

Minutes of the Meeting of Little Compton Parish Council held in the Village Hall
on Monday 19 March 2012

Present: Cllrs. Rudge (Chairman), Moorman (Vice Chairman), Ashford, Brandreth and Hall, Susan Cox (Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer), Warwickshire County Councillor Chris Saint, Stratford District Councillor Stephen Gray and 9 members of the public.

1. Declarations of Interest. There were none.
2. Apologies for absence. There were none.
3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 16 January 2012. The Minutes were agreed to be a correct record, proposed by Cllr. Hall, seconded by Cllr. Ashford and signed accordingly.
4. Matters arising from the Minutes - not Included elsewhere on the agenda.
The ditch opposite to The Orchard - action is still awaited from County Highways. Cllr. Saint had not realised that he had agreed to chase progress, but would now follow the matter up.
The willow trees opposite to High Corner - Jeff Morris, County Highways, had confirmed that the trees were in the hedge line and the responsibility of the landowner, but did not consider that the trees were hazardous at this time.
The Parish Noticeboard - Cllr. Ashford had overseen the refurbishment of the Parish noticeboard. Calarel had made the replacement doors at a cost of £228 and further materials totalled £112.65, prices including VAT. Cllr. Ashford was thanked for the time given to this work. The Clerk will write a letter of thanks to Calarel who had expedited the work.
5. Minutes of the Meeting held on 23 January 2012. The Minutes were agreed to be a correct record, proposed by Cllr. Moorman, seconded by Cllr. Brandreth, and signed accordingly.
6. Matters arising from the Minutes - not Included elsewhere on the agenda. There were none.
7. Date of next Meeting. Monday 21 May 2012.
8. Reports from District Cllr. Gray and County Cllr. Saint. Cllr. Gray reported that all budget meetings had been completed and precepts agreed. The District Council precept will show a 1% reduction on the previous financial year, although the Police budget will show an increase. The Draft Core Strategy consultation is taking place and will conclude at the end of this month. The number of houses to be built in the next 20 years has been part of these discussions, and preference will be given to villages with shops and regular bus services. Comments will be invited. Local Council elections are taking place on 3 May in other parts of the District.
Cllr. Saint reported that there will be no change in the County Council precept. The Police have budgeted for a £400,000 increase equating to a 3.9% increase. Police Commissioner elections will take place in November. In respect of the offer of dropped kerbs, discussed at the Annual Parish Meeting, he suggested the Parish Council take up the offer of this work as funding is not always readily available. The shop at the recycling centre in Shipston is to be run by a charity. Shipston Library hours are changing. Shipston Police Station is now closed to the public but a police facility will be available at Shipston Library.
9. Questions and Comments from the Public. Mrs. Fitch referred to Cllr. Saint's report of the Police facility at Shipston Library and asked how much village time the team has. Cllr. Saint reported that the one constable allocated has a large area to cover. Mr. Powell, landlord of the Red Lion, said that a

patrol car can be seen occasionally at closing time.

10. Playground Report. Cllr. Moorman reported that the annual safety inspection had been carried out by Digley Associates, without instruction from or notice to the Parish Council. Stratford District Council had confirmed that many Parish Councils had reported the same occurrence, but that the price was good and the same discount that had been offered to the District Council was being offered to Parish Councils. The report identified that the basketball surface needed grass and moss removed, the benches required mould removed and timber treatment, molehills should be cleared and the pedestrian gate should be replaced. Councillors agreed that gate identified in the report served the houses, not the playground. It was agreed to ask Mr. John Hall to quote for the work and that the Parish Council must authorise and be notified of future inspections

11. Village Maintenance. Cllr. Ashford reported that the village could benefit from dropped kerbs in some locations. Remedial work on the culvert by 1 Red Lodge is being undertaken by the bridge team and a missing drain cover on the A44 has been temporarily made safe. The first verge cut has taken place and the village gutters, where there are kerbstones, have been swept. Cllr. Ashford said there are concerns regarding stones placed on grass verges. A car had recently been damaged because a resident had to drive between stones and a parked car. He had asked the person concerned to remove the stones and the owner of the car to park more considerately. Residents who put stones on Council land are liable for any damage caused to vehicles or pedestrians. Church Lane to Drivers Lane will shortly be closed for pot hole filling - dates and details will be on the Parish noticeboard. This is prior to this area of road being given an overlay of tarmac later in the year.

12. Cemetery. Cllr. Hall reported that the burial of a non resident took place on March 12th 2012 (plot 14AX). Her family had also reserved the two adjacent plots (13AX and 12AX). The family would like to plant a tree with a plaque and donate a bench to the cemetery. They have been thanked for their proposed gifts and will be contacted shortly. It was agreed to consult the tree warden, Jeremy Evans, re. the siting of a tree and to ensure that a new bench was compatible with existing benches. A request for a memorial stone for Terence Longdon had been received and affirmed. Banbury memorials will be erecting this during the week commencing April 16th 2012. A request had been received to bury three ashes urns in the existing grave of a relative. Cllrs. Rudge and Hall met with the applicant and talked this through. The exact position of the grave in the old part of the cemetery is not clear and cemetery records do not show that the named relative is buried in that grave. It was suggested that a new grave would probably be more suitable so the three urns could be interred and a full size headstone erected in memory of the three persons. This is still under discussion and no definitive decision has been made.

13. Footpaths and Bridleways Report. Cllr. Hall reported that new footpath signs, ordered in November, for Langston Farm and Pill Lane are still awaited. Work Ref 294218. Also still awaited is the removal of the stile at the entrance to the footpath by Little Compton Garage. Cllr. Hall said she would contact the Cotswold Wardens and the WCC Rights of Way Officer regarding the maintenance of some bridleways when the weather becomes more clement. She had received information regarding problems along a bridleway that runs from Wheelbarrow Castle to Long Compton and will be contacting the landowner shortly to ask if vegetation can be cut back during the growing season.

14. Liaison with Local and National Organisations. Cllr. Brandreth reported that copies of the Draft Core Strategy are available from the Stratford DC Council offices or online. NALC discussions are taking place regarding a proportion of Business Rates being returned to Parish and Town Councils. Any extra money would be an asset to village maintenance projects.

15. Queens Diamond Jubilee Celebrations. Cllr. Rudge said that of the 130 questionnaires circulated, only 27 had been returned, with two verbal responses. It was disheartening to assume that 77.6% of the village are not interested. The Chairman said that the Parish Council is able to make some money available for an event. A meeting of those who had offered help will be arranged, to ascertain what, if any, celebrations will be organised in the village.

The Red Lion will be hosting a barbecue with live music on the Sunday 3rd June and would welcome residents joining in. Mrs. Powell said there will be no entrance fee, but food and drink would be for sale. She suggested the village could sell tea and cakes.

16. Finance. The Responsible Financial Officer reported:

1. Balances at Bank - c/a £367.34 (includes £120 for a headstone fee recently received).
d/a £8030.77

2. To approve payments (*paid):

Ch 100701	Clerk's Salary Oct-Dec 2011`	£341.13*
100702	Calarel - Noticeboard repair	£228.00*
100703	Petty Cash	£20.00*
100704	RW Ashford - noticeboard expenses	£112.65*
100706	BT Broadband	£56.16*
	Clerk's Salary Jan-March 2012	£341.13
	Clerk's annual office expenses	£75.00
	Digley - Playground Insp.	£45.60

Approval was agreed on the above payments on a proposal by Cllr. Hall and seconded by Cllr. Brandreth.

3. Approval was given to pay Thomas Fox for Cemetery Maintenance, on receipt of invoices, during the financial year 2012/13, not exceeding the accepted tender of £1789.

Approval was given to pay Veolia for verge cutting, on receipt of invoices, during the financial year 2012/13, not exceeding the accepted tender of £220 per cut, for a maximum of four cuts.

Proposed by Cllr. Ashford, seconded Cllr. Rudge and agreed.

17. Planning Applications. Cllr Rudge reported:

10/02431/FUL	Land behind Jordans Orchard	Appeal dismissed
11/00105/FUL	Rigside	Permission granted. The building shall only be used either as a single dwelling or used as a single dwelling and separate holiday accommodation. At no time shall there be more than one unrestricted dwelling on the site.
11/02724/FUL	Orchard Cottage - First floor side extension.	Permission granted.
11/02756/TPO	2 Rivington Glebe - Ash cut back and weeping willow crown reduction	Permission granted
12/00345/FUL	Kitebrook Farm - Retrospective application for pond & path and other engineering works on agricultural land. Councillors had made a site visit and raised no objections.	Decision pending.

18. Correspondence.

By e-mail

WALC Allocation of accommodation guidance

Weekly e-mail news digest X 2

Information for Community Forums re Broadband Project

WALC Stratford Liaison Meeting
WALC Pre-determination and Localism Act
Community Forum 16 February
Parish and Partners Briefing Core Strategy Special
Core Strategy Presentation 24 February
Letter re changes to Mobile Library Service
Volunteer Centre Stratford - Group Volunteering
Free Training event on Neighbourhood Planning
David Ramsbottom - Wind Turbines
Changes to Members Code of Conduct and Disclosure of Interests
Shipston/Stour Community Forum 13 March
Next Step Training - developing the Councillors Role
Legal Topic 81 on Pre-determination
Business Rates - Parish & Town Councils to receive a share?

By circulation:

Warwickshire Community Awards
WRCC Rural Champions
The Arden
Stour Community Forum 1st March

19. Other Business.

Bringing Superfast Broadband to Rural Areas - a number of information sessions will be taking place in the county. Details will be placed on the noticeboard and website. Cllr. Brandreth had completed the online survey, but had found this to be confusing.

Letter from Mrs Mulliner, Wheelbarrow Castle, regarding the speed of traffic along Barton Lane. Poor visibility and blind corners together with an increase in traffic due to development towards Barton on the Heath was giving cause for concern. Jeff Morris, County Highways, is willing to have a site meeting to discuss the matter further.

The meeting closed at 9.27 pm