

Minutes of the Meeting of Little Compton Parish Council held in the Village Hall
on Monday, 21st January 2013 at 7.00p.m.

Present: Cllrs. Rudge (Chairman), Moorman (Vice Chairman), Ashford, Browne and Hall, District Cllr. Gray and 6 members of the public.

1. Declarations of Interest. There were none at this time.
2. Apologies for absence. There were none.
3. Minutes of the meeting held on 19th November 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. Moorman said she had been contacted by P.C.S.O. Andy Steventon regarding the speed of traffic on the A44 at Little Compton, suggesting that the speed should be reduced to 30m.p.h. The matter had been put on the agenda of the Shipston Community Forum held at Shipston High School on 4th December. Cllr. Moorman and several residents of the village had attended that meeting, but had not understood that voting could be carried out on line before and during the meeting. The suggested reduction in speed on the A44 at Little Compton had not been selected for further action. The Parish Council has requested that the issue is put on the agenda again at the next Community Forum in March and that a future meeting be held in Little Compton - this has been arranged for Tuesday, 17th September 2013.

Mrs. Hanks referred to the A44 being included on the W.C.C. Primary Gritting Routes and counted as serving Little Compton. This suggests it is residential and therefore should have a 30m.p.h. speed restriction. She said the County Council cannot have it both ways.

The Chairman said she had received notification from the A44A of a meeting on Monday, 11th February at Woodstock Town Hall at 2.00p.m. The A44A is an organization which unites the eight towns and parishes on the A44 between Oxford and Evesham with the aim of reducing HGV traffic on the A44. It is currently campaigning to downgrade parts of the A44 to a green B Road, thus encouraging HGV drivers to use the Advisory route, taking the pressure off places like Chipping Norton and Bourton on the Hill. Several Councillors said they would try to attend the meeting.

Following the last Parish Council Meeting, both Cllr. Browne and the Chairman had made representations over the mud on the road at the entrance to the new building works at the top of Oakham Hill, but a lot of heavy rain had hugely improved the situation. Cllr. Browne said the wheels of vehicles were now being washed before exiting the site.

5. Date of next Meeting: Annual Parish Meeting on Monday 18th March 2013.
6. Report from District Cllr. Gray. Cllr. Gray said the District Council's draft budget for

the financial year 2013/14 had only just been published, but it was unlikely there would be any increase in Council Tax from the District Council. He said there was a move to reduce the number of Councillors.

County Council elections were due to take place in May 2013.

Cllr. Ashford said the road sweeping vehicles that were supposed to come to the village five times a year were fitted with soft brushes which did not do a good job. During the recent inclement weather a vehicle had been sent by County Highways which was fitted with very stiff brushes which did an excellent job. He asked if the District Council vehicles could be fitted with the same brushes. Cllr. Gray said he would look into it.

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7. Questions and comments from the public. There were none.

8. Neighbourhood Plan/Parish Plan - Cllr. Browne said he had been looking into the possibility of the production of a Neighbourhood Plan for the village and had come to the conclusion that a Parish Plan would be more suited to the needs of Little Compton. It was agreed to ask Sarah Brooke-Taylor and Phil Ward of Warwickshire Rural Community Council if they would attend the Annual Parish Meeting in March to talk about Parish Plans, what they cover, who gets involved and the general process - with the aim of forming a steering group to begin gathering ideas from the community about local issues of concern. Little Compton's Village Design Statement was produced in 1998.

9. Playground Report - Cllr. Moorman said she had visited the playground and everything seemed in good order. The Annual Safety Inspection of the playground was listed later on the agenda.

10. Cemetery Report - Cllr. Hall said there had been two reservations for ashes spaces in the cemetery, both from people with connections to the village.

11. Footpaths and Bridleways Report - Cllr. Hall said she had been contacted by David Scott of the Cotswold Wardens who would like to start work to improve the bridleway opposite to Redlands Farm on 11th February and would bring a working party on Saturday, 16th February.

He is planning a meeting with Richard Barnard of Warwickshire County Council regarding funding.

12. Village Maintenance Report - Cllr. Ashford said the missing cats eyes at Kitebrook and the pot holes in the village had been reported to County Highways immediately following the last meeting and several times since. The damaged chevron sign near Langston Farm had also been reported.

The village roads had been gritted on Saturday, 19th January.

The work to re-establish the ditch on the south side of Oakham Road hill had been completed and grips cut. The newly discovered culvert under the road had been cleared and work had begun by the Manager of Langston Farm to re-establish a ditch to serve the culvert in the field opposite.

Cotswold Tool Hire had cut grips further down in the village and had built up the verge opposite to the playground which had worn away allowing water to flood from full ditches onto the road.

County Highways had confirmed that in the late spring they would dig up the area around the problem drain opposite to Redlands Farm and use a cutter to clear the roots of the lime trees which they believe are causing a blockage.

John Hall had cut back the brambles etc. from the verge opposite to the Bowls Club.

Twenty five bags of grit are to be delivered for use by residents on public footpaths or roads. These will be available from Cllr. Ashford.

13. Financial:

(i) Balances at Bank : c/a £402
d/a £10,001

(ii) Payments: Ch 100672 R.S. Plant Hire (flood defence grant) - £1,110.00

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Approval was given for the following payments on a proposal by Cllr. Moorman, seconded by

Cllr. Hall and agreed:	Ch 100673	Cotswold Tool Hire	-	£54.00
	Ch 100674	J.Hall	-	£30.00

(iii) Tenders for:

Playground Safety Inspection - On a proposal by Cllr. Moorman and seconded by Cllr. Rudge it was agreed to ask Digby Associates to carry out the Annual Safety Inspection of the playground, before April 2013, at the tendered cost of £50.

Cemetery Maintenance 2013/14 - Cllr. Hall declared an interest in this item due to her home being adjacent to the Cemetery and the land behind Jordan's Orchard.

Four tenders had been received. It was agreed that Thomas Fox had given excellent service during the past year, but his quote for 2013/14 had increased by some 15% On the basis that the Parish Council wished to support local business, it was agreed to award the contract to 'Up the garden path', but with the conditions that the Council had a sighting of the company's Public Liability Insurance Certificate before any work commenced and also with the agreement that no waste or cuttings from the cemetery were deposited or burned on the land behind Jordan's Orchard which had no planning consent for business use.

Extra village grass verge cutting - any decision was postponed until the Parish Council receives information from Stratford District Council on the number of cuts under the Amenity Grass Cutting Scheme.

(iv) Budget and precept 2013/14

The Chairman presented the 2013/14 Budget to the meeting. She said the Parish Council was in a good financial position, undoubtedly aided by the fact that the position of Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer had been vacant since 1st June 2012, with no expenses on salary, office expenses or Broadband. These savings during 2012/13 could be set against expenditure in the financial year 2013/14. Therefore the Chairman recommended that there should be no increase in the precept for the financial year 2013/14:

Precept required £5,605 (less Council Tax Support Grant £500)
Tax Base for the financial year 2013/14 - £141.10

This is equivalent to Council Tax on a Band D house of £36.18 (£36.21 in 2012/13)

A resolution to accept the Budget for 2013/14 was proposed by Cllr. Ashford, seconded by Cllr. Browne and agreed.

14. Planning Applications.

12/02908/TREE 6 Rivington Glebe
Removal of leylandii

12/02859/FUL Wheelbarrow Castle (Barton on the Heath Parish Council)
Replacement of existing outbuilding with new 2-storey
ancillary outbuilding

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12/02956/TREE 2 Church Close
Removal of spruce

13/00103/TREE Pilbridge House
Crown reduction by 30% and dead wooding of Tilia

12/02544/FUL 2 Church Close
Demolition of single storey extension and erection of
two 2-storey, pitched roof extensions

Cllr. Rudge said that information and plans for all of the above were currently in circulation with Councillors for comment.

15. Correspondence.

S.D.C. Application for the designation of Long Compton Neighbourhood Plan
Area

W.A.L.C. Newsletter 103

C.P.R.E. Planning Workshops - Supporting Communities and Neighbourhoods.

Came and Co. Field Work Winter 2012

L.C.R. Public Liability Claims

C.P.R.E. Winter 2012
Citizens Ad. Bureau Update
Oxfordshire C.C. Minerals & Waste Core Strategy Submission Document
Shipston Link Commemorative Publication

16. A.O.B. Mr. Reeves asked if the position of Clerk and R.F.O. should be advertised again with more details of what the job entailed. The Chairman said another advertisement had been put in the February edition of Centrepoint giving more details.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.30p.m.