

The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at the Village Hall, Fenny Compton on 19th March 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:** Sam Parkes, seconded by Michael Guest, proposed acceptance of the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 19th February 2017.
3. **Declaration of Interests:** Sam Parkes declared an interest in 6 (c) and 7 (c) as the pot hole and water leak are outside her residence.
4. **Dispensations:** None.
5. **Open Forum:**
None, as there were no members of the public present.
6. **Matters Arising:**
 - a) *Defibrillator:* 4 Residents attended the training provided by the Parish Council. The next training will be organised for an evening sometime in the near future. Date and time to be advised.
Action: Sam Parkes to confirm date and time of future training session.
 - b) *Land Registry:* The War Memorial and Village Green have now been registered.
 - c) *Highways:* The work on Mill Lane has been started. There was a break in the work due to access to the street being required by residents who were moving home. A further update is still awaited from Highways. The barrier on the pavement at the corner of Church and Avon Dassett Roads will be sorted out by Fenny Compton Water either during the weekend of the 24th or the 31st of March. There was a pot hole reported outside The Willows, High Street. The pot hole has been mended, but the root cause is still being assessed.
Action: The Clerk to follow up with Highways on Mill Lane and High Street issues, and with Fenny Compton Water on the issue at the corner of Church and Avon Dassett Roads.
 - d) *Street Lighting:* We have received a quotation for the street light number 3 on Church Road. The estimate is £1200 plus VAT. Derek Carless, seconded by Michael Guest proposed acceptance of this quotation.
There is only one more street light that currently needs repairing.
Action: Clerk to request that repair/replacement of street light number 3 on Church Road commences.
 - e) *Auto Enrolment for Pensions:* The Chair will forward a copy of the signed minutes from previous meeting (showing the Parish Council's agreement to proceed with the Clerk's pension scheme) to the service provider. Once the service provider has received this document, they will proceed to set up the pension scheme for the Clerk.

Action: Jon Dutton will proceed with finalising the documentation for the Clerk’s pension scheme.

f) *Field Gate Lane and Thompsons Field Hedges*: This hedge has been flayed.

g) *Traffic and Speeding*: Neil Andrews has emailed the contact from WCC regarding traffic calming. He is now awaiting a date for a meeting. The co-ordinator from Community Speedwatch is busy setting up a data collection request. This will provide information regarding the speed and flow of traffic through the village.

h) *Tree Squire Place*: The PC decided to go ahead with the existing quotation for the work required to trim back the tree next to the sub-station on the corner of Squire Place.

Action: Clerk to email the service provider and ask them to proceed with the work required to trim back the tree.

There is a degree of uncertainty as to who owns the land. Michael Guest is awaiting a response from the land registry regarding the ownership of this land.

i) *Emergency Plan*: Michael Guest has not received a copy of the key to the Post Office yet.

j) *Playground incident*: There is no further update on this issue.

k) *Cemetery Duties*: The Clerk has found a replacement for this position.

l) *Grit Bins*: The updated map of the village grit bins has been forwarded back to Highways. Thank you Derek Carless for doing a superb job.

m) *Parking on Verge Outside Village Hall*: Although this issue has been raised on our social media page, there was no visible improvement in parking this week. Should this continue, it will be flagged with the police.

n) *Mole Catcher*: The Mole Catcher caught nine moles on the playing fields. The cheque has been made out for signature.

7. **Correspondence:**

a) *Resident*: Youths have been gaining entrance to the garages at the sports pavilion. The garages are now being locked to prevent access.

b) *Warwickshire County Council*: Letter to Manor Farm re hedge near doctors surgery. The owner of this property has been warned to maintain this hedge.

c) *Highways*: Update on the leak/hole on High Street. The potholes have been fixed and the problem is being monitored.

d) *Resident*: Concerned as children are playing on the walls in the playground. The Clerk requested that the head teacher at the school discuss this issue during assembly time, and make mention of the problem in the school’s weekly newsletter, stating that care needs to be taken when utilising the facilities on the playing fields. The head teacher has done so.

e) *Resident*: Paving on the cnr of Church and Avon Dasset Roads. The Clerk will revert to the resident with the feedback from Fenny Compton Water, stating that this repair should be finalised by the end of the weekend of the 31st March.

f) *Resident*: Remembrance Day. This is the 100th anniversary, and there was an enquiry to see if the PC would be doing anything special to commemorate this occasion. One of the PC will attend the meeting that has been organised and find out what is being planned.

8. **Planning:**

a) **Application Reference (s): 18/00308/FUL:** Erection of dwelling house and garage. Planning Site, Mill Lane. Support with Conditions: Property should not be used for agricultural habitation/use. No further development permitted at any time in the future.

b) **Notice of Decision: Consent with Conditions:** Application 18/00255/TREE: T1 Ash: Fell. The Merrie Lion, Brook Street.

c) **Notice of Decision: Refusal 17/03461/OUT:** Proposed outline scheme for 1 New dwelling. Land At Wharf Road Business Park, Wharf Road.

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

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

10. **Finance:**

a) *Payments/Signing of Cheques:* Invoices were presented for payment.

b) *Bank Reconciliation and Finance for the Meeting:* The various bank balances were reported on to the Parish Council as noted below.

c) *Footway Lighting Maintenance 2018/19:* WCC has supplied their quote for the 2018/19 contract at £9.72 plus VAT per light for non-LED lanterns, and £1.90 plus VAT per light for LED lanterns. This compares to £9.50 and £1.85 last year. Neil Andrew, seconded by Ian Hartwell, proposed the acceptance of this quote, which was agreed by all.

d) *Audit:* The Clerk requested a quotation from Bill Robinson (an independent auditor), who has previously done the PC's internal audit, and the quotation was £15 per hour plus £0.40 per mile travel and thus remains the same as the previous year. It was decided by the PC not to do an external audit this year, as it was not mandatory, and would save the Parish Council £200. The Clerk would still prepare and publish all of the documentation that would usually be required for this audit in order for the finances of the PC to remain transparent. The decision to forgo an external audit this year was proposed by Michael Guest, and seconded by Neil Andrew.

Bank Balances 19 March 2018

Commutated Sum on Deposit	£3,058.22
Deposit Account	£26,795.37

High Interest fixed term deposit	£0.00
Current Account	£652.09
Partial Withdrawal High Interest Deposit	£10,000.00

Transfers

Business to Call Account	£1000.00
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Interest Income Included In Bank Balances

	March
Business Call Account	£0.12
Commuted Sum	£1.03

Cheques Paid Since Last Meeting

None

Cheques Requiring Payment

1) 2060 MW Jones: Landscape Maintenance	£200.00
2) 2061 Fenny Compton Village Hall: Hall Hire	£16.00
3) 2062 SSE: Street Lighting Elec February 2018	£186.98
4) 2063 O'Reilly Plumbing & Heating: Plumbing Sports Pavilion	£64.58
5) 2064 Utility Warehouse: Pavilion Electricity March	£48.73
6) S/O Lisa Andersson: Monthly salary	£300.54
7) 2065 Aplin Stockton Fairfax Solicitors: War Memorial and Village Green Registration	£908.00
8) 2066 S. Sidaway: Mole Catcher Sports Field	£120.00
9) 2067 WALC: Clerk's Toolkit Training March	£15.00
10) 2068 WCC: Footway Lighting Maintenance 2017/18	£679.26
11) 2069 Lisa Andersson: Clerk's expenses March 2018	£73.69
12) 2070 MW Jones: Landscape Maintenance & Cemetery Duties	£177.50
13) 2071 Lisa Andersson: Use of Clerk's Home Oct 2017 to March 2018	£100.00

Payments Received

Burial Mrs. P Gardner (Burial and Admin Fees)	£205.00
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Michael Guest, seconded by Sam Parkes, proposed acceptance of the financial statement, which was **agreed**.

11. **Vacancy:** A couple of examples of Co-option Procedures have been looked at by the Clerk and the Chair. These should be circulated by the Clerk to the Councillors, for their perusal and feedback. Once this has been finalised, it will be decided on how to proceed with the current vacancy.

12. **Updates:**

a) **Flood Prevention:** The next step in the process would be to get quotations based on the drawings that have been provided by the consultant (for the proposed solution to build an attenuation pond on the east side of Avon Dasset Road). Fenny Compton was flooded recently, due to run off from a field behind the school

playing field. Fortunately no building/homes were flooded.

b&c) **Playing Field/Play Equipment:** The individual who showed interest in renovating part of the sports pavilion to be used as a café, has inspected the premises, and needs to do further costings based on his findings, to ascertain the viability of the premises. Should this go ahead, the existing change rooms would not be affected, and therefore the pavilion would still be able to be used by the soccer club.

Dave Finch has offered to sort out the crack in the floor and the tree at the rear of the building (the roots potentially could cause structural problems for the pavilion). The PC needs to write to Dave Finch to confirm that they are happy for him to proceed with the work.

Action: Jon Dutton to write to Dave Finch to confirm he can proceed with the work at the pavilion.

The new swing is being installed. Ian Hartwell needed some help in finalising the installation and Derek Carless offered to help him.

Jon Dutton to revert to RoSPA to request a structural survey be done on the existing swing.

Ian Hartwell will purchase the non-slip paint to use on the relevant play equipment when the weather is more favourable for this type of work to be done.

There has been a report of dog fouling in and around the sports fields. This is unacceptable behaviour as there are bins provided for the dog waste.

Action: Jon Dutton to mention the dog fouling on the PC's Facebook page.

d) **Neighbourhood Development Plan:** The open meeting was extremely well attended. This resulted in a number of people who are prepared to help with some of the work that needs doing. There may be one person who may be interested in joining the steering committee. The next step is a major survey. It was previously thought that the current funds available would be enough to complete the survey, but unfortunately it would seem that this is not the case. Should more funds be needed, the NDP will look for grants to fund the survey.

e) **Allotments:** There have been a number of resignations on the committee, as a result the group is not quorate. There will be another meeting held next week in order to try to get things back on track.

There is no further progress on the provision of services, and no further progress with signing a lease, as only one, undated copy has been received from the agent thus far.

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

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

14. **Items to Publicise:**

- 1) Defibrillator training feedback.
- 2) Dog Fowling.
- 3) The Neighbourhood Development Plan open meeting feedback.

15. **Items for Future Discussion:**

Squire Place.

16. **Date of Next Meeting:** 23rd April 2018. (Annual Parish Meeting AND Parish Council Meeting)

The meeting closed at 9:22pm.

Appendix 1 - County Councillor Bob Stevens' report:

Fenny Compton: WCC report to Parish Council March 2018

Commensurate with a short month this will be a short report. Warwickshire County council were one of the first Shire Counties to set their Budget for next year and thus the Council tax. I reported this at your last meeting and since then our neighbouring Shire and unitary authorities have set comparable rises. Use of reserves for revenue is a short term measure as reserves don't last for ever! .Once again most of the savings are being made at the expense of staff redundancies and early retirement. As a consequence, although front line services are maintained, experienced and long serving staff are leaving thus creating a lack of continuity.

It was announced at the end of last month that a memorandum of understanding has been agreed between the West Midlands fire service and Warwickshire fire service. In the short term this will have little effect on our fire service, indeed it will improve cross border cooperation, and could streamline response time. However having combined the ambulance service, signed a cooperation agreement with the West Mercia police, is this the beginning of a West midlands combined blue light authority? Watch this space!! Warwickshire fire service is due a government inspection later this year.

Secondary school places were announced on March 1st Southam College once again is taking its maximum number (270). Many local primary schools are opting to become academies and part of a Multi academy trust. I have not heard this includes yours.

Two weeks ago we experienced some unprecedented bad weather and once again credit must go to the Gritting team for their round the clock operations. Communities have rallied to the emergency and in particular 4X4 drivers and farmers have responded to calls for help. One of the consequences will be the deterioration in some of the roads and an increase in potholes. Please continue to report the bad ones but expect a delay in their repair as the teams prioritise work across the whole of Warwickshire.

The community grant scheme will again be available this year for any community group which would like to apply. Also a highway maintenance grant for small projects that would not normally be included in the counties programme. A well-attended Feldon/Southam community forum last week heard excellent presentations on Village security, HS2 and speed awareness schemes. The next forum will be in June when it is hoped the main topic will be a presentation on road maintenance.

Bob Stevens

County Councillor Feldon Division

Appendix 2 – District Councillor Chris Williams’ report:

Fenny Compton Parish Council – 19th February 2018 District Councillor’s Report

1. **Administration** - As predicted last month, the District Council has decided that the Council Tax will increase for the tax year 2018/19 by 1%. This year this recommendation is one-third of the 3% increase permitted by government without holding a referendum. This increase equates to £1.36 per year which is less than 3p per week extra for a property in Band D. It is interesting to note that Stratford has one of the lowest tax bases not only in Warwickshire but compared with the rest of the country. As with most other local authorities, it is facing significant financial pressures through a reduction in government funding. Fortunately, due to healthy financial reserves not only is the council able to set a low tax increase but also spend some of its reserves on helping the homeless together with investing in the Shakespeare Birthday celebrations.
2. **Planning** –The Council, as with other authorities, is mindful of the government direction that it needs to provide more social housing. Our Core Strategy originally planned to suffice until 2031 will probably have to be revised at an earlier date to accommodate the demand for social housing. Birmingham City Council has approached SDC as to whether or not land can be made available within the Stratford District to meet Birmingham’s housing crisis. The only land that can be considered is Green Belt land in the north of the district. I will advise you of developments as they occur.
3. **Policy Issues** – The Cabinet considered the Stratford-on-Avon Area Transport Strategy. This document plans the strategy for transport for the future. I do not believe that this document is strategic enough as it is rather thin on facts. Consultation, in its final form, will take place after the document has been presented to the full Council for approval on 24th April 2018. The document can be read on the SDC website and the Parish Council will have an opportunity to contribute. I must stress it is not just the town of Stratford-upon-Avon but the whole district.

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

