support all families whether they are at school or not. Councillor Warwick also expressed interest in a food waste survey that shows there has been a reduction in key food items being thrown away since lockdown. She is sending through a survey that needs to be completed by the 12th November and thinks this is a positive statistic.

5. Public Session

A member of the public that grew up in Compton and whose mother until recently lived at The Chequers on Compton Street, spoke. She explained that her mother has always had support living in Compton and she wanted to thank the Parish for always checking in on her. Her mother has now moved in with her and is no longer living in Compton. She needs to decide the future of The Chequers and she wanted to ask the Parish Council what they would like to see there and if they can give her some feedback. Parts of the house date

back to the 1700s so Councillor Strange advised that it would be good to save the building if possible. Councillor M Bell stated that it was lovely for her to come to the Parish Council but at the end of the day it will most likely be purchased by a developer and they will decide what goes there. Councillor E Bell confirmed that the house is not listed and stated that there are other categories for houses besides being listed so she suggested to talk to the historic environment officers at Winchester City Council for their opinion. Councillor Strange suggested that she work with the member of the public to look at the historic value of the property and what can be done with the property. The Council agreed that this was a good idea, and they thanked the lady for engaging and speaking to them.

A parishioner spoke that had sent through an email about setting up a community orchard in Shawford. He wanted to get the views of the Council as to whether they would support the idea of a community orchard on the proposed car park site. The parishioner sited other local villages, Fair Oak and Kings Worthy, that have set up successful community orchards. They would not be looking for any money from the Council, residents would be happy to purchase the trees and do the work to set up and maintain the orchard. There has been no proper consultation with the residents' association as they first want to gauge the Council's interest. Councillor Webster asked if this was a new idea or something that had been thought about for a couple of years and whether there were other sites considered? The Parishioner said this is an idea that has come out of the lockdown and it has only been discussed with about a dozen households. Councillor Wheeler asked who would maintain the orchard in the long term and the parishioner said that residents would maintain it. Councillor Goulding thanked the parishioner for speaking and mentioned that it would be discussed under Highways and Public Transport as it is on Councillor M Bell's report.

6. Planning

Councillor Strange presented her report. She advised that she and Councillor M Bell had a meeting about Village Design Statement (VDS) / Local Area Design Statement (LADS) and that they are going to talk to Lee Smith, the Planning Strategy Manager at Winchester City Council (WCC). Due to the planning changes that may happen with the government they may need to redo both the VDS and LADS and change the aspect of them as design and character look to be very important now to the government.

Councillor Strange confirmed that she had responded to the Government White Paper on planning/housing numbers on behalf of the Council. She also objected to the Scandia development on behalf of the Council and spoke to both Councillors M Bell and Hunt with regards to this. Councillor Strange has put in a neutral comment in reference to Oak House, Shawford. The comment was about the effect on the Towpath and setting a precedent for others to develop their river frontage. Councillor Wilkinson has now spoken to several residents and they are not at all bothered as there is limited opportunity for other people to do the same. Councillor Williams spoke to the planners in Winchester and it doesn't seem to be an issue with them as it is fenced off and doesn't have an impact on the Towpath. Councillor Strange put together a paper supporting the Green Belt and she would like everyone to comment so that she can have approval to send to WCC. Councillor Goulding asked what area is suggested as the green belt? Councillor Warwick said it is not a defined area but encompasses all of Winchester. Councillor Warwick said this is to protect from urban sprawl as you can't build on green belts. The request to submit is part of the local planning process that WCC is running. Councillor Goulding asked if there were any objections to the green belt, there were none.

Councillor E Bell noted that in the recent Parish magazine it promulgates that there is some kind of planning application in. An article written by the Compton Down Society (CDS) states, 'outline planning proposal for the area south of Hursley' and Councillor E Bell reiterated that this proposal doesn't exist and there is no planning application. Councillor M Bell said that as an associate of the CDS he will ensure that Councillor E Bell's point is made clear. She also mentioned that parishes are looking at the areas of the land that have been entered on the Strategic Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (SHELAA) by the land owners and what would be helpful is if parishes could look closely at not only what they want to refuse but positively where they may want to propose development, including areas that may not be on the SHELAA but that could be developed or redeveloped. Councillor Strange said she will investigate this and do a report for the Council.

Councillor Strange circulated a draft climate change page for the Compton & Shawford Parish Council website and asked if everyone was happy with it? The Council was happy so Councillor Strange will liaise with Adrian Walmsley to get it live on the website.

Action: Councillor Strange to make live the climate change page on the CSPC website.

Action: Councillor M Bell to report back to CDS about Parish magazine article.

Action: Councillor Strange to do a report on the SHELAA for the Council.

7. Highways and Public Transport

Councillor M Bell presented his report and in reference to the station car park meeting stated that due to the second wave of COVID and the further arrangements at South Western Railway, he is considering how the promised meeting should go forward.

Councillor Wheeler and Councillor M Bell are working on a Memorial Bench Policy and Councillor M Bell asked if the Council also wants a policy on memorial trees? Councillor Goulding said we might as well include both. Councillors Bell and Wheeler will come up with a proposal for the next meeting.

The request for a community orchard was discussed - Councillor M Bell suggested that the Council should not support the project because it will take up the land that is potentially earmarked for the station car park. He explained that over many years all options have been looked at and it is the only potential site for the carpark. The Council has a policy on supporting the resolution of the carpark and it would be unwise to rule out this possibility. Councillor M Bell understands that the carpark project is on hold but there is no reason to believe that it won't come forward again. Councillor Wilkinson said that from the plans that she saw she does have concerns about 100 parking spaces, the additional lighting and that there would be an urban feel rather than rural to the carpark. Councillor M Bell said all the lighting will be low level and there would be specialists involved to maintain a rural look. Councillor Wilkinson said she would want to see more formal details and Councillor M Bell stated that yes, of course, and that it would come forward as a proposal for people to object or agree. Councillor Goulding stated that realistically in the next year to year and a half there isn't going to be any movement on this. He agreed that Councillor Wilkinson raised legitimate concerns but realistically nobody knows what the carpark will look like so the question today is, is it worth having no carpark versus an option to have a carpark in the future? He stated that it feels like the orchard proposal is about inhibiting the possibility of a carpark rather than a community orchard. Councillors Bell and Goulding agreed to draft a note that the Council can't support the community orchard as it would rule out the potential of the carpark and the Council isn't convinced that this would have full parish support. Councillor Webster said that we can agree that the idea of an orchard is a positive one and the Council would be happy to look at other locations that can be used.

Councillor Strange expressed worry that during lockdown the speed has increased of vehicles coming down Compton Street and going up the other side. The noise levels are raised due to these increases in speed and initially Councillor Strange suggests that we have speed reminders. Councillor Goulding said from his experience in the past, having the speed face is fine, we would have to pay the cost of that (Clerk to ask Otterbourne how much they pay). Councillor Warwick said they are quite expensive to purchase and that Hampshire Highways advise on the location and you must rotate locations because people ignore them after a while. Councillor Warwick said the first thing that needs to be done is to have the average speeds around Compton Street monitored. Councillor Goulding stated that the last survey was done 3 years ago, and the conclusion was that speed had reduced since the previous survey. Councillor Bell suggested that he and Councillor Strange investigate further, speak to the experts at HCC or Highways England and then come back to the Council with a proposal.

Action: Councillors M Bell and Goulding to draft note stating why the Council can't support the community orchard on the proposed car park site.

Action: Clerk to contact Otterbourne PC to find out cost of speed reminders.

8. Footpaths and Environment

Included within item 9 Playing Fields Management

9. Playing Fields Management

Councillor Wilkinson presented her report. She noted that the replacement Compton Place and the new Compton Lock signs have been installed. The QEII field rope ladder on the multiplay area is broken and is being repaired. The Council is awaiting delivery of bin keys, from WCC, so that the bins at the MPF and QEII can be emptied regularly. On the 1st October, the Clerk and Councillor Wilkinson inspected the Jubilee Pavilion. There were no significant issues to report. Early signs of damp noted in the skylight in changing room 2 will be monitored. The contractors at Shepherds Down School have offered to repaint the Pavilion free of charge early next year in exchange for parking 8 vehicles on the Sports Club car park during the week while work is in progress. Councillor Goulding asked for a guarantee (a contract) on the work and the Clerk will find out what materials were used previously so the quality of the work can be ensured. Councillor Wilkinson praised James and the Sports Club for doing such an excellent job putting COVID regulations in to place.

Councillor Wilkinson stated that after many years 'Footpath Only' signs with a no cycling symbol have now appeared on the Towpath.

Action: Clerk to research previous contract of pavilion painting and respond to contractors about repainting.

10. Lengthsman & Tree Warden

Councillor Hunt noted that the Lengthsman is coming tomorrow and they have 3 tasks; cleaning the footpath from Hurdle Way down to Compton Street, cutting back the hedging on the MPF on the south side, and cutting back the vegetation at the upper carpark on Shawford down. Councillor Hunt reported that there have been a few non-controversial requests for trimming TPO trees and one felling. There have also been 8 trees on Southdown Road subjected to provisional TPOs.

11. Finance and Administration

Councillor Webster presented his report. The Council noted:

- The financial statement dated 3 November 2020;
- The list of payments made since 1 September 2020;
- Received receipts from CSLTC, CSSC, Lloyds Bank, VAT refund and CIL payment from WCC;
- NALC salary increase;
- Online banking authorisation update;
- The draft budget for 2021/22.

Councillor Webster proposed that £30,000 is reinvested in to a 12-month term deposit acct at .2%. All voted in favour.

Councillor Webster also proposed that going forward x amount of the annual budget will be invested for 12 months at the best annual rate rather than having to revisit this every year.

Vote: Unanimous

Councillor Webster went through the draft budget and reported that we are mostly forecasting on target this year, excluding David's gratuity upon leaving, which was accounted for but not in the budget. Councillor Webster noted that over the last 3 years we have been increasing the precept and there is a proposal for a 2.2% increase this year, he asked if in the current climate everyone thought this was appropriate. Councillor Goulding stated that an increase in precept doesn't mean an increase per household because the number of households and people in the parish has increased as well. In other words, if we agree an increase it may not end up being an actual increase.

Councillor Goulding then asked to go through all areas of increased spending. Councillor Webster showed the need for a new computer for the Clerk which is a one-off exceptional payment rather than being a need to increase the precept to manage. Finance expenditure is increased due to an increase in yearly insurance cost. Councillor Webster asked if there is a description of what we get for the bus shelter & subway cleaning as it is a large chunk of the budget. Councillor M Bell said that he will follow up and report back on what is currently done and whether or not additional areas need cleaning. Councillor Webster also mentioned that some of the subway lights are broken. Councillor M Bell said we need a system for reporting this so we can get Highways England to fix them. Councillor Webster said he will investigate and see if he can raise this on Highways England website. The only other area that there was an increase was the subscriptions & training budget line, where the Clerk added £450 toward possibly re-joining HALC, based on other local Clerks suggestions. Councillor Goulding said that the Council was a member of HALC previously and didn't feel that there was any benefit to membership. Councillor Goulding then stated that if the Clerk felt it would be beneficial the Council would support membership. The Clerk said she would go away and look at what HALC can offer and speak to other local Clerks to get their opinions on whether there are benefits to being a member. Councillor Webster said that in terms of the draft budget it looks good except we need to decide about HALC and then we can submit for approval at the next meeting. Councillor Goulding said his only suggestion is that if a computer is bought, that could be blended over 2 years in the increase.

Councillor Webster said he would also like to look at a google Gmail option for continuity of keeping documents central, sharing and emails as there would be a benefit to centralise everything. The Clerk will research this.

Action: Councillor M Bell to report back on bus shelter & subway cleaning.

Action: Councillor Webster to contact Highways England about broken subway lights.

Action: Clerk to look at HALC membership and Gmail for charities.

12. Community Infrastructure Levy

The Council notes that the current CIL balance is £20,008.11 with a new remittance from 21/10/20 of £4170.53. There haven't been any recent requests. Councillor Strange asked about the school car park, Councillor Webster mentioned that it is on hold.

13. CASCA

Councillor Wilkinson reported that CASCA had a meeting recently. She stated that their finances are OK, but they have had to close the hall again. They are keeping up with all COVID guidelines and have set up Frank online with an iPad. They hope to have an on-line booking system in the future. They will be having an AGM on the 9th December at 7pm via Zoom.

13. Date and Venue of Next Meeting

7.30pm Tuesday 5 January 2021 via ZOOM.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.27pm.

Mike Goulding
Chairman

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