

**The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at the Village Hall, Fenny Compton on 19<sup>th</sup> February 2018 commencing at 7:45pm.**

**Present:** Jon Dutton in the Chair, Derek Carless, Neil Andrew, Michael Guest, Sam Parkes, Ian Hartwell, Cllr Bob Stevens, Cllr Chris Williams and Parish Clerk Lisa Andersson.

1. **Acceptance of Apologies:** None.
2. **Minutes of The Previous Meeting:** Michael Guest, seconded by Sam Parkes, proposed acceptance of the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 15<sup>th</sup> January 2017.  
Derek Carless, seconded by Neil Andrews, proposed acceptance of the Minutes of the Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting held on the 31<sup>st</sup> January 2018.
3. **Declaration of Interests:** Sam Parkes declared an interest in 6 (c) as the pot hole and water leak are outside her residence.
4. **Dispensations:** None.
5. **SNT Feedback on Vehicle Theft in the Area:** Unfortunately Katrina Campion (PC SO) was not able to make the meeting.
6. **Open Forum:**  
None, as there were no members of the public present.
7. **Matters Arising:**
  - a) *Defibrillator:* The training has been organised for Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2018 in the evening (time to be confirmed). This will be advertised by posters and a mention on the Parish Council website and Facebook page.  
**Action: Sam Parkes to do some advertising of the event and confirm the time.**
  - b) *Land Registry:* Nothing to report.
  - c) *Highways:* The work on Mill Lane should have taken place from January 29<sup>th</sup>, but the service provider was not able to carry out their work due to residents threatening members of the crew as they insisted that vehicular access be available at all times. A legal full closure of the road is now being sought by the service provider, in order to complete the work. There is no date as yet on when this will happen. A letter drop will notify all affected residents of when this shall take place. Any further threats from residents will mean that the police will be called to deal with the issue. Cllr Guest has offered to advise the service provider as to the source of the water, in order to ensure that this issue is finally resolved. The barrier on the pavement at the corner of Church and Avon Dasset Roads will be sorted out by Fenny Compton Water is taking longer than expected to be sorted out. The Clerk has sent yet another email reminding them to do so. There was a pot hole reported outside The Willows, High Street. This has been reported to highways but as yet there has been no resolution on this issue.  
**Action: Clerk to follow up with Fenny Compton Water and Highways. Clerk to notify Highways that Cllr Guest will meet with the service provider when they arrive on site.**

d) *Street Lighting*: The Clerk has requested an update on the repairs that have been requested and are still outstanding. There are currently 5 street lights that need repairing.

**Action: Clerk to follow up on repairs and quotes.**

e) *Auto Enrolment for Pensions*: The Chair has further investigated and found out that the Parish Council's contribution share is not 5.5% as previously but 22.8% and increase to 23.4% in April. As it is a legal obligation to provide the Clerk with a pension, it was agreed that the PC would proceed with the Warwickshire County Council pension application. This motion was proposed by Michael Guest and seconded by Ian Hartwell, and was agreed by all.

**Action: Jon Dutton will proceed once he has a copy of the signed meeting minutes.**

f) *Field Gate Lane and Thompsons Field Hedges*: The Cllr continues to chase up this matter.

g) *Traffic and Speeding*: Cllr Stevens has suggested that we meet with someone from County Council who is knowledgeable in this field. Neil Andrew and Michael Guest agreed to meet with the contact.

**Action: Clerk to forward contact details to Neil Andrew and Michael Guest.**

h) *Tree Squire Place*: The planning permission has been received. Our current service provider has provided us with a lower quotation to complete the work, but it was felt that a comparison quotation would be required. There is also further work needing to be seen to in the vicinity, and it would be desirable to do this together in order to economise the spending.

**Action: Clerk to get comparison quote.**

i) *Emergency Plan*: Permission has been received for Michael Guest to have access to the Post Office in order to get to the emergency box when required.

j) *Dog Waste Bins at The Wharf*: The Clerk has written to notify the business of the Parish Council's decision.

k) *Repair to Post in Playground*: This has been repaired.

l) *Playground incident*: The insurer is dealing with the claim. They have noted that the last inspection by RoSPA does not indicate that there was any issue with the swing, and hence they will be pursuing RoSPA for liability. If there is a dispute over this, it could lead to litigation, and hence impact on future insurance quotations.

m) *Cemetery Duties*: The Clerk had received a recommendation, and will be pursuing this recommendation.

## 8. Correspondence:

a) *Warwickshire and West Midlands Association of Local Councils*: Training on playground inspection.

**Action: Clerk to find out when it is as Ian Hartwell may wish to attend.**

b) *Warwickshire County Council*: Mapping Grit Bins in Fenny Compton. Derek

Carless offered to do this.

**Action: Derek Carless to map grit bins in the area.**

c) *A Resident: Excessive Parking.* If this is an issue where the road is obstructed then it becomes a police issue. The Parish Council agreed that they would ask the Fenny Compton Scout Group to request that their parents don't park on pavements. The PC will also request that the school put this in their newsletter, and we will put a request on the website and on our Facebook site.

**Action: Clerk to request Scouts and Dasset School request parents refrain from parking on pavements, and add it to the website. Jon Dutton to add to Facebook page.**

d) *Active Places Data Platform:* Questionnaire regarding the playing field. Completed and returned.

e) *Ian Hartwell: Mole Catcher.* It was agreed by all that the mole catcher would come and take a look at the playing field to see if he could do anything to improve the mole situation on the field. This motion was proposed by Derek Carless and seconded by Michael Guest.

#### 9. Planning:

a) **Retrospective Application for Importing and depositing topsoil to raise the soil levels above bedrock, to assist with land husbandry.** Folly Fields Farm, Ladbrooke Road, Bishops Itchington. No action required.

b) **Notice of Decision: Permission with Conditions: Application 18/00010/TREE:** T1 – Eucalyptus – fell. Old Toft, Bridge Street. No action required.

c) **Notice of Decision: Permission with Conditions 17/02362/FUL:** Erection of four residential dwellings and associated infrastructure. Land Next To The Lankett, Mill Lane. No action required.

d) **Application(s) reference: 17/03602/FUL:** Demolition of existing buildings, site works, reclamation and erection of site fencing. Station Works. No representation.

e) **Notice of Decision: Consent with Conditions: 18/00102/TREE:** T1 - Oak - Remove lower limbs over the drive and reduce upper crown by 2-3 metres on garden side of 1 Squire Place. Electricity Sub Station, Squire Place. No action required.

f) **Notice of Decision for Planning Application 17\_03740\_FUL:** Demolish existing sun room and replace with single storey rear extension with smaller first floor extension above to provide En-Suite. Trotties Cottage, Dog Lane. No action required.

g) **Notice of Decision for Planning Application: 17\_03769\_COUQ:** Prior approval notification for the proposed change of use of one agricultural building (40 sq m) to 1 no. dwellinghouse and ancillary garage, associated curtilage and building operations (Class Qa and Qb). The Hovel, Northend Road. No action required.

h) **Notice of Decision for Planning Application 18\_00005\_FUL:** Proposed first floor side extension over the existing garage and a full width single storey rear extension. Resubmission of approved application '14/03103/FUL'. 3 Meadow Way. No action required.

**10. County and District Councillors Report:**

See Appendix 1 for Cllr Bob Stevens' report and Appendix 2 for Cllr Chris Williams' report.

**11. Finance:**

a) *Payments:* Invoices were presented for payment.

b) *Bank Balances:* The various bank balances were reported on to the Parish Council as noted below.

c) *Signing of cheques for payment:* The cheques were presented and signed as noted below.

d) *Clerk's Pension:* This item was already dealt with under section 7 (e) above.

**Bank Balances 15 January 2018**

Commuted Sum on Deposit	£3,058.10
Deposit Account	£27,589.34
High Interest fixed term deposit	£0.00
Current Account	£451.56
Partial Withdrawal High Interest Deposit	£10,000.00

**Transfers**

None.

**Interest Income Included In Bank Balances**

	February
Business Call Account	£0.13
Commuted Sum	£1.07

**Cheques Paid Since Last Meeting**

1) 2051 Utility Warehouse: Pavilion Elec January	£11.91
2) 2052 Water Plus Payments: Water playing fields	£12.97
3) 2053 John Wickenden: Neighbourhood Plan Expenses	£52.00
4) 2054 HM Revenue and Customs: NI Contribution	£0.22

**Cheques Requiring Payment**

1) 2055 SSE: Streetlighting January	£205.96
2) 2056 Fenny Compton Village Hall: Hall Hire	£8.00
3) 2057 S.B Carpentry & Property Services: Mend Fence	£145.00
4) 2058 Utility Warehouse: Pavilion Elec February	£11.92
5) 2059 Lisa Andersson: Clerk's expenses	£76.05
6) S/O Lisa Andersson: Monthly salary	£300.54

**Payments Received**

£199.22 Grass Verge Cutting Contribution.

£3,257.95 Crawford and Co. – Insurance Claim 5078011.

Michael Guest, seconded by Sam Parkes, proposed acceptance of the financial statement, which was **agreed**.

**12. Updates:**

a) **Flood Prevention:** Maps/drawings from consultants show the measures they recommend for flood prevention in the village. Based on these recommendations, quotation requests have gone out. There is concern that given the advanced nature of the recommendations, that they will not be affordable. Once the quotations are received, the next steps will be considered.

b&c) **Playing Field/Play Equipment:** A structural survey has been done on the sports pavilion. Two recommendations were made suggesting that 1) a tree that is close to the pavilion needs cutting down, as the roots potentially could harm the integrity of the structure, 2) break out the screed from the floor and re-lay (to deal with cracks). A resident has offered to do the work relating to the screed. The PC will look into this further.

There could be interest in the pavilion being renovated and utilizing part of it as a cafe. Someone who has renovated a sports pavilion in a nearby village and is using it to run a café says they would perhaps be keen to look at this.

The new swing is in situ (the frame). As soon as the turf and the mats have been laid, the swings will be hung. It was decided that the swings should be removed from the other existing swing, as they are of a similar age to the one that had an issue with it, and the PC don't want to risk any incidents.

Ian Hartwell has found that non-slip paint will be the best solution to preventing slipping on the steps of the play equipment. This could be used to treat the wood and prevent slipping. A tin of paint will be bought for £25.99 and Ian Hartwell kindly offered to do the work.

d) **Neighbourhood Development Plan:** There is an open meeting on the 21<sup>st</sup> February in order to try and attract new members. There are currently only 3 members on the steering committee – this is not enough. It was noted that another member is required to represent the Parish Council. Councillors were urged to consider taking on this responsibility. A question was raised over whether there will be enough funds in the current budget in order to undertake the survey that would be the next step required in the process, and it was agreed that the current level of funds should be adequate. After the survey has been completed, a professional will be hired to write the plan. The NDP will try to access a grant in order to cover these costs.

e) **Allotments:** There has been communication from the agent noting that a lease will be forwarded soon. There are some questions around the provision of services. Stratford District Council were of the opinion that water would be provided to the allotment site in the form of a tap. There should be no cost to the Parish Council, as this was part of the S106 agreement.

**Action: Jon Dutton to follow up with the agent regarding the tap.**

**13. Fenny Compton Parish Risk Assessment:**

The completed Weekly Playground Safety Checklists for January were handed in by Ian Hartwell and shall be kept on file.

**14. Adoption of Complaints Procedure:** Michael Guest, seconded by Neil Andrew proposed the adoption of the Complaints Procedure which shall be added to the existing Standing Orders, and it was agreed by all.

**15. Adoption of the New Code of Conduct:** Resolved: 1) To adopt the Councillor Code of Conduct adopted by Stratford-on-Avon District Council on 16 October 2017, so as to replace the Parish Council's existing Code of Conduct. 2) To adopt the documents linked to the Code, namely: Guidance Document; Declaration of Acceptance of Office Form; Declaration of Personal Interests Form; Parish and Town Council Councillor role description; Council Resources Policy; Social Media Policy; and the Gifts and Hospitality Policy. 3) To require all members to complete and submit a fresh Declaration of Personal Interests form to the Clerk on or before Friday 9 February 2018, to enable the Clerk to forward these to the Monitoring Officer. 4) The replacement Code and linked documents shall come into effect on Tuesday 1 May 2018. The Adoption of the New Code of Conduct was proposed by Michael Guest, and seconded by Sam Parkes, and agreed by all.

**16. Items to Publicise:**

- 1) Defibrillator training.
- 2) Parking near fire station/Village Hall.
- 3) The Neighbourhood Development Plan meeting on the 21<sup>st</sup> February 2018.

**17. Items for Future Discussion:**

Co-option procedures and current vacancy.

**18. Date of Next Meeting:** 19<sup>th</sup> March 2018.

The meeting closed at 9:16pm.

**Appendix 1 - County Councillor Bob Stevens' report:**

**Fenny Compton: WCC report to Parish Council February 2018**

**Council Budget**

The budget debate this year was lacklustre and finished by quarter to Three. Generally Warwickshire is performing well. Unemployment is 2.9% compared with a national average of 4.5%, productivity is 10% higher than the West Midland average, business base has grown by 5% in the last 12 months and there are now 25,585 businesses registered in Warwickshire. Warwickshire is a popular county in which to live. As well as wealth creation, the expanding population and hence housing numbers brings its problems to the infrastructure especially traffic on our roads. The budget set out to maintain the growth in Industrial base and at the same time invest in the health and well-being of the residents.

Warwickshire's total budget is £342,532,013 (£469,728,105 if you add in the schools) £132,594,995 is spent on Adult care and £56,698,493 is spent on children's Welfare i.e. fostering, Adoption, safeguarding etc. As well as investments in infrastructure planning, mental health and broadband improvement there will be an increase to £6000 for the community grant available to County Councillors

To balance the books and fulfil our legal obligations as well as maintain growth and well-being of the less well off an increase in revenue of £45 million is required over 2 years. Departments are to save £25million; increase in housing numbers will produce £9million; and as 4.99% increase in Council tax a further £10 million. Any shortfall will be taken from reserves (this will be predominately for one off items)

The County Councils finances are in a sound state (unlike our neighbours!) having been well managed over the past 10 years. Mandatory services have been maintained despite a 30% reduction in staffing and an equivalent reduction in Budget

### Highways

I have taken time recently to drive around the Feldon division both at 8 in the morning and tea time. to assess for myself the overall situation on the roads. There is no doubt that the Fosse way is becoming overloaded and drivers are seeking alternative routes through the villages. I believe this will get worse towards the end of the year when HS2 construction begins in earnest. As well as the volume of traffic, speeding and impatient driving exacerbate the problems. Thanks to S106 monies from a large development Bishops Itchington had an updated traffic calming scheme introduced, through the village. It will certainly slow traffic down but creates its own problems of noise and pollution and is not universally popular. Speed awareness is a topic on next months' Feldon and Southam community forum to be held at Southam primary school on March 14<sup>th</sup>.

The recent bad weather has stretched the highways resources as the gritters were out most nights. WCC does not employ direct labour and has a contract with Balfour Beatty (BB) for all highways work. Although WCC dictate the priorities BB control their work force. The contract does not allow for WCC to seek alternative contractors without BB concurrence or default. I suppose WCC can be happy they dropped Carillion 2 years ago!

January was not a good month for Health and well-being. There has been a lot of Flu type sickness which has stretched all the medical facilities and the cold weather has affected many of our older residents. Loneliness is a major concern. One parish council I cover are considering a village "Visiting the lonely initiative" which you might like to consider as a whole village project. Warwickshire health and well-being board meet regularly and integrated working within the county is top of their agenda. It will be interesting to see what will happen once the department of health starts to control the Adult care budget.

The provision of good school places is also proving a problem. The extra number of housing combined with the number of schools becoming academies is affecting predictions on future School numbers. Primary provision is anticipated as being able to cope. Southam College is full to capacity and will have to consider not taking students from out of County so that there are sufficient places for those students in the School's catchment area. There are plans to refurbish and possibly expand Kineton School but I believe that there will eventually be a need

for another secondary school in this area to meet the potential demand – especially when the Gaydon - Lighthorn Heath development comes on stream.

I will be attending your Parish council meeting and can answer any queries you may have

**Bob Stevens**

**County Councillor Feldon Division**

## **Appendix 2 – District Councillor Chris Williams' report:**

### **Fenny Compton Parish Council – 19<sup>th</sup> February 2018 District Councillor's Report**

- 1. Administration** - The District Council has now finished its deliberations in deciding the Council Tax rise for the tax year 2018-19. The decision has been taken that a 1% increase proposed by the Conservative Group should be sufficient to meet its budget requirements next year. The recommendation is a one-third of the 3% allowed by government this year and it will represent an increase of £1.36 per year which equates to less than 3p extra for week for a Band D property, with proportional increases for other bands. The Council, as with most other local authorities, is facing significant financial pressures which it is able to fund due to healthy financial reserves accumulated over the past three years. The Budget will be decided on 26<sup>th</sup> February at full Council.
- 2. Planning** – The District Council is currently carrying out consultation into the proposed Built-Up Areas for each community. Responses can be made on line where there is a full description of the Fenny Compton Built-Up Area and any changes that the Parish Council wishes to make can be entered and will be considered by the Planning Policy Team.
- 3. Land next to Surgery, Station Road** – The legal team is still continuing its discussions with the landowner of this property. The proposals so far are that the District Council will re-establish the curtilage of its land by the erection of a robust fence. The landowner has indicated that he is not happy with this proposal since it will made access to his property very difficult for the delivery of food stuffs to the ponies. The District Council is unable to accept this point of view and I expect that this matter will become a more formal dispute in due course.

**Cllr Chris Williams**  
**Member for Napton & Fenny Compton Ward - SDC**  
**18.02.2018**