

Minutes of the meeting of Little Compton Parish Council Meeting held on
Wednesday 15 December 2010 at 7.00 pm

Present: Cllrs Rudge (Chairman), Moorman (Vice Chairman) Ashford, Brandreth, Susan Cox, (Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer) and 3 members of the public.

1. Declarations of Interest
There were none

2. Apologies for absence
There were none

3. Signing of Declaration of Office by Chairman
The Declaration of Office was signed by the Chairman, Cllr Jennifer Rudge.

4. Resolution to postpone the adoption of the minutes of the meeting held on 22 November 2010 and the matters arising thereof until the next meeting.

This postponement was proposed by Cllr Brandreth, seconded Cllr Moorman.

4a. Questions and Comments from the Public

The Chairman said she was disappointed that the Council Minutes on the Village Website appeared poorly formatted. The Clerk agreed to attempt to forward the minutes in pdf form.

Mr Wellingham reported that the grit bins had been refilled.

5. Accounts 2009/2010

The Clerk reported that the External Auditor had made two comments on the accounts:

- a) The incorrect date for public viewing had been entered on the notice.
- b) The Council did not formally review the effectiveness of the Internal Audit function.

The latter comment referred to the information the Auditor had requested as Little Compton Parish Council was one of the 2% of Parish Councils selected for extra scrutiny. The Internal Auditor had not submitted a full report and the Council's review of the Internal Audit and its process had not been fully recorded. The Council's review of the Internal Audit needs to be fully minuted in future

The internal and external auditors' reports were made known to the Council. The closure of the audit will be advertised on the village notice board with the statement of accounts, annual return, and auditors report available for inspection.

6. **Half Year Accounts 2010/11**
The Responsible Financial Officer presented the half year accounts to Councillors. At the end of the current Financial Year, it was estimated that just under £6,000 would remain in the bank accounts.
7. **Budget 2011/12**
The Draft Budget for 2011/12 will be presented at the January meeting. Councillors agreed that if possible, the current precept should not be increased. Councillors were asked to inform the Responsible Financial Officer of any expenditure they consider should be included.
A new Parish notice board is needed. The Clerk will obtain quotes and ask Mr Newman if he would consider quoting for and making a notice board.

The local Neighbourhood Watch group has an amount of £200 which may be available to provide a mirror to be placed opposite the Chastleton turn.

8. **Appointment of Internal Auditor**
A sample engagement letter had been obtained from Warwickshire Association of Local Councils. The Council suggested that with approval of Mr Cooper this is served for a period of three years.
9. **Payments**
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|--------|----------------------------|----------------------|----------|
| 100633 | Stratford District Council | Broadband | £ 141.00 |
| 100634 | Photocopying | | £ 13.45 |
| 100635 | D M Clen zing | Redlands Corner work | £3000.01 |
| 100636 | Village Hall Rent | | £ 16.00 |

Above payments proposed Cllr Moorman, seconded Cllr Brandreth and agreed.

10. **Update on the vacancy on the Council following the resignation of Matthew Gillett.**
The Council had been notified by Stratford District Council that no election had been requested. The vacancy may now be filled by co-option. Closing date for applications is 31st December 2010.

11. **Any Other Business that, in the Chairman's opinion should not be postponed to the next meeting.**
Cllr Ashford said he had been in contact with the Highways Department. It had been agreed that the drain at Redlands Row will be jetted. The railing in the A44 layby would be repaired and the fallen trees dealt with.
Matthew Austin, from Stratford District Council had visited the village regarding the fallen leaves. The village should have 5 visits from the kerb

cleaner per year, but the machine can only be used where there are kerbstones. The number of visits must be monitored. It was suggested that clearing the leaves from the pavements would have to be done by villagers. Bags could possibly be obtained from Stratford District Council and arrangements might be made for collection by the green waste team. An alternative was, with the permission of the Fuel Allotment Trust, for a compost heap to be sited in the Poors Meadow.

Mr Morris, Highways Department had reminded Cllr Ashford that when the Highways Dept took over maintenance of the lime trees around Langston Farm, the owner, Mr Bamford had agreed to maintain the holly trees and that they should not grow above the height of the wall. It is the opinion of the Highways Dept that the holly trees should be removed as they are not being maintained. The lime trees will not be pollarded in 2011, but will be finger flailed. Cllr Ashford will talk with Mr Bamford.

Mr Gorst had agreed to cut back the overhanging shrubbery opposite Langston Terrace. Mr McKerron had agreed to remove the fallen trees in the ditches adjoining his land.

Cllr Ashford had thanked David Hancock for his assistance with work in the cemetery.

A refrigerator has been outside Four Gables for some weeks. Cllr Ashford will talk with Mr Smith.

Phil Ward, Rural Housing enabler had written regarding a mixed social and affordable housing scheme, stating that this was against planning policy at the current time.

Cllr Rudge suggested that this subject be put on hold until the scope of the Localism Bill is known.

The meeting closed at 8.09 pm

Date of next meeting Monday 17 January 2011, 7 pm