The Minutes of Fenny Compton Parish Council Meeting – 15th February 2010

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at the Village Hall, Fenny Compton on 15th February 2010 commencing at 7:45pm.
Present: Miss Deborah Lea in the Chair, Michael Davies, Jon Dutton, Michael Guest, Jim Twaddle, District and County Councillor Christopher Williams & Parish Clerk Catherine Lambert.

1. **Apologies**: None.

2. **Minutes of the last meeting**: Jon Dutton seconded by Jim Twaddle proposed acceptance of the Minutes to the Parish Council Meeting held on the 18th January 2010.

3. **Declaration of Interests**: Mike Davies and Jon Dutton declared a personal interest in item 11(d), they are members of the Parish Plan Steering Group. Michael Guest declared a personal interest in item 11(a) he is the Chairman of the Aqueous Group. Mike Davies declared a personal interest in item 11(f) he is a Trustee of the Village Hall Trust. Mike Davies declared a prejudicial interest in item 8(c). Michael Guest declared a prejudicial interest in item 8(e). Both Councillors took no part in the items for which they declared a prejudicial interest.

4. **Open Forum**: A resident questioned the level of precept requested by the Parish Council for the next financial year. The Chair highlighted the fact that the precept had been significantly reduced for the current year and that level had been kept constant for the forthcoming year. The Parish Council are fully aware of the current economic climate and have tried to keep the tax burden on residents to a minimum. If any further financial information is required the resident must make an appointment with the clerk who will provide details in accordance with the Parish Council's publication scheme.

5. **Matters Arising**:
   - **a) Affordable Housing**: The clerk had confirmed details for the section 104 agreement. The Section 106 agreement has now been signed. It is hoped that work will start on site in March. There has been no official confirmation regarding funding but it is understood that it is fairly imminent.
   - **b) Highways**: The clerk will contact Patch regarding a replacement salt bin on Mill Lane. Patch has now received the plans highlighting the ownership of the hedge on the Avon Dassett Road. He has sent a letter to the owners confirming their responsibilities to upkeep and cut back the hedge from the highway. A copy has been sent to the clerk. The clerk has reported the potholes on High Street. CL
   - **c) Diary Dates**: The clerk has requested a change to the meeting date in May from the 17th to the 24th May 2010. This was approved by the Council. CL
   - **d) Emergency Plan**: Mick Potter confirmed that any Parish Council should not publish the final emergency plan document in its entirety due to issues of Data Protection. A publishable version will be available from Mick Potter once the final document is approved.
   - e) **Proposed Closure of Fenny Compton Fire Station**: The Fire Chief is due to complete his review by mid March.
   - f) **Police Report**: Chris Williams is still in debate with Sergeant Fretwell who is disputing the crime figures for Fenny Compton. He will be holding a meeting with the police to discuss this issue further. The PACT meeting is to be held next Monday, there were no issues to raise. Cllr CW
   - g) **Notice board**: Mike Davies has composed a letter for the Clerk to send. CL
   - h) **Admission numbers to the Dassett School**: The clerk has sent a letter to Warwickshire County Council supporting the schools request and has received confirmation that the letter will be taken into account during the consultation process.
   - i) **Fund Raising Seminar**: Mike Davies reported that the seminar was useful if you needed funds for a small project but not helpful for large projects needing major funding.

6. **Traffic Group**: The traffic group were not present to discuss this issue.

7. **Correspondence**:
   a) **Warwickshire County Council**: Dogs and Public Rights of Way. Poster displayed on the notice boards and website.
   b) **WALC**: Newsletter. Training for Play Equipment Inspections at Bishops Itchington on Saturday 17th April 2010 at a cost of £25. Mike Davies would like to attend this training. MD
   c) **Stratford on Avon District Council**: Refuse and Recycling Road Show 2010, request for venues.
   d) **WALC**: Warwickshire Police ride along scheme. The aim is to enable community representatives (it is not open to members of the general public) to engage with the Police and see how their local officers and team operate.
   e) **Stratford on Avon District Council**: Marketplace Event – 12 March 2010.
   f) **Warwickshire County Council**: Local Transport Plan 3 – Consultation: Preferred Options to deal with Goals and Issues identified in Stage 1. It was agreed that Jon Dutton would respond on the Parish Councils behalf. JD
   g) **Oxfordshire NHS**: Better Healthcare Programme – Newsletter.
   h) **Warwickshire County Council**: New Road Safety Packs.
   i) **South Warwickshire Carers Support Services**: Initiative to improve support for Carers.
   j) **Stratford-on-Avon District Council**: Consultation on the Core Strategy.

8. **Planning**:
   a) **Planning Permission Granted 09/02149/FUL**: Erection of 10 affordable homes for rent and 2 owner occupied homes including associated roadways and infrastructure. Land Off (North), Station Road, Fenny Compton. East Midlands Housing Association.
   b) **Planning Permission Granted 09/02451/TREE**: 2no. Norway Spruce: fell. Kits Close, Avon Dassett Road, Fenny Compton. Ms Veronique Matarasso.
   c) **Planning Application 10/00032/EXT**: Application for the renewal of planning permission 07/00976/FUL for the change of use of ground floor to residential/ bed and breakfast accommodation. The Granary, Wharf Road, Fenny Compton. Mrs Diana Davies. No representation.
   d) **Planning Application 10/00103/TREE**: T1 birch: reduce height by 30%. Thin remaining crown by 20% and balance. T2 birch: reduce height by 30%. Thin remaining crown by 20% and balance. T3 ash: crown thin by 20%. Clean through crown and shorten back one large limb to point of balance. T4 cherry: reduce crown by 15% and prune to separate from hedge. The Post House, Bridge Street, Fenny Compton. Mr and Mrs G Poole. No representation.
   e) **Planning Application 10/00146/TREE**: T1, 2no apple. T2 multi stemmed ash: fell front stem. T3 willow: repollard. T4 ash: trim back neighbouring over hanging ash tree back to growth points. Mill Houses, The Slade, Fenny Compton. Mr and Mrs M Guest. No representation.
   f) **Planning Appeal – Corner Site Memorial Road/ High Street, Fenny Compton**. A copy of a letter from Stratford on Avon District Council to residents concerned with the planning process for application 08/02165/FUL.

9. **County and District Councillor's Report:** Cllr CW

Councillor Williams made the following reports:

County Council: The County budget has been set with a recommended increase of 2.4% in Council Tax. This is the lowest increase for many years in the Council Tax set by Warwickshire County Council. This increase has been held down by savings right across the Council. On average each department has reduced its costs by a minimum of 4%. The budget for the Fire Service has not decreased. In the main front line services, as far as the public is concerned, will not be greatly affected and the real savings are in back office operations and improved efficiencies.

The last four weeks have put a great strain on the gritting service. We should be proud of how

well Warwickshire kept the main routes clear. The Parish Council would also like to thank those who helped clear the roads in the village. This winter's poor weather has lead to a review in policy regarding which roads should continue to be gritted. The Parish Council will be able to take part in the consultation to begin in March of this year.

District Council: Councillor Williams thanked the parishioners of Fenny Compton for their understanding following the disruption that the recent bad weather had caused to their waste collection. The Warmington Travellers' site planning appeal has been deferred until the 18th March 2010. It would seem that the District Council's budget will be settled at a figure of an increase in Council Tax of 1.5%. There are no significant cuts in front line services but over £2 million of savings have been achieved through efficiency, natural wastage of labour and better use of partnership working.

10. **Finance**:

a) **Review of the Grass cutting Contracts 2010**: Mike Jones quoted £300 per cut of the village grass for the 2010 season. This would include the area of grass opposite the Doctor's surgery on the corner of High Street and Station Road. Michael Guest seconded by Jim Twaddle, proposed the acceptance of this quotation which was agreed by all.

b) **Insurance Premium**: Michael Guest agreed to investigate the insurance costs for next year. The clerk has written regarding the security of the playing field pavilion. MG

c) **Play equipment funding**: The Parish Council has received funding from the District and County Council for £14810.40 and from SITA for £15165.00 towards the costs of the under 8's play equipment.

d) **VAT claim**: The clerk will submit the VAT claim form following the meeting. CL

e) **Grass verge contribution**: The clerk highlighted concerns that the Parish Council has not received the grass verge contribution, Chris Williams agreed to chase the District Council. Cllr CW

Bank Balances 15th February 2010	
Commuted sum on deposit	£7694.11
Deposit Account	£5988.01
Current Account	£30550.38
Business Reserve Account	£13863.59

Transfers	
16/02/10 Current to Business Call	£12000.00

Interest Income included in Bank Balances	
Business Call Account	£0.39
Commuted Sum	£0.35

Cheques requiring payment	
1418: Playdale Playgrounds Ltd: Final Payment for Under 8's Play Area	£17950.93
1419: The Utility Warehouse: Pavilion Electric	£16.78
1420: Fenny Compton Village Hall: Hire of Hall for Parish Council Surgery	£16.20

Payments received	
1: Stratford-on-Avon District Council and Warwickshire County Council: Under 8's Play Equipment Grant	£14810.40
2: SITA Trust Fund: Under 8's Play Equipment Grant	£15165.00

Jon Dutton seconded by Jim Twaddle, proposed acceptance of the financial statement, which was agreed.

11. **Updates**:

a) **Flood Prevention**: Michael Guest reported that the planning application for the deepening of the flood attenuation scheme has been submitted. The District Council had requested a newt survey which will take place in April thus delaying the project. The footpath across Hall Yard will need to be temporarily closed for the duration of the work and establishment of the project. The group have temporarily lost the services of Bill MG

Burton and will need to fund his services for designing the second phase retaining pond which will use some of the grant money held. Councillor Williams informed the Council that the re-profiling of the road around Manor Court is progressing well.

b) **Playing Field**: Mike Davies is arranging a playing field subcommittee meeting for the 9th March 2010. MD

c) Play Equipment: Mike Davies reported that the path to the new play equipment needs finishing, a plaque needs installing and then the Parish Council should organise an opening event. It was agreed to ask the Chairman of District Council. Councillor Williams and Mike Davies will organise the event. Mike has received a lot of information about the second phase of equipment for the over 7's. This phase will not need the expensive wet pour surfacing needed in the first phase. The next step is to talk to alternative suppliers. The clerk has written to the playground group, who are to send their remaining funds to the Parish Council. The clerk has approached Anthony Askew who is replacing the missing coping stones, but is unsure regarding the ground levelling work. The Parish Council agreed, due to the importance of surfacing, to ask Playworld to undertake this work. The clerk had contacted Streetscene regarding a replacement litterbin but had received no response. MD/CW

d) **Parish Plan**: The clerk has posted the updated action plan on the website. The Parish Council held an informal surgery in the village hall on the 6th February, three residents attended. This event will be repeated on the 6th March, a decision as to how often this will be repeated in future will then be taken. Residents seemed to be more relaxed about approaching the Parish Council in this less formal way.

e) **Traffic Group**: Nothing to Report.

f) **Village Hall**: The specification for the work needed in the Village Hall has been passed to a new person. The water heater has been replaced.

12. **Casual Vacancy**: The public was excluded for this item.
There have been two applications for the position of Parish Councillor. Both applicants were considered to be very good candidates.
Michael Guest proposed Mr David Miller, which was seconded by Jim Twaddle and agreed by all.

The Parish Council expressed their regret that there was only one space available with two very capable candidates. The Parish Council will ask to hold the name of the other candidate on file should another vacancy come available.

13. **Any Other Business**:

a) Michael Guest gave his apologies for the next meeting.