

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Little Compton Parish Council held at the Village Hall
on Monday 28 May 2012

Present: Cllrs. Moorman (Vice Chairman), Ashford, Brandreth and Hall, Susan Cox (Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer), Stratford District Councillor Stephen Gray and 18 members of the public.

1. Election of Chairman and signing of Declaration of Acceptance of Office
Cllr Jennifer Rudge was elected as Chairman, proposed Cllr Ashford, seconded Cllr Hall. The Declaration of Office will be signed at the next meeting.
(Advice taken from WALC - A Councillor can be voted in as Chairman in their absence, clearly their agreement to being proposed should be obtained by the Councillor proposing, in advance) Agreement was received by Cllr Rudge in advance of the meeting.
2. Election of Vice Chairman
Cllr Moorman was elected as Vice Chairman, proposed Cllr Hall, seconded Cllr Brandreth.
3. Declarations of Interest
There were none.
4. Apologies for absence
Apologies were received from Cllr Rudge and Warwickshire C Councillor Saint.
5. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 19 March 2012
Cllr Brandreth referred to Item 17 Planning, 10/02431/FUL Land behind Jordans Orchard. Cllr Rudge had ended her report by saying 'The land will revert to agricultural use'. This had been omitted from the minutes.
It was proposed Cllr Hall, seconded Cllr Brandreth that with this addition, the minutes be signed by the Vice Chairman.
6. Matters arising from the minutes not included elsewhere
Ditch opposite The Orchard - Cllr Ashford reported that no progress had been made but the latest proposal was to place some large concrete pipes in the ditch for about 20 yards and fill over these. Any work is dependent on funding.
Parish Noticeboard - It was reported that the Clerk had written a letter of thanks to Calarel
7. Date of next Meeting Monday 16 July 2012
8. Reports from District Cllr Gray and County Cllr Saint
Cllr Gray reported that only one seat had changed following elections. The Local Development Framework consultation had taken place and responses are being collated - the name will revert to that of Local Plan. Development will be concentrated in larger villages which have local services. The District Council is continuing to look at areas where cost savings can be made, such as sharing services with other local councils.
9. Questions and Comments from the Public
Mrs Brandreth said that the residents of Brewery Row were disappointed with the standard of the latest verge cut. Cllr Ashford had taken this up with Mr Austin who had visited. The equipment used by the contractors is intended for use when nine cuts were taking place, but now only five cuts are being made during the season. New personnel were on the cutting team. The current contract will be up for renewal at the end of this season. Cllr Ashford is waiting to be informed of the dates of the proposed cuts so he can organise any extra cuts needed which will be paid for by the Parish Council.
Mr Powell said he had been mowing the footpath in Pill Lane. A trailer had been parked there,

obstructing the mowing, and Mr Newman had taken to parking outside his house. Mr Powell asked if Mr Newman could be asked that trailer could be moved. Cllr Ashford reported that Mr Newman had asked him to request that Mr Powell stops mowing the verge outside his property. Cllr Moorman agreed to look into the matter.

Cllr Hall reported that the verge outside Jordans Orchard had not been cut although it is within the Parish boundary. Cllr Ashford will report this.

Mr Bamford asked about the legality of parking on grass verges. Cllr Ashford had talked with highways department regarding this matter, and it appears that rather than parking on the roadside and blocking traffic, there appears no alternative.

10. Annual Accounts

1. To review accounts as approved by Internal Auditor

Mr Patrick Cooper had carried out the internal audit and all Councillors had received a copy of the 2011/12 accounts. In addition to the precept, £2358 had been received in respect of cemetery income, which included £600 from the closure of the Friends of Little Compton Cemetery account. This income has left the reserves in a comfortable state with a surplus of £8696.

2. To approve accounts and complete the annual governance statement

The Annual Governance Statement was completed and the 2011/12 accounts were approved on a proposal by Cllr Ashford, seconded by Councillor Brandreth. The statement and relevant papers need to be with the external auditor by July 9th

3. To review the efficacy of the Internal Audit

Councillors agreed that Mr Cooper carries out the internal audit with due diligence and in a businesslike manner relevant to the size of the accounts. The Clerk will write a letter of thanks to Mr Cooper. The accounts will be available for members of the public to view by prior arrangement at the Clerk's home. Details will be placed on the Parish noticeboard,

11. Playground Report

Cllr Moorman reported that all seems to be in order. Mr Hall had cleared moss and weeds from around the basketball area and benches. The Clerk will write him a letter of thanks.

12. Village Maintenance

Cllr Ashford reported that the railings in the A44 layby have been replaced. Potholes which appeared opposite High Corner have been dealt with but have reappeared. Broken tarmac and stones had been placed on the verge at Redlands Corner. This had raised the ground level and would impede floodwater from draining, and they have been removed. A pipe in the ditch at the village sign in Oakham Road appears blocked. Mr and Mrs Bamford are having work done with this pipework, to drain through their field opposite. A site meeting will be arranged with the Parish Council, the Highways Department and Mr & Mrs Bamford.

A drain cover near Langston Farm has been under water for some time. Mr Jeff Morris, Highways department is of the opinion that this is a BT cover. He has placed an order on the work which should take place within ten days.

Mr Evans had represented Cllr Ashford at a meeting with Highways Department and Mrs Mulliner, Wheelbarrow Castle, regarding the blind corners and speed of traffic on Barton Lane. It was felt that signage would be ineffective, but the verge could be cut back and leveled. Funding could be an issue, but Stratford District Council could be approached.

13. Cemetery

Cllr Hall reported that the scheduled cutting is taking place. Ms Debbie Turner, former resident, has requested a burial plot reservation in which three cremation urns can be interred. Mrs Bamford asked about non-residents being accepted into the cemetery. Cllr Hall replied that the cemetery has been re-opened to non-residents and one burial had taken place. This practice will be under periodic review and villagers will be consulted if any changes are proposed.

14. Footpaths and Bridleways report

Cllr Hall reported that she had not received any comments about the village footpaths. The owner of Redlands Farm has cut back the growth alongside the bridleway and is awaiting assistance from the Cotswold Wardens on one section where this floods. Due to the weather conditions, it has been too wet to work in the area. Footpath signs are still awaited for Langston Farm and Pill Lane. The stile adjacent to Little Compton Garage is still awaiting work.

15. Liaison with local and national organisations

Cllr Brandreth reported that there was nothing to report at the present time.

16. Queens Diamond Jubilee Celebrations

Cllr Hall reported that with agreement from the Parish Councillors by email (Councillor Ashford was taken a hard copy) the expenditure for the Jubilee celebrations has commenced.

At March's Parish Council meeting it was agreed by all Councillors to go ahead with the public meetings (advertised in the village Centrepoint). Three public meetings have since been undertaken, where the details of the Jubilee Celebration have been discussed and agreed by all present. She has also emailed all fellow Parish Councillors and kept Councillor Ashford informed throughout.

Mr and Mrs McKerran have kindly agreed to the celebration being held in their garden. They are also allowing us use of 2 large tables, parasols, some seating, an outside power socket and an outside tap.

The Parish Clerk had reviewed the Public Liability Insurance and it will cover things like burns from liquid, but not if a person twists their ankle in the garden. Therefore she will be wording a disclaimer and putting it on the gate so people enter at their own risk.

A tapestry that was sewn for The Queen's Coronation by Nan (Ada) Lions (Sue Bamford's nanny) has very kindly been loaned to us for the day by Sue Bamford and will be on display

It was agreed that the village would present a gift of a £5 Commemorative Diamond Jubilee Coin to every child in the village (16 yrs and under). Expenditure for this was again agreed by Parish Councillors by email and phone calls.

These coins are only available from The Royal Mint and forty have been ordered at the cost of £12.99 each, with a one off payment of £2.95 p&p, total £522.55. Delivery was received on Saturday May 26th 2012.

Purchases to date total £74.53

She has provisionally asked Jeremy Evans to carry out the toast to the Queen and has asked Roy Newman (longest standing village resident - 81yrs) to present the coins to the children.

Councillors agreed to the plans.

17. Finance

The Responsible Financial Officer reported

1. Balances at Bank c/a £2562.11 dep a/c £9030.77

The first instalment of the precept has been received. This amount is required in the cheque account as annual bills are due, and the Clerk was unsure if any further amounts of Jubilee expenditure are anticipated.

2. To approve payments *paid

Jim Sked - final payment for cemetery gates £250+VAT
(funds from Friends LC Cemetery/Golden Jubilee Fund)

Ch 100647	Thomas Fox	£104.40 inc VAT*
Ch 100648	Royal Mint	£522.55 inc VAT*
	Came & Co Insurance renewal	£718.79 (due 1 st June)

WALC subscription	£ 88.00 (due 31 st May)
Thomas Fox	£208.80
Clerk Salary (April - May)	£227.42
Petty Cash	£20.00

Jubilee expenditure

2 receipts £72.53 and £2.00 presented by Cllr Hall
 Jubilee Coins (as above) £522.55
 Tree plaque £ 37.50 + VAT

Approval of payments was proposed by Cllr Brandreth, seconded by Cllr Moorman.

There will be a zero liability for Cemetery Business Rates during the current financial year.

18. Planning Applications

Cllr Moorman reported on behalf of Cllr Rudge

12/00345/FUL	Kitebrook Farm - retrospective application for pond and path and other engineering works on agricultural land	Permission granted
12/00684/TPO	6 Rivington Glebe, trees work	Permission granted
12/00690/FUL	Maple House extensions etc	Decision pending
12/00977/LBC & FUL	Two storey extension at Compton Graze	Decision pending

19. Vacancy for Parish Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer

Mrs Susan Cox has resigned the post with effect from 31st May. With the approval of the Parish Council, she has kindly agreed to remain in post until the return of the Chairman.

20. Correspondence

By e-mail

WALC up to date info service 13 and cut to audit fee for small councils

Urban Design Officer Post

Making the most of your role as Parish Councillor

Warwickshire Area Committees and Community Forum

Empowering town & parish councils

WALC newsletter 99

WALC briefing events

WALC Newsletter 100 and NALC briefing

21. Other Business

Mrs Cox drew the attention of those present to the make up of the Village Hall Committee which consists of both nominated members of other village organisations and elected members. Villagers were urged to attend the annual meeting on 9th July as a new committee will be needed.

The meeting closed at 8.05 pm