

**Minutes of the Little Compton Parish Council Public Meeting held in the Village Hall on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2020 at 1930**

The meeting was opened by the Chair, IR, noting sadly the absence of Cllr Christopher Reeves who died at the end of January and whose efforts will be very much missed by the council.

**1. Declarations of Interest.** There were none.

**2. Present :** Cllr Ian Robinson (IR -Chair), Cllr Rachel Righton (RR), Cllr Andrew Lukas (AL), Cllr Graeme Evans (GE), Sarah Elliott (SLE) – PC Clerk and three members of the public.  
Apologies for absence: None

**3. Minutes of meeting** held on 20th January 2020 were agreed to be a correct record by Rachel Righton, seconded by Andrew Lukas, and signed (RR).

**4. Matters arising from the minutes not included elsewhere on the agenda :**

There were none.

**5. Requirement for new Councillor**

**GE** has asked Keith, the editor, to put an item in the village leaflet, Centrepont, for April issue (deadline 20/3)

**SLE** to notify Stratford District Council that we have a vacancy and to put up a notice on the village notice board with the minutes.

**RR** will post a comment on the social media website Next Door and on the pub noticeboard.

**6. Reports from District and County Cllrs:**

No reports from either councillor. Cllr Whalley-Hoggins sent apologies. Cllr Barker absent. **SLE** to contact both cllrs to ask if they are more likely to attend our meetings if they are moved to the second Monday of the month. Cllrs agreed that there are advantages to having the councillors present at meetings.

**6. Playground Report.**

Both IR and AL have read through the report and AL felt that items of note were the major rot on two beams of the climbing frame – he is willing to replace these if the council will agree. Also the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> links on the swing are wearing thin and need to be replaced or simply cut out (this will shorten the swing) IR asked who is the manufacturer and that we ask them to quote for the work and compare with AL doing the replacement with like seasoned wood. **AL** *The outcome to be followed up at next meeting.*

**7. Village Maintenance.**

AL discussed his report :

- The gully at Langston Farm has been jetted. IR noted that grips had been put in place up the hill. He also pointed out that some of the granite sets have come away around the Church and need to be re-positioned, so he will ask Highways about them doing this. **(IR)**
- The dead tree at Brewery Row is due to be cleared late March/early April (if not delayed because of the Covid-19 outbreak and restrictions imposed).
- The fallen wall by the Orbit Housing has still not been repaired. Rachel has been in contact with Chris Randall (from MP and council enquiries at Orbit) and had apologies and a response saying they are chasing the repair and will keep RR informed. IR / AL have seen men at the site and Stratford DC are also chasing Orbit on our behalf. **RR** to follow this matter up.
- Councillors reported that Pear Tree Gardening have mowed the verges around the village and need to finish those outside the cemetery.

### **9. Cemetery.**

Lawns to Mow are going to take care of the maintenance of the cemetery. Cllrs Andrew and Ian have completed ten hours of clearance of dead wood including elm trees and reduction of several shrubs including half of the holly bush to great effect. The Boxus will be drastically reduced in the near future and either recover or be replaced. There was discussion about having a bonfire on site to get rid of the wood and all agreed to go ahead. There is a green bin for wasted flowers from gravesites. A compost at the site was discussed but on balance, probably it is better to clear any waste as it would have to be well shredded to compost and Lawns to Mow will take away the hedge trimmings.

### **10. Footpaths and Bridleways.**

- IR stated most footpaths are still boggy with rainfall. RR talked about clearing the pathway in front of the playground and **IR** will look at this and the pathway on the main road from the garage towards the village. SLE suggested that Lawns to Mow or Pear Tree might do this work.
- A member of the public noted that an Ash tree has collapsed over the bridge between Reeds Business School and Hawton Farmland and now is dangerous. **IR** will go with Mike to assess the situation and then talk to the Estate Manager at Reeds.

### **11. Financial.**

End of financial year is 31<sup>st</sup> March. Accounts up to date including payments for the website TEEC, the Web domain name and the playground report all included. No notice of the precept from SCD as yet but not previously notified until paid into the account. **(SLE to chase up)**

### **12. Questions and Comments from the public.**

- Two ladies Ruth and Lynne asked for permission to put a bench onto the green area near the houses with a plaque in memory of Christopher Reeves. They are not asking for finance they will fund from local donations. **RR** will check who the land belongs to. They have someone to lay a base for the bench to sit on.
- They also expressed thanks for the clearing of the steps around Pool Close.

- Mike Hartnell put forward his plans for the flood defence proposals and how he is going about applying for a 'small scale alleviation' grant of £5000 from SDC. He is working with Shipston Flood Defence Group Tom Leavers, applying for this grant. The work will total £6000 and he is willing to put in £1000 from Hawton Farm Company to complete the works. He has had to produce a method statement and has made the application; he has paid £499 for the licences for 12 leaky dams and 4 off-line water storage sites (these are valid for a period of 12 months). He has paid £2000 costs up front in doing preparation work for the flood defences but is now concerned that no-one at Stratford District Council will take responsibility to award the money and he is being passed around various departments. He stated that whilst Jo Barker offered to help him achieve the grant, she has not responded to his emails recently on this matter. *Post meeting note: Mike confirmed he has now happily received this payment from SDC as a priority project.*

### **13. Planning Applications :**

- 20/00322/FUL Acorn Cottage, Kitebrook  
Demolition of existing stable building and replacement with new stables and ancillary workshop and stores. No objections from LCPC to this.
- Mike Hawton stated he has put in a further application to his new building which has been approved to be used for storage, mess room and toilet facilities. His new application is for the building to be used as an education facility. Mike is willing to have a meeting with councillors to discuss this facility. Cllrs please look on the e-portal and state any or no objections.
- Cllrs then set up a meeting with Mike Hawton to go along and have a look on site and see what his plans involve, Wednesday 11.30am

### **14. Any Other Business.**

- RR talked about a few of the local residents having stink bombs put through letterboxes and banging on doors by local youths. The placing of stink bombs has been witnessed. They have also set fires and left rubbish up in Hawton Woods. Two teenaged youths from Little Compton were named and another two are identified to be from Shipston and Long Compton. One villager has spoken to another about police involvement and the incidents have been reported to the police.

- Cllr IR then discussed the issue of Corona Virus causing disruption to village life and whether older residents might need help over the coming weeks. The council will produce a leaflet to post through doors with useful contact links for people who need any help with shopping/fetching medicines/dog walking or any other tasks. *Post meeting note: Andrew has now produced this item with the email included*

[LittleCompton.pc1@gmail.com](mailto:LittleCompton.pc1@gmail.com)

*This can now be distributed around the 100 or so village houses.*

- Update on the website, the test site is up and has a domain name but it is not live yet. The support company is catching up with work from all councils needing to have a website. GE will chase this up hopefully for next meeting.

Date of next meeting : This will usually be the AGM on 18<sup>th</sup> May.

*However, this may change to 11<sup>th</sup> May if our district councilors are able to attend and may also be cancelled due to the current Covid-19 outbreak and government issued guidelines on social gatherings.*

With no other business the meeting closed at 8.33pm