

Minutes of the Meeting of Little Compton Parish Council held in the Village Hall
on Monday 19th November 2012

Present: Cllrs. Rudge (Chairman), Moorman (Vice Chairman), Ashford, Browne and Hall, County Cllr. Saint, District Cllr. Gray and 7 members of the public.

The Chairman welcomed Cllr. Browne on to Little Compton Parish Council. She said that he had kindly agreed, as his area of responsibility, to move forward with the preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan.

1. Declarations of Interest. There were none at this time.

2. Apologies for absence. There were none.

3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 17th September 2012 were agreed to be a correct record, proposed by Cllr. Ashford seconded by Cllr. Hall and signed accordingly.

4. Matters arising from the Minutes - not Included elsewhere on the agenda.

The Chairman said she was pleased to say that the Parish Council's appeal against the penalty imposed by H.M.R.C. because of the late submission of the 2011/12 Annual Return had been accepted and the penalty cancelled.

She apologised that letters to local stables requesting that horse riders do not use public footpaths, in particular the footpath adjacent to the A44 between the two entrances to the village, had not yet been sent out.

5. Dates of 2013 Meetings. Monday, 21st January, 18th March, 20th May, 15th July, 16th September and 18th November.

6. Reports from District Cllr. Gray and County Cllr. Saint . Cllr. Gray reported on the recent Police and Crime Commissioner election at which Mr. Ron Ball (Independent) was elected as Police and Crime Commissioner for Warwickshire. He also reported on the 800 new houses to be sited in Shottery, despite much opposition and controversy.

Cllr. Saint said the contractors for the amenity grass cutting had now been appointed, but details were still being worked out, so it was not possible yet to say how many cuts would be made each year. He was disappointed that, despite the efforts of himself and the Parish Council, Little Compton was not shown on Warwickshire's Primary Gritting Route map for 2012/13.

Cllr. Saint said he would support Little Compton's application for funding for a passing place on Barton Lane under the W.C.C. Road Safety Budget. The application should be directed to Chris Burrows at Warwickshire County Council.

7. Questions and Comments from the Public.

Mrs. Gillett asked why cats eyes had not been fitted on the A44 near Kitebrook School when they had been fitted on the rest of the road. The flashing sign was also not functioning properly. Cllr. Ashford said he would follow these matters up.

Mrs. Gillett referred to the Parish Council paying someone to clear the culvert outside 1 Red Lodge. She asked why Matthew Gillett had not been asked if he would do this work as he had done it for many years voluntarily. The Chairman said it was becoming more difficult to recruit volunteers and the Parish Council had taken the decision to pay someone to clear the culvert. She apologized that Mr. Gillett had not been approached.

Mrs. Hanks said that talking to people would probably raise more volunteers and suggested that knocking on doors and asking for help when delivering leaflets would be effective. The 'Autumn Sweep' of the village will be held on Sunday, 9th December at 10.00a.m.

Mr. McLean asked if any progress had been made in recruiting a Parish Clerk. The Chairman said that, unfortunately, no one had come forward to date and it may be necessary to advertise outside the village.

Mr. Reeves asked if the grit bins, discussed at an earlier meeting of the Parish Council, would be moved. The Chairman said it was still the intention to move three of the bins, but they were currently full and it would be easier when the bins were less full.

8. Traffic speed on A44 at Newtown. Cllr. Moorman said she had been approached by P.C.S.O. Andy Steventon regarding the speed of traffic on the A44 at Little Compton, which he considered should be reduced to 30m.p.h. This will be on the agenda of the Shipston Community Forum Meeting to be held at Shipston High School on 4th December at 6.30p.m. Little Compton residents were urged to attend that meeting to support this proposal.

9. Playground Report. Cllr. Moorman reported that she had visited the playground and all appeared generally in good order, although there was a black bag containing some items of rubbish which she had disposed of.

10. Village Maintenance. Cllr. Ashford said the village roads, where there are kerb stones, had been swept in October. The Highways Dept. had sprayed the weeds growing between the kerb stones but had confirmed that weeds between the footpaths and garden walls are the responsibility of the householder. He had reported the poor state of the footpath adjacent to the A44 between the road to Chastleton and the top of Malthouse Lane and was very pleased at the work of the Highways Dept. in clearing and de-weeding this. Cllr. Ashford said the open culvert outside 1 Red Lodge had become overgrown and congested with weeds. Council workers had cut the top sections of weeds but were not permitted to climb into the culvert to cut the weeds at the base. The Parish Council obtained two quotes for this work and accepted the lower quote of £100 from John Hall who carried out an excellent job with the help of David Hancock, leaving the culvert clear and running well and taking away all the waste.

Cllr. Ashford said that several years ago a grid had been placed over the entrance to the culvert under the road at the lay-by on the A44 to prevent items that had been thrown into the stream blocking the culvert. The heavy rains this year had resulted in leaves and debris blocking the grid which is of a relatively fine construction. The Highways Dept. had temporarily placed the grid flat in the stream to allow the water to flow, but its construction and position will be reconsidered in the Spring.

An existing under-road culvert had been discovered on Oakham Road hill. The Parish Council had been fortunate to receive a £1,000 grant from Stratford District Council's Flood Defence Assistance Grant to re-establish the ditch on the south side of Oakham Road hill and cut grips to service the ditch. Work on this is expected to begin on 30th November.

The Parish Council had been asked by a resident, if the brambles on the verge opposite to the Bowls Club could be cut back. It was agreed that Mrs. Gillet would ask Matthew Gillett if he would undertake this.

11. W.C.C. Primary Gritting Routes 2012/13 and Snow Warden Scheme. It was unfortunate that despite much effort by the Parish Council last year, Little Compton is still not

included on Warwickshire County Council's Primary Gritting Routes for 2012/13. The County Council is again operating its Snow Warden Scheme. Cllr. Ashford has kindly agreed to continue to undertake this role and will liaise with the County Highways Team during severe weather. If anyone who, last year, received grit to spread on the roads or footpaths during inclement weather needs more, please contact Cllr. Ashford.

12. Cemetery Report. The following requests had been received for the reservation of burial plots in the cemetery: a request for two spaces for previous residents of the village and a request for four plots (two for residents, one for a family friend and one for a yet unknown future spouse). It was agreed that the family friend must apply herself and that any future correspondence is directed to her. On a vote of the Council it was agreed that the allocation of a burial plot to an unknown person was not acceptable.

An earlier request to scatter ashes over an existing grave has been revoked and burial within the grave has been requested. Unfortunately this is not possible as the exact position of the grave is not known. Interment in the cremation area has now been accepted verbally

Permission for a memorial stone for Mr George Jordan has been granted.

It was agreed that the maximum dimensions of memorial stone on ashes spaces must be considered and included with cemetery fees. It was agreed that the Chairman and Cllr. Hall would follow this up.

There has been no progress in determining the possible laying of the hedge bordering the cemetery extension on two sides by the Cotswold Conservation Board, including whether the sides of the hedge should be cut in the meantime. John Hall has advised that no action was needed this year.

13. Footpaths and Bridleways Report. Cllr. Hall said she had nothing to report.

14. Neighbourhood Watch Representative. A Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator for the village is needed following the death of Mrs. Eileen Evans, who had been the principal Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator for some years.

15. Financial. On a proposal by Cllr. Ashford and seconded by Cllr. Moorman it was agreed that the name of Peter Brandreth be removed from the Bank mandate and the name of Cllr. Browne be added. The mandate was duly signed.

The Chairman said the Council was in a good position financially: c/a £389 d/a £10,533
The half year accounts will be circulated with the Minutes.

The Budget for 2013/14 will be presented at the January Meeting. Councillors were asked to notify the Chairman of any items they considered should be included.

On a proposal by Cllr. Hall and seconded by Cllr. Ashford the following items of expenditure were approved:

Village Hall rent	- £96.00	Cheque no. 100667
Cllrs. WALC Training	- £60.00	no. 100668
Printer cartridges	- £46.48	
John Hall (clearing culvert)	- £100.00	no. 100669
C.P.R.E.	- £29.00	no. 100670

The following payment had been made:

Cheque no. 100665 Thomas Fox - £208.80

A recent invoice from Thomas Fox had included a charge of £87.00 + VAT for 'weeding pathway' - this was included in the general maintenance in the accepted tender and will be referred back to Thomas Fox.

16. Planning Applications. Cllr Rudge reported:

12/01227/FUL	Pilbridge House	Permission granted
and 12/01228/LBC	Erection of two storey side extension with glazed link, demolish existing sun room and replace with bay window.	

12/0184/FUL	Salters Well Farm	Permission granted
	Farm Cottage	
	Demolition of existing cottage and construction of new house	

17. Correspondence.

By email (paper copies to Cllr. Ashford)

W.C.C. - Road Safety Issues for your community

W.A.L.C.- Code of Conduct Pointers and Responding to Planning Applications events

S.D.C.- Loan Shark Awareness Training Event -25.10.2012

Shipston Town Council - Cluster Group Meeting - 17.09.2012

W.C.C. - Broadband Newsletter

S.D.C. - Neighbourhood Planning Bulletin

W.A.L.C. Newsletter 102-5-2012

W.A.L.C. N.A.L.C. Precept Policy Briefing

18. A.O.B. Cllr. Moorman drew attention to the mud left on the road by construction vehicles at the top of Oakham Road Hill. Cllr. Browne agreed to contact the construction company involved and the Chairman said she would raise the matter with Long Compton Parish Council.

The meeting closed at 8.50 pm