

Minutes of the Meeting of Little Compton Parish Council held in the Village Hall  
on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2012

Present: Cllrs. Rudge (Chairman), Moorman, Ashford, Brandreth and Hall, County Cllr. Saint and 7 members of the public

The Chairman said that following the resignation of the Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer she would undertake this role until a new Clerk and R.F.O. is appointed.

1. Declarations of Interest. There were none.
2. Apologies for absence had been received from District Cllr. Gray.
3. Declaration of Acceptance of Office. This was signed by the Chairman, Cllr. Rudge.
4. The Minutes of the meeting held on Monday, 28th May 2012 were agreed to be a correct record, proposed by Cllr. Moorman, seconded by Cllr. Ashford and signed by the Chairman.
5. Matters arising from the Minutes - those not included elsewhere on the agenda. The Chairman said she wished to clarify that the request made to Councillors for initial approval of Jubilee expenses prior to formal approval at the May Council Meeting had not been made casually. Information had been given on why the request had been made (plans for the Jubilee were made between the March and May meetings), notes from W.A.L.C. on Parish Councils contributions to this type of celebration, the Parish Council's financial position and an estimate of expected costs. Councillors were fully informed before making the decision to proceed.
6. Date of next Meeting. Monday 17<sup>th</sup> September 2012.
7. Report from County Cllr. Saint. This item was postponed until later in the meeting.
8. Questions and comments from the public. Mr. Richard Gillett asked how many Jubilee commemorative coins were purchased, how many were given to children of the Parish and how many were left. Cllr. Hall said forty coins were purchased, thirty nine for the children and one was given to Mr. Roy Newman who, as the longest serving resident of Little Compton, had presented the coins to all the children who had attended the Jubilee party. Mr. Gillett said his grandchildren had not received their coins. Cllr. Hall replied that presenting the remaining coins at another village event had been considered, but as no such event was imminent, would now be delivered to home addresses. It was agreed that three children who lived just outside the border of the parish were included with Little Compton children as they were regular participants in Little Compton events.

Mr. Gillett referred to the Council Meeting in September 2010 when a member of the public read a letter suggesting that Cllr. Ashford and Cllr. Gillett exchanged areas of responsibility. He was concerned that two Councillors were aware of the contents of the letter before the meeting. All Councillors denied any previous knowledge and said they were very sorry that Mr. Matthew Gillett had found it necessary to resign over the matter.

Mrs. Hanks said she was pleased to see the Chairman back and hoped all was now well. The Chairman thanked Mrs. Hanks and said her husband was recovering well.

Mrs. Hanks asked Cllr. Brandreth what his plans were regarding the Parish Council since he was leaving the village. He said that he was still waiting for a final date for the move and would then decide what to do.

Playground Report. Cllr. Moorman said she had found a lot of bottles, some broken, in the playground. It was agreed that this was a worrying development, but it may have been the result of a one-off party by students. If it continued a letter should be sent to Reed College.

10. Village Maintenance. Cllr. Ashford said that a site meeting had taken place with Jeff Morris (W.C.C. Highways), Mr. and Mrs. Bamford and Cllr. Ashford on Oakham Road hill. It was agreed that Jeff Morris would arrange for the jetting of the recently discovered under-road culvert and Mr. and Mrs. Bamford would have a ditch dug alongside the edge of their field leading down towards Jordan's Orchard. It was also implied that they would dig out a ditch on the opposite side of the road near the pipe. Cllr. Ashford said the culvert under the road had now been jetted showing where the pipe comes out and marked on the plan.

He said that visibility from the village onto the A44 can be very poor. It has now been agreed with Jeff Morris that, in future, grass cuts of the A44 will cover the whole of the verge.

Cllr. Ashford said he had spoken to Matthew Austin at S.D.C. about the poor standard of village grass cutting. A new team had been started to come to villages between the routine cuts and would cut the entrances and exits to the village. This team could be expected in Little Compton in 2 to 2 ½ weeks time with the next routine cut expected during the week beginning 13<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup> August, although it was very difficult to be precise.

Cllr. Ashford said that the water leak in the road near Langston Farm had been reported to the Highways Dept. six months ago. It is understood that the cover from which the water is leaking belongs to BT. Cllr. Ashford had called the Highways Dept. regularly and had been told that the Highways Dept would send a team to lift the cover to see what was underneath and also that the leak had been reported to Seven Trent Water. He had called Severn Trent today, was told they were unaware of the problem and would come out within 24 hours.

He understood that Jeff Morris had met with Richard Elbourne of W.C.C. regarding the speed of traffic and poor visibility on Barton Lane and had thought there was a possibility that a passing place could be put in, subject to funding. Cllr. Ashford had agreed to ask Cllr. Saint about possible funding.

11. Cemetery. Cllr. Hall reported that the burial of Mrs. Bamford had taken place and understood that a plot would be shortly reserved for her husband. She is still awaiting further contact from Ms Turner to reserve a plot for the interment of three funeral urns. She had not heard from the Cotswold Wardens regarding laying the hedge in the cemetery, but would follow it up.

12. Footpaths and Bridleways. Cllr. Hall said there had been no contact from the Cotswold Wardens regarding work on sections of the bridleway opposite to Redlands Farm, which remain very wet. The footpath signs for Langston Farm and Pill Lane are still awaited.

7. Report from County Cllr. Saint . Cllr. Saint reported on the following: Government money had been set aside to improve Broadband speeds in rural areas. It was essential that all register on the website [www.cswbroadband.org.uk](http://www.cswbroadband.org.uk) as this is an area where good broadband speeds are needed for future development.

W.C.C. is now effectively responsible for issuing Concessionary travel passes. From April 2013 these will be photo cards to eliminate fraud. Anyone who is eligible and has not heard from the County Council by the end of September should contact W.C.C. For those who already have a pass with a photograph, the replacement should be automatic.

A private company has been recruited to take over the management of Low Furlong, the Care Home for the Elderly in Shipston on Stour, in October. It is understood that the charges and rates of pay for existing staff will remain the same.

Cllr. Ashford asked if there was any funding available for a passing place, possibly to be constructed of well-compacted gravel, in Barton Lane. Cllr. Saint said that the Road Safety budget for the current year is fully committed, but the funding for 2013/2014 would be discussed at a January meeting.

Cllr. Saint said the extra grass cut for this season is a full cut. Hopefully seven full cuts will be provided next year.

13. Liaison with local and national organizations. Cllr. Brandreth brought to the attention of the meeting the Planning Portal's aim to streamline the planning system by cutting out unnecessary information in the application process.

13a. New Code of Conduct. The Standards Board of England was dispersed earlier this year and Parish Councils are required to make new arrangements for the Code of Conduct of Councillors. W.A.L.C. has recommended that Parish Councils continue with the current Code of Conduct until the Local Authority has adopted its own Code. Therefore, on a proposal by Cllr. Ashford and seconded by Cllr. Moorman, it was agreed that Little Compton Parish Council will continue with the current Code of Conduct, but have the intention to adopt Stratford District Council's Code when it has been adopted by the District Council.

14. The Queen's Diamond Jubilee Celebrations. The Chairman said the celebrations had been a huge success, mainly due to the hard work of several people and thanks go to them. Commemorative coins were presented to the children who attended the Jubilee party and the remainder would be delivered to home addresses during the next few weeks.

15. Finance. Balances at bank: c/a £458.29                      b/m £9,632.18

There had been a VAT refund of £544.07

The 2011/12 accounts were submitted to the External Auditor in good time and the Right of Electors to view the Annual Accounts was duly advertised on the Parish Council Noticeboard.

\*Payments previously approved:

*100649 Insurance	£718.79
*100650 WALC Subscription	£ 88.00
*100651 Thomas Fox	£208.80
*100652 S Cox salary April/May 2012	£227.42

*100653 C Hall Jubilee expenditure	£ 74.53
*100654 Petty Cash	£ 20.00
*100655 Thomas Fox	£208.80
*100656 Veolia	£264.00
*100658 Thomas Fox	£208.80
*100659 Mr.J.Sked	£300.00

On a proposal by Cllr. Hall and seconded by Cllr. Moorman, the following items of expenditure were approved: \*100657 Signs Engraving £48.00  
(Previous approval given for £35.00 +VAT)  
\*100660 Mrs. J. Fitch Jubilee expenditure £76.43

16. Planning Applications. Cllr Rudge reported:

12/00690/FUL	Maple House extension	Permission with conditions - no further details to date
12/00977/FUL	Compton Graze	
12/00983/LBC	Two storey rear extension, alterations to external glazing and internal alterations including removal of stairs and walls	No objections by Parish Council Decision pending
12/01227/FUL	Pilbridge House	
12/01228/LBC	Erection of two storey side extension with glazed link. Demolition of existing sunroom and replace with bay window	No objections by Parish Council Decision pending
12/01300/LBC	Heath Farm	
	Internal alterations to 3 ground floor rooms to form one room by part removal of two internal walls	No objections by Parish Council Decision pending

17. Vacancy for Parish Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer. The vacancy will be advertised in Centrepoint and on the Parish Noticeboard. It was agreed that the Chairman would write a letter of thanks to Mrs. Cox.

18. Correspondence. Not available due to confusion on who was accessing mail during the Chairman's absence.

1. Any Other Business. Cllr. Moorman said again that horse manure was fouling the footpath adjacent to the A44 at Newtown. It was agreed to obtain an estimate for signs requesting that horses do not use the pedestrian footpath.

Mrs. Crump said the hedge bordering the public footpath from the Red Lion to Newtown was very overgrown. Cllr. Hall agreed to look at this.

The meeting closed at 8.17p.m.