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**Minutes of … LITTLE COMPTON**

 **ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

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**Here are the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Little Compton Parish Council held on Monday 20th January 2025 at 7.00pm in the Village Hall.**

**Present : Councillors Matt Povey (Chairman), Charlie Huntingford, Graeme Evans, Nigel Martin, Clerk- Sarah Elliott**

**Stratford District Councillor Sarah Whalley Hoggins and Warwickshire County Councillor Jo Barker. There were 7 members of the public present.**

1. Apologies were received from Cllr Wayne Parker
2. Minutes of the 18th November 2024 meeting were approved and signed by the Chairman.
3. Report from our District Councillor Sarah Whalley-Hoggins :
	1. This will be the last time she represents the District Council because of the devolution of South Warwickshire into a separate District. There will likely be a briefing on this for Parish Councillors in due course. The Mayor of West Midlands has stated opposition to encompassing South Warwickshire, which Sarah considered good news for South Warwickshire and she would oppose a union between this rural and the urban West Midlands/ Solihul areas. This is particularly important regarding the planning for house-building. The alternative is to join this area with the rest of the Cotswolds and Gloucestershire. She also stated her opposition to this area being taken over by Warwick and Leamington because those councils are heavily in debt with their finances, whereas Stratford on Avon is not.
	2. She talked of SonAvon council plans to spend 1.2million on the River Avon to create a hydro-electric scheme. She felt that the current council was taking advantage of the misery of outlying villages being flooded and using this to create their own wealth

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scheme and at a huge price to its electorate. ***There is a consultation online and Sarah urged everyone to have their say on the subject.***

* 1. Green Bin charges are going up again £2.00 which Sarah felt is unnecessary because the council has a healthy bank balance.
	2. The Ellen Badger Hospital is another issue ongoing and an online vote for beds at this site instead of going to Warwick or Coventry is open and online to have your say. ***Go to https://bedsforbadger.info to have your say on the subject.***
	3. Chairman Matt Povey asked – assuming Stratford is abolished as a District Council, where will our tax money go to? And what will replace it? Sarah answered that the Warwickshire County Council is trying to push back the election date in order to influence this (in two years’ time).
	4. Matt then stated that as a Parish Council he has been invited to join with Wolfords and Barton on the Heath to create a Neighbourhood Development Plan, which might help us in the future under a new council.
1. Correspondence received : Clerk’s report to the Police about the dogs at Pool Close, was rejected and anyone injured by the dogs would have to put in a claim to the police directly. However, the SDC dog warden did go out to see the people at 6 Pool Close on 9th January and gave them warnings about the anti-social behaviour of their dogs. The family said the cat-flap was unsecured as yet and that the one dog is over-active, but she denied the dog mess is from their dogs. Any evidence from door cameras can be used to stop any further adverse behaviour.
2. General Public :
	1. Mike talked about the litter dropping at the Cemetery this is happening regularly and he has seen a regular van with professional dog walkers throwing rubbish out of their vehicle. They are also chasing muntjac deer and killing rabbits (Mike has picked up two over the past weeks). He said the situation is getting worse and he is picking bin liners full of rubbish regularly. What is the solution to this problem? Cllr Walley-Hoggins suggested we contact SDC dog warden about this situation.
	2. Mike also asked for the ditch opposite the cemetery to be cleared. Alan, another resident said it is blocked with silt. Cllr Martin offered to look at this to see if it can be cleared out.
	3. At this point the meeting was interrupted by a local man, John Hall who wanted to air an issue he had. He made false accusations against Parish Councillor Graeme Evans - he was however asked to speak separately to the Council about his issue as it wasn’t Council Business and was eventually persuaded to sit down and the meeting continued. A complaint was made in writing by Mr Hall against Parish Councillor Evans regarding local parking access outside of Mr Evans’ house and his fitness to serve as Parish Councillor. The complaint was considered by Stratford DC and rejected. Following an earlier incident, the Police were informed of Mr Hall’s threatening behaviour and defamatory and false accusations, and visited Mr Hall to warn him against any further action and behaviour in this regard.

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* 1. Ann then brought up the issues facing the Village Hall and the struggle to meet their expenses with funding they bring in. She put

in a request for funding from the council to support the community

asset. They are stuck in a contract with an electricity supplier, SSE,

paying 41p per kw which is not helping. Cllr Whalley-Hoggins

advised to speak to the Stratford MP, Manuela, to get support on this.

1. Housing Needs Survey : This will be posted to households in early February.
2. See under 3 f. for Neighbourhood Plan: The Moreton or Long Compton plans are available to view online.
3. Date for Annual Parish Meeting : cannot be 21 April as this is Easter Monday… therefore agreed to hold it in May before the Annual Meeting of the Council.
4. Finances were acknowledged for November and December.
	1. The Budget figure was agreed by councillors to remain at same level and will be submitted.
5. Planning updates :
	1. Pilbridge House – there were no objections from the Council.
	2. Oakham House – no objections from the Council.
	3. Red Lion – no objections from the Council.

The meeting was closed at 7:56pm

Date of next Meeting will be on Monday 17th March 2025 at 7pm

The Council would like to acknowledge the passing of Mrs Jenny Rudge who Chaired the Council for a number of years and also managed the fuel allotment trust for people of Little Compton Village. Our thoughts are with her family. She was a valuable figure in our community and a kind person to anyone she knew or met.