



COMPTON PARISH COUNCIL

Local Government Act 1972

Minutes of a MEETING of Compton Parish Council
held on **Wednesday 15th July at 7pm**

At Pucks Oak Barn

For the transaction of the under mentioned business

Present: Cllr S Mallet (in the chair), Cllrs K Hecker-Meschede, R Nagaty, C Sharples
6 members of the public
In attendance The Clerk, Mrs J Cadman

Public session:

1. *The Harrow:* the application for 10 dwellings, with 6 affordable, is to be heard in committee on the 22nd July. The Parish Council was asked if they would be speaking at the meeting and reminded that the main objections were to the narrow access, the impact on neighbours, over development and the loss of trees. Cllr Ramsey was asked if he would represent the Council.
2. *Car Park:* the Council was asked about the status of the application for a car park for the village. Cllr Sharples stated that the proposal had not received Council support or agreement and had been withdrawn. The Clerk explained that the application had come as a result of a year's debate in meetings and a pre-planning application. Members had agreed to proceed to a full application, being aware that the advice given to the pre-planning application had been ambivalent. She stressed that, if planning was approved, residents would have been consulted before any further action was taken.

Mr Douetil was of the opinion that, by doing nothing, the Parish Council was ignoring the risk to life caused by insufficient car parking in the village, exacerbated by the new Harrow development which would bring cars out into the road next to the hall, where parking was already crowded and sightlines very poor.

3. *Plaque for Ken Miller:* David Hunt advised that a plaque would be installed at the Gallery in memory of Ken Miller and that there would be a small ceremony in September to unveil it, with details in due course. He reminded the Parish Council that they had agreed to contribute half of the cost of £900 and would send an invoice to the Clerk.

066/26 Apologies for Absence: were received from Cllrs J Palca and N Wyschna. Both Borough Cllrs had also send their apologies.

067/26 Declarations of interest: were made by Cllr Nagaty, who lives near the Solar Farm site and Cllr Sharples, who is an employee of Watts Gallery.

068/26 Minutes of Annual Meeting held 20th May 2026: were agreed as a correct record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman, after Cllr Sharples clarified that he had not asked for a contribution towards the cost of a golf buggy but had asked whether in principle it would be appropriate to ask for one.

069/26 Matters arising

A Report had been received from Loseley, as follows:

- The Estate are opening a take-away coffee outlet in Artington, on the outskirts of Guildford. It will be called FARM and is located at Unit 9 Pew Corner, Artington, Guildford, GU3 1LP, behind the Gymnastics Factory due to start trading in the next week or so.
- The Mount Permissive footpath has re-opened and the Estate are in early stages of organising new fencing and signage

- There is currently filming taking place on the Estate – please note Loseley House is closed to the public 09.07.26 – 31.07.26, Gardens remain open with exception of Monday 20th July when both House and Gardens are closed to the public.
- The annual Decorative Home & Salvage Show is taking place this coming weekend on Friday, Saturday & Sunday and access is via South lodge the entrance to Forge Meadow, off the B3000
- Loseley Live is returning again this year – it is three day live music event, on Front Park Friday 7th, 8th and 9th August - musicals, country music and 80s
- A Military Family Funday is being held on Front Park on Sunday 16th August – Frimley and Camberley Cadet Corp a fund raiser, public welcome, see details on our website
- For the first time the Estate are hosting a Drone Show on 19th September, it is likely to be a sensational spectacular light drone show at night, see details on our website
- Lastly Alexander wanted to re-iterate to be extra vigilant and cautious when out while we are experiencing these very dry days and intense heatwave given the concern with potential for wild fires to start.

070/26 Co-option of Councillor: Rebecca Munns was co-opted onto the Council in her absence. Proposed by Cllr Sharples, Seconded by Cllr Mallet, all in favour.

071/26 SCC Traffic Calming project: discussed in the public session, but recorded in the minutes:

1. *Director of Highways and Transport at SCC:* the Clerk had requested a meeting but had not yet received a reply.
2. *Speed survey:* Obtrada has confirmed that they would be able to conduct a 2 week survey at 3 sites for £1,480 plus VAT. This would be a covert study using SDR (radar). Members agreed to proceed with this, with the 2 weeks to be spread over 1 week of holiday and 1 week of school termtime. Proposed by Cllr Mallet, Seconded by Cllr Nagaty, all in favour.
3. *Sally Barker:* she was minded to engage with the project but needed to find time to do so.
4. *Shalford:* Cllr Mallet had spoken to the Clerk at Shalford regarding their scheme, and she had advised that what had gone in was very much in line with what SCC had proposed.
5. *Quantum Acoustics:* The Clerk had asked for their report to be strengthened, but had not received a response to date.
6. *Alan Ashbery:* Cllr Mallet had received no reply to his email.
7. *SALC:* have recommended a lawyer from Surrey Hills Partnership and the Clerk is in discussion with her at present.
8. *Traffic Survey 2019:* commissioned by the Traffic Committee with the authority of the Parish Council, this was undertaken by G John Surveys Ltd.
9. *Press:* the main factors of this scheme is that there is no precedent for it and that Compton, for some reason, is being treated differently from other parishes. No account is being taken of the lived experience rather than policy. The key objective is Average Speed Cameras to cover the whole of the village, with the speed limit to remain at 30mph.
10. William Bagnall and Will Douetil will draw up a press release.
11. *Surrey Roadsafes:* had still not replied to Mr Bagnall's May email.
12. *Noise and AQMA assessments:* Tim Shaw pointed out that no base mark for noise had been set, and the AQMA had not been referred to at all. A feasibility assessment should have been carried out to check whether enforcement cameras would work.

072/26 Solar Farm: The Clerk had contacted our solicitor, David Warman, who advised that the Consent Order is still with the Court and is in a queue awaiting processing by the Judge. He continues to chase the Court Office and will advise the Clerk as soon as he receives an update. This was noted.

073/26 Report from County Cllr: none had been received.

074/26 Report from Borough Cllrs: none had been received.

075/26 Members report: **Local Plan**
Mrs Stevens reports as follows:

Local Plan timetable

On June 5, Guildford Borough Council (GBC) published a notice setting out its intention to begin work on a new Local Plan. The notice and timetable for producing the Local Plan can be viewed at:

<https://guildford.gov.uk/newguildfordlocalplan>

The timetable sets out the steps that GBC is legally required to prepare the Plan. It includes the proposed dates for public consultations. GBC anticipates that the first formal consultation will be held around September this year.

Local Plan Workshop report

GBC also published its Workshop Report (which can be viewed on the webpage above) summarising the findings of workshops held with stakeholders in March 2026. Unfortunately, it appears that Compton PC was not represented at the workshops. The Local Plan Sub-Committee recommends that a PC member be appointed to represent the parish in future dialogue relating to the Local Plan.

Call for Sites - Traveller accommodation and employment land

In the recent Call for Sites, the University of Surrey has put forward land for employment (B1), retail (A1), services (A2-A5, D1), education (D1) and traveller accommodation (1,075 units) on Blackwell Farm. GBC describes all of the above as "realistic candidates". The timescales given are 6-10 years and 11-15 years. It is also worth noting that the government has updated national planning policy for traveller sites to make clear that "demonstrable unmet need" for such sites can justify the release of green belt land.

It was agreed that Cllr Mallet would be appointed to represent the parish in future dialogue relating to the Local Plan.

076/26 Planning:
Members noted the current list of planning applications.

Cllr Mallet agreed to investigate 26/P/00722 Roseberry Farm, and report his views, which were recorded as follows:

The application involves knocking down two old flimsy farm buildings, more recently used as offices, and replacing with one 4-bed house and a separate garage block.

Since GBC confirmed that didn't need permission to switch from office to residential as recently as 2024, the principle is agreed. However, the 2024 submission was based on converting the existing buildings into a 2-bed house right by the road and a 1-bed annex (ancillary accommodation). The current application seeks to knock down both buildings and build a new, larger house roughly in the location of the former ancillary accommodation, with a separate garage block on the site of the building close to the road.

It is green belt and AGLV and outside the village settlement area. It will make a much more desirable house set back from the road. Cllr Mallet recommended that the Council do nothing unless there are a number of objections from neighbours.

077/26 Members report: **Allotments and Environment : Cllr Sharples**
Nothing to report.

078/26 Members report: **Youth and Recreation: The Clerk**
a) *Basketball hoop:* this is with the handyman for installation.
b) *Stoolball on the Green:* this didn't take place, as the team were able to use their home pitch.

079/26 Members report: **Watts Gallery and Cemetery**

a) Report from Gallery:

Gary Topp, our new Director, joined us on 15 June and has been settling into his new role and will be meeting stakeholders over the coming weeks.

The Art of Wallpaper: Morris & Co our latest exhibition opened on 20 May showcasing a collection of Morris and Co's historic wallpaper designs. The exhibition runs until 10 January 2027.

We are gearing up for Summer at Watts with fun-filled activities for everyone to enjoy. From Tuesday 21 July until 31 August we will be open an extra day a week from Tuesday to Sunday.

Chapel

The recent heatwaves have been causing issues for us as visitors are staying at home rather than travel in the high temperatures, Limnerslease became very hot meaning we had to close it for a few days and a tree at the chapel suffered from summer limb drop with a large branch falling into the cemetery. Luckily no one was injured.

As a duty of care, we closed most of the cemetery whilst we cleared the branch and debris and then kept the cemetery closed due to two large beech trees behind the chapel which have been identified as diseased and prone to limb drop.

The largest of the beech trees has a fruiting fungus attached to it and we previously reduced the crown in 2023 which the Parish Council very kindly supported us with.

Our arboriculturists have recommended further crown reduction and similar work on the tree next to it to reduce the risk of the trees dropping a limb. They have said that eventually both trees will need to be removed. This work is likely to be very expensive (upwards of £15,000) due to the restrictions of access to the site.

Removing the fallen branch has already cost £660 + VAT and we have had a quote of £3,560 + VAT for the tree surgery and £300 + VAT for a section 211 notice application. This is unplanned for spending which we would value a conversation about.

We are aware that closing the cemetery is a very sensitive issue as it means people aren't able to access graves. We are trying to get the site open again as quickly as possible but also must ensure that people can access the graves safely

The Clerk advised that she had been approached to suggest some dates to meet the new Director. It was agreed that all councillors would like to meet him if possible.

The Clerk advised that a funeral has been arranged for the 7th August, and the Gallery have given an undertaking that this will be able to go ahead, and they will provide guides to ensure safety.

- b) Cemetery fees:** The proposed increase of approximately 5% in all fees was approved. It was also agreed that the extra charge for an entry in the book of remembrance would be removed, as this would be an automatic part of the new website book of remembrance. Proposed by Cllr Mallet, Seconded by Cllr Sharples, all in agreement

- c) Cemetery Administration Support:** The Clerk was asked to clarify the expected cost of support. She advised that the budget line for administrative support was £1,000 for the current financial year but also pointed out that the interest in the cemetery had increased by a large extent since the introduction of the new website, income in the first quarter of this year being £5,200 against a budget line of £3000 for the whole year, and that increased activity would naturally give rise to increased administration.

080/26 Members report: **Communications**
No report had been received.

081/26 Finance

- a) Schedule of income and payments for the month of June at £2,662.43 expenditure was noted and approved.
- b) *Management report to end June* was noted and approved.
- c) *Bank reconciliation to end June* was verified against the bank statement by the Chairman.

- d) *Standing Orders*: the discussed amendments were noted and agreed.
- e) *Financial Regulations*: two additional signatories are required to approve payments from Lloyds Banks. It was agreed that the chairman and vice chairman be added to the Lloyds account as signatories.

082/26 Internal audit:

- a) *Fixed Assets*: revised asset list as requested by the internal audit was noted and approved.
- b) *Assertion 10*: the data audit is under way

083/26 Bench in memory of Ken Miller

Members agreed to purchase the Stanford seat from the Glasdon catalogue, noting that this was the choice of the Miller family. The Village Association would be asked if they wished to contribute. A plaque to be added to the bench, design to be approved at the September meeting. The bench to be placed outside the playground, facing towards the Green. Proposed by Cllr Mallet, Seconded by Cllr Sharples, all in favour.

084/26 Councillors Business: any further business arising from the meeting to be noted or dealt with on a future agenda.
No further matters were raised.

085/26 Date of next meeting: 16th September, 7pm.

086/26 Exclusion members of the public and press

In accordance with the provisions of section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (admission to meetings) Act 1960 the press and public were excluded from the meeting by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted: staff matters. The increase in salary for the Clerk of 6.7% was approved. Proposed by Cllr Mallet, Seconded by Cllr Hecker Meschede, all in favour.

The meeting closed at 20.17.