

Minutes of the Meeting of Compton Bassett Parish Council
Held on Thursday 24th March 2016
At 7.30 pm

Those Present: Cllr Szczesiak (Chair), Cllr Coward (Vice Chair), Cllr Alberry, Cllr Barnett, Cllr Jackson, Cllr Reis, Cllr Waite, County Cllr Crisp – left at 9.10) D. Zeitzen (Clerk)

AGENDA

1. **Apologies for absence** – Sonya Stockhill
2. **Minutes** – Minutes of the Meeting held 28th January 2016 were approved and signed.
3. **Declaration of Interest in items on the Agenda** – Cllr Szczesiak declared an interest in items relating to plans for redevelopment of Briar Leaze by the Green Square group. Cllr Alberry also declared an interest in this as Chair of The Village Hall Committee.
4. **Receipt of Public Questions** – None
5. **Actions & Matters Arising**
 - a. **Planning**
 - 1) **Green Square Group application re BriarLeaze:** The Parish Council have submitted their comments on the application to Wiltshire Council.
 - 2) **Proposed garage/workshop at the Old Rectory:** The Parish Council have submitted their comments on the application to Wiltshire Council.
 - 3) **Hills' CLUED and Section 73 applications:** A decision is expected to be made by Wiltshire Council on 13th April 2016. Cllr Szczesiak (on behalf of Compton Bassett Parish Council) and Peter Alberry (as a private individual) were planning to speak against both applications at the Strategic Planning Committee meeting in Trowbridge.
 - 4) **Hill's 14/09744 planning application appeal:** Hills appeal is due to be heard in Trowbridge on 6th September 2016
 - 5) **Compton Bassett House proposed new height fencing:** The Parish Council agreed to submit an objection to the fencing to Wiltshire Council on the basis that the fence would be in a very public part of the village within the Conservation Area and as it would adversely affect the visual amenity of the Church, it would not be consistent with the Compton Bassett Neighbourhood Plan. However, as there was no objection in principle to increased security and privacy, it was recommended that a mature hedge (e.g. yew) should be considered as an acceptable alternative. It was also agreed that English Heritage should be made aware of the Parish Council comments.
Action: Clerk to submit objection to Wiltshire Council and advise English Heritage
 - 6) **The Old Rectory new tennis court:** No objections were raised.
Action: Clerk to advise Wiltshire Council
 - b. **War Memorial steps update:** The work has now been completed
 - c. **Speed checks and indicator:** Cllr Coward had collected a Minivisor 230VAS traffic speed Indicator from Wiltshire Council that was considered to be appropriate for installation in the village. **Action:** Clerk to contact Wiltshire Council to ask if They would install it or recommend an accredited contractor
 - d. **Parish Council Laptop:** Cllr Coward recommended purchasing an HP Stream laptop from John Lewis with a 2 year guarantee. All agreed that the lap top be purchased and that an open source package would be trialled initially as an alternative to the more expensive standard Microsoft package. **Action:** Cllr

Coward to purchase laptop on behalf of Parish Council – Clerk to check VAT can be reclaimed.

- e. **Precept:** The Precept for financial year 2016/17 should be received in April 2016.

6 Neighbourhood Plan Referendum: Cllr Szczesiak advised that posters advertising the referendum on March 31st have been put up in the village as requested by Wiltshire Council. Cllr Alberry will also e-mail residents to recommend that they use their vote. **Action:** Cllr Alberry to e-mail a reminder to residents

7 Broadband: This is still very much work in progress. Following on from the Annual Parish Meeting the Parish Council and Benson Village Hall Committee will ask BT to consider whether the Benson Village Hall could be used as a community hub for Broadband. **Action:** Cllr Alberry to submit an online application for a community hub.

8 Hills: Hills are hosting a number of pre-consultation meetings for a proposed ROMP application for the extraction of around 350,000 tonnes of sand from the fields between Freeth Farm and Compton Bassett over the next 5 years, using a conveyor system to transport the sand to Lower Compton. It was noted that there are likely to be a significant number of local objections. Cllr Szczesiak also pointed out that although Hills had stated there had been no injuries sustained in the recent fire on site at Lower Compton, a local paper had stated that several people had been treated for smoke inhalation.

9 Green Square Update: Dealt with under Matters and Actions Arising

10 Correspondence Received: Queen's 90th Birthday celebration medal. Following the interest shown at the Annual Parish Meeting all agreed a minimum of 100 should be purchased.

Action: Clerk to order by end of April

Cllr Szczesiak received a letter from Mel Crossfield owner of Rosemary Cottage, who was concerned that any proposed future traffic calming measures might obstruct the entrance to Rosemary Cottage. Cllr Szczesiak has replied advising that the main Parish Council concern was with traffic safety but that access into the drive would be fully taken into account in any future proposal.

Action: Clerk to reply to latest correspondence from Mel Crossfield.

Communication has been received asking if Compton Bassett Parish Council would like to comment on the proposed new village hall in Cherhill. Councillors had no comments to pass on.

11 Finance and Accounts:

a. Bank statement, Income & Expenditure, Budget

Balance carried forward at 9th Feb 2016 was £2,947.57 with no cheques outstanding

As seen and agreed by the Parish Council

b Invoices: Clerks salary £238.14p Sue Wright (HMRC payroll) £5.00 , A Elmer Villages Website £130.00. All invoices were signed and agreed by the Parish Council and Cheques raised.

c Audit: The Clerk has received all the information from Grant Thornton regarding the 2015/16 audit. It has to be completed and returned to them by 3rd June 2016

d Clerk's annual appraisal: The Parish Council wished to formally record that they are entirely happy with both the standard and timeliness of the work of the Parish Clerk.

12 Annual Parish Meeting 2016 All agreed it was an interesting and well attended evening, although it was a shame our local MP James Gray was unable to attend.

13 Process of election of officers Cllr Waite was concerned that in a small village it could be "uncomfortable" asking for a vote of hands when voting for the position of Chair and Vice Chair of the Parish Council and suggested it could influence the way some people vote. She wondered if in future it would be better to do this by secret ballot. After discussion it was agreed to continue with the voting practice of a show of hands at the meeting but that from now all nominations for Chair and Vice Chair should be given to the Clerk in writing before the AGM.

14 Dementia Awareness Evening This was held at Hilmarton and organised by Hilmarton Parish Council. Cllr Waite attended the evening.

15 High Penn Solar Farm: Julian Pertwee of Hive Energy has advised the Parish Council that as the site doesn't fall within Compton Bassett Parish boundaries they had not sent any

communications directly to the Parish Council. **Action:** The Community Foundation may have money available for projects for the village – Clerk to contact.

16 Road safety concerns through village: Martin Cooke of Wiltshire Council met with 5 members of the Parish Council to discuss road safety concerns. Cllr Szczesiak highlighted several ways road safety and traffic calming can be improved in Compton Bassett that had emerged from the meeting:

- a) New signs at each of the village
- b) 40mph limit from Goodenough's Corner to the 30mph limit
- c) Traffic calming restriction at Briar Leaze exit road
- d) Additional traffic calming in the middle of the village. Experimental traffic calming with cones might be required to determine the optimum configuration and minimise any property access issues.

Action: County Cllr Crisp will requested to arrange for these proposals to be put to the Calne Area Board.

Following a request to Wiltshire Council's Traffic Order Team regarding the possibility of make parking on pavements illegal in Compton Bassett by passing a Traffic Regulation Order, it has been suggested that an appropriate first step would be via a local awareness campaign about the dangers caused by parking on pavements. The Parish Council agreed that this was an appropriate way forward.

17 Lighting of Beacon to celebrate HM Queen's 90th Birthday: Beacons will be lit across the UK to celebrate HM Queen's 90th birthday. The Compton Bassett beacon will be lit on Starve Knoll on Thursday 21 April 2016 at around 8pm. **Action:** Cllr Alberry will organise the bonfire and picking up of any nails/debris afterwards. Cllr Coward will provide refreshments. Cllr Alberry will produce a flyer with details of the evening and information on the Queen's 90th Birthday medal. Flyer will be distributed door to door. Cllr Szczesiak will arrange distribution of flyer.

18 Medal of Legion D'Honneur presentation to Mr. Alan Lewis: Following a request from Mr. Lewis, Cllr Szczesiak is exploring the possibility of having the presentation in Compton Bassett rather than the French Embassy in London. County Cllr Crisp will also enquire as to the possibility of a County wide ceremony being held at County Hall, Trowbridge.

19 Emergency Planning Meeting. This was attended by Cllr Szczesiak. He explained that Wiltshire Council want all Parish Councils to provide them with a point of contact for potential future emergency events such as ash clouds (from fire), animal diseases, flooding, food contamination, pandemic influenza, heavy snow and loss of water and power supplies. It was agreed that for the appropriate response level for Compton Bassett would be Level 1 and that the initial point of contact should be the Chair of the Parish Council, who would cascade relevant information to other Parish Council members for dissemination throughout the village in the event of any future emergency.

In addition, it was noted that funds are available to improve resilience to emergencies and it was agreed that an application should be made for funding for a small electrical generator which could be used in emergencies. **Action:** Cllr Szczesiak to pass contact details to Clerk so an application can be submitted. Cllr Alberry to raise the issue of storing the generator and the emergency use of the Benson Village Hall as a community hub with the Village Hall Committee

20 Councillors Observations and items for next meeting

21 Date of next meeting which includes AGM (election of Chair and Vice Chair)
Thursday 12th May 7.30pm Benson Hall, Compton Bassett