

Minutes of the Meeting of Little Compton Parish Council held in the Village Hall  
on Monday 11 July 2011

Present: Cllrs. Rudge, Moorman, Ashford, Brandreth and Hall, Parish Clerk Susan Cox and 6 members of the public.

The Chairman wished to record the sad news of the death of Mr. Bob Ford. Bob had been a much respected member of the Parish Council for 12 years, many as Chairman. Cllr. Rudge had written a letter of condolence to Mrs. Barbara Ford.

1. Declarations of Interest. There were none.
2. Apologies for absence. There were none.
3. Declaration of Acceptance of Office. This was signed by the Chairman, Cllr. Rudge.
4. The Minutes of the meeting held on Monday, 16 May 2011 were agreed to be a correct record, proposed by Cllr. Hall, seconded by Cllr. Brandreth and signed by the Chairman.
5. Matters arising from the Minutes - those not included elsewhere on the agenda.  
Item 9 - Village Hall Hearing Loop. Mrs. Cox, Chairman of the Village Hall Committee, reported that the Hearing Loop had been reinstated and engineer tested.  
Item 15 - Insurance. The Chairman reported that, after she and the Clerk had carefully compared the quotes from Aon and Came & Company, it was decided that Came & Company offered slightly better cover for a lesser premium and that quote was duly accepted. The Chairman made the decision not to take up a discount of £30 on a three year contract. At a subsequent meeting with the Chairman and Clerk of Long Compton Parish Council, it was confirmed that they are very pleased with the service they receive from Came and Co.
6. Date of next Meeting. Monday 19 September 2011
7. Reports from District Cllr. Gray and County Cllr. Saint. Neither Councillor attended the meeting.
8. Questions and comments from the public. Mrs. Gillett asked if, in future, this item could appear later on the agenda as items to be commented on were often raised in Councillors' reports. This was agreed.
9. Playground Report. Cllr. Moorman reported that Cllr. Ashford had replaced the platform on the toddler unit and he was duly thanked. The shackles and bushes on the swing need servicing. Spare parts will be obtained and Mr. John Hall has offered to undertake this work with Cllr. Ashford's assistance. Two sets of replacements bushes will be ordered so a spare set will be held for future use. This will complete the work identified in the Annual Safety Report as requiring early attention.
10. Village Maintenance. Cllr. Ashford reported that a grid had been fitted across the entrance to the culvert under the A44 near the layby.  
The receding verge opposite to The Orchard is proving to be difficult to rectify. Sandbags had been suggested, but Cllr. Ashford thought that a double height of kerbstones with concrete at the rear would result in a better long term solution.  
Repair of the railings at the A44 layby and replacement road signs at Redlands Row, the A44

and at the junction with the Rollright Stones Road are still awaited.

Mr. Jeff Morris had confirmed that a letter had been sent to Mr. & Mrs. Bamford at Langston Farm regarding the removal of the holly trees. Mr. Bamford said he is not in agreement that they should be removed as he fears damage to the wall and that he has cut back the holly trees and thinks the result is satisfactory. Cllr. Ashford replied that they are planted on Highways land and the Highways Dept. will deal with the matter and it is intended to cut the trees off at ground level and not disturb the roots.

A meeting is to be held with Mr. Matthew Austin regarding areas of village verges which should be included in the amenity grass cutting scheme.

The hedges and vegetation opposite to Langston Terrace are overgrown again - Cllr. Ashford will approach property owners to ask for them to be cut back.

Problems are still being experienced with horse excrement on the pavements, particularly alongside the A44. It was agreed that a further mention will be made in Centrepont. Cllr. Ashford will contact the Highways Dept. to see if any signs pertaining to this problem are available.

The Parish Council will continue to pursue its request that Little Compton is included on Warwickshire's Primary Gritting Route. It is Warwickshire Winter Maintenance Policy to carry out precautionary gritting on a 'single route into each village' and this is what the Council is requesting. Site meetings have been held with, firstly, Mr. Bryn Patefield and then with Mr. Andrew Savage, both of Warwickshire County Council. To date the request has been refused, despite support from County Councillor Chris Saint.

11. Cemetery. The Clerk reported that details of the new charges had been distributed to Cllrs. Rudge, Hall and Ashford and to all local Funeral Directors.  
Cllr. Hall reported that the Annual Safety Inspection had been carried out on 30<sup>th</sup> June. Three headstones on graves need attention. Relatives of two of those buried had been contacted and have agreed to make a contribution to the work of re-setting the headstones. Mr. John Hall has agreed to carry out this work for a total of £40.  
It was agreed that Thomas Fox Landscaping is carrying out the maintenance of the cemetery satisfactorily. Mr. Fox will spray the weeds on the paths and cemetery entrance at his next visit.  
The Cotswold Wardens have kindly agreed to lay the new hedges in the cemetery extension in 2012 and advise that the sides only are trimmed this year. Mr. Fox has quoted £160 + VAT for the extra work. Further quotes will be obtained.
12. Footpaths and Bridleways. Cllr. Hall reported that the map she has acquired showing public footpaths and bridleways is not clear enough to put on the noticeboard. She will try to obtain a clearer copy.  
The manager at Little Compton Garage has agreed to strim the footpath alongside and to the rear of the garage. Cllr. Hall will approach the Cotswold Wardens regarding putting another step on the stile sited on that footpath.  
The footpath sign by the Green near to Langston Farm has been defaced and is hidden in the hedge. Cllr. Hall will contact the Rights of Way team at W.C.C. regarding this matter.  
Mr. McKerron has had the footpath from Oakham Road to Newtown cleared.  
Cllr. Hall has received a report that the gate at the end of the bridleway from Barton Lane has been closed and she will monitor this. She has still to look at the bridleway leading from Redlands corner.
13. Liaison with local and national organizations. Cllr. Brandreth reported that the details of the proposed Localism Bill will not be made public until later in the year.  
Cllr. Rudge reported on a very worthwhile meeting between the Chairmen and Clerks of Little Compton and Long Compton at which ways of working together were discussed. Long

Compton Parish Council produces an excellent quarterly magazine, funded by advertising, and the possibility of contributing to this was considered.

The Chairman had also been contacted by the Clerk to Rollright Parish Council and talked of ways in which Councils could work together.

Cllr. Brandreth suggested working with adjoining Parish Councils over Neighbourhood Plans would be advantageous.

14. Finance.

The Responsible Financial Officer reported that the Internal Auditor, Mr. Patrick Cooper, had approved the 2010/11 accounts and had, accordingly, signed the Annual Return. The Internal Auditor reported that he did not view a breakdown of the VAT reclaims and the R.F.O. will ensure these are included in future. The R.F.O. had inadvertently claimed £34.95 insurance premium tax and had already written to HMRC to explain this amount will be deducted from the next claim. Councillors agreed unanimously that the report of the Internal Auditor was useful and professionally carried out.

The R.F.O. presented the 2010/11 accounts and the Annual Return to the Council. On a proposal by Cllr. Brandreth and seconded by Cllr. Ashford the accounts and the Annual Return were approved by the Council and signed by the Chairman.

The R.F.O. said that, unfortunately, it had not been noticed that the Annual Return should have been returned to the External Auditor by 30 June 2011. It would be forwarded immediately following the meeting.

The Right of Electors to view the accounts has been displayed on the Parish Council Noticeboard for the required period of time. The R.F.O. reported that no residents had taken the opportunity to view the accounts.

The PAYE returns do not require the Clerk's salary to be paid monthly, so the Clerk will continue to be paid quarterly.

The Clerk had received a request from Stratford D.C. to view a copy of a bank statement as an internal audit is being carried out. The Clerk will contact S.D.C. to verify this is a bona fide request. Councillors agreed to proceed with the request only after it was proved to be genuine.

Bank balances: Current account £124.69 BMM account £8,126.99

On a proposal by Cllr. Hall and seconded by Cllr. Brandreth the following items of expenditure were approved:

Cheques:	100577 - Came & Co Insurance	£686.28*
	100578 Playdale for toddler unit platform	£77.99*
	100579 Thomas Fox	£204.00*
	100580 Stratford DC - domain name	£48.00*
	100681 Thomas Fox	£204.00*
	Tree plaque - reciprocal )	
	Plaque for war memorial - reciprocal)	£80 + VAT*
	Clerk's Salary May & June 2011	£227.42
	Swings spare parts - bushes x 8 )	
	shackles x 4 )	£65.00
	Star Key for play equipment )	+ £10 delivery + VAT

Re-setting of 3 headstones  
Cemetery hedge trimming

£40.00  
£160 max + VAT

Payments \*paid

The purchase of a printer, which had been included in the 2011/12 Budget, for use by the Clerk was discussed. The Clerk had been using her own machine which had now stopped working. The Clerk suggested the purchase of a printer/fax/scanner/copier Hewlett-Packard 8500A Plus model, recommended for the small office and available from Staples at a cost of £166 + VAT. On a proposed by Cllr. Hall and seconded by Cllr. Brandreth it was agreed that the Chairman would look at the website and, if in agreement with the choice, the item would be purchased.

The Clerk had read through the Contract of Employment for Clerks and was happy to sign this. One signed copy would be retained by the Clerk and one by the Chairman.

15. Planning Applications. Cllr Rudge reported:

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| 11/00105/FUL | Rigside - retrospective permission for erection of conservatory and internal alterations - Decision pending. |
| 11/01111/EXT | Compton Graze - extension of time for permission previously granted - no objections.                         |
| 11/00964/FUL | The Red Lion - fence bordering Pill Lane - retrospective application - recently received for comment.        |
| 11/01443/FUL | 1 Post Office Row - First Floor extension and conservatory - recently received for comment.                  |

16. Correspondence.

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| Circulated: | Clerks & Councils Direct<br>L.C.R.  |
| By e-mail   | Superfast Broadband<br>Cutting red tape in Local Councils<br>Workshop on community libraries<br>Planning for traveller sites<br>Relaxation on planning requirements<br>Oil syndicates<br>Management of personal data - planning issues<br>WALC Stratford Liaison meeting 3 October 2011<br>Post-Exercise Watermark Report |

17. Other Business.

1. Cllr. Hall asked if the Council could be informed if a bicycle race is to be routed through the village. Councillors did not know of any mechanism for this as races were planned by different organisations.
2. The benches in the village are in need of refurbishment - this would be included on the agenda for the next meeting.
3. A complaint had been received concerning a resident putting bags of refuse out at incorrect times. It was agreed that the Clerk would compile a standard letter that could be used as necessary.
4. Correspondence had been received from Long Compton Parish Council

regarding a meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> July to discuss a combined village event in 2012 to celebrate the London Olympics and the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. The Chairman agreed to attend.

5. The Community Speed Watch volunteers are awaiting C.R.B. clearance.

6. A builder who had been working at a house in Brewery Row has left some barriers on the grass verge opposite to the house. It was agreed that Cllr. Ashford would put these behind the Village Hall and notify the builder concerned.

7. It was reported that branches from cherry trees at Brewery Row have been cut down and thrown on to the verge opposite. No-one appears to know who has done this, but arrangements will be made for them to be cleared.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.25 pm