

Minutes of the Meeting of Little Compton Parish Council held in the Village Hall
on Monday 17th September 2012

Present: Cllrs. Rudge (Chairman), Moorman (Vice Chairman), Ashford and Hall, County Councillor Saint and 4 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 16th July 2012 were agreed to be a correct record, proposed by Cllr. Ashford, seconded by Cllr. Hall and signed accordingly.
4. Matters arising from the Minutes - not Included elsewhere on the agenda.
Cllr. Ashford said he had contacted S.D.C. Traffic Division regarding putting up notices requesting that riders do not allow horses on public footpaths, in particular the footpath adjacent to the A44 between the two entrances to the village, and had been told that such notices are not allowed on Highways land. It was agreed that pedestrians were finding it unpleasant to use this path and the Parish Council would write again to neighbouring stables asking for their co-operation.
Following a complaint that the footpath from opposite the Red Lion to Newtown was overgrown, Cllr. Hall had found that vegetation had been cut back and the path was now in reasonable condition.
5. Vacancy for Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer. The position had been advertised on the Parish Council Noticeboard and in Centrepoin, but no interest had been shown. The Chairman said she had been more involved recently with the vacancy for a Councillor, but thought it necessary talk directly to people about the position.
6. Date of next Meeting. Monday 19th November 2012
7. Report from County Cllr. Saint. Cllr. Saint spoke about Warwickshire County Councillors' Grant Fund 2012/13 designed to address issues of local concern. This provides grants of £5,000 per Councillor, but is strictly controlled on what type of projects are eligible. The Chairman referred to the possibility of funding for a passing place on Barton Lane, where the speed of traffic and poor visibility had caused many minor accidents and 'near misses'. Cllr. Saint suggested contacting Amanda Wilson - Patterson at W.C.C. for further advice on eligibility. He also said that funding might be available through the 2013/2014 Road Safety Budget which would be discussed at a W.C.C. January meeting.

Cllr. Ashford said that he had been in contact with Jeff Morris of County Highways re. the spraying of weeds in the village pavements and kerbs. He was told that this should be done at intervals and that Jeff Morris would come back to him with further details, but despite several telephone calls this had not happened.

Also, Cllr. Ashford said the standard of amenity grass cutting in the village has been extremely poor and asked if it would be possible in future that the Parish Council could organize its own grass cutting with funding from W.C.C. in lieu of the cuts made under the amenity grass cutting scheme. Cllr. Saint said he was unable to give an answer because tenders etc. for the grass cutting were all under discussion at this time. He should have more information at the next meeting.

8. Questions and Comments from the Public.

Mrs. Hanks said that, after speaking about the Jubilee celebrations to a former Councillor, she would like clarification on the following three points: that no vote had been taken as to the expenditure involved; that children from outside Little Compton had received commemorative coins and that some grandchildren of Little Compton residents had received coins while others had not. She felt that these issues needed to be dealt with because of the ill feeling that these had caused with some residents.

The Chairman said she could assure Mrs. Hanks that everything had been carried out correctly. Approval had been agreed by the Parish Council prior to any Jubilee expenditure. Commemorative coins had been presented to the Mulliner children who lived just beyond the village boundary, but who regularly participated in the activities of Little Compton and were very involved in the Jubilee celebrations - all other recipients lived within the Parish boundary. A complete list of recipients had been displayed on the Parish Council Noticeboard. No coins were given to grandchildren of residents.

Cllr. Ashford said that what seemed to be implications of improper practice was very unpleasant for Councillors. He could only speak for the present Council, but was satisfied that all current Councillors were honest and straight in carrying out their duties. He said it must be particularly unpleasant for Cllr. Hall who had previously received several disturbing letters in connection with a recent planning application for Jordan's Orchard. Cllr. Hall said she would show the letters to anyone who wished to see them.

Mr. Reeves said that he believed weed killer had been applied to the grassed public footpath at the end of Pill Lane and he was concerned about the effect on pets regularly walked there. The Chairman said she had been informed of this just before the meeting and she had been to look at it with Cllr. Ashford, but no one appeared to know who spread the weedkiller. Mr. Reeves asked who owned the land in question. The Chairman said that the Parish Council had contacted Jeff Morris of County Highways several times about this and had been told that he had applied for and was still awaiting an extents map. The Parish Council would follow this up again with Jeff Morris and, if necessary, Gerald Brooks.

Mr. McLean spoke about the position of Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer, which he had held for many years before resigning some ten years ago. He said it really is a satisfying job and would be particularly suited to someone recently retired.

Mrs. Lewis asked if it would be possible to install a water supply to the cemetery. The Chairman said this had been considered some years ago but estimates had shown that it would be very expensive. There was also concern about, potentially, a tap being left on.

9. Playground Report. Cllr. Moorman reported that she had visited the playground and all appeared in good order.

10. Village Maintenance. Cllr. Ashford reported that new sandbags, to replace those that have disintegrated, had been ordered from W.C.C. and would be available from 9th October.

Sandbags and sand for use by residents are stored at Redlands Farm by kind permission of Tony Hawes.

He said that water had been seeping from a manhole cover near Langston Farm for some months despite being regularly reported to County Highways. Initially it was understood that although the cover belonged to BT, the problem of the leak was the responsibility of Severn Trent. Finally, Cllr. Ashford contacted Severn Trent directly and ascertained that

the seeping water was waste, not mains water. Thames Water unblocked the sewer, made temporary repair to the tarmac around the cover and, after fifteen telephone calls and two months, a new cover was installed today.

11. Cemetery. Cllr. Hall reported that she and Cllr. Rudge had met on site with David Scott from the Cotswold Wardens to discuss whether the new hedge in the cemetery should be laid this year. They were advised to contact David Malloy from the Cotswold Conservation Board, who Cllr. Hall was still trying to contact. She said that Thomas Fox had now cut all other hedges in the cemetery and she had emailed him requesting that the weeds on the paths and entrance are dealt with and four to six saplings left in the hedge near Jordan's Orchard are cut down. The Parish Council has received a request to scatter ashes over two existing graves (Ada Maria and Frederick Jordan, grandparents of the enquirer). It was agreed that this would be charged at the same rate as burial of ashes in an existing grave - £45 for parishioners and £90 for non parishioners.

It was agreed not to change any of the cemetery fees until a review in the next financial year, but it was necessary to update other details on the list.

12. Footpaths and Bridleways Report. Cllr. Hall said she and Cllr. Rudge had also discussed with David Scott if anything could be done to improve the surface of the bridleway opposite to Redlands Farm. Mr. Scott suggested bringing in a working party this winter to clear the lower side of the bridleway with a view to bringing in heavy equipment next summer to dig a ditch. He will talk to Richard Barnard (W.C.C.Rights of Way Officer) regarding viability and possible funding. The landowner is in agreement and has been kept informed of all meetings and possible outcomes.

The Cotswold Wardens have now removed the stile by Little Compton Garage and the Footpath signs have been replaced by Langston Farm and in Pill Lane.

13. The Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations. The Chairman confirmed that all commemorative coins had now been distributed. It was agreed that two group photographs taken at the party on 2nd June would be displayed on the Parish Council noticeboard and copies could be ordered at a cost of £1 each. The possibility of having one photograph framed and hung in the Village Hall was discussed and decided the idea should be put before the new Village Hall Committee when formed.

14. New Code of Conduct. On a proposal by Cllr. Moorman and seconded by Cllr. Hall, it was agreed that Little Compton Parish Council adopts the Code of Conduct adopted by Stratford District Council.

15 Stratford District Council's Community Governance Review. It was confirmed, on a proposal by Cllr. Moorman and seconded by Cllr. Ashford, that the following submission had been agreed by all Councillors before being submitted to Stratford District Council's Community Review:

Little Compton Parish Council sees no reason whatsoever for any changes and would like Little Compton Parish and Parish Council to remain as they are at present. If Stratford District Council or any neighbouring Parishes should suggest any changes which will affect Little Compton, the Parish Council ask to be consulted and have the opportunity to comment.

16. Annual Audit 2011-2012. An unqualified opinion had been given by the external auditors, Clement Keys, and the Closure of the Audit had been advertised on the Parish Council Noticeboard

Notification had been received from Audit Commission that Grant Thornton UK LLP had been appointed as external auditor to audit the annual return of Little Compton Parish Council for five years from 1st September 2012.

17. Finance.

1. Balances at Bank -		c/a	£408
		d/a	£7,811
2. To approve payments (*paid):			
*Ch 100662	Clement Keys	External Audit	£144.00
*Ch 100664	Thomas Fox	Cemetery maintenance	£685.20
	John Hall	To clear and remove cuttings from the open culvert by 1 Red Lodge.	£100.00
*Ch 100661	Thomas Fox	Cemetery maintenance	£208.80
Ch 100663	HMRC	Penalty	£100.00

(The Chairman explained that the Annual Return 2011-2012 had been submitted late resulting in the penalty. She had appealed on compassionate grounds - that the R.F.O at that time had family problems - and was waiting to hear the outcome of that appeal.)

Approval was agreed on the above payments on a proposal by Cllr. Ashford and seconded by Cllr. Moorman.

18. Planning Applications. Cllr Rudge reported:

12/00690/FUL	Maple House	Permission granted.
12/00977/FUL	Compton Graze	Permission granted.
12/00098/LBC		
12/01227/FUL	Pilbridge House	Decision pending.
12/01228/FUL		
12/01300/LBC	Heath Farm	Permission granted.
12/0201/DDT	Wray House	Permission agreed
12/0184/FUL	Salters Well Farm Farm Cottage	Just received for comment.

19. Correspondence.

By email (Paper copies to Cllr. Ashford):

Pilbridge House Planning Amendment
 WALC Newsletter ADH/101/4/2012
 WALC Localism Day 22nd September 2012
 W.C.C. Emergency Planning Update and Sandbags
 S.D.C. Community Governance Review
 News from Cotswold A.N.O.B.

Dept. for Communities & Local Government - Openness & transparency on personal interests

W.A.L.C. DCLG Guidance on Personal Interest and Updates to NALC briefings

W.C.C. Rights of Way Volunteer Partnership Agreement

Cotswolds A.O.N.B. Autumn/ Winter Newsletter

W.C.C. Community Computers Scheme

W.C.C. Broadband Update

S.D.C. Flood Defence Assistance Grants

20. Resolution to exclude the Public under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 was proposed by Cllr. Moorman, seconded by Cllr. Hal and agreed.

21. Co-option of Councillor. On a unanimous vote, Stephen Browne was co-opted onto the Council to fill the vacancy left by the resignation of Peter Brandreth.

22. Any other business. There was none

The meeting closed at 8.42pm