COMPTON PARISH COUNCIL

Local Government Act 1972

Minutes of a MEETING of Compton Parish Council
held on **Wednesday 17th September 2025 at 7pm**
At Pucks Oak Barn
For the transaction of the under mentioned business

Present: Cllr S Mallet (in the chair), Cllrs R Nagaty, J Palca, C Sharples, NK Wyschna
County Cllr M Furniss
4 members of the public
In attendance: The Clerk, Mrs J Cadman

Public Session:

Traffic Calming: A question was raised concerning the plans for traffic calming, and was answered under Agenda item 099/25.

Security concerns: a question was raised concerning the ability of Parish Councils to respond to political issues in the country and a perceived duty to create conversations on subjects that people care about. Parish Councils are almost always apolitical, their focus being on local needs and concerns, and have no influence on the national scene. However, all Parish Councils have open sessions, where matters of concern can be raised.

086/25 **Apologies for Absence:** were received from Cllr K Hecker-Meschede
Apologies were also received from both Borough Cllrs.

087/25 **Declarations of interest:** were made by Cllr Sharples, who is an employee of Watts Gallery.

088/25 **Minutes of Meeting held 16th July** were agreed as a correct record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman.

099/25 **Highways and Traffic Committee**
The Chairman directed that this agenda item be brought forward.

William Bagnall reminded members that he, with a group of councillors and volunteers, represented the Parish Council in discussions with SCC on traffic calming. The next meeting of the Stakeholders was due the following day. He hoped for more details of what is to be proposed and that someone from traffic design would attend. He was aware that their engineers were undertaking traffic surveys.

Currently the proposals are:

i. 20 mph speed limit on Down Lane and from the A3 to Spiceall.
ii. Village gates at the three access points to the village. Mr Bagnall will request that these are designed by the Committee.
iii. Down lane – footpath to be extended from the Chapel to the Street.
iv. Possible upgraded crossing where there is the refuge island.

v. Remove the centre line. Cllr Furniss advised that this measure had been known to reduce speeds by 4 to 5 mph.
vi. Church crossing – proposals for this had been dropped, as the sightlines are a problem.

Cllr Furniss took part in the discussions on these proposals.

Removing centre lines: concern was expressed as very large vehicles travel through the village and already take up a lot of room. Cllr Furniss advised that removing white lines in Puttenham had reduced speeds.

Junction tightening at Spiceall – it was not clear what this meant.

Consultation: a summary of proposals in the Compton News would be helpful. Cllr Furniss advised that clear proposals would be published later this year and then there would be a statutory consultation period of 12 weeks. The work was planned to start in the summer holidays 2026.

The measures will be reviewed 6 months after installation to see if there were any issues, changes needed, or new proposals received.

It was also noted that at present there are two signs in Compton, advising of speed cameras, one at the village hall and one near the Compton sign.

089/25 Matters arising
077/25d: Grass verge from end of Polsted Lane: this has been cut and has been added to the handyman's schedule of works. Cllr Sharples asked that it be mowed further down, as far as Poplar Cottage.
084/25d: email addresses: still to be adopted by some councillors. The Clerk will put members in contact with the webmaster.

090/25 The Harrow: the derioration of the Harrow has been reported to GBC Regulatory Service and to GBC Enforcement. Cllr Williams had advised as follows:

'A complaint was made to the council regarding the building and an action of the following is being investigated**.**
'Alleged deterioration of the land and property to such an extent that action is warranted under section 215 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 due to adverse impact on the amenity of the area the Harrow Inn.
'The case has been assigned to a Planning Enforcement Officer, and an initial site inspection was conducted on 28 August.
'An update on this matter is expected by the end of this month.'
Cllr Williams will be asked to advise the Clerk as soon as she has any information.

091/25 Solar Farm: Nothing further has been heard regarding the judge's decision on the application for extension of time or the substantive claim. Our solicitors advise that this cannot be hurried, that this will be dealt with in order of applications.
Cllr Ramsey advised that Natural England will meet in the following week, but that there is still time to apply for the solar farm area to be included in the AONB if a decision is reached soon.
The planning decision is still on GBC's portal. It was suggested that GBC be asked to remove this, as they had agreed to accept clauses 1 and 3 of our Pre Action Protocol letter.

092/25 **Loseley Estate:** Report from Alexander More-Molyineux:
'Loseley House and gardens have now closed to the pullic for the season. The gardens have been a wonderful delight this year especially, despite the lack of rain for most of it.
'there is an event open to the public called Dog Fes on the 27th and 28th September. There will be no Christmas Craft fair this year, thke organisers have stepped back from doing shows.
Mr Bagnall advised that the footpath sign had been removed and was asked to report this on the SCC webite, in the section for Rights of Way.

'there have been some remedial works to the footpath and ditch clearing at Bummore Copse this week. The estate has instructed a woodland management specialist to finalise the plans for Bommore Copse, these are expected in the coming weeks.'

093/25 **Car Park for Compton:** The Clerk advised that she had made an application to GBC Planning for pre-planning advice, having searched their website for relevant advice, and has outlined the proposed plans in the application. She has not yet had a response.

094/25 **Neighbourhood Plan:** Audit from ET Planning had been received in the last week and circulated. It was agreed that it would be very helpful to have a meeting with them, either at the next Parish Council meeting, or by Zoom. Members of the public who had expressed an interest in being involved in the Neighbourhood Plan would be invited.

095/25 **Report from County Cllr**
Cllr Furniss reported as follows:

i. Traffic calming – this was covered under agenda item 099/25.
ii. He was happy to receive an application for combined basketball/football neet equipment, to be granted from his Your Fund Surrey allocation.
iii. The promised double yellow lines at the junction of Spiceall will be established in October.

096/25 **Report from Borough Cllrs**
Cllr Williams had sent the following report:

Cleaner Air Day- Sunday the 28th of September.
Taking place from 11am to 4pm, upper and lower high street will be pedestrian only for the day, creating a safe and vibrant space filled with:
● *live entertainment, including music, target archery, and circus skills*
● *free Dr Bike services and cycling demos*
● *delicious food stalls and local markets*
● *interactive exhibits and expert talks*
● *a play one for children*
● *e-bike. And e-vehicle showcases*
● *the chance to learn about what you can do to tackle air pollution.*

We encourage motorists to take alternative travel on the day.
Local Government Reorganisation in Surrey.
We expect to receive a decision from central government in October, on whether a two unitary or three unitary model will be approved.
GBC Improvement Plan
GBC has marked one year of progress on its cross-council Improvement Plan, with Year 1 focused on shoring up the basics (governance, tenant engagement, decision-making). Year 2 shifts to improving residents' day-to-day experience of services. An update went to Full Council on 29 July,

Leisure Operating Contract
Following a competitive process, Freedom Leisure has been re-awarded the contract to operate Guildford Spectrum, Guildford Lido and Ash Manor Sports Centre for the next ten years. The partnership includes investment across facilities; proposals highlighted by the Council and local media include upgrades to the facilities, a 24-hour gym at Spectrum and longer Lido seasons including outdoor swimming, the first session of which starts on 1st October.
General Update
To keep up to date with all the important local issues you can sign up to the council's 'About Guildford' newsletter here: guildford.gov.uk/aboutguildford

Members thanked the Borough Councillors for always being quick to respond to issues and to report back.

097/25 **Robertsons Nursing Home:** Cllr Mallet advised that Robertsons are building a new nursing home, moving all residents across, and then demolishing the old one. This would create an expanded site. The owners have agreed to do a regular newsletter to keep residents up to date on what is happening.

098/25 Members report: **Local Plan** No report had been received.

100/25 **Planning:**
No current planning applications.

Appeal: **25/P/000777 Hogs Back Farm, Monkshatch:**
Application for permission in principle for 2 detached dwellings following demolition of existing buildings.
An appeal has been lodged against the Council's refusal of this application. All submissions to the Plannning Inspectorate must be received by the 20th October.

101/25 Members report: **Allotments and Environment** *: Cllr Sharples* reported that all is well and the allotments well cared for.

102/25 Members report: **Youth and Recreation:** *The Clerk*

a) Safer surfacing: the repair to the safer surfacing has been completed.
b) Footpath: the new footpath to the playground will be started on the 16th October
c) Basketball net/football goal: the Clerk has applied to Your Fund, through our County Cllr, for funding.
d) Swings: two swings have broken, and have been removed. Replacements are on order.
e) Posts on Green: these are still outstanding. Members agreed that the handyman should be given an extra day a month, when he is available, to catch up with the backlog of tasks.
f) Fledglings Stay and Play group for toddlers: the church had asked if they could advertise this group, which takes place every Monday in term time at Pucks Oak Barn, by means of a banner on the playground fencing facing the village club. This was agreed.

103/25 Members report: **Watts Gallery and Cemetery**

a) Report from Gallery had been received and distributed. Members noted:
- **i.** The Gallery will now be open 5 days a week, Wednesday to Sunday. The Chapel remains open 7 days a week.
- **ii.** Alistair Burtenshaw has stepped down as Brice Director and Chief Executive after 8 years. The recruitment process for his replacement is under way.
- **iii.** Work is nearly complete on the Physical Energy site.

b) *Plotting remaining grave spaces*: D Herbert had drawn up a proposal for allocating the remainder of the space in the cemetery to graves and ashes plots. The cost for this work, including 2 to 3 visits for precise measuring , will be £1,000. Proposed by Cllr Mallet, Seconded by Cllr Wyschna, all in favour**.**

c) *Data Capture:* the project will be completed within the month and the website uploaded, with a link from the Parish Council website.

d) *Interesting people:* Cllr Sharples would like to put together a record of the people of note or of interest in the cemetery, drawing on local and historical knowledge. The Clerk was also aware that Mr Herbert had done a lot of reseach when drawng up the definitive record of those in the cemetery, to ensure that records were exact, and this could also be helpful. Cllr Palca proposed that this project be supported with Council funds when the time came.

104/25 Members report: **Communications**
Cllr Wyschna continues to send out messages to the community group on matters of interest and importance.

105/25 **Finance**

a) Schedule of income and payments to end August had been circulated and the expenditure of £8,065.73 for July and August was noted and approved.
b) *Management report to end August:* noted and approved.
c) *Bank reconciliation to end August:* verified against the bank statement by a Member at the meeting.
d) *External auditors report:* the Annual Governance and Accounting Statements had been circulated, together with the External auditors report**.** These, and the announcement of the completion of audit, have been uploaded to the website. Members noted the 'except for' comment regarding the lack of an official email address until after the end of the financial year, and also noted that this had been rectified.

106/25 **Councillors Business:** any further business arising from the meeting to be noted or dealt with on a future agenda.
Solicitors costs for JR: ongoing costs would be carefully examined, as the current delay is not caused by the Parish Council. The Parish Council may have grounds for recovering money from the solicitors as the delay was caused by their error in the first instance.

107/25 **Date of next meeting:** 19th November 2025 7pm.

The meeting closed at 20.23.