

Minutes of the meeting of Little Compton Parish Council held in the Village Hall
on Monday 21 November 2011

Present: Cllrs. Rudge (Chairman), Moorman, Ashford, Brandreth and Hall, Warwickshire County Cllr. Saint, Parish Clerk Susan Cox and 11 members of the public.

1. Declarations of Interest. Cllrs. Brandreth and Hall declared an interest in Item 14 - Planning Application 10/02431/FUL.
2. Apologies for absence. There were none.
3. The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 19 September 2011. These were agreed to be a correct record, proposed by Cllr. Hall, seconded by Cllr. Ashford and duly signed.
4. Matters arising from the minutes not included elsewhere on the agenda.
Item 15 - Mrs. Hanks had asked who was liable for compensation for any injuries incurred by falling branches etc, with reference to the recent accident on the A44. The Chairman replied that the answer from the Forestry Rural Services was that in terms of liability in respect of these willows falling and causing damage, the liability sits with the landowner primarily, as it is his property and maintenance responsibility. Warwickshire County Council, the local highway authority, has a duty of care with regard to trees within falling distance of the highway, a duty which they had discharged, in this case, by writing to the landowner, reminding him of his responsibility and asking him to take action.
5. Date of next meeting - Monday, 16th January 2012
Future Meetings - Mondays 19 March, 21 May, 16 July, 17 September, 19 November 2012.
6. Reports from District Cllr. Gray and County Cllr. Saint.
Cllr. Saint said that he regretted that Little Compton village roads had not been included on the Warwickshire Primary Winter Gritting Route, despite many requests and site meetings. The village might be included on the Secondary Gritting Routes, operated once snow and ice had settled.
He said that opening hours at Shipston Library are to be reduced from April 2012. Warwickshire County Council website gives more details of this and has a consultation document.
7. Playground Report.
Cllr. Moorman reported on finding a number of bottles in the playground, which she had cleared away.
She said the Parish Council had been notified that the District Council will no longer carry out or finance the Annual Safety Inspections of the Playground. Details of three companies qualified to carry out an inspection had been provided, including Digley Associates, who had previously inspected the play equipment for several years. Cllr. Moorman will obtain quotes from the three companies as costs for the 2012 inspection will need to be included in the 2012/13 budget.
8. Village Maintenance.
Cllr. Ashford reported that the potholes in Drivers Lane and those at the top of Oakham Road had been filled. The willows on the A44 had been pollarded by contractors working for Mr. Allen, the landowner. The verge opposite to The Orchard is still awaiting attention. Repairs to the railings at the A44 layby are still outstanding but rubbish from the stream at this point

had been removed. It had been agreed that when the holly bushes bordering Langston Farm have been removed, new signs will be erected at this location.

Cllr. Ashford said that he understood that some promised work may not happen due to a change of contractors by the County Council. Requests will have to be resubmitted.

Under the District Council's Amenity Grass Cutting Scheme, the verges in Malthouse Lane have been cut up to the derestriction sign. The County Council maintains the verges on the A44, including round the corner leading into Malthouse Lane, but this left an area uncut. After negotiations with the District Council and balanced against the verges in the village maintained by residents, it has been agreed that the verge in Malthouse Lane will be cut in its entirety.

During 2011, five cuts of the village verges were expected, but seven were carried out. The cut in February was outstanding from 2010, five further cuts had taken place and an extra cut was arranged by Stratford District Council.

Warwickshire County Council is operating a Snow Warden Scheme and Cllr. Ashford had kindly agreed to undertake this role for the village. The Snow Warden is responsible for keeping the County Council informed about snow levels in the village. Ten 25k tubs of grit will be provided for use primarily on footpaths and, if necessary, on roads (but not for use on private property). It is hope that these can be stored at Redlands Farm and at Himley. The County Council is in possession of snow blowers which could be delivered, if available, for village use.

The Warwickshire Primary Gritting Route Map has been received and despite numerous meetings and letters, the village has not been included. Cllr. Ashford suggested that if any vehicular accidents occur in the village as a result of ice/snow, he is informed and will compile a list which can be submitted to the County Council in support of a future request to be included on the Primary Gritting Route.

It was agreed that village benches would need maintenance in the Spring.

A Tidy the Village morning will be held on Sunday 4 December, - meet by the telephone box at 10.00a.m.

9. Cemetery. Cllr. Hall reported that Thomas Fox had now cut the sides of the hedge bordering Jordan's Orchard in the cemetery extension and the top hedge - these will probably be laid next year by the Cotswold Wardens. He has also cut all the hedges adjacent to the road. It was agreed that an amount should be allowed in the budget for trimming the sides of the two hedges in the extension in the event that they were not ready for laying next year. Cllrs. Hall and Rudge will meet with the Clerk to review the tender documents.
10. Footpaths and Bridleways. Cllr. Hall reported that a map is still awaited from Warwickshire County Council. The Chairman was able to supply a copy which could be useful in the meantime and will be put on the village noticeboard.

Cllr. Hall will ask the Cotswold Wardens if they can assist with repairing the stile on the footpath beside Little Compton Garage and to help with work needed on other footpaths and bridleways. Owners of land adjoining the bridleway opposite to Redlands Farm agreed that the Cotswold Wardens may carry out work on this right of way.

A replacement footpath sign has been ordered for the pathway leading up to Langston Farm.

A complaint had been received that leaves and grass trimmings had been deposited on the footpath leading from the end of the tarmac in Pill Lane. Cllr. Hall will monitor this.

Landowners Public Liability Insurance should cover any claims from users of public rights of way, providing negligence can be proved.

11. Liaison with Local and National Organisations Cllr. Brandreth reported that the Localism Bill is now an Act of Parliament. A number of details need to be resolved before the act becomes workable. The range of initiatives in the Bill will allow local councils to have a greater say in local development and services. If the Parish Council wants, in the future, to take on more responsibility, gaining Quality Status would be an advantage. A lot of questions are raised, such as does a Parish Council has sufficient expertise or time to take on more responsibilities.

W.A.L.C. and C.P.R.E. are organising a series of events on the planning system, which are free of charge and open to Councillors and members of the public:

Saturday, 28 January 2012 Fillongley Village Hall

Saturday, 11 February 2012 Dunchurch Village Hall

Saturday 24 March 2012 Ettington Community Centre

The Olympic Torch route will pass within 9.5 miles of everyone in the UK. On 1st July the torch will be carried through Broadway and Chipping Campden; on 9th July it will pass through Woodstock. Some locations will be holding events to celebrate the occasion.

12. Village Newsletter/Questionnaire.

Cllr. Rudge said she is eager to move forward with a Village Newsletter/ Questionnaire to gather local opinion on certain issues such as whether the village wishes to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and, if so, what form any celebration should take.

Other issues which could be raised included: a community orchard - would villagers support this and suggest a suitable area of land which could be used; using workers on the Payback Scheme organised by Community Services on projects in the village, such as leaf clearing; participatory budgeting (this would entail the Parish Council putting aside an amount of money each year to be accrued, if necessary, and spent on the most popular project requested by villagers, such as a toddler swing in the playground). This will be discussed at the Annual Parish Meeting.

Councillors were asked for any other items for inclusion.

13. Finance. Balances at Bank: Current a/c £453.54,
BMM a/c £9128.88

The Half Yearly Accounts were presented by the Responsible Financial Officer. A transitional refund of £49.05 of cemetery business rates has been received, this being the full amount paid in 2011. Adoption of the accounts was proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Cllr. Ashford and agreed.

Budget 2012/13 - A draft budget will be presented at the January meeting. Councillors were asked to forward any requests for funding to the Responsible Financial Officer by 6 January. Suggested items to be included were additional village grass cutting, a new village noticeboard and membership of the C.P.R.E.

On a proposal by Cllr. Moorman and seconded by Cllr. Rudge, the following payments were agreed (*previously paid):

Ch 100690	Thomas Fox	£396.00*	
100691	J Hall repairs	£ 40.00*	
100692	Thomas Fox	£204.00*	
100693	S Cox salary July -Sep	£341.13*	
	Printer repayment	£ 60.00	
	WALC Chairman Briefing 3 Dec	£ 35.00	Chairman to attend
	WALC Financial Clinic 19 Jan	£ 30.00	Clerk and Chairman to attend
	Village Hall Rent	£ 96.00	

The printer purchased for use by the Clerk, with an additional black cartridge, totalled £228.32. A cash back offer of £60 was part of the purchase deal. The Clerk had purchased the printer online using a personal credit card, and had inadvertently deducted this £60 from the price and also refunded £60 to the Parish Council account, thus repaying this £60 twice. It was agreed to repay £60 to the Clerk.

14. Planning Applications. Cllr Rudge reported on the following applications:

10/02431/FUL	Land behind Jordans Orchard - an appeal against Stratford District Council refusal had been submitted.	Decision pending.
11/00105/FUL	Rigside - retrospective application for the main house to become a holiday let and the extension to become residential accommodation.	Decision pending.
11/00964/FUL	The Red Lion - fence bordering Pill Lane.	Granted at Planning Committee.
11/01393/FUL	Kitebrook Farm - installation of solar panels.	Granted
11/02040/FUL	2 Brewery Row - Two storey and single storey extension.	Decision pending.

15. Correspondence.

By e-mail:

Shipston/Stour Community Forum 27 September
 Rollright Quarry liaison group
 Warwickshire Health Watch
 WALC Liaison meeting minutes 3rd October
 WALC Area meeting minutes 19 October
 Superfast Broadband for Coventry, Warwickshire and Solihull
 WALC Up2date
 Charles Barlow offer of 30 volunteers
 Warwickshire CC Local Councils Charter
 Agenda Document for Planning Committee (East) 16 November
 Planning Committee Notification 11/00964/FUL
 WALC Newsletter 97
 Speed Aware Scheme

By circulation:

LCR Autumn 2011
 Clerks & Councils Direct September 2011
 Stour/Shipston Community Forum (noticeboard)
 The Cotswold Lion

WALC Annual report and Annual Meeting 27 October

16. Questions and Comments from the Public. Ms. McCarthy, Mrs. Powell and Mr. Clifton raised questions and comments regarding retrospective Planning Application 11/00964/FUL. Ms. McCarthy asked why there had been a waste of tax-payers money in the application going before the planning committee. The Chairman replied that she agreed that the application should not have been referred to the planning committee, but unfortunately it had slipped through the planning process and proceeded to committee. She understood from the responsible planning officer that the decision had been taken while he was on holiday. She also pointed out that Councillors were voluntary workers. Ms. McCarthy said she considered that the planning committee should apologise to Mr. and Mrs. Powell.

Mrs. Powell said that she understood that the application had been referred to the planning committee because the Parish Council had objected. The Chairman said that the Parish Council had not objected to the application, but had brought to the attention of the Planning Department, for their consideration, that it was not in keeping with the Village Design Statement and that the final decision is made by the District Council. The Parish Council had expected the decision to be made by designated powers.

Mrs. Powell said that the Parish Council was asked if it wanted to change its response (after the fence had been painted) and had elected to adhere to its first response. The Chairman said the Council considered that the fence was still not in keeping with the V.D.S.

Mrs. Powell said there were other fences in the village. The Chairman said that these were erected before the time of the current Parish Council and could not comment.

Cllr. Moorman said that that the Parish Council had been elected to represent the residents of the village and the Village Design Statement had been compiled in consultation with all the village residents as a guide and was one of the considerations the Parish Council took into account when responding to planning applications. She agreed it was unfortunate the application had slipped through the system and said that when the Parish Council was notified that the application had been referred to the planning committee, it had tried unsuccessfully to stop it.

Mr. Clifton said he had lived in the village for fourteen years and had never been consulted about a Village Design Statement. Mrs. Cox said she had lived in the village for fifteen years and had taken part in the consultation period of the Village Design Statement during its compilation

Cllr. Ashford said that when asked to comment on a planning application, he tries to put himself in the position of those affected by it. In this case, he commented that the fence was not in keeping with the V.D.S. and was concerned about the effect of the fence on the light in the house opposite. He considered that the procedure had been correct and the fact that everything was done correctly was very important to him.

Mr. Evans reported on plans for the Big Tree Planting Scheme. Funding could be available for a local initiative such as a community orchard or an extensive community planting scheme if suitable land could be identified.

17. Other Business. There was none.

The meeting closed at 8.40 pm.