

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Little Compton Parish Council held on Monday 18 May 2015

Present: Cllrs. Rudge, Robinson, Hall, District Cllr Gray, Parish Clerk Vicki Hanks and 3 members of the public.

The Chairman welcomed Vicki Hanks the new Parish Clerk, who started at the beginning of May.

1. Election of Chairman. Cllr Rudge was elected Chairman proposed by Cllr Robinson, seconded by Cllr Hall and agreed. The Declaration of acceptance of office was then signed.

2. Election of the Vice Chairman. Cllr Hall suggested that as we 2 Councillors were absent it should be carried over to the next meeting. This was agreed.

3. Declarations of Interest. There were none.

4. Apologies for Absence. Cllr Ashford, Cllr Browne.

5. Minutes of the meeting held on 9th March. Again Cllr Hall suggested this be carried over to the next meeting when the other Councillors are in attendance, as in the absence of a Clerk at that time the minutes were prepared by Cllr Hall and Cllr Rudge between them and she didn't think it very democratic to approve something they had prepared themselves. This was agreed.

6. Matters arising from the Minutes not included elsewhere on the agenda. As above will be carried over to the next meeting.

7. Date of next Meeting. 20th July 2015

8. Report from District Cllr. Gray. Cllr Rudge congratulated Cllr Gray on being re-elected. Cllr Gray said he didn't have very much to report because everything pretty much stops for the elections. Cllr Gray was re-elected for what is now Brilles and Compton Ward. The most urgent task for the new Council is the core strategy. Cllr Gray said he believed Cllr Saint to be at the meeting in Shipston.

9. Questions and Comments from the public. Mrs Crump and Mrs Lewis asked about the 2 trees put outside the pub on the road. Cllr Rudge wasn't sure exactly where they meant. Cllr Robinson explained they were outside the toilet block of the pub, where there is a slight alcove, and that they had replaced a pair of ugly cones and he felt these were an improvement. Cllr Rudge said she would have to go and have a look as she wasn't even aware they were there.

Mrs Crump was concerned about the ditch bordering Washbrook House in Malthouse Lane which was being filled in by a new wall. It was agreed that the water from the ditch did not run into any other water course, but had served as a holding area for excess water. The concern was that now excess water during heavy rain, with no holding area, would run down the road in front of Brewery Row. Cllr Rudge said she would consult the responsible Planning Officer.

Cllr Rudge then read out an Email from villager James Taylor who was writing to ask why there are no dog poo bins in the village, especially near the Church. He feels they are needed as he has started to notice in the last few months that people are not picking up after their dogs. He feels it is bad publicity for the village, and he is concerned for the health of his family. Cllr Hall said the problem is that the village would have to make its own arrangements to empty the bins if. Cllr Gray thought that the District Council would do it for a fee, so it would be worth asking them. It was agreed that Cllr Rudge would find out how many dog fouling signs are already up and the Council will consider putting more up.

10. Broadband Report. CWS Contract 2 Part 1 has now been signed to BT Openreach. Little Compton receiving BB is planned to commence summer 2016-2019. CSW will be holding Local Briefing Events register at www.eventbrite.com/o/csw-broadband-3997770867 these events are free and the nearest is 18th June 6.30-9pm @ Stratford District Council. Business, Charities or other eligible organisations could claim up to £3000 towards the cost of your connections. Visit

www.cswbroadband.org.uk/the-project/broadband-connection-voucher-scheme for more information.

11. Playground Report. Cllr Robinson reported that he had carried out regular weekly visual inspections of the playground and had found everything in good order. The annual safety inspection is due in June. The repairs recommended in last years inspection on Playdale equipment has been completed. Cllr Robinson had been in touch with AE Evans, the suppliers of the other half of the equipment, they put him in touch with Greenfield, who came out to do an inspection. They found 3 things, the chain walk, multi play unit and the waffle log, all have worn links which need replacing. A quote for this work was £295+VAT, Cllr Robinson feels that it may be cheaper to do it ourselves, as the links in question are removable and designed to be taken out and replaced. Cllr Robinson will approach Mr Hall to ask if he can do the work. A member of the public has asked if the Parish Council could look into getting a toddler swing for the playground. The cost from Playdale would be about £1250 or from Greenfields £2197. Cllr Rudge did say to the lady that the original playground equipment was funded by fundraising events organised by the villagers, so maybe doing something like that would be an idea to fund a new toddler swing. Cllr Robinson will get some exact quotes and pass on to her.

12. Cemetery. Cllr Hall feels the Cemetery needs some TLC. When the cemetery was extended the new path was edged with wood rather than stone like the old part. Now the wood has decayed and broken up, Cllr Hall suggests that the stone edging be carried on from the old part to keep it similar all the way up. One quote has come in from Thomas Fox Landscaping of £1680+Vat. She is waiting on another quote and feels she should get a 3rd before making a decision. This was agreed by the Council.

13. Footpaths and Bridleways. Cllr Hall had continued to leave messages for the Clerk to Long Compton Parish Council regarding the gate which closes too quickly on the bridleway that leads past Wheelbarrow Castle. Her calls have never been returned. She wonders if it has possibly been resolved as no further complaints have been received.

14. Village Maintenance. Cllr Ashford left a report – There has been a new replacement waste bin at the layby on the A44. The ditching works up to the garage are still to be finished and there has been no response as yet to a request for an update. The Forestry Dept have removed five ash trees opposite the Red Lion Pub, and pruned two cherry trees along Brewery Row. The Lime trees at Langston Farm have had their lower branches removed. Remedial works have been completed on the culvert opposite Pool Close. Cllr's Rudge, Robinson and Ashford met with Steve Young (Bridges Dept) and Paul Ryman (Flood Defence Team) Warwick C.C. about having another pipe laid under the A44, adjacent to the existing one, to disperse excess water from the village in heavy rain. We are still waiting for a report. The flood grill on the culvert of Mill House Lane needs repairing, Jim Sked has been approached about this, so hopefully it will be done soon. Damaged Kerbstones at High Corner and Church Lane were reported 4/5 weeks ago. Cllr Rudge reported that they did repair all except 2 of the kerbstones in Church Lane but didn't do High Corner. Jeff Morris is chasing this up. The pot hole at Barton Lane by the Cemetery has been reported. The street sign for The Bank has been chased up several times, we are told it is in the pipeline. The broken bench opposite Post Office Row has been removed. Cllr Ashford is happy that Thomas Fox seem to be doing a better job with the grass verge cutting than the previous contractors.

15. Parish Emergency Plan. Cllr Rudge suggested that this be left until the next meeting as she feels several Cllrs need to get together and decide how to go ahead with this.

16. Vacancies. We now have no Neighbourhood Watch Representatives in the village. Cllr Rudge had spoken to Col Henderson, the Neighbourhood Watch Chairman of this area, who said it involves 4 meetings per year, and the representative would be contacted if there is anything going on that may affect the village. Cllr Rudge suggested we put a note in Centrepoint asking for

volunteers. The same with a Tree Warden as we no longer have one. Cllr Hall suggested Mike Hartnell, who is a tree specialist. Cllr Hall will approach him and see if he would be interested.

17. Financial. Presentation of Annual Accounts – The RFO presented the 2014/15 accounts to the Council. On a proposal by Cllr Robinson, seconded by Cllr Hall and agreed these accounts were adopted by the council. Cllr Rudge explained that she has asked Anthony Mulliner if he would carry out the internal audit before they are sent off for the external audit. He has agreed to do it – Cllr Hall proposed, Cllr Robinson seconded and it was agreed that Mr Mulliner be appointed Internal Auditor for the 2014/15 Accounts. Another meeting will have to be called to accept the annual return before it is sent off to be with the External Auditor by the 22nd June. The right of Electors to view the accounts will be displayed to be viewed if requested at the RFO’s house.

Clerks Salary – Cllr Rudge explained that up to now the Clerk has been paid for 13 hrs per month, but more recently the Council has been taking on more responsibilities from the D.C. e.g. the playground inspections and grass cutting. So it was suggested that the 13hrs be increased to 15 hrs per month, this was proposed by Cllr Hall, seconded by Cllr Robinson and agreed. The hourly rate is £9.03 per hour. The increase would be a financial difference of £18.06 per month. There is also the annual payment of £75 for using her house as the Parish Council Office, It was suggested this be split into 12 payments and added onto the monthly salary. Also the telephone and broadband bill of £32.50 per month which is essential to the job. Cllr Rudge asked if everyone was in agreement that these totals be approved to be paid monthly until the end of this financial year. Proposed by Cllr Hall, seconded by Cllr Robinson and agreed.

Payments to be approved	WALC Membership	£94.00
	Petty Cash	£150.00
	Thomas Fox	£520.80

Approval of the 3 payments were proposed by Cllr Robinson, seconded by Cllr Hall and agreed. The insurance which is due for renewal 1st June, at the moment we are with Came&Co whose renewal premium is £779.56. With 2 other estimates under this figure it was agreed that Cllr Rudge would go back to Came&Co and see what they can do in respect of the lower quotes.

18. Planning. Cllr Rudge said that seven months after the result of the Public Inquiry relating to Briars Close, Stratford District Council and West Oxfordshire District Council had still not served a notice of eviction. Cllr Gray said he was not aware of this and would follow the matter up.

15/01655/LBC Oakham
Alterations to timber sash window to form French doors, involving removal
of stone cill. Alterations to tack room involving blocking up of 2 doorways
and
formation of new doorway and 2 new timber windows.
Circulating for comment.

19. AOB. Cllr Hall said there was pooling of water outside the Village Hall where the road had been resurfaced. Cllr Rudge said she would hand that to Cllr Ashford when he returns. With no other business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8pm