

Minutes of  
the Meeting of Little Compton Parish Council held in the Village Hall on Monday 15<sup>th</sup>  
July 2013

Present: Cllrs. Rudge, Moorman, Ashford, Hall, and Browne, Robyn Waller (Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer), Warwickshire County Councillor Chris Saint, Stratford District Councillor Stephen Gray and 3 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 20<sup>th</sup> May 2013 were agreed to be a correct record, proposed by Cllr. Ashford and seconded by Cllr. Moorman and signed accordingly.
4. Matters arising from the Minutes not included elsewhere on the Agenda - There were none.
5. Date of next Meeting: Monday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2013.
6. Reports from District Cllr. Gray and County Cllr. Saint. Cllr. Gray reported on the following:
  - (a) Core Strategy, stating that the new proposal had been approved by cabinet today.
  - (b) Reducing the number of council wards: There are proposals to reduce the number of councillors from 53 to 36. All Parish Councils will remain the same.
  - (c) He said that planning permission for No.1 Gypsy site on London Road had been refused on the grounds that it was detrimental to the rural environment. However, the decision is to go to appeal.

Cllr. Rudge asked Cllr. Gray for re-assurance regarding how seriously Stratford District Council considered Village Design Statements as a planning tool. Concern was voiced with regard to two recent planning applications, one at The Red Lion and the second at 2 Church Close. In respect of both, policies in the Village Design Statement had been drawn to the attention of the responsible Planning Officer and the Planning Committee but had seemingly been disregarded. Cllr. Rudge stated that much time and effort went into preparing Village Design Statements and Parish Plans and questioned their value if the resulting findings were to be ignored. Cllr. Gray suggested that concerns could be directed to David Nash, the Policy Manger of Housing. Cllr. Saint concurred and Cllr Rudge agreed to pursue this line.

Cllr. Saint reported that following the elections on 2<sup>nd</sup> May, a number of committee meetings had discussed Core Strategy which included items such as recycling centres, sewage works, and quarry issues. Cllr. Saint also reported that Warwickshire Trading Standards have reported a number of

bogus telephone calls in the area and warned that residents should be mindful of personal information given over the telephone. He added that a number of rogue traders were operating in the area and that residents should be aware.

Cllr. Saint reported that a Funding Scheme of £5000.00 had been made available for community projects such as Youth Clubs, Horticulture Societies, infrastructure, refurbishment of Village Halls etc.

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7. Questions and Comments from the Public. Mr Jeremy Evans stated that discussion regarding the Village Design Statement was very serious. He further stated his concern that no replacement trees had been planted to replace the diseased Chestnut trees. In voicing his concern over the number of cottages being purchased for students attending the Reed's Business College, he stated that it was the responsibility of the Parish Council to look after Parish Affairs. He stated that the cottages should be made available to low incomer earners and young families. Cllr Browne said that more than half of the comments submitted by those who had attended the recent Parish Plan Meeting related to concern over the cottages owned by Reed Business School.

Mrs. Ann Hanks stated that she is in favour of the Parish Plan because it is the best way forward for Villagers to be represented. She added that with regard to dangerous trees, the National Tree Safety Group has a publication called the 'Common Sense Risk Management of Trees', which the Parish Council may find helpful. It can be purchased through [www.treecouncil.org.uk](http://www.treecouncil.org.uk)

8. Playground Report - Cllr. Moorman read recommendations from the Annual Safety Playground Report conducted in June. The Report read as follows:

- a. Gate Posts (owned by Reed Business Sch.), one to be reset and one replaced.
- b. A recommendation that emergency contact details are displayed.
- c. A swing seat has perished and another is perishing. The replacement of both seats will cost £105.62 plus VAT.
- d. The trim trail needs attention and logs are in need of replacement. The cost of log replacement is 3 x £9.98 each for small logs and 3 x £12.79 each for large logs. Delivery is a further £34.00.

Cllr Moorman presented an invoice from The Play Inspection Company Ltd for the Annual Playground Inspection. The amended amount of £71.94 was approved by Council. Council approved a total amount of £700.00 for the purchase of new and replacement equipment. This includes £598.28 plus VAT with a further allowance for installation. It was agreed that Cllr Ashford and Mr John Hall would look at installation requirements to ascertain if it was necessary to employ the supplier to do this.

Cllr. Moorman reported that the main gate to the Playground had been locked by Reed's Business School to prevent the theft of logs alongside the gate.

9. Village Maintenance Report - Cllr. Ashford reported that he had been in contact with Mr Chris Burrows from W.C.C. with regard to the two passing places approved on Barton Lane under the Road Safety Budget. Assurance had been given that the work will be carried out by the end of March 2014.

Cllr. Ashford said that it was proposed that the Parish Council would apply for the funds from the Flood Defence Assistance Grants 2013 from S.D.C. to have three bespoke, galvanised, sloping grills (with a top platform to facilitate the collection of debris as the water rises and also allowing for

easy removal of the collected debris) at the entrance of the three major culverts in Little Compton at the following: Grill 1 at the entrance to the culvert under the road at the lay-by on the A44, Grill 2 at the entrance to the culvert under Malthouse Lane and Grill 3 at the entrance to the culvert under the road which then feeds into the open culvert outside 1 Red Lodge. The application for a grant has been supported by Mr. Michael Green of the Flood Defence Team at W.C.C.

Cllr. Ashford said Mr John Hall had painted the bench by the telephone box and had agreed

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to conduct the Flood Prevention Inspection on a monthly basis and, following consultation with Cllr Ashford, will carry out any subsequent work he finds necessary.

With regard to the ongoing dispute of maintaining the lime trees planted on Council land bordering Langston Farm, Cllr. Ashford said he understands that W.C.C. will write to the Bamford family for the purpose of ascertaining whether they are willing to accept responsibility again for their maintenance. If not, it has been recommended that the trees be removed as they require regular pollarding in order to prevent a traffic hazard and W.C.C. has not the funding to facilitate this. Resurfacing of the A44 is being conducted and new cats eyes installed.

10. Cemetery Report presented by Cllr. Hall:

The annual cemetery inspection has been carried out by Councillors Rudge, Ashford and Hall. Eight memorial stones were found to need some maintenance, some require packing and others need re-cementing.

Four burial plots have been reserved. They are for Mr Bill Bamford, Miss Alice Bamford, Ms. Mandy Richardson. The fourth plot will eventually hold one coffin and two ashes urns for Debbie/Val/George Turner.

Memorial headstones for Sue Bamford, Eileen Evans and Margaret Bateman have been erected. Patricia Potts, formerly of Hillside, was buried in June.

11. Footpaths and bridleways - Cllr. Hall said the landowner of the bridleway opposite Redland Farmhouse has agreed to remove the barbed wire from the boundary of the bridleway. The spring on this bridleway is still under discussion. The suggestion from the Cotswold Wardens is to dig a large pit filled with stones below the spring, to create a means of drainage. Nigel Chetwynd from W.C.C feels that the clay might seal and create a 'swimming pool' effect. Mr Barnard (W.C.C. Rights of Way Officer), Mr Chetwynd (W.C.C.) and Dave Scott (Cotswold Wardens) are liaising to discuss the next step.

12. Parish Plan - Cllr. Browne said the first meeting was to discuss how to set up and formulate the Parish Plan. Three open meetings had been arranged for villagers to discuss the Village Plan. Ten people attended the first along with the Committee. The common theme was the Reed Business School housing situation. Also discussed was Broadband reception in the Village and the strength of mobile phone signals. Questionnaires are to be distributed in August detailing the various suggestions put forward by members of the public and from there a new Parish Plan will be formulated. An application through WRCC for funding grant is to be considered, however it was agreed that funding for printing is not needed at present.

13. Financial Report – Responsible Financial Officer reported that:

- i. Balances at the Bank on 08/07/2013 were £12,954.58 in the Deposit Account and

£588.73 in the Current Account. Two outstanding cheques representing a total of £345.00 will leave a balance of £243.73.

(ii) The Right of Electors to view the Annual Accounts had been carried out but no interest in viewing the accounts had been shown. The Annual Accounts were duly submitted to External Auditors, Grant Thornton, on the 28<sup>th</sup> June 2013.

(iii) The 2012/2013 VAT Return for an amount of £738.53 has been submitted to HM Customs and Excise.

The approval of payment was requested for the following:

Replacement parts for play equipment:-

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Seats £105.62

Logs for trim trail will cost 3 x £9.98 each for small logs and 3 x £12.79 for large logs.

Labour costs to repair play equipment £15.00 per hour.

Flood Prevention Inspections - £15.00 per hour plus labour.

The approval of payments was proposed by Cllr. Ashford and seconded by Cllr. Browne and agreed.

14. Planning Applications – Cllr. Rudge reported:

12/02544/FUL 2 Church Close

Demolition of single storey extension.

Erection of two 2-storey pitched roof extensions.

Approved at Committee

13/00423/FUL Briars, London Road

Use of land for the stationing of caravans for residential purposes for No.1. gypsy pitch together with the formation of additional hardstanding and utility/day room ancillary to that use.

Permission refused

13/01012/LDE Peewit Cottage Studio

Use of separate building as a single dwelling house.

Permission refused

13/01170/FUL Woodpeckers

Insertion of two dormers to front elevation.

Permission granted

15. Correspondence included:

21/05/13 Came & Co – Re: who constitutes a competent person with regard to Playground inspection.

31/05/13...Dead/Dangerous tress notification Reed College

04/06/13...Planning Application 13/01170/FUL Woodpeckers

07.06.13....Rollrights Quarry Liaison Meeting 02/07/13

10/06/13...Steering Committee – S Browne

14/06/13...Notice of Stratford Parish Liaison Meeting

21/06/13...Flood Defence Parish Grants SDC

02/07/13...Meeting Rollright Quarry on 02/07/13

03/07/13...Ordinance Survey

09/07/13...Decision for Planning Application Woodpeckers

12/07/13...Phone call from Mrs Katherine Webb re dangerous playground equipment.

16. Any Other Business. There was none.

The Meeting closed at 8.42pm.

Robyn Waller

Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer.