

**Minutes of the Meeting of Little Compton Parish Council held in the Village Hall on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2016, following the Annual Parish Meeting.**

Present. Cllrs. Rudge, Ashford and White, District Cllr. Gray, County Cllr. Saint, Clerk Vicki Hanks and 10 members of the public.

1. Declarations of Interest There were none.

2. Apologies for Absence Cllr Robinson, Cllr Hall.

3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2016 were agreed to be a true record, proposed by Cllr. Ashford, seconded by Cllr. White, and signed accordingly.

4. Matters arising from the Minutes not included elsewhere on the Agenda. There were none.

5. Date of the next Meeting: Annual Meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2016.

6. Reports from District Cllr. Gray and County Cllr. Saint. District Cllr. Gray reported that the District Council is going to increase Council Tax for 2016/17 by 3.9%. This is the first rise in Council Tax in 5 years and is due to the changes in Government funding and finances becoming more challenging. The aim is to reduce costs by ¾ million pounds. As part of these reductions there has been a management restructure. From 1<sup>st</sup> April the Chief Executive Paul Lancaster will take voluntary redundancy. His duties will then be taken on by 2 existing officers, Dave Buckland and Dave Webb. His Returning Officer Duties will go to a new member of staff. The Core strategy of the Local Plan has been through two examinations by a Government Inspector, who has set a list of modifications to be made. These have been accepted by the District Council. There will be a further consultation but it is hoped it will be adopted this coming summer.

County Cllr. Saint reported that the budget review was sorted out last year. In the settlement the Government has raised the amount for rural services. The prospects going forward are that things will have to be tightened up, and reserves put in place, The cost of Adult Social Care is the biggest expenditure of County Councils nationwide and it is rising. There was a meeting in February to decide what would be done with the extra money and, there was no clear way forward, but the Council will be looking at urgent matters and Adult Social Care which is deemed to be a priority. Warwickshire have organised a Multi Agency Support Hub (MASH) to save money on social care by bringing a lot of agencies together, and pooling resources. There will be 40 Apprenticeships advertised for school leavers.

8. Playground Report. None

9. Footpaths & Bridleways. The Cotswold Wardens continued to work on the Redlands bridleway on 2<sup>nd</sup> February. Unfortunately It was a very wet day and they were only able to work for a short time.

10. Broadband & Emergency Plan update. The Emergency Plan will be discussed at the next meeting. Cllr. White said regarding Broadband, CSW Broadband have said that in the next 12 months the Barton on the Heath exchange would be connected, which should increase Little Compton's speed. Cllr. White said that if the village is consistently below 2mb then funding is available and suggested a notice is put in Centrepoint asking people to register their interest which, in turn, means they can register their speed.

11. Village Maintenance Report. Cllr. Ashford reported that the road around the BT cover by the Village Hall has been resurfaced to stop the pooling of water. He said there are still some pot holes in the village to be repaired. The blocked drain at the top of Oakham Hill has been reported twice, but is still blocked. After the recent flooding Cllrs. Rudge and Ashford had a meeting with Mr Jeff Morris, when a road sweeper was requested, but unfortunately due to it working on the other side

of the county it hasn't been yet. TV's and other household items left at the layby on the A44 have been moved by Stratford District Council.

The Parish Council would like to thank John Hall and Alan Newman for keeping the village culverts clear.

Mr McKerran had asked to meet with the Parish Council to discuss his plans for the land he has recently purchased and where he is reinstating and deepening ditches and clearing land drains. Cllrs. Rudge and Ashford attended. Following concern over the volume of water now feeding into the water courses running through the village, a second meeting was arranged with Mr. Paul Rimen of the Warwickshire Flood Management Team who recommended leaky dams being installed on the land in question to slow down the rate of the water feeding into the village watercourses. Cllr. Ashford read Mr. Rimen's report (Appendix 1 ) to the meeting. The Parish Council and villagers remain concerned about the amount of running water

There are several places where the bank of the stream adjacent to the road has eroded away and which will be rebuilt, but there is no date for that work as yet. Also the verge at the corner Malthouse Lane has been eroded exposing the edge of the road and serious potholes and urgently needs to be repaired. The state of the verges in Malthouse Lane and the main village road are in an extremely poor state – this is primarily due to the number of contractor's vehicles parked on the road side causing other vehicles, particularly large ones to use the verges.

Cllr. Saint agreed to come to the village to see the areas of concern.

12 Cemetery Report. Cllr. Ashford and Cllr. Rudge carried out a safety inspection of the cemetery on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2016 and the report is filed with the Council Minutes. Any problems found have been addressed. The replacement of the wooden path edging strips with stone has been completed, but leaving a strip of soil which requires re-seeding.. John Hall will be contacted in the first instance to see if he will do this work.

There have been three enquiries for burial or cremation plots. The request for one to be sited in the top north east corner was postponed until the next meeting.

13 Village Defibrillator Report. This was postponed until the next meeting.

14 Housing Need Survey. A request had been received from Warwickshire Rural Community Council to attend a Parish Council Meeting to talk on the possibility of carrying out a housing needs survey in the village. It was agreed to invite a representative of the W.R.C.C. to the next meeting.

Financial. The clerk reported that, despite numerous telephone calls, the Parish Council has still not been paid by Stratford District Council for village verge maintenance. Cllr. Gray said that he would chase this up.

On a proposal by Cllr. Ashford and seconded by Cllr. White the following item of expenditure was approved: Reimbursement to V Hanks for Computer repair. £51.00

16 Planning Applications. No planning applications had been received..

17 A.O.B. There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.50pm