

**Minutes of Little Compton Parish Council on
Monday 16th November 2020 at 1900hrs via Zoom Online**
www.littlecomptonpc.org

Present : Cllr Ian Robinson (IR -Chair), Cllr Rachel Righton (RR), Cllr Graeme Evans (GE), Cllr Andrew Lukas (AL), Cllr Sarka Wilde (SW), and Sarah Elliott (SE – Clerk)

1. Declarations of Interest : There were none.
2. Apologies for Absence: from District Cllr Sarah Whalley-Hoggins and County Cllr Jo Barker
3. Minutes of last Meeting held 21st September: Proposed by IGR and seconded by GE to be an accurate record and will be signed by the Chair and filed.
4. Matters Arising from minutes of last meeting and not included elsewhere on the agenda : There were none.
5. Reports from District and County Cllrs: There were none, though both councillors offered their support in any matters which may be relevant.
6. Questions from the Public: There were none.
7. The Playground: IGR noted that the Playground has been allowed to remain open during recent weeks and remains so. IGR asked about the repairs to the playground equipment and he and AL will form a working party and set a date so that no one person is lifting heavy equipment to complete the repairs. ***(IGR/AL to action)***
8. Village Maintenance: IGR asked if any works have been done. GE noted that the Highways Dept have cleared some of the drains to prevent floods occurring during recent rains. GE also noted that most of the ditches have already been cleared to allow easy flow-away of rainwater by the nearby farm and by the Reed Business School. RR noted that a local resident had cleared a section opposite the Red Lion pub. IGR said he would check the section below his own property.

SW noted that the takeover of mowing by Lawns to Mow had improved the appearance and state of the grass verges significantly.

Cllr SW also confirmed that the overgrown sign opposite Willow Close was now clear and visible again.

9. Cemetery: AL noted that the Buxus hedges might now be removed as they will not grow back green and should be cut down to below ground level. It was also agreed that no replacement would be required. ***(AL/IGR to action)***

10. Footpaths and Bridleways: The Footpaths are fairly muddy lately; SW asked if the landowners have a duty to keep the pathways clear and maintained and IGR confirmed that this was the case, and gave an example where a farmer will clear the crops to leave a wide enough space for permissible footpaths. Furthermore, groups such as Cotswolds Wardens help to maintain the pathways, gates and posts. IGR noted that the footpath coming down from the quarry, South-East of Langstone and Redlands, is a mess due to the heavy vehicles coming up and down across the fields there from the quarry site. Cllr Jo Barker who was able to listen to the meeting without video, emailed to say she is working on sorting out the widening of the footpath up to the garage (A44 towards Moreton); and did we have any issues with the quarry?

11. Financial:

Half-year accounts given to IGR and GE (responsible finance officer) GE noted the higher balance which is due to VAT refunds and to having received our council precept allowances. IGR suggested the money might go towards a couple of requests from residents in the village : eg contribution towards a memorial bench for the late Councillor Christopher Reeves; and a bus shelter for the village. Discussed options and prices and RR brought up her concern about retaining in whole and not damaging the Jubilee bench already in situ.

IGR proposed the half-year accounts as an accurate record and GE seconded. *(Copy of these are posted alongside these minutes).*

Tenders for Contract: SE working on sending out the requests for tenders for village mowing and maintenance of the cemetery. Councillors were asked to confirm they are happy with the areas marked on the maps given out.

Furthermore the number of cuts was discussed: is ten cuts enough (3-weekly between April and mid-October)? Why is the cemetery given 15 cuts? IGR stated that this has occurred historically from when the councillors were doing the work in the cemetery. So, these were brought in line and agreed that both would be given 12 cuts per season between April and end of October.

12. Planning Applications:

Whilst the councillors had not commented on the application for the Bowls Club via e-planning, they are unanimously in support and wish the Bowling Club the best of luck with the project.

The application for a *manege* at Acorn Cottage had received a comment about the level of increased traffic it might bring. The critical date is past now for comment.

RR has written again to Orbit to press them with rebuilding the wall at Pool Close, she had a conversation with Orbit and a stonewall builder on the site and had to point out to them that a standard stonewall would not suffice as the wall was originally a retaining wall (i.e. with a higher level of soil on the property side) and the builder agreed with this information, having seen for himself the necessity of the works, so the replacement of the wall was not started. ***(Post meeting note: Orbit are now asking Stratford District Council for permission to close the footpath so that building works can take place).***

13. Any Other Business :

The Quarry at Little Rollright and the planning application to allow access for vehicles on the minor road. IGR noted that Oxfordshire CC have already denied permission for the increase of HGV into and out of the quarry; the landowners are also engaged in objecting this application; if any of the councillors would be prepared to write and object on behalf of LCPC or as an individual using the minor roads in the vicinity, this would be welcomed. GE noted that a resident has already forwarded a consultant report stating the risk to road users and probable hazards in allowing access to large vehicles along those narrow roads. AL offered to look into the application and put forward our objections on behalf of the parish councillors.

(AL to action)

RR had been asked by a resident from Newtown if it would be possible to have a flashing speed sign installed or reduce the speed limit down to 40mph (this is between the two roads that come off the A44 into Little Compton. The reasoning behind this request was discussed and Cllr Sarka Wilde gave an example of a **recent** accident which took place **in the vicinity**, which she suggested might be used as mitigation for WCC Highways to consider it to be a viable project. IGR has offered to look into the possibilities of this happening. **(IGR to action)**

This has been the final council meeting of 2020. The councillors are thankful to our District and County Councillors for attending our meetings whenever possible and hope that this may continue into the next year. A list of the proposed meeting dates for 2021 will be posted onto the village notice board so that any resident who may wish to attend the meetings will have forward notice.

Date of next meeting : Monday 18th January 2021

With no other business the meeting closed at 19:51 hours

PROPOSED DATES FOR COUNCIL MEETINGS FOR THE YEAR 2021

These will continue to be held through ZOOM communication online.

Any resident wishing to attend the meetings is welcome to join via the link which can be found below, or at the bottom of the AGENDA posted usually one week before the meeting on the Notice Board.

January Monday 18th 7pm

February -- No Meeting

March Monday 15th 7pm

Note : The Annual Parish Meeting will take place before this meeting.

April -- No Meeting

May Monday 17th 7pm

June -- No Meeting

July Monday 19th 7pm

August -- No Meeting

September Monday 20th 7pm

October -- No Meeting

November Monday 15th 7pm

December -- No Meeting

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6227798286?pwd=ME16YnUvMkh6YURhZEJlZnhPWEI1QT09>

Meeting ID: 622 779 8286

Passcode: Ring2020