

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Little Compton Parish Council held on Monday 16th May 2016

Present: Cllrs. Rudge, Ashford, White, Hall, District Cllr Gray, Parish Clerk Vicki Hanks and 5 members of the public.

1. Election of Chairman. Cllr. Rudge announced that she would not stand for Chairman of the Parish Council as she has been Chairman for almost six years and has many personal commitments that she needs to spend more time on. No other Councillors wished to stand for election. It had been confirmed with WALC that a Parish Council cannot function without a Chairman and other options such as merging with a neighbouring village were discussed. Cllr. Rudge was reluctant to let the Parish Council collapse, and agreed to carry on for a further 6 months in the hope that in that time another Councillor will agree to take over. Cllr. Rudge was elected Chairman proposed by Cllr. Hall, seconded by Cllr. White and agreed. The Declaration of Acceptance of Office was then signed.

2. Election of Vice-Chairman. Due to health issues Cllr. Hall had decided not to stand as Vice-Chairman. Cllr. Ashford was elected Vice-Chairman proposed by Cllr. Rudge, seconded by Cllr. Hall and agreed.

3. Declarations of Interest. There were none.

4. Apologies for Absence. There were none.

5. Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday, 21st March 2016 following the A.G.M. were agreed to be a true record, proposed by Cllr. Ashford, seconded by Cllr. White and signed accordingly.

6. Matters arising from the minutes not included elsewhere on the Agenda. Sarah Brooke-Taylor had been asked to attend this meeting to discuss the process and benefits of undertaking a housing needs survey across the Parish. Unfortunately she is currently on annual leave but has confirmed her attendance for the next meeting in July.

7. Date of next Meeting. Monday, 18th July 2016

8. Report from District Cllr. Gray. Cllr. Gray reported that Council Tax has increased due to the change in Government financing of Local Authorities. Local Authorities are expecting to lose out over time so are putting in place some cost saving measures, a new management structure being one of these.. The ongoing Core Strategy is important as it is felt it will have a major effect on planning applications. The aim is still to have this in place in July - the final consultation is finished and will now be sent to the government inspector. The District Council has joined the West Midlands Combined Authority as a non-constituent member, which means infrastructure spending will now come through the Combined Authority rather than through the County Council.

9. Questions and Comments from the Public. Mrs Gillett asked what will happen if no-one will take on the position of Chairman of the Parish Council. Cllr Gray explained that the District Council would then stand in until such time that a Chairman can be found. There is also the option of looking into combining with another local Parish Council.

Mrs. Williams mentioned the excessive number of pot holes on the approach to Pool Close. Cllr Ashford said that he had reported these to the Highways Dept., but so far with no success. He and Cllr. Rudge had a meeting two weeks ago with Cllr. Saint to walk around the village and see the issues which need to be dealt with, but had had no feedback to date.

Mrs. Crump mentioned the lack of information regarding the Police and Crime Commissioner election. Cllr. Grey explained that the responsibility for providing the information falls to the political parties and candidates rather than the local council.

Mrs Crump asked if there is a law about times for setting off fireworks. Someone in the village had set off fireworks the previous Saturday night after 11pm, and her neighbour's dog had been so

frightened by it that it ran off and wasn't found until the following day. It was agreed that people should give some warning when fireworks were going to be set off so that arrangements could be made for animals. Cllr. Grey said this would come under anti-social behaviour and there were two officers at S.D.C. who would deal with this. He suggested contacting Karen Stanley. Where offences take place at holiday homes or short-term lets there is a place-based anti-social Behaviour Order, which relates to a geographical location rather than a person.

Mrs. Crump said the kerb stones outside her house had been damaged by the large vehicles being used at Washbrook House and was also very concerned at the speed at which they are driven. Cllr. Ashford said that these were issues that were brought to the attention of Cllr. Saint when he came to the village. At the same meeting we had spoken with the new project manager who suggested a temporary verge was built on the corner of Malthouse Lane to make it safe until the building work was finished when all the verges will be restored to their original condition. Cllr. Ashford suggested that people should go and complain as individuals.

10. Village Maintenance Report. Cllr. Ashford said that his report had been fully covered during agenda item 9 and he had nothing further to report.

11. Church Lane. An email has been received from Reed Business School as they are looking at ways of improving car parking and traffic safety in the village. They say one of the annoying elements is when people park along Church Lane, despite several notices along the road and in the school, causing issues on the 'blind' bend at top of the road. They were wondering on the Parish Council's thoughts if they were to contact the Highways Dept. to see about installing double yellow lines along this road. After a short discussion it was agreed that yellow lines were not a good idea as they would be difficult to enforce and that it would leave visitors to the church for weddings, funerals etc with nowhere to park. It was also thought that double yellow lines were not in keeping with the rural environment. Cllr. Ashford suggested that making that part of the village a one way system may be an option worth looking at.

12. Update on Defibrillator. The Clerk reported that she had been in touch with Bobby Quaium, Community Response Manager of West Midlands Ambulance Service. He said that when siting the box to house the defibrillator the following should be considered: ease of access with no gates, on a visible wall with lighting for use at night and a security light triggered when approaching the box. It would need regular checks and it would be necessary to check that it would be covered by the Village Hall insurance. It is thought that the cost of electricity to serve the box would be £2-3 per year. He will email us the supplier of the box. The Ambulance Service will then give that box a registration number which is written on the front of the box and is needed to get the correct code to open it. They advise that 2 people within the parish know the code for checking purposes. They will carry out training on checks. He also stressed that once 999 is dialled there will always be an ambulance on the way.

13. Playground Report. No report was available.

14. Cemetery Report. Cllr. Hall reported that the new path edging has been completed and that John Hall has re-seeded the gaps adjacent to the edging. A family member had reported that a headstone had been damaged in the cemetery. John Hall had repaired it and the family are content with the result. There have been two requests for reservation of ashes spaces.

15. Footpaths and Bridleway Report. Cllr. Hall said there was nothing to report.

16. Broadband Report. Cllr. White reported that there is now fibre network in the village. It is still a bit vague as to what speed we will get. Cllr. White would just like to encourage people who are upgrading to let us know what speeds they are getting.

17. Emergency Parish Plan. No report available.

18. Financial.

(i) 2015/16 Accounts The Clerk presented the Accounts for the year ending 31st March 2016. These were adopted on a proposal by Cllr. Hall and seconded by Cllr. White and agreed. On a proposal by Cllr. Ashford seconded by Cllr. Hall Anthony Mulliner was appointed Internal Auditor for the financial year 2015/16. The Annual Return must be submitted to the External Auditor (Grant Thornton) by 24th June 2016. Rights of electors to inspect the accounts will be advertised accordingly.

(ii) Balances at the Bank – Current Account £5909
Deposit Account £8495

(iii) Payments. Petty Cash £100
On a proposal by Cllr. Ashford seconded by Cllr. Hall this payment was agreed.

On a proposal by Cllr. White seconded by Cllr. Hall it was agreed that the Clerk will make the future payments to Thomas Fox Landscaping and the Parish Clerk subject to Tender and Contract agreements for the year 2016/17.

19.Planning Applications.

13/00423/FUL Briars Close Awaiting decision
Public Inquiry 4th and 5th May 2016 The appellant had appealed against the enforcement notices served by S.D.C. and W.O.D.C. S.D.C. had reached an agreement with the appellant that if he withdrew his claim to residential use, S.D.C. would agree to reasonable storage of non agricultural materials. W.O.D.C. have continued with opposing the appeal.

16/00693/FUL Heron Cottage Granted
Partial rebuild of existing outbuilding with extension to provide additional ancillary accommodation.

16/01281/TREE 4 Redlands Row
Fell pear tree - work carried out before permission granted. Reported to S.D.C.

16/01207/FUL Kitebrook Farm Circulated
Change of use of land and construction of winter turn out areas.

20. A.O.B. With no other business the meeting closed at 8.20pm