

**Minutes of the Meeting of Little Compton Parish Council held at the Village Hall  
on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2014**

**Present:** Cllr. Rudge (Chairman), Cllr. Ashford, Cllr. Hall, County Cllr. Saint and 3 members of the public.

1. Declarations of Interest. There were none.
2. Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr. Browne, District Cllr. Gray and Mrs. Ann Hanks.
3. Resignation of Parish Clerk. The resignation of Parish Clerk, Robyn Waller, who had moved away from the village, had been received. It was agreed the position would be advertised in Centrepoint.
4. Minutes of the meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2014 were agreed to be a correct record on a proposal by Cllr. Hall, seconded by Cllr. Ashford and signed.
5. Matters arising from the Minutes not included elsewhere on the Agenda.
  - (i) Following the removal of the post box, without consultation, at The Bank in Little Compton, the Parish Council had written letters of complaint to both Royal Mail and the M.P for the area.
  - (ii) Regarding the concern expressed at the last meeting over the laurel hedge bordering Washbrook House, the Council had contacted the owners. It is understood that much of the hedge will be removed towards the end of the renovation works, but to remove it earlier would incur considerable extra expense and it was currently serving to protect nearby houses from noise and dust from the ongoing renovations. It was expected that the work on the cottage would be completed by April 2015 and on the main house by October 2015.
  - (iii) Regarding the Parish Council's interest in the Lengthsman Trial Scheme in the Rugby area, the Chairman had spoken to the responsible County Council officer who would be pleased to come to a Parish Council Meeting or Annual Parish Meeting) to talk about the scheme.
  - (iv) Cllr. Ashford said that another dog-fouling notice had been erected in Pill Lane.
6. Dates of 2015 Meetings: Monday, 19<sup>th</sup> January, 16<sup>th</sup> March, 18<sup>th</sup> May, 20<sup>th</sup> July, 21<sup>st</sup> September, 16<sup>th</sup> November.
7. Reports from District Cllr. Gray and County Cllr. Saint.

Cllr. Saint spoke of the issues facing the County Council at this time. He said the consultation on boundaries within the county had now closed and results were awaited from the Boundary Commission. It is proposed that the number of County Councillors is reduced from 62 to 55. The County Council is also waiting for details of the annual Government grant to Local Councils before moving forward with preparing the Budget for 2015/16.

Regarding village grass cutting, he said that it was proposed, although not confirmed, that villages would have nine cuts per year, but when questioned said that the contractor would be paid the same in 2015 as 2014.

He then gave the good news that Little Compton Village Hall, under the Councillors Grant Scheme, had been awarded a grant towards a Hearing Loop system.

Cllr. Saint then reported on behalf of Cllr. Gray (who had also sent a report by email): The Government Planning Inspector is examining the Core Strategy in Stratford in January. It is hoped to get interim feedback giving his initial findings when this stage is completed. In the meantime S.D.C. is dependent on having a five year land supply in order to use S.D.C. existing policies to decide planning applications rather than government policy. A government planning

inspector judged that S.D.C. does not have the five year land supply on 3<sup>rd</sup> November while another judged that S.D.C. does have the five year land supply on 5<sup>th</sup> November - further information is awaited.

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8. Questions and Comments from the public. There were none.

9. Playground Report. The playground had been visually inspected regularly and appeared in good order.

Following the Annual Inspection recommendations, John Hall had shortened the chains on the swings, thus removing the worn links, and had rubbed down and oiled the two benches. The rotten gatepost had been replaced by Reed Business School.

The Parish Council will proceed with the repairs to Playdale equipment during this financial year and with the remainder of the recommended repairs on A.E.Evans equipment in April 2015.

10. Village Maintenance Report. Cllr. Ashford said the work on the verge opposite to The Orchard was now complete. On 1<sup>st</sup> December the Forestry Dept. are due to start removing trees and shrubs from the ditch opposite to the lay-by on the A44. When this is completed the work to clear and deepen the ditch will begin, including widening it at the entrance to the culvert. This will be part funded by a grant awarded to the Parish Council and completed by the Highways Dept.

Cllr. Ashford reminded the Council again that although the village is swept five times a year by Stratford District Council, it is only carried out where there are kerb. He had tried to arrange a sweeping by the County Council vehicle which could be used on all roads, but was told that this was only permitted where there was significant safety risk.

The Winter Gritting Map for Warwickshire had been received with no changes from previous years.

The Parish Council has a good supply of bags of grit, stored behind the Village Hall, for use on public roads and public footpaths.

Cllr. Ashford will collect from W.C.C. a fresh supply of sandbags to be stored at Redlands Farm, by kind permission of Tony Hawes.

11. Cemetery Report. Cllr. Hall said that there had been two reservations - one for an ashes space and one for a grave space - and a headstone to be erected on the grave of Mrs. Patricia Potts. A request had been made for the interment of the ashes of Dorothy Harwood in the grave of her mother. It was agreed that two signatures of the closest family members would be required.

The hedge bordering the cemetery between Jordan's Orchard and the old gate had died. John Hall and David Hancock have kindly agreed to plant a double row of Hawthorn whips behind the hedge, which will be removed when the whips are established.

12. Footpaths and Bridleways Report. Cllr. Hall reported that the bridleway sign towards Wheelbarrow Castle had fallen down. Also the bridleway gate leading from Wheelbarrow Castle towards Oakham Road closes too quickly - Cllr. Hall agreed to contact the landowner to request it is adjusted.

13. Broadband update. Cllr. Browne sent a report: European Union legislation has decreed that everyone has to have access to Broadband. The

Government, as a result, is rolling out Super Fast Broadband (BB) countrywide. A Database to show potential demand for BB in rural areas has been established with a colour coded map, indicating which areas are getting BB. Unfortunately Little Compton is currently in a White Area which is not planned for any upgrade. The Parish Council and individual residents can help by supporting any surveys to get this area eligible for BB upgrade, creating a demand that makes it viable for BT to install Fibre Optics, looking into commercial ventures etc.

14. Financial: The Chairman presented the half year accounts.

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Balances at bank on 14.11.2014     £10,264.91 (d)  
    £3,963.45 (c)

Approval for the following payments were proposed by Cllr. Ashford, seconded by Cllr. Hall and agreed:

C.P.R.E.     - £36.00  
 Village Hall Rent (retrospective)                                 - £96.00  
 Cash (Cotswold Computers)     - £50.00  
 John Hall (clearing open culvert)                                   - £37.50

Tender documents for Cemetery maintenance and Care of the Village grass verges would be sent out with replies requested by 9<sup>th</sup> January 2015.

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

14/01952/FUL                 Hillside

Change of use of school buildings and residential apartment to a single residential dwelling including change of use to domestic use. Retrospective demolition of prefabricated buildings and classrooms.

Permission granted

14/02021/FUL                 Compton Graze  
 14/02023/LBC

Proposed dormer window to rear elevation and sundry minor amendments to consented drawings.

Permission granted

14/01395/FUL                 Acorn Cottage

Creation of a vehicular access into the paddock.

Application withdrawn

14/02723/TREE                 Reed Business School

Reduce height of leylandi by 3m.

The Parish Council commented that reduction by 3m. was insufficient as it would still leave the trees as tall as the Deerhurst Bungalows - to give the bungalows more light was the reason for the application.

14/02989/TREE                 Washbrook House

Considerable work on many trees and hedges.

Application being circulated for

comment

16. Correspondence. Not available at this time.

17. Resolution to exclude the public under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960

18. Co-option of Councillor. No applications received. It was agreed to advertise the vacancy again and talk to residents about it.

19. A.O.B. The Chairman said that the Church Council had kindly agreed to store the Parish Emergency Box at the back of the Church.

The meeting closed at 8.02p.m.