



COMPTON PARISH COUNCIL

PARISH OF COMPTON NOTICE OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Local Government Act 1972

Minutes of **THE ANNUAL MEETING** of Compton Parish Council held on
Wednesday 20th May 2026 at 7.00pm at Pucks Oak Barn
for the transaction of the under mentioned business.

Present: Cllr S Mallet (in the chair), Cllrs R Nagaty and C Sharples
8 members of the public

In attendance: The Clerk, Mrs J Cadman

Public Question Time: notes attached to these minutes

- 045/26 **Election of Chairman:** Cllr S Mallet, Proposed by Cllr R Nagaty, Seconded by Cllr C Sharples.
Cllr Mallet signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.
- 046/26 **Apologies for Absence:** had been received from Cllrs K Karsten Hecker-Meschede, J Palca and
N Wyschna.
- 047/26 **Declarations of interest:**
Cllr R Nagaty declared an interest in 056/26 as a resident of the Hogs Back
Cllr S Sharples declared an interest in 060/26 as an employee of Watts Gallery.
- 048/26 **Election of Vice Chairman:** Cllr R Nagaty, Proposed by Cllr S Mallet, Seconded by Cllr C
Sharples.
- 049/26 **Appointment of Member's responsibilities:**
Members agreed that these should remain as present:
Local Plan: Cllr R Nagaty and Mrs K Stevens
Communications: Cllr N Wyschna
Allotments and Environment: Cllr C Sharples
Youth and Recreation: The Clerk
Watts Gallery: Cllr S Sharples
- 050/26 **Dates of future meetings:** members reviewed and agreed the current meeting date structure:
3rd Wednesday of alternate months, starting January. Annual Parish meeting in April or May,
Annual meeting in May, on 3rd Wednesday.
- 051/26 **Minutes of Meeting held 18th March 2026:** These were agreed as a correct record of the
meeting and signed by the Chairman
- 052/26 **Matters Arising:**
Open Forum March 26 meeting: had been circulated with the agenda and were noted.
Planning application for car park: has been submitted, as agreed at the March meeting, but
have not yet been registered.

053/26 **Traffic calming plans:** Cllr Mallet pointed out that members are split between those that support SCC's plans and those that don't. This put the Parish Council in a very difficult position when it came to formally responding to the proposals. It was agreed to continue to press for answers to the questions raised by residents and to support them in any way possible.

It was also agreed to write a further letter to SCC, enumerating all the questions either not answered or only partly answered and to strongly request a clear response.

054/26 **Reports from County Cllr:**

None had been received.

055/26 **Report from Borough Cllrs:**

Cllr Houston had sent her apologies and the following report:

West Surrey Council: The elections on 7th May across the vast West Surrey area for the new unitary council resulted in a win for the Liberal Democrats who will have a comfortable majority of 22 to run the council from 1st April 2027 (vesting day) for four years. Cllrs Catherine Houston and Dominique Williams will continue to be your Guildford Borough Councillors dealing with any casework issues until 31st March 2027. For the first year the council will be setting itself up so that it is ready to 'go live' on 1st April. The first meeting of the body of 90 councillors will take place on Thursday 21st May at 7pm. This can be watched live on the GBC website and will remain on the website for six months.

Local Plan Update: The background research has almost been completed and a timetable has been set for the Local Plan update to start. The GBC executive will be discussing this at their committee meeting on 28th May. Agenda pack here: [\(Public Pack\)Agenda Document for Executive, 28/05/2026 18:00](#) This can be watched live on the GBC webcast page and for six months after the date of the meeting. On 5th June the Notice of Intention to Commence local plan implementation will be published. This commences the 4-month notice period required by statute so that stakeholders are aware plan-making is beginning, in preparation for the consultation to start later in the Autumn.

Guildford Green Day: Guildford Green Day takes place on and around the High Street on 14th June (timings are usually 10-4 but please check GBC social media from next week to confirm).

056/26 **Members Report: local Plan:** no report had been received.

057/26 **Members Report: Communications:** *Cllr Wyschna*

No report had been received but the Clerk reported that Cllr Wyschna continued to send out notifications on behalf of the Council, both by email and social media, and had recently purchased and displayed the banners for the Annual Parish Meeting.

058/26 **Members Report: Allotments and Environment:** *Cllr Sharples*

Nothing to report.

059/26 **Members Report: youth and recreation:** *Clerk*

a) *Basketball net:* the Clerk had circulated details of a freestanding backboard set, to be placed on the current hardstanding pending result of planning application for car park and local consultation. Members agreed the cost of £132.95 and requested that it be bolted into place, which the Clerk would ask our handyman to undertake.

- b) *Stoolball on the Green*: the Clerk had received a request from a local Stoolball team to play stoolball on the Green on three occasions while their permanent venue was being prepared for use. This was agreed, on the proviso that they play away from the road, are respectful of other green users and provide sight of their public liability insurance to the Clerk.

060/26 **Members Report: Watts Gallery and Cemetery:**

a) *Report from Gallery:*

Women of Influence: The Pattle Sisters closed on 4 May, and we have been changing exhibitions over with The Art of Wallpaper: Morris & Co opening on 21 May. The exhibition will have a supporting Wombat trail inspired by Morris' work.

Gary Topp our new director starts on 15 June. Gary has held Director/ CEO roles across several organisations in the UK and Australia including Yorkshire Culture (DCMS agency), Arnolfini Gallery, Curzon Cinema and Culture Central. He is currently Director of Painshill Park Trust in Surrey.

Topp has been a Trustee of many major arts organisations and Chair of the Leach Pottery in Cornwall since 2021. He was a member of the Arts Council Midlands board from 2017-2023. He has contributed essays to numerous artists books and has wide interests across many art forms having started his career as a visual arts curator in Dorset.

Physical Energy: The main works for Physical Energy have now been completed with donor recognition and interpretation panels having been installed. Chris Sharples, our Head Gardener is managing the woodland to encourage native woodland planting. We are looking at how we install benches into the setting. The sculpture has been launched as part of our visitor journey.

- b) *Proposal for remembrance book for scattered ashes*: The Clerk advised that, currently, the only option open to those who wished to have their loved ones remembered once they had scattered their ashes was to have their names written in a Book of Remembrance. There was no-where to safely keep this book for open inspection. Upon request from the Clerk, David Herbert had proposed an on-line book of remembrance, in the form of a 'flipbook', which would be added to the current cemetery website. This book would also allow a few words about each person remembered, not just their name and date of birth and death. This work will require 10 man hours at £30 per hour and this was agreed. It was also agreed to purchase website software for the flipbook at £50 per annum, rather than utilising the free version, which would include advertising and a limited interface.

061/26 **Members Report: Planning:**

Members noted current planning applications.

Members also noted the current Appeal for land on the west side of The Barn, Monkshatch: *Alleged Breach: Without planning permission operational development consisting of the erection of a fence, gates and storage containers and a material change of use of the land to the use of the land for storage.*

Cllr Nagaty was asked to draft a letter to the Planning Inspectorate, setting out the Parish Council's objections to this proposal.

062/26 **Finance**

- a) Schedule of payments to end of financial year in the sum of £16,978.95 was noted and approved.
- b) *Management report to end March 2026* was noted and approved.
- c) *Bank reconciliation to end of March 2026 was checked against the bank statement and signed by Cllr S Mallet.*
- d) *Standing orders:* members reviewed and approved the Council's Standing Orders, subject to the following amendments:
 - Limit of meeting: 2.5hours
 - Public engagement: 30 minutes, limited to 5 minutes per person
- e) *Financial Regulations:* members reviewed and approved the Council's Financial regulations, noting that banking arrangements will be dealt with at the July meeting.
- f) *Financial risk assessment:* noted and approve.
- g) **Internal Audit:**
 - i. *Internal Auditors report:* members noted the auditors report and the actions recommended, as follows:

Fixed assets	I confirmed the asset register total matches that included in box 9 (total fixed assets plus long term investments and assets) on the Accounting Statements. There were no changes year on year. However, the asset register in its current form does not meet the minimum standard as per the guidance in proper practices. The Practitioners' Guide requires the register, in its simplest form, to contain a greater level of detail
Assertion 10	I recommend the council complete a data audit to comply with GDPR regulations

The Clerk will table an amended asset register at the July meeting and complete a data audit.

- ii. *Annual Governance Statement:* members considered and responded to the statements as set out, in conjunction with the internal Auditors report.
- iii. *Accounting statements 2025/26:* Members approved the accounting statements in conjunction with the Internal Auditors report.

063/26 **Model Councillor Code of Conduct:** noted and approved.

064/26 **Councillors Business:** *any further business arising from the meeting, to be noted or dealt with on a future agenda*

- a) *Gallery:* Cllr Sharples asked if the Parish Council would consider making a contribution towards the cost of a golf buggy, to help with movement around the grounds. It was agreed that this was not of sufficient benefit to the parish as a whole, and so out of the Parish Council's remit.

065/26

Dates of meetings:

Date of next meeting: 15th July 2026. 7pm, Pucks Oak Barn.

The meeting closed at 20.46.
