

Minutes of Little Compton Parish Council
on Monday 21st September 2020 at 1900hrs via Zoom Online

Present : Cllr Ian Robinson (IR -Chair), Cllr Graeme Evans (GE), Cllr Andrew Lukas (AL), Sarah Elliott (SE – Clerk), Cllr Sarka Wilde, District Cllr Sarah Whalley-Hoggins, One member of public

1. Declarations of Interest : There were none.
2. Apologies for Absence : Cllr Rachel Righton (RR), County Cllr Jo Barker
3. Minutes of last Meeting held 20th July 2020 : Proposed by IGR and Seconded by GE to be an accurate record and will be signed by the Chair and filed.
4. Matters Arising : There were none.
5. Reports from District and County Cllrs : Sarah WH from Stratford District Council spoke briefly about the merging of the District with the County Councils. She said that this may be held in abeyance until 2021 because of the redundancies that would be involved in losing the District Councillors and their skill sets. This would be called a 'single unitary' and the local councils may be represented in the future by only one councillor (instead of the current two), other bodies affected by the single unitary would be fire and rescue, police, social care and education.
Regarding Covid 19, SWH confirmed that positive cases were on the increase in the Warwickshire area and local councils might continue to be vigilant of their (vulnerable) residents throughout the winter period. Keep the message of Hands/Face/Space clear and encourage use of contact tracing.
Regarding Planning White Paper : on future rules of planning permission for building of properties by developers. SWH said she was standing for affordable housing for local people and ensuring that villages were given voice to object to building developments where appropriate, including the enlargement of gypsy and traveller sites in the area. GE asked if local councils will be asked to make bigger decisions outside of their normal remit when the changes take place, but SWH pressed the view that consultation hasn't taken place yet and a survey of opinion would be carried out.
6. Questions from the Public : Mr Peter Savidge attended the meeting and will join the debate on Footpaths (see below).
7. The Playground : Has been strimmed/mowed and is now being used again. AL asked if he can close it temporarily to make repairs and IGR suggested after half-term.

8. Village Maintenance : IGR said some road surfacing repairs has been completed outside the cemetery. The village mowing has not been completed as per contract and Peartree Gardening have been informed that we will no longer require their services. Lawns 2 Mow have agreed to finish the season's work if we can clear the mulched grass left behind on the verges so as not to block the mowers. A few councillors have volunteered to clear this grass so that the job can be continued by Lawns 2 Mow (who will also strim the two culverts of overgrowth to alleviate flood water away from the village for autumn/winter). IGR stated that the culverts have been done by councillors in the past but can be included in the maintenance contract. *(Post meeting note: AL has printed an up to date mapping of the grass verges and councillors will do a walk-round in the next week or so).*
- Cllr SW asked about clearing an overgrown hedge covering a street sign opposite Willow Close, and IGR said that he would ask the property owner to remedy this.
- Planning Permission has been put into SDC to rebuild the fallen wall at Pool Close by Orbit Housing.
9. Cemetery : Continues to be well maintained. AL said we have received a request for a memorial plaque for William Brodie alongside the current line of plaques, of unpolished light grey granite.
10. Footpaths and Bridleways : Peter Savidge wanted to push forward on finding out about the job number with county council for improving the path along the A44 to the garage. He also had written to government about funding for a cycle path between LitCompt and Moreton but had been refused on grounds of usage being limited to locals only (which is easily disputed)... SWH said that Cllr Jo Barker had far more influence in sorting this issue with the footpath officer as it is a county issue. She suggested also that LCPC could liaise with neighbouring councils to achieve improvements in infrastructure where the county boundaries are crossed. ***IGR will talk to Jo about the footpath and get it tidied up.***
11. Financial : Up to date accounts were supplied to councillors and are in order. IGR noted that our WALC subscription has not been paid and SE confirmed this was an oversight and will be paid up this week. He also asked about Campaign for Protection of Rural England which we have traditionally supported. ***SE will look into this and sort out subscription, no objections were made.***
- SE also confirmed that a further VAT return will be made for the past year's accounts and that payments from SDC had been received as expected and that our allowance for grass mowing /maintenance is normally received at the end of the year (December).
12. Planning Applications : It appears that the application for the tennis court has been withdrawn. It also seems that the application for manege has been removed from the planning list. The only outstanding is Pool Close rebuild of fallen wall which all councillors support and Cllr Rachel Righton is pursuing to be completed.

13. Any Other Business : Cllr Sarka brought up the issue of dog thefts in the local area and chalk marks on gates denoting target animals which she saw on Next Door social media. It was agreed to put a notice on the board to make people aware. Cllr SWH asked people to please involve local Police in any suspected situations, to vary the dog walk, to look out for strange vehicles in the area and not to engage with strangers. Also take photos of any unique marks of your dog if you have concerns.

Date of next meeting : Monday 16th November
With no other business the meeting closed at 2017 hours