

**The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at the Village Hall, Fenny Compton on 18th March 2019 commencing at 7:45pm.**

**Present:** Jon Dutton in the Chair, Michael Guest, Derek Carless, Roly Whear, Alan Payne, Cllr Bob Stevens, Cllr Chris Williams and Parish Clerk Lisa Andersson.

1. **Acceptance of Apologies:** Sam Parkes and Ian Hartwell.
2. **Minutes of The Previous Meeting:** Michael Guest, seconded by Jon Dutton, proposed acceptance of the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 18<sup>th</sup> February 2019.
3. **Declaration of Interests:** Alan Payne – planning application 19/00055/LBC and FUL.
4. **Dispensations:** None.
5. **Open Forum:** None.
6. **Matters Arising:**
  - a) **Open Gardens:** After Greg Southgate and Michael Guest met with the Highways representative and it was agreed that Highways would be okay with the planters being put in the agreed places at the entrances to the village as long as there is public liability insurance to cover any incidents that may occur involving the planters. **Action: Clerk to confirm that our current insurance would cover public liability, and once this has been confirmed the Clerk is to email Highways stating that the PC are happy for the Fenny In Flower group to proceed with building and placing the planters as stipulated.**
  - b) **Traffic and Speeding:** No current update.
  - c) **Emergency Plan:** The emergency plan needs amending due to one of the contact numbers being changed. Once this has been done, the document will be forwarded onto the relevant person.
  - d) **Defibrillator at Doctors Surgery:** Cllr Parkes is proceeding with the application for funding for the cabinet for the defibrillator at the Doctors Surgery. New pads need purchasing for the existing defibrillator at a cost of approximately £32 each (two sets are required). It was proposed by Michael Guest that we proceed with purchasing the replacement pads, and seconded by Derek Carless.
  - e) **Indolighting:** After the Clerk and Michael Guest had both looked at the quotation received from E.On and found the quote to be unprofessional and vague, and more expensive than the current provider, it was decided that it was not prudent to go ahead and utilise their services in this instance. It was decided to remain with the existing provider, unless a better service provider was found in the future.
  - f) **Resident: Bench of Avon Dasset Road needs repairing:** It was suggested that we now go ahead and refurbish the bench on the Slade. **Action: Clerk to ask the service provider if he'd be prepared to refurbish the bench on the Slade.**
  - g) **Resident:** A grant application was received from the Village Hall committee to pay for a replacement light outside the Village Hall. Michael Guest proposed that we grant the Village Hall committee the £140 they requested, which was seconded by Roly Whear.
  - h) **Zurich:** Cllr Carless met with the tree specialist and a proposal/quotation has been received in the amount of £1650 plus VAT to inspect all of the trees on PC land and prepare the report and plans detailing all the trees and the risk category they fall under. Derek Carless proposed that we accept the quotation, which was seconded by Alan Payne.

**Action: Clerk to notify the service provider that they can proceed with the inspection.**

i) **Resident:** Noisy Manhole cover on Avon Dassett Road. The Clerk had contacted Highway again, and they suggested that residents contact BT directly to complain about the manhole cover, as the more complaints received, the sooner BT are likely to respond to the issue.

j) **Fence slat in under 8 play area:** The Clerk has requested a service provider to repair this, but has not been done yet.

**Action: Clerk to follow up with service provider.**

k) **To receive written applications for the office of Parish councillor and to Co-opt a candidate to fill the existing vacancy:** The Clerk emailed the other successful candidate and congratulated him on being co-opted onto the PC. The Clerk also forwarded onto him the relevant documents which have been duly signed and returned to the Clerk, in order to forward them onto the monitoring officer.

7. **Correspondence:**

a) **Michael Guest: Slade Green –** Western Power have dug up Slade Green in order to complete work in the area. This work was carried out without permission being requested from the PC. Western Power have left the site in reasonable condition, but the grass needs reseeding. Western Power have removed their wiring from a pole shared between themselves, BT and the PC (as we have a street light on this pole). The pole in question is not in good order, and the resident whose property lies next to this pole has complained in the past that they would like the street light moved to another location. Western Power have left a live connection on the other side of Dog Lane should the PC decide to put up a new pole for our street light.

**Action: The Clerk is to liaise with Western Power regarding reinstating the Green to its former condition, and to make mention that they never requested permission to work on our land.**

It was suggested that Western Power should apply for way leave.

b) **WALC:** Additional Gritting: Would the PC be interested in additional gritting. It was thought that this was not necessary.

c) **Mike Cunningham:** Response to email regarding outdated lighting. He suggested that we prioritise concrete columns.

d) **Bloxbury Athletic Club:** Looking for a football pitch to utilise for their two men's football teams. The PC decided that should the club like to come and look at the facilities, that they would be happy to have someone show them around.

8. **Planning:**

a) **Notice of Decision: Permission with Conditions: Application(s) reference: 19/00078/FUL:** First floor extension. 12 Berry Meadow.

b) **Appeal Decision: Appeal reference: APP/J3720/C18/3207050:** The appeal is dismissed and the enforcement notice is upheld. Hornbeam House, 1 Brook Street.

c) **Application(s) reference: 19/00488/TREE:** Proposed G1 – 3 x Damson – Fell. T2 – Lime – Pollard 2-3 meters. T3 – Western Red Cedar – Thin by 50%. G4 – 2 x Western Red Cedar – Reduce height by 506ft. G5 – 2 x Western Red Cedar – Fell. G6 – 2 x Limes – Pollard to 2-3 meters. T7 – Horse Chestnut – Pollard to 2-3 meters. No representation.

d) **Application(s) reference: 19/00055/LBC and 19/00054/FUL:** Conversion of redundant Cart Shed to Holiday Let, minor interior and exterior alterations. Bayards, Bridge Street. No representation.

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

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

report. The inclusion of this report as an appendix does not assume that the PC agrees with all points mentioned in the report, it is merely a copy of the report given at the meeting.

**10. Finance:**

a) *Agreement of Payments/Signing of Cheques:* Payment for invoices was agreed and then 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

**Bank Balances 18<sup>th</sup> March 2019**

Commuted Sum on Deposit	£1,934.60
Deposit Account	£27,857.26
High Interest fixed term deposit	£0.00
Current Account	£1,860.97
Partial Withdrawal High Interest Deposit	£10,000.00

**Transfers**

Business to Call Account	£2,500.00
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**Interest Income Included In Bank Balances**

	March
Business Call Account	£0.07
Commuted Sum	£1.14

**Cheques Paid Since Last Meeting**

Utility Warehouse – Pavilion Electricity (re-issue)	£21.52
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**Cheques Requiring Payment**

1) 2179 Lisa Andersson: Clerks' Expenses (re-issue)	£53.94
2) 2180 SDC: Bowls Club Recycling 2017 and 18 (re-issue)	£100.00
3) 2181 WCC: Staff pension contribution (re-issue)	£93.47
4) 2182 WALC: GDPR Toolkit	£3.00
5) 2183 E.On: Street Light Electricity	£197.16
6) 2184 MW Jones: Landscape Maintenance	£215.00
7) 2185 WCC Pension Fund: Staff Pension Contribution	£93.47
8) 2186 WCC: Street light repair	£343.80
9) 2187 Lisa Andersson: Clerks' Expenses and Use of Home 2018/19	£221.79
10)2188 Utility Warehouse: Pavilion electricity	£12.51
11)2189 CPRE: Annual Membership	£36.00
12) S/O Staff Salary	£305.63

**Payments Received**

None.

It was decided as there was still money available in the current budget that the PC would proceed with replacing 3 more street lighting poles. This was proposed by Michael Guest, and seconded by Derek Carless. This is in line with the current program to replace outdated street lighting in the village.

c) Grass Mowing Contract: The amended quotation has been received from Frank Mann Farmers. This included spraying for weeds around and within the play area. The acceptance of the quotation was proposed by Roly Whear, seconded by Alan Payne, and was accepted by all.

d) Defibrillator Pads Renewal: Dealt with in item 6d).

Michael Guest, seconded by Derek Carless, proposed acceptance of the financial statement, which was **agreed by all**.

11. **Update Risk Assessment and Business Continuity Plan:** It was agreed that there was some further updating required to both the Business Continuity Plan and the Risk Assessment before they can be agreed approved.

12. **Update Financial Regulations:** The adoption of the updated Financial Regulations was proposed by Michael Guest, and seconded by Jon Dutton.

13. **Councillors Responsibilities:** It was decided to delay this item until after the elections in May 2019.

14. **Updates:**

a) **Flood Prevention:** The consultants are busy remodelling, and once this has been finalised a revised costing will be done.

b) **Playing Field/Play Equipment:** The Clerk has received some stickers to warn residents against dog fouling. The Clerk had requested signs not stickers, but these are not currently available. As soon as Street Scene have received the new signs they will drop some off.

The Clerk has requested the dog bin lid be replaced, but it has not yet been done.

**Action: Clerk to follow up with Street Scene regarding dog bin lid.**

The party interested in utilising the pavilion as a cafe has been in contact with the PC again recently, and has said they will submit a proposal. This has as yet not been forthcoming.

c) **Neighbourhood Development Plan:** A draft document has been submitted to the consultant. Once the consultant has given his feedback on the draft document, then the suggestions will be taken on board and the draft document revised accordingly.

d) **Allotments:** The revised lease has not yet been received. Permission has been received to mark out the allotments. Two quotes have been received for the fencing, and a third quotation is awaited. Advice has been requested from the Allotments Association on the lease. The Allotments group have put in a grant request of £450 to cover the cost of their membership to the Allotments Association, as well as for covering the cost of insurance and a purchasing a water trough. The cost of the membership and the insurance would cover the costs for the first year. After this, the fees received from members will cover the future cost of the membership of the Allotments Association and the insurance. Derek Carless proposed that we support the Allotments groups grant request for £450, and this was seconded by Michael Guest.

e) **Highways:** Some potholes have been reported, and the Clerk awaits photos and exact location of these potholes in order to report them to Highways.

f) **Street Lighting:** The number 2 Fieldgate Lane light has been fixed. The light closest to the Wharf is still not functioning. The numbering will be done soon. Number 3 Northend Road is not working.

**Action: Clerk to follow up on light closest to the Wharf, and report number 3 Northend as not working.**

g) **GDPR:** No current updates.

15. **Fenny Compton Parish Risk Assessment:** Safety check lists for the playground were not received as Ian Hartwell was unable to attend the meeting.
16. **Items to Publicise:**
  - a) Nominations for elections for Parish Council.
  - b) The Annual Parish Meeting is on the 15<sup>th</sup> April.
17. **Items for Future Discussion:**
  - a) Risk Assessment
  - b) Continuity Plan
18. **Date of Next Meeting:** 15<sup>th</sup> April 2019.

The meeting closed at 10:08pm.

## **Appendix 1 -**

County Councillor Bob Stevens' report:

### **Fenny Compton Parish Council**

#### **WCC Councillors report March 2019**

##### **General**

After the excitement of the Budget debate February has been exceptionally quiet at the County council. The impending retirement of 5 senior Officers and the resultant departmental reorganisations has not been conducive to major decision making. Add to this the uncertainties of BREXIT and the political Purdah as a result of the forthcoming District Council elections in 4 of the 5 Counties District Councils and keeping the ship steady is the order of the day.

##### **The fire service**

The County council is the Fire Authority for Warwickshire and the recent inspection report is being assessed and an action plan will go to cabinet next week. Most of the areas of concern relate to administrative and HR areas. The fire prevention and operations are rated good. A new chief fire officer joins next month and his first major task will be to sort these areas out. Over the past years there have been initiatives to link up our fire service provision with adjacent authorities. Any merger is complex and this one has proved difficult. We are presently looking at a form of collaboration with West Midlands fire service and as a result. The proposal to locate a fire training facility at Southam has been shelved. There is also a national debate regarding a combined blue light service which I think is some way off in Warwickshire.

##### **Public health and adult care**

The County Council held a public interest debate at the end of last month on the subject of combined working between health and Adult services This topic has been on the national agenda since Public Health was transferred back to local government nearly 10 years ago. The debate was addressed by SWFT, 2 CCG's, Hospice movement, Director of public health

together with 10 interested “Public Speakers”. It was clear that one of the major problems is communicating between authorities and the conflict between sharing information and breaching personal privacy (Human rights). Finance, although important, is manageable although transferring of costs between budgets could be controvertible. There are moves towards integrated working which will need support (and legislation) from the government. The Director of public Health retires next month and an interim appointment has been made until a permanent appointment has been made.

### **Finances**

The county’s Revenue finances are in a Healthy state with sufficient contingency reserves to cover any foreseen events. Future income streams are unknown as the movement away from government grants towards Business rates as a source of funding is continuing with pilot schemes in some authorities. Council Tax continues to be capped although ring-fenced increases are allowed to meet specific budgets. There are many risks on the horizon that the new Director of Finance will have to address once in post. There is an interim Director in post until a permanent replacement has been appointed. The capital budget is mainly allocated to Schools and Highway projects to meet the population increase.

### **Schools**

The County Councils responsibility with respect to education, has been diluted since the introduction of Academies and free schools. It is the counties responsibility to ensure there are sufficient school places to meet the needs, that pupils can access their local school and that there is sufficient provision of “Good” education for those with Special education needs. There are only 2 secondary Schools in the county that are not academies and members of MATs. Primary schools are also converting especially faith Schools. The interface between Academies and state run schools will be at the top of the agenda for new Director of education once appointed.

### **Highways**

We all have noticed the incredible number of road closures and traffic disruptions that are presently taking place. Not only are HS2 early works creating problems between Wormliughton to Long Itchington (as well as the rest of Warwickshire to the North) but the large number of housing developments, all requiring additional utility services and road improvements, are adding to the congestion. I drove around the division last week and as well as the chaos in long Itchington (Highways works to implement S106 agreements) and soon to be Bascote(Severn Trent) there is major disruption on the B4451 past the Bishop Bowls lakes, works in Stockton, and around Bush heath lane in Harbury; not to mention the consequences on traffic flows of the major works around Europa way and Harbury lane. At the same time stagecoach are trying to produce a bus timetable that is both sustainable and realistic. I cannot see this situation improving before the end of the summer.

### **Overall**

The County Council reverts to a chief executive model of management and a much streamlined chain of management responsibility. This is creating an unsettled staff as new director’s delegate their responsibilities and officers move into their revised roles. I expect the position to be stabilised by the end of May this year.

### **Bob Stevens**

**Appendix 2 –**

District Councillor Chris Williams' Report:

**Fenny Compton Parish Council 18<sup>th</sup> March 2019  
District Councillor's Report**

**Administration** – The Council Leader, Cllr Tony Jefferson, has outlined his priorities for the District Council which are:-

- Keeping the District prosperous particularly in light of macroeconomic difficulties such as the UK's poor Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita.
- Running an efficient and effective Council with a 'can do' attitude.
- Guaranteeing the Council was in a strong financial position and Council Tax increases are controlled.
- Being clear not only on what the Council can do, but also on that it cannot do and encouraging personal responsibility amongst residents.
- Ensuring the Council continues to 'punch above its weight' in terms of regional influence and opportunities to bring in inward investment.

**Budget** – On Monday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2019 the District Council set the lowest Council Tax for any authority in Warwickshire on 1.5% and expressed as an average Band D payment this amounts to £137.07. Warwickshire County Council set a budget figure earlier in the month of 4.9% made up of 3% Council Tax and 2% for Adult Social Care. The Police precept will be £203.98.

I will keep the Parish Council informed if there are any decisions that will have an effect on the Parish Council.

**Cllr Chris Williams  
Member for Napton & Fenny Compton Ward  
SDC  
17.03.2019**

