

Minutes of the meeting of Little Compton Parish Council held on  
Monday 17 January 2011 at 7.00 pm

Present: Cllrs. Rudge (Chairman), Moorman (Vice Chairman), Ashford and Brandreth  
Susan Cox (Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer), Warwickshire County  
Councillor Chris Saint and 30 members of the public.

The meeting was preceded by a presentation on Community Speed Watch by Andrew Steventon, a police officer from the Safer Neighbourhood Team.

The Chairman, Cllr. Rudge, extended congratulations from the Parish Council to Alec Reed CBE who was awarded a Knighthood for services to Business and Charity in the New Years Honours.

Cllr. Rudge apologised for the fact that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 15 December 2010 and the Agenda for this meeting had not appeared on the website. The Clerk explained that she was experiencing teething problems with downloading information to the site but would liaise with Mr Foley in regard to this problem.

1. Declarations of Interest  
Cllr. Brandreth declared an interest in item 13 Planning - application 10/02431/FUL
2. Apologies for absence  
Received from Lady Neill-Fraser
3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 22 November 2010 were agreed to be a correct record.  
Proposed Cllr. Moorman, seconded Cllr. Ashford
4. Matters Arising from the Minutes
  10. Overhanging Shrubs and trees opposite Langton Terrace - Cllr. Ashford had spoken with Mr. Gorst who had agreed to trim them during the Christmas break. This had yet to be done. Cllr. Rudge agreed to speak with Mr Gorst.
  10. Stones on the grass verge around Chapel Cottage - The Highways Department is to contact the tenants asking for them to be removed.
  10. The Clerk had still to obtain estimates for village grass cutting.
  12. Mr. McKerron had removed the fallen trees from the ditch opposite Brewery Row.
  12. The lime trees adjacent to Oakham Road at Langston Farm are the responsibility of Warwickshire Highways Department. Mr Morris, Highways Department, has arranged for contractors to cut back the trees and will attend the site while the works are undertaken. The holly bushes, which the owner of Langston Farm had agreed to maintain, will be removed as they have been allowed to grow over the agreed size.
  13. Affordable Housing - Cllr. Rudge reported that she was continuing to pursue the issue that priority be given to applicants with village connections for Housing Association properties currently allocated to the highest 'bidder' from anywhere in the County. She had been in correspondence with the Chief Executive of Stratford District Council and the Member of Parliament for Stratford upon Avon.  
Cllr. Rudge had written to the Warwickshire Rural Housing Association to seek assurance that if any of the Jordan's Orchard properties become vacant, the Parish Council would be consulted before re-allocation  
Cllr. Rudge had also written to the Heart of England Housing Association, who manage the other social housing properties in the village, outlining Council's concerns.

20. The damaged wall at 5 Pool Close had been reported to the Housing Association. A repair has been made but the wall is still bulging in places.
5. Minutes of the Meeting held on 15 December 2010  
The minutes were agreed to be a correct record, proposed Cllr. Brandreth, seconded Cllr. Ashford.
- 5a Matters Arising from the Minutes  
There were none.
6. Date of next Meeting - Monday 21 March - Annual Parish Meeting
7. Report from County Cllr Chris. Saint.  
Cllr Saint reported that Acorns Primary School and Shipston Primary School became a Federation in January and both Cllr. Saint and Cllr. Gray have been appointed to the Governing body of the Federation. Apart from a shared management, head, and some administrative staff the two schools will still operate as separate schools. Both schools had OFSTED reports during 2010, and were well received by the inspectors. Road safety and speeding issues are discussed at the Community Forums. Cllr. Rudge said that, in correspondence about traffic mirrors, Chris Fossey, Road Safety Liaison Officer, had written to say there had been no recorded serious accidents on the A44 at Newtown for 3 years although a serious accident did occur at the Chastleton turn in September 2010  
Works to replace the culvert under the A44 have still not been carried out although funds were approved two years ago. After discussion it appeared that Warwickshire Highways Department may have used the funding at Redlands Corner. Cllr. Saint will pursue this matter and try to get this funding reinstated.  
Warwickshire County needs to reduce its spending by 1.83% due to government cuts. It is anticipated that the Council Tax element will result in a 0% increase.
8. Questions and comments from the public  
Cllr. Rudge had been asked to raise the matter of bins being left outside properties after collection day. A note will be put in Centrepoint.  
Cllr. Ashford had received a letter from a villager thanking Mr. John Hall for his help during the recent severe weather with clearing and gritting the junction of Redlands Row and Oakham Road. All villagers who helped in any way during the adverse weather were thanked by the Parish Council.
9. Playground Report  
Cllr. Moorman has visited the playground and reported that apart from the split swing seat there did not appear to be any problems. It was agreed to wait until after the inspection report before taking any remedial action. The inspection is due to take place in February. The Clerk has asked to be informed of the date in order that she or a Councillor may accompany the inspector.
10. Village Maintenance  
Cllr. Ashford reported that he had been trying to arrange for the street sweeper from Stratford to clear the leaves in the village. The machine can only operate where kerbstones are in situ. The sweeper is expected some time later this week. There is no provision for clearing pavements. If a village leaf-clearing day is organized, green sacks can be provided for collection of leaves by villagers. These will then be collected from a central point in the village. Cllr. Saint agreed to talk with Cllr. Gray about any help with leaf clearing which could be given to the village. He will also let

the Parish Council know who to contact with regards to public footpaths which have become overgrown.

The two fallen trees in the layby on the A44 are to be removed and the railing will be repaired. The Highways Department has agreed that the grips on Oakham Road are to be cleaned out, to repair the fallen 50 mph sign on the A44 and the finger post at the top of Oakham Road, and to repair all potholes in the village.

Concern was expressed that some villagers had taken grit from the bins for use on private property although it was supplied for use on public roads. It was fortunate that supplies had not run out during the severe weather. Discussion took place regarding the location of the grit bins. It was felt that the bin located in Oakham Road should be moved further down near the junction with Redlands Row, the one in Barton Lane to be moved a little further up, the one near the telephone box to be moved opposite to the corner near Washbrook House. A request had been made for a further bin to be located at the Oakham Road/A44 junction. It was agreed that when the bins are next emptied would be a good time to relocate them.

Cllr. Rudge remarked that once again the village is not on the gritting route map, although the gritting machine had been through the village during the recent severe weather. It was decided that now would be a good time to ask Warwickshire Highways Dept. once again, that the village is officially included on the gritting route. The Clerk agreed to write to the County Council .

11. Cemetery Report

Work on improving the lower entrance will start in the spring. The Cotswold Wardens have agreed to lay the hedge at the top and field sides of the extension later in the year.

12. Finance

Budget 2011/12

The Responsible Financial Officer had prepared a budget which would not necessitate an increase in Council Tax. This will bring in a precept of £5621 which is equivalent to £36.41 on a Band D property. This was the second year that the precept had not been increased and Cllr. Rudge said it was most likely that the precept would need to be increased in the year 2012/13 as reserves were not being maintained. A replacement Parish notice board will be needed soon as the existing one is in a poor state. This may have to be funded from reserves.

Cllr. Ashford proposed this budget be adopted, seconded Cllr. Brandreth and agreed.

Approval of Expenditure

Chq 100637	Clerks Salary Oct - Dec 2010	£341.13
100638	BT Broadband	£ 35.25

Proposed Cllr. Moorman, seconded Cllr. Brandreth and agreed.

Appointment of Internal Auditor for period 1.4.10 - 31.3.13

The Responsible Financial Officer reported that Mr. Patrick Cooper had been formally appointed to carry out the internal audit for the three years ending 31 March 2013. The remuneration for the internal audit ending 31 March 2011 has been agreed at £0.00.

Closure of 2009/10 accounts

The 2009/10 accounts have been advertised on the village noticeboard for the required period and are now closed. The external auditor has been notified.

13. Planning Applications  
09/01351/FUL - Compton Lane Nurseries - retention of mobile home - Refused .
- 10/02519/TPO - 4 Rivington Glebe - Fell one Ash Tree - Refused  
Although the tree had been seen by a planning officer from Stratford District Council, the application had indicated the wrong tree.
- 10/02395/FUL - 2 Brewery Row - replacement of single storey rear extension with two storey rear extension - planning permission granted with conditions.
- 10/02431/FUL - Land behind Jordans Orchard - retrospective application for replacement of derelict store/garage with new storage shed, change of use of buildings to household storage. Parish Council objection.
14. Correspondence
1. Royal British Legion 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday
  2. Warwickshire Rural Housing Assn Annual Report
  3. Clerks & Councils Direct January 2011
- By e-mail
4. WALC Annual Briefing Day Saturday 5 March
  5. VASA Lunch Invitation 2<sup>nd</sup> February
  6. Corporate Strategy Consultation
  7. National Awareness Day - Gypsies and Travellers
- The Chairman and Clerk will attend the Briefing Day.
15. Other Business
1. Update on A44A Group  
Cllr. Rudge had known for some years of this group whose aim is to unite the eight parishes and towns on the A44 between Oxford and Evesham. The main aim is to reduce heavy goods traffic on the A44, most of which is recognized as unsuitable for lorries. Due to the work of the group, the recommended lorry route was diverted away from the A44, but many HGV drivers do not follow the recommended route. The group is campaigning for better signage to divert lorries to alternate routes, to get freight onto rail instead of roads and to possibly have the A44 downgraded to a B road in places, which would dissuade lorries from using the road.
  2. Mr Fitch, Neighbourhood Watch representative, thanked the Parish Council for its support in arranging the presentation on Community Speed Watch.
16. Resolution to exclude the public under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960.  
Proposed Cllr Rudge, seconded Cllr Moorman and agreed.
17. Co-option of Councillor  
Three eligible villagers had applied to fill the vacant position. Clare Hall of 2 Jordan's Orchard was duly elected.

The meeting closed at 8.50 pm