

Minutes of the Meeting of Little Compton Parish Council held in the Village Hall on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2013

Present: Cllrs. Rudge (Chairman), Moorman, Ashford and Browne, Robyn Waller (Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer), District Cllr. Stephen Gray, Warwickshire County Cllr. Chris Saint, and 6 members of the public.

1. Declaration of Interest: There were none.
2. Apologies for Absence: Apologies were received from Cllr. C. Hall.
3. Minutes of the meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> September 2013 were agreed to be a correct record, proposed by Cllr. Ashford, seconded by Cllr. Moorman and signed accordingly.
4. Matters arising from the Minutes not included elsewhere on the Agenda. There were none.
5. Dates of 2014 Meetings: Monday, 20<sup>th</sup> January, 17<sup>th</sup> March, 19<sup>th</sup> May, 21<sup>st</sup> July, 15<sup>th</sup> September, 17<sup>th</sup> November. It was agreed that the Parish Clerk would book the Village Hall for these dates.
6. Reports from District Cllr. Gray and County Cllr. Saint. Cllr. Gray reported that proposed new electoral arrangements for Stratford-on-Avon will reduce the number of Councillors to 36 in number. The local ward will be merged with Brailes. With regard to the 2014/15 Budget, Cllr. Gray reported that funding is becoming more difficult and the status quo of Council Tax is uncertain. Cllr. Saint reported that the County Council is equally challenged regarding the Budget. He said that while the Precept has remained unchanged for the last three years, the figure for the next financial year remains unclear at this time and that he will be better placed in January to give a more definitive rule. Cllr. Saint said that if the Council Tax remained static next year it would probably be increased in the following year with changes affecting the Health Agenda. Public Health issues have been put into Local Authority Agenda and money needs to be found to cover this. Changes have also occurred in Adult Social Care.
7. Questions and Comments from the Public.  
Mrs. Ann Hanks asked who was responsible for the provision of signs leading to station parking in Stratford-on-Avon, during recent road works. Cllr. Saint suggested Jeff Welsby of Warwickshire County Council and gave details to Mrs. Hanks.  
Mrs. Gillett expressed her thanks to the Council for the completion of the road works on the A44 at Kitebrook, including the installation of Cats Eyes.  
Mr. Jeremy Evans stated that under the Tree Warden's Scheme there is an opportunity to apply for more trees and asked anyone to contact him with ideas of where more might be planted. Mr. Evans also suggested the possibility of constructing simple snow ploughs of two logs which could be towed by tractors. He thought this would allow the village to remain unhindered by snow on occasions when the County Council was unable to keep the village open. The question of insurance was also raised.
8. Playground Report: Cllr. Moorman reported that, following the annual safety

inspection, the climbing net had been replaced on the Toddler Unit and the seats replaced on the swings. Some of the logs had been replaced on the Trim Trail, but there was some difficulty in acquiring the correct parts as the design of this item had changed several times since it was installed. The gate post still needed attention.

9. Village Maintenance: Cllr. Ashford reported that a meeting had been held with Jeff Morris following several complaints about the roots of cherry trees causing a hazard on the footpath adjacent to Brewery Row. It was agreed that the Forestry Department would be asked to inspect the area as the roots are posing a threat to the nearby walls.

Cllr. Ashford said that he understood that the verge opposite to The Orchard would be attended to before Christmas.

Cllr. Ashford said that the 'Cats Eyes', as earlier reported by Mrs Gillett, had been appropriately installed on the A44 at Kitebrook. He also reported that the blocked drain at Newtown had been reported and that this, together with all village drains would be jetted soon.

The bespoke grids at the entrance to three culverts in the village should be fitted within two weeks. There is also a possibility of having three drop down kerbs installed.

A road sweep of the village is due in December but as Stratford District Council's sweeper is restricted to use where there are kerb stones, he had asked that the County Council's sweeper might be used.

It was reported that the willow tree stump opposite to the playground has been removed by Mr John Hall.

Signage requesting that horse riders do not ride their horses on the footpath adjacent to the A44 are ready and will soon be put in place.

It was also suggested that notices be placed on the windows of cars parking on footpaths in the village. It was agreed to put this request on the Agenda for the next meeting.

Cllr. Ashford further stated that the installation of passing places on Barton Lane had been programmed for February.

10. Cemetery Report: The Report was read by the Parish Clerk in the absence of Cllr. Hall and stated that all work identified in the Annual Cemetery Report had now been completed.

11. Footpaths and Bridleways Report: Cllr. Hall's report was read by the Parish Clerk, stating that the problem of how to deal with the spring in the Bridleway opposite to Redlands Farmhouse was on-going. The Cotswold Wardens have agreed to dig out the ditch near the entrance to the bridleway and will probably also remove the barbed wire along the boundary between January and March 2014. There were no other issues regarding Footpaths and Bridleways.

12. Parish Plan Report: Cllr. Browne reported that the questionnaire has been to every household in the village during the first week of December. A separate sheet will be attached inviting interested parties to become involved in village activities. Cllr. Moorman asked if the Parish Plan included a village design section. Cllr. Browne said questions asked if residents were aware of the Village Design Statement and if the contents were appropriate in 2013.

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13. Financial Report: The Responsible Financial Officer reported that:

- (i) Balances at the Bank on 18/11/13 were £13,756.73 in the Deposit Account and £3,248.68 in the Current Account (this included grant monies for culvert grids)
- (ii) Approval of expenditure was requested for the following:

Annual Membership for C.P.R.E.     £29.00  
Office Supplies                         £11.28  
Shipston Building Supples             £43.14 (retrospective)  
A.E.Evans                                 £122.77 ) Replacement parts for  
Playdale Playgrounds                 £622.69 ) playground equipment  
John Hall                                 £97.50 (retrospective) Work in cemetery.  
Signs and Engraving                   £66.00 Signage  
Approval of expenditure was proposed by Cllr.Browne, seconded by  
Cllr. Rudge and agreed.

External audit. An unqualified opinion had been given on the 2012/13 accounts. The Right of Electors to view the accounts was displayed on the village noticeboard and the accounts available for inspection.

The Financial Officer reported that the 2014/15 Budget should be discussed at the January Meeting and asked that any requested inclusions be relayed to her by the commencement of January. The Budget will include Tenders for Cemetery Maintenance and the cutting of grass verges in the Village. It was agreed that letters would be mailed to previous interested parties for Tender along with two newly received applications of interest and also advertised on the village noticeboards.

14. Planning Applications: Cllr. Rudge reported on the following applications:

13/01012/FUL	Peewit Cottage Use of separate building (Studio) as separate dwelling Appeal pending
	Compton Nurseries Appeal against enforcement notice    Appeal hearing 26 <sup>th</sup> November 13
13/02466/FUL	Oakham Cottage Formation of 40m. x 20m. ménage No objections by the Parish Council    Decision pending
13/00423/FUL	Briar Close, London Road Use of land for the stationing of caravans for residential purposes for 1 No. gypsy pitch together with the formation of additional hard standing and utility/day room ancillary to that use. Refused, but public enquiry requested by applicant Appeal pending

15. Correspondence:

27/9/13	Cotswold Conservation –Cotswold A.O.N.B. Newsletter.
14/10/13	S.D.C. re: Enforcement Appeal - Compton Lane Nurseries.
22/10/13	S.D.C. re: Payment of the Flood Grant.

31/10/13 PSMA – Ordinance Survey – A Members Newsletter for October 2013.  
8/11/13 Environment Agency re: campaign for safer heating oil tanks.  
12/11/13 W.A.L.C. re: the Precept for 2014-2015 an explanation of change and requirement.  
12/11/13 W.R.C.C. Monthly Newsletter for Community Building.  
13/11/13 W.A.L.C. re: Village Hall Community Building. – A free training workshop.  
15/11/13 S.D.C. re. Stratford-on-Avon Electoral Review.

16. A.O.B. There was none.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8pm.

Robyn Waller  
Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer.