

The Minutes of Fenny Compton Parish Council Meeting – 19th September 2011

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at the Village Hall, Fenny Compton on 19th September 2011 commencing at 7.45pm.

Present: Miss Deborah Lea in the Chair, Mike Davies, Jon Dutton, Dave Miller, Keith Bloodworth, Jim Twaddle, District and County Councillor Christopher Williams & Parish Clerk Catherine Lambert.

1. **Apologies:** Michael Guest.
2. **Minutes of the last meeting:** Dave Miller, seconded by Keith Bloodworth, proposed acceptance of the Minutes to the Parish Council Meeting held on the 18th July 2011.
3. **Declaration of Interests:** Deborah Lea declared a personal interest in 7(i). Jim Twaddle declared a prejudicial interest in 7(j) and left the room whilst this item was discussed.
4. **Open Forum:** None.
5. **Matters Arising:**
 - a) **Traffic Management:** At the July meeting Councillor Williams had informed the Parish Council that he could put a bid in next year for two permanent slow down flashing signs at a cost of approximately £2000. The signs will need to be installed where there is a power supply, and it was proposed that there should be one in Station Road near to Thompsons Field and one in Northend Road. The Parish Council confirmed that speeding traffic is one of the main concerns of the residents of Fenny Compton.
Resolution: It was unanimously agreed, by the Parish Council, to request Councillor Williams to bid for funding for two flashing speed signs to be located at Northend Road and Station Road. Cllr CW
 - b) **Streetlight No 2 Station Road:** The faulty streetlight no 2 in Station Road was attended by the contractor to repair a lamp out. Unfortunately, they were unable to repair the lamp as the internal equipment had deteriorated beyond repair. This pole bracket was installed in the mid 1960's and has deteriorated to the point that they can no longer maintain it as the lantern is now obsolete, the bracket is in poor condition and the Electricity Board's connection is in need of replacement. The Parish Council was advised that the pole bracket should be replaced in its entirety with a modern unit or alternatively the Council could install a new lighting column alongside the existing pole. The costings of these options are: Pole Bracket - £932.90, 5M Column - £910.14, these costs are valid until March 2012 and are VAT exclusive.
Resolution: It was agreed by the Parish Council to replace this faulty streetlight as a pole bracket. CL
The Clerk had been informed that a streetlight in Berry Meadow had been vandalised and the cover was in danger of falling down. Therefore an emergency repair was needed and an extra cost would be incurred.
 - c) **Allotments:** Jon Dutton reported that he has not written the letters to local landowners as yet, but he had contacted Lesley Ford about land at Thompson's Field. JD
 - d) **Tree works:** The Clerk received details of another tree surgeon and will contact him following the meeting. CL
 - e) **Affordable Homes – Legal Documentation.** Mike Davies reported that the legal documentation has been signed by the Parish Council and sent to our solicitors who have in turn sent them to the Housing Association solicitors. We are now awaiting completion. Dave Miller reported that he had levelled the disturbed ground with two tonnes of top soil and he agreed to distribute some grass seed. MD/DM
 - f) **Exercise Watermark:** Jon Dutton reported that he has yet to collect the sandbags however he will contact the County Council for collection shortly. The clerk has received the flood signs. JD
 - g) **Police Report:** The Clerk has received regular updated from the Safer Neighbourhood Team at Southam. There have been issues with troublesome youths again with incidents in Berry Meadow, on the Cotters Croft green and in the Churchyard. There is a rumour that there is a drug problem appearing in Fenny Compton. There is no police presence at the moment. These issues will be raised at the Community Forum which takes place this Wednesday. JD

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- h) **Highways:** At last month's meeting Mr Walker had questioned the condition of the road after the barn on the Slade. Michael Guest had investigated the condition of the road and although in his opinion the road was not unsafe he felt that the Highways Department should investigate. Councillor Williams informed the Parish Council that the Slade changes from a D Road into an E Road after the barn. An 'E' road is an unclassified road. It has no specified widths and can be a green road (i.e. no construction), stone construction or tarmac construction. They are the most minor roads but will still have highway rights over them. Whilst the County Council has a responsibility to ensure its surface is adequate for walkers, cyclists etc, it does not have to be surfaced to a similar standard as a D road. Patch Byrne at the Highways Department has investigated and has confirmed that the Slade is within the limit. Councillor Williams also highlighted that the part of the road which Mr Walker questioned is in the Parish of Farnborough and when the railway bridge was closed for repairs this road was not included as an alternative route. Mike Davies reported that the speed signs on High Street and Northend Road have been obscured by overhanging greenery. The Clerk will ask Mick Jones to cut this back. CL
- i) **Parish Council Contacts:** The Clerk has included Keith's email address on the website. The Clerk asked for confirmation of contact details from Councillors which will be forwarded to the Chronicle. CL
- j) **Cemetery Rules:** The Clerk has circulated the new rules to all the local funeral directors.
- k) **Dog signs:** The Clerk had contacted Safety Signs regarding the sign for the play area. They will only deliver through CityLink and the Clerk did not want a repeat of the last time they tried to deliver the signs. Keith agreed to accept delivery as there is always someone to accept delivery at the Wharf Inn. CL/KB
- l) **Cemetery Duties:** The Clerk has forwarded the list of cemetery duties to Peter Hughes who has written back. The Clerk and Chair will address his concerns. CL/DL
- m) **Standing Orders:** Mike Davies has started to look at updating the Standing Orders. MD
- n) **Parish Plan Action Plan:** Mike Davies had contacted the District Council regarding the mobile skateboard park and they had advised that there was no availability of the facility this year. The current funding for the skateboard park finishes this year and they do not know if it will continue into the New Year. It was agreed to put this item on the Agenda for the next meeting to update the Action Plan. MD
- o) **Training new Councillor Training days:** The Clerk will book Keith Bloodworth onto the training day. CL
- p) **Data Protection and the Parish Council:** The Clerk has contacted the Information Commissioners office and an application form is being sent out. The Clerk will obtain a cheque for £35.00 to pay the fee. CL
- q) **Bench, bins and salt bin:** Mick Jones has repaired the ground around the salt bin by the Doctor's surgery. The Clerk contacted Streetscene at the District Council to purchase replacement bins, Derrick Hassett is to visit and assess whether the bins need replacing or whether a new lid can be fitted. Dave Miller has taken the bench away to repair and agreed to replace a few tiles on the wooden bus shelter. CL/DM
- r) **Field in Trust:** Mike Davies had investigated the Field in Trust fund through SITA. It is a method of protecting playing fields or open areas by means of a deed or charitable trust so that they cannot be developed. It also opens up a source of funding through SITA. It was agreed to look into this further and put it on the Agenda for the next meeting. MD
- s) **WCC 'Guide to Local Action':** Mike Davies reported that the Mapping Online is a facility from the Ordnance Survey providing maps for £20 per year. It was felt that there was no need to subscribe to this service. Guide for Local Action was the outcome from the consultation held with youths of local villages, including Fenny Compton.
- t) **Superfast Broadband:** Mike Davies attended an event on this subject at the District Council. Warwickshire County Council and Stratford District Council are trying to get funding to increase broadband speeds in rural areas where the speed is poor. There is a noticeable difference between the north and south of the county. The District Council would need letters of support from residents and businesses to obtain funding. A standard letter could be circulated to individuals and businesses asking for their support. MD
Councillor Williams reported that Fenny Compton does well with broadband speed as it is close to the exchange. There is no quick fix solution as the expected timescale is two to three years. Various mobile operators such as Vodafone will be putting up masts to access the internet which may be the quicker route to improving broadband speeds. The

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District Council is listing the worst places to tackle first. However they will not assist if the community does not show its support.

6. Correspondence:

- a) **Warwickshire County Council:** Details about the restructured Rights of Way Team. Details to Brian Peers.
- b) **WALC:** Newsletter – Emailed out to Councillors.
- c) **WALC:** Details of WCC Big Society Fund.
- d) **WALC:** Briefing on the Public Open Services White Paper.
- e) **Warwickshire County Council:** Details of WCC Community Development Fund 2011/12.
- f) **Terence Church:** Highlighting concerns regarding the amount of rubbish found around the village. The Parish Council does pay for a regular litter pick around the village through Mick Jones however he was away for a period in August. It was agreed to put an item in the Chronicle highlighting these concerns, and to raise the issue at the Community Forum with police. CL/JD
- g) **Stratford on Avon District Council:** Destination News. Issue 1.
- h) **Stratford on Avon District Council:** Details of the Village SOS Fund. Mike Davies reported that this fund was highlighted through a television programme which was shown recently. It is for large community projects. Councillors need to think if there are any large potential projects for the village. It was agreed to put this item on the Agenda for next month.
- i) **Stratford on Avon District Council:** Gypsy and Traveller Consultation. Jon Dutton, did not respond as he was not aware of any problems in this area.
- j) **WALC:** Details of the Queen Elizabeth II Fields Challenge.
- k) **WALC:** Details of the Government's proposals for a new National Planning Policy Framework. Mike Davies was concerned about this item. Councillor Williams felt that the local plans would carry more weight, and applications would need to be in agreement with the existing policies of the local area. The new proposals are aimed more at urban than rural areas.
- l) **WALC:** Napton on the Hill Parish Council are undertaking specific planning training on technical planning applications i.e. wind farms and High Speed 2 and are asking if any other Parishes would like to join them and share the costs. The Clerk will ask for details of the overall cost to ascertain what the shared costs could be. CL
- m) **Stratford on Avon District Council:** Highlighting the need for Parish Councils to attend Planning Committees when their comments are opposite to the District Council's recommendations.
- n) **Stratford on Avon District Council:** Guide to taking part in the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Celebrations. Pass to Keith Hicks for the Village Hall Committee. CL
- o) **Warwickshire County Council:** Invitation to an "At Home" Reception by the Chairman of the County Council on Saturday 17th September.
- p) **EDF Energy:** Details of the public exhibition of plans for the proposed wind farm on land between Priors Hardwick and Wormleighton on 14th and 15th September. Mike Davies and Deborah Lea attended the exhibition which included a 3D simulation confirming that the wind farm would be very visible from the Wharf. There would be a need to transfer the energy from the farm to the entry of the national grid at Harbury either by pylons or underground cables. They were unable to answer what will happen if the HS2 route is confirmed in December.
- q) **WALC:** Details of the Annual General Meeting and Annual Report.
- r) **RHS:** RHS Britain in Bloom campaign.
- s) **Warwickshire Lieutenancy Office:** Details of the Diamond Jubilee and the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service.
- t) **Local Council Review** Newsletter.
- u) **Warwickshire County Council:** Formal Consultation – Proposal to close the Pupil; Referral Unit.
- v) **Warwickshire County Council:** Warwickshire County Council is to be the first major public sector organisation to provide e-mail services via the public cloud in a pilot scheme that has potential to change how local authorities use e-mail and ICT services.
- w) **Bishop's Itchington Parish Council:** Bishop's Itchington Parish Council has had

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concerns about the community forum, they don't believe that it is democratic in the way it has been set up or in the way that it is run. They are trying to arrange a meeting with officers from WCC to discuss these concerns and would be grateful if members of other Parish Council's with the same concerns could attend.

- x) **Deborah Lea:** The Chair had received two items of correspondence about the conduct of the Parish Council at the June meeting. The Chair had sought advice and had confirmed that the meeting was carried out as determined by the standing orders.

7. **Planning:**

- a) **Planning Application 11/01347/LBC:** Refurbishment of Public House including internal and external alterations and the construction of a pitched roof extension. The Merrie Lion, Brook Street, Fenny Compton. Purple Sprouting Broccoli Ltd – Mr Sandford. Fenny Compton Parish Council supports this application on the basis that the changes are required in order to allow the re-opening of the village centre pub, for which there is a local need and for which public opinion (as expressed through the Parish Plan and the recent open meeting held in the village hall) is strongly in favour.
- b) **Planning Application 11/01346/FUL:** Extensions and alterations to Public House and the erection of a detached garage/store. The Merrie Lion, Brook Street, Fenny Compton. Purple Sprouting Broccoli Ltd – Mr Sandford. Fenny Compton Parish Council supports this application on the basis that the changes are required in order to allow the re-opening of the village centre pub, for which there is a local need and for which public opinion (as expressed through the Parish Plan and the recent open meeting held in the village hall) is strongly in favour.
- c) **Planning Permission 11/00531/FUL:** Installation of 180no. 33.3KW photovoltaic panels to an existing farm building. Starbold Farm, Banbury Road, Southam. Mr Brian Moore.
- d) **Planning Approval 11/01341/RAILPD:** Replacement of partially collapsed railway bridge over Station Road, Fenny Compton. Network Rail.
- e) **Planning Approval 11/01378/RAILPD:** Excavation of 3 no. water attenuation ditches and construction of a flood storage bund adjacent to the railway to prevent sudden ingress of water to the railway line and allow rainfall run off to drain away at a slower rate. Railway at Fenny Compton. Network Rail.
- f) **Planning Refusal 11/00776/FUL:** Erection of a single anemometry mast no more than 70m in height for a temporary period of three years. Land near to Stoneton Moat Farm, and Oxford Canal, Stoneton. EDF Energy-Renewables.
- g) **Planning Application 11/01676/FUL:** Proposed rear extension and new metal railings to front. Hill House, Church Street, Fenny Compton. Mr J Garland. No Representation.
- h) **Planning Application 11/01677/LBC:** Proposed rear extension, new metal railings to front, new stone cills to windows and internal alterations including creation of new walls for WC, open up side of stairs and installation of balustrading, window and door removed to create access to garden room, window and wall removed from kitchen, new opening between kitchen and dining room, existing door replaced with double doors to dining room, stairs removed from dining room, new window to utility, opening blocked up to bedroom 1 and new opening formed through to bathroom, drop floor level to original in room incorporated to bedroom 1 and stairs removed from bathroom. Hill House, Church Street, Fenny Compton. Mr J Garland. No Representation.
- i) **Planning Application 11/01677/LBC:** Hill House, Church Street. Amendment to planning application. Change concrete mortar to lime mortar and re-roof to slate tiles.
- j) **Planning Application 11/01947/TREE:** T1 poplar: pollard back to previous pollard points or fell. Kits Close, Avon Dasset Road, Fenny Compton. Ms V Matarasso. No Representation.
- k) **Planning Application 11/01836/FUL:** Single storey side extension. Northgate, Mill Lane, Fenny Compton. Mr and Mrs Stuart Verney. No Representation.

8. **County and District Councillor's Report:**

Councillor Williams reported that last year the Coalition Government announced that there would be a reduction in the number of serving MPs from 650 to 600 to make parliamentary constituencies more equal in electorate throughout the country. One outcome of this proposal is that the Boundary Commission has evaluated the West Midlands region and decided that Warwickshire should have five MPs rather than the present number of six. It appears that the Kenilworth and

Cllr CW

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Southam Constituency will be absorbed into the Stratford-upon-Avon and Rugby constituencies. Fenny Compton will now transfer to the Rugby Constituency. These Boundary Reviews will be discussed at Shire Hall by the Boundary Commission during a Public Consultation on 10th and 11th November 2011.

The County Council has taken the decision to form a Strategic Alliance with Northamptonshire County Council Fire Service. It is anticipated that this alliance will create savings with Warwickshire and Northamptonshire sharing one Fire Control Room. In addition, another area being considered is closer cross border cooperation. Warwickshire would continue to have its independence and no Fire Station would be closed as a result of this alliance.

From the 1st October 2011, unless you are actually witnessing an incident when you should still dial 999, the way to contact the Police is to call a NEW NUMBER – 101 - which will put you through to the Warwickshire Police Call Centre who will handle all non-emergency calls.

The County Council has taken over flood prevention initiatives from the District Council. This will reduce uncertainty where a degree of localised flooding is the responsibility of Highways with blocked drains etc, rather than geographical issues with land drainage.

At a meeting of the SDC Cabinet, following a comprehensive Core Strategy Review, it was decided that the provision for housing within our district for the period 2010 – 2025 will be limited to no more than 8,000. Obviously some houses have already been allocated and work has commenced and in effect the total number of new houses to be built between now and 2025 will be 5,500. Additionally, the Cabinet decided that the maximum number of houses in any development should be no more than 100. However, they will still keep the policy which recognizes the need for providing social housing for local communities such as demonstrated by Fenny Compton with the Thompson Field project.

9. **Finance:**

- a) **External Audit: Matters Arising.** The auditor had noted that the fixed assets had been revalued this year. For the purposes of the Annual Return fixed assets should be added to a fixed asset register at cost and should remain at this value until disposal. Where cost is not known insurance value or nominal value can be used in its place however once allocated a cost this should also remain static. The auditor asked the Parish Council to revisit the value of fixed assets shown in Box 9 of the Annual Return. The Parish Council reviewed the fixed asset register. CL
Resolution: The Parish Council returned the value of the streetlighting to £26,831 as previously shown and the value of the salt bins was returned to the previous amount with one new bin added. The amended asset valuation was agreed and the total value of the assets amended to £238,065 on the annual return. This was proposed by Jon Dutton, seconded by Jim Twaddle and agreed by all. The Clerk will now return the documentation to the external auditor.
- b) **Approve Donations to Local Organisations:** A letter requesting funding from the Over 60's club has been received by the Clerk. The Parish Council approved a donation of £500.
- c) **Bowling Club Rates 2013:** The Clerk has spoken with Wendy Maries and written to the Bowling Club asking for the details requested by the Parish Council at the last meeting. The Clerk also asked for re-imburement of the £50 for the annual collection charge for their recycling bin.
- d) **Commuted Sum reimbursement:** The Clerk asked all signatories of the Cotters Croft commuted sum bank account to sign a letter authorising the withdrawal of £518.87 for the costs of grass cutting and landscape maintenance for 2010/2011. CL
- e) **Bank Account:** It was agreed to ask Lloyds TSB if there is a better interest account for the deposit account. CL
- f) **Salt Bin:** At the Parish Council Surgery there was a request for a Salt bin at Thompsons Field. The Clerk will ask the Highways Department to approve the siting of the bin. Subject to this approval the purchase of a salt bin was proposed by Mike Davies, seconded by Jim Twaddle and approved by all. CL

Bank Balances 19th September 2011

Commuted sum on deposit	£6269.45
Deposit Account	£30187.13
Current Account	£1022.35

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Business Reserve Account £13382.46

Transfers

22/08/11 Business Call to Current £620.00
20/09/11 Business Call to Current £3500.00

Interest Income included in Bank Balances

	July	August
Business Call Account	£1.50	£1.25
Commuted Sum	£0.27	£0.25

Cheques paid since the last meeting

1545: The Utility Warehouse: Pavilion Electric.	£12.58
1546: Stratford on Avon District Council: Bowling Club Recycling Bin Collection.	£50.00
1547: E-On: Bowling Club Electric.	£27.17
1548: MFM Services: Mowing Playing Field – July.	£120.00
1549: Smart'n'Tidy: Landscape Maintenance – War Memorial.	£52.00
1550: M Jones: Grasscutting x 1 and Landscape Maintenance.	£355.00

Cheques requiring payment

1551: The Utility Warehouse: Pavilion Electric.	£17.19
1552: Mr John Gilks: Cemetery Mowing 2011.	£250.00
1553: MFM Services: Mowing Playing Field – August.	£80.00
1554: Fenny Compton Village Hall: Annual Donation.	£2200.00
1555: Fenny Compton Parochial Church Council: Annual Donation for the Upkeep of the Churchyard.	£350.00
1556: Warwickshire, Solihull and Birmingham Training Partnership: Training for Keith Bloodworth.	£40.00
1557: The Information Commissioner: Registration for Data Protection.	£35.00
S/O: Catherine Lambert: 2 months' salary.	£564.00

Payments Received

1: J & M Humphris: Memorial Fee for Mrs Greaves and Miss Bishop. £80.00

Keith Bloodworth seconded by Dave Miller, proposed acceptance of the financial statement, which was agreed.

10. **Updates:**

- a) **Flood Prevention:** Michael Guest had sent a report that Aqueous has been awarded a grant of £3,000 by Stratford-on-Avon District Council to spend on flood defences in Fenny Compton. It is hoped that work will begin on the excavation in Hall's Yard shortly. All the necessary notices about the footpath diversion are in place, although the route is not yet fenced off. A meeting of Aqueous is planned for early October together with a representative of Warwickshire County Council to discuss the next steps on the west side of the village. Councillor Williams advised that the minutes of the last meeting should have shown that Jeff Turton is employed by the District Council not the County Council. Dave Tiley has now left the District Council and Peter Bones is now overseeing the Hall's Yard project. The County Council is applying for money from the environment agency to fund a project at the west side of the village, but they will not know the outcome until the middle of October.
- b) **Playing Field:** Dave Miller reported that the base is down for one of the new buildings from Compton Buildings and the other building is replacing the existing garage. They are now awaiting delivery from Compton Buildings. Councillor Williams advised that the Parish Council will need to apply for retrospective planning consent. The new kerbs are almost all down in the car park. There are two areas that need more kerb stones which will cost approximately £30-£40, this was approved. The next stage is for the delivery of the tarmac chippings. The clerk received an invoice for the purchase of sand by Dave Miller. There was a playing field sub-committee meeting 2 weeks ago which was poorly attended.
- c) **Play Equipment:** Mike Davies reported that Playworld Systems had been out to make

MG

DM/KB

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repairs to the play equipment. The mound slide has a loose rear bracket but the bolt is rusted, the handle is secure but does bounce. The toggle entrapment is caused by the way it was designed in the first place. The fittings have been tightened. There are areas of ground which need making good, one at the top of the mound slide and the other under the overhead ladder. Dave Miller agreed to top up these areas with top soil and sow some grass seed. The clerk has ordered the Rospa play inspection.

Mike Davies has analysed the results of the play equipment questionnaire and will now go back to the suppliers and talk to them. He asked the Parish Council if they are willing to look into the possibility of installing a zip wire as they can be noisy with houses nearby. Does the Parish Council want a theme to the new equipment as it may cause a problem with the existing equipment? Jon Dutton suggested that the Council could ask the residents if they would object to the installation of a zip wire. Councillor Williams confirmed that concerns from the residents of Farnborough and Shotteswell about zip wires have not come to fruition. Jim asked about how the project will be funded.

11. **Any Other Business:**

- a) None.