

Minutes of the Meeting of Little Compton Parish Council held in the Village Hall  
on Monday 16 January 2012

Present: Cllrs. Rudge (Chairman), Moorman, Ashford, Brandreth and Hall, Warwickshire County Cllr. Saint, Stratford District Cllr. Gray, Parish Clerk Susan Cox and 6 members of the public.

1. Declarations of Interest. There were none.
2. Apologies for absence. There were none.
3. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 21 November 2011. These were agreed to be a correct record, proposed by Cllr. Ashford, seconded by Cllr. Hall and duly signed.
4. Matters arising from the minutes not included elsewhere on the agenda. There were none.
5. Date of next Meeting. Monday 23 January at 6.30 pm. - Budget Meeting  
Monday 19 March at 7 pm - Annual Parish Meeting
6. Reports from District Cllr. Gray and County Cllr. Saint. Cllr Gray reported on the recent Budget Meeting which should equate to a 1% reduction in the District Council quota. This is, in part, due to increased charges in Public Conveniences. The District Planning Policy, part of the Core Strategy, will be brought to conclusion within the next six weeks, with a consultation period followed by a final draft.  
Cllr. Ashford asked Cllr. Gray why he appeared to sit on the fence regarding planning issues and seems reluctant to make a decision. Cllr. Gray replied that the Planning Committee meets to deal with unresolved disputes. He said he does not sit on the Planning Committee and is not an expert on planning matters.  
Cllr. Saint reported on reduced opening hours at Shipston Refuse Centre, which will be closing at 3.30 pm, last entry 3.15 pm, during week days and at weekends will operate between 8.30 am and lunchtime. From 1<sup>st</sup> April, Shipston library will be open for four mornings and two afternoons per week, and be closed for three full days. Mr. Evans asked if the mobile library service is being altered. Cllr. Saint replied that there will be one less vehicle operating.  
Council Tax for the year commencing 1<sup>st</sup> April will be agreed on 10<sup>th</sup> February. Amenity grass cutting is being re-tendered to take effect from 2013, and contractors are being asked what they are able to offer in addition to the five verge cuts which villages currently receive.
7. Questions and Comments from the Public. Mrs. Hanks referred to planning application 11/00964/FUL, the retrospective application for a 6ft. high wooden fence at the Red Lion. She said she wanted to support Cllr. Ashford who had explained at the last meeting why he had opposed the application and had been shouted down and addressed inappropriately. She said Mr. Newman Snr. who was over 80 years of age and had lived in Little Compton all his life, was upset that the fence was blocking light from his property. Cllr. Ashford was correctly representing Mr. Newman's objections. Mrs. Powell said trees also cut out light and there were other fences in the village. Mrs. Hanks asked if the erection of the fence was in keeping with the Village Design Statement and said she wondered if it would set a precedent. She asked if there was a possibility of the Parish Council acting as an arbitrator between neighbours in a case such as this, thus resolving some issues early in the planning process. The Chairman replied that the Parish Council must not be involved in disputes between neighbours, but arbitration through an independent person might be a possibility.  
Mrs. Powell said that grass cuttings and leaves are being tipped on the public footpath leading from Pill Lane. Cllr. Hall replied that she was monitoring this. It was suggested that Mrs. Powell might ascertain the owner of the land over which the footpath runs through Land

Registry.

Mr. Evans said that following village flooding and vehicle damage to the grass verge opposite to his home, The Orchard, the verge has never been reinstated and is now virtually non-existent. If a vehicle should go off the road at this point it would hit the exposed concrete block at the entrance to the culvert under the road and could cause serious injury. This has been reported to County Highways on many occasions to no avail. Cllr. Saint agreed to follow this up with County Highways.

Mr. Evans suggested that one area in which Council Tax could be saved is on less, seemingly unnecessary, road signage.

8. Playground Report. Cllr. Moorman reported that she had inspected the playground and found everything in good order. She said that regarding the Annual Safety Inspection of the playground only one quote of £38 + VAT had been received. As this figure appears very low, Cllr. Moorman will contact the company again to confirm that this is accurate and includes a written report.
  
9. Village Maintenance. Cllr. Ashford said that the small group of trees leaning towards the road on the verge opposite to the Red Lion has been inspected by an officer from County Highways and from the Forestry Dept. It was decided the trees were quite safe at the moment, but would be monitored and cut back at a later date.  
 The dead branches overhanging the road by Little Compton Garage had been reported to County Highways. A number of maintenance items such as drain cleaning are still awaited. Complaints had been received about the overhanging yew hedge opposite to Langston Terrace - this has now been trimmed back. Further towards the Village Hall, brambles are growing over the wall onto the grass verge - the address of the current owners of the land is unknown. The village has received twenty bins of salt for use on the public pavements in adverse weather. These have been distributed to people living in strategic locations in the village, who have kindly agreed to spread the salt when needed.  
 The holly trees alongside the wall at Langston Farm have been removed and hopefully new signage will follow, as agreed.  
 The Clerk had been contacted about the overhanging trees, broken wall and hedge bordering Washbrook House. Cllr. Ashford said the owner of Washbrook house had told him that the wall would be repaired during other building works after Christmas. The matter of the trees would be brought to the attention of the owner.  
 Cllr. Ashford said that the replacement tree planted at the Red Lion in memory of former landlords, Mr. and Mrs. Hills, appeared to have been relocated. Mrs. Powell said that she had moved it as it seemed not to be thriving. The Chairman said that doing this without consulting the family was distressing for them as the planting of the tree had been a special family occasion with prayers. Mrs. Powell said, if necessary, she would write to the family.
  
10. Cemetery. Cllr. Hall reported that two burial plots had been reserved by members of the Jordan family.
  
11. Footpaths and Bridleways report. Cllr. Hall reported that she had met with a representative from the Cotswold Wardens who has agreed to carry out the removal of the stile on the footpath alongside Little Compton Garage. The landowner is in agreement with this work being carried out. Consultation with the Rights of Way Officer is to take place regarding work on improving the bridleway opposite Redlands Farm. New signs are awaited for the footpath leading from Pill Lane and alongside Langston Farm.  
 The Rights of Way map is now on the parish noticeboard.
  
12. Liaison with local and national organizations.

Cllr. Brandreth reported that WALC are holding a seminar on Localism and Local Councils. One of the sessions will be on the subject of clustering and collaboration between local councils.

A further report on the national planning framework has been published.

13. Queens Diamond Jubilee Celebrations

Long Compton had hoped to organize a combined village event - Village Games -to celebrate the London Olympics and the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. Mrs. Maddison had kindly agreed to represent Little Compton in the planning of this event. It is now understood that the idea has been abandoned due to lack of support.

Regarding celebration of the Diamond Jubilee in Little Compton, the Chairman suggested a questionnaire is delivered to all properties asking if residents would like to celebrate the occasion, what form the celebration should take, what is the preferred day or time etc. This was agreed.

14. Finance

1. Balances at Bank      c/a £173.28      d/a £8929.39

2. Tenders for 2012 Cemetery Maintenance

Five tenders had been received. After due consideration, it was agreed to award the contract to Thomas Fox, proposed by Cllr. Ashford, and seconded by Cllr. Moorman.

Tenders for 2012 Village Grass Cutting

Four tenders had been received for one or four cuts. Cllr. Ashford had spoken to Veolia, the current Warwickshire contractors who would carry out extra cuts when required for £220 per cut. As this was the lowest bid and the contractors are familiar with the work, it was agreed to ask Veolia to undertake the work, proposed by Cllr. Ashford and seconded by Cllr. Rudge.

3. Precept for 2012/3

Additional expenditure to be budgeted for during 2012/13 included four additional cuts of the village verges, the annual Playground Safety Inspection and a new Parish noticeboard. Cllr. Ashford was unhappy with the estimates for a replacement noticeboard and said he would look at the possibility of renovating the existing one. It was agreed that a meeting of the Council to finalise the 2011/2012 Budget would be held on Monday 23 January at 6.30 pm in the Village Hall.

4. Payments \*paid

Ch 100694	S Cox Printer Repayment	£ 60.00*
100695	WALC Chairman Briefing	£ 30.00*
100696	Spoiled cheque	
100697	LC Village Hall rent 2011	£ 96.00*
100698	WALC Training	£ 30.00*
100699	BT Broadband	£ 56.16*
100700	Thomas Fox	£468.00*
	Clerk Salary Oct-Dec 2011`	£341.13

£200 has been received in respect of cemetery plot reservations

15. Planning Applications.

Cllr Rudge reported

10/02431/FUL	Land behind Jordan's Orchard	Appeal Pending.
11/00105/FUL	Rigside - retrospective application	Decision pending.

11/02040/FUL	2 Brewery Row - Two storey and single storey extension - Granted.
11/02724/FUL	Orchard Cottage - First floor extension - No objection raised by the Parish Council.
11/02756/TPO	2 Rivington Glebe - to lift the crown on an ash tree and to reduce the height and cut back branches of a weeping willow - No objection raised by the Parish Council.

16. Correspondence.

By e-mail:

Localism Act 2011 and 2012/13 Precepts not subject to Council Tax freeze

Future of Standards of Conduct of Local Authority Members

Energy Saving Trust

Royal Garden Party Nominations

Broadband Speeds

Agenda Document for the Cabinet 16/1/12

WALC Area Liaison Meeting, 7<sup>th</sup> February 2012

WALC Annual Briefing Seminar 3 March 2012

Core Strategy Consultation

17. Other Business. There was none.

The meeting closed at 8.20 pm