

Minutes of the Meeting of Little Compton Parish Council, held in the Village Hall on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2014

Present: Cllrs. Rudge (Chairman), Moorman, Ashford, Browne and Hall, District Cllr. Stephen Gray, Parish Clerk Robyn Waller and 5 members of the public.

1. Declarations of Interest: There were none.

2. Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr. Saint and Mr. Evans.

3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> November 2013 were amended as follows:

Item 12 Line 1 'has been' should read 'will be delivered'

Line 5 'questions asked' should read 'questionnaire asks'

The Minutes were then agreed to be a correct record, proposed by Cllr. Moorman, seconded by Cllr. Rudge and signed.

The Minutes of the extraordinary Meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> January 2014 were agreed to be a correct record, proposed by Cllr. Ashford, seconded by Cllr. Hall and signed.

4. Matters arising from the Minutes not included elsewhere on the Agenda. Cllr. Hall requested that the problem of parking on the corner of Church Lane be addressed. It was agreed to include the matter in Item 7 of the agenda.

5. Date of next Meeting: Annual Parish Meeting on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2014.

6. Report from District Cllr. Gray. Cllr. Gray said that the District Council had published its Draft Budget which states that no rise in Council Tax is proposed for 2014/ 2015 or 2015/16. He said the Council continues to struggle with the Local Plan - housing requirements are estimated to be 10,800 over the next 20 years and while there are a number of options for housing development, dispersal across the area had not been ruled out.

7. Questions and Comments from the Public. Mrs. Williams expressed thanks for the dropped curb at Deerpark Close which has allowed easy wheelchair access between footpath and road.

Mrs Hanks voiced concern over the continued parking of vehicles at the top corner of Church Lane, stating that the practice is hazardous. Vehicles turning into Church Lane risk meeting oncoming vehicles, forced onto the wrong side of the road by the parked cars. It was requested that vehicle owners be asked to use the Business School car park. Mrs. Hanks said she had already brought the matter to the attention of Reed Business School. It was agreed that the Parish Council would also contact the Business School and ask if letters could be put on offending cars pointing out that the cars are parked dangerously and asking that the School car park is used.

Cllr. Moorman raised the matter of soil dumped on the verge at the entrance to the Playground. Cllr. Rudge said that she had spoken to Reed College and that an apology had been offered, along with the assurance that the soil would be removed by lunchtime Friday 17<sup>th</sup> January. However, more soil was dumped on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> in the same place. The problem created a muddy mess on the verge and risked being washed onto the road just days after the roads had been swept. Cllr. Rudge again contacted Reed College and was told that

all the soil and debris would be removed the next day, the verges made good and the road swept at

that point.

Mrs. Williams suggested that the arrival of new families to the village had added to the number of dog owners, exacerbating the on-going problem of dog fouling. She asked that another notice be placed in Centrepont requesting dog owners clear up after their pets.

Mr. Gillett raised the problem of the blocked drain at Kitebrook, questioning whether recent work in the school grounds may have damaged the drain. Cllr. Ashford said that he had made several requests to have the problem addressed and had been advised that County Highways would be looking at the problem later this week.

8. Parish Plan: Cllr. Browne reported that the Parish Plan questionnaires had been delivered to all houses in the Parish, but only 33 had been returned. There were 6 offers from people willing to become involved in village matters. The next steering committee meeting was planned for 12<sup>th</sup> February, 2014. He said that the WRCC had confirmed the cost of £10.00 per questionnaire for analysis and that an estimated cost for printing the completed Parish Plan was £1,000.

9. Playground Report: Cllr. Moorman reported that the playground was inaccessible at present due to the muddy conditions created by the tipped soil mentioned earlier. No other problems were reported although there remains the replacement of three logs on the Trimtrail which Mr. John Hall had kindly agreed to do.

10. Cemetery Report: Cllr. Hall stated there was nothing to report.

11. Footpaths and Bridleways Report: Cllr. Hall reported that work relating to the Bridleway opposite Redlands Farmhouse remains on-going. However, it was also reported that the barbed wire along the boundary of the bridleway had been removed and it was agreed that a letter of thanks be sent to the property owner.

12. Village Maintenance Report: Cllr. Ashford said that work previously reported to Mr Jeff Morris of County Highways had still not been done. Cllr. Saint had agreed to follow this up. Potholes in Langston Terrace and blocked drains at Willow End and Newtown had been reported; the problem of the tree roots causing a hazard on the footpath adjacent to Brewery Row was still waiting attention: repairs to the verge opposite to The Orchard, scheduled for June last year, are now re-scheduled for February 2014 and fallen trees fouling the ditch between the Malthouse Lane and A44 also await attention.

The fitting of the grids at the entrance to three culverts in the village has been delayed because of inclement weather.

Work on the two passing places on Barton Lane is scheduled to begin on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2014 – details are on the village noticeboards.

Cllr. Ashford said that, sadly, the sign at the entrance to the village, requesting that horses are kept off the footpath adjacent to the A44,(thereby keeping the footpath for pedestrian use clear of horse excrement), had been vandalized.

13. Financial Report:

The Parish Clerk reported that:

(i) Balances at Bank on the 15<sup>th</sup> January were:

(c. a/c) £1,216.68 and (d. a/c).£14,758.78 (including Flood Defence Grant)

(ii) Approval of the following expenditure was proposed by Cllr. Morman, seconded by Cllr. Ashford and agreed:

Bespoke grids (from Flood Defence Grant) £2,400 + VAT

Petty Cash £100.00

Re-imbursement of Office Supplies (J.Rudge) £43.19

Cleaning out of Grips (Oakham Rd) £280.00

It was agreed by councillors that the approval of the cost of analysis of the Parish Plan Questionnaire be deferred until the next Meeting.

(iii).Tenders for Cemetery Maintenance 2014/15 were considered. As the two lowest tenders were both submitted by contractors who had given the Council excellent service in the past, the decision was made, as last year, to accept the lowest tender which was from Thomas Fox. It was agreed that letters would be sent to the unsuccessful tenders with particular thanks to be expressed for the quality of work from Up The Garden Path during the 2013 season. It was further agreed that the tender for village verge cutting (single cuts as and when necessary in between amenity grass cutting by Stratford District Council) also be given to Thomas Fox.

(iv). The Budget and precept for 2014/15 were presented by the Responsible Financial Officer:

Precept required £5,400 (less Council Tax Support Grant of £430)

Tax Base for the financial year 2014/15 - £148.11

This is equivalent to Council Tax on a Band D house of £33.56 (£36.18 in 2013/14)

A resolution to accept the Budget for 2014/15 was proposed by Cllr. Moorman, seconded by Cllr. Hall and agreed.

14. Planning Application: Cllr. Rudge reported on the following applications:

13/01012/FUL

Peewit Cottage

Use of separate building (Studio) as a separate dwelling

Appeal upheld

13/02466/FUL

Oakham Cottage

Formation of Menage

Permission granted

13/00423/FUL

Briar Close, London Road

Use of land for the stationing of caravans for residential services for

1 No. gypsy pitch together with the formation of hardstanding and utility/day room ancillary to that use.

Appeal pending

The Kitebrook Action Group has been granted Rule 6 to allow it to be

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represented at the Public Inquiry on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2014 by its own Counnsel.

APP/J3720/C/13/2200423

Compton Lane Nurseries  
Appeal against enforcement action

Appeal upheld

13/03050/FUL and L.B.C.

Construction of new garden room extension to the rear of the property,  
construction of a shed and removal and replacement of fruit trees

No objections by P.C.  
Decision pending

12/03082/TREE

Brewery Cottage

Reduce crown of hornbeam by one third. Reduce crown of sycamore by  
one third. Reduce/ remove branches of sycamore overhanging roof.

Permission granted

13/03254/TREE

Langston Farm

Reduce lateral branches by 25% and rebalance

No objection by P.C.  
Decision pending

15. Correspondence: The Parish Clerk reported there was no circulation of correspondence due to illness.

16. Any Other Business: There was none.

The Meeting closed at 8.14pm.

Robyn Waller  
Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer.