

# Fenny Compton Parish Council

Minutes of an Ordinary Meeting Of Fenny Compton Parish Council Held by Zoom On Monday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2021 At 7.45pm

**PRESENT:** Parish Councillors: Jon Dutton in the Chair, Derek Carless, Alan Payne, David Johnson, Emma Briscoe, Sam Parkes and Roly Whear

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Parish Clerk Lydia Cox, Councillor Andy Crump (Warwickshire County Council) and Councillor Nigel Rock (District Council)

1 Apologies

None

2 Acceptance of Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the Ordinary meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> February 2021 (already circulated) were considered and the minutes were **agreed** (Proposed by Councillor Whear and seconded by Councillor Johnson)

3 Declarations of Interest

Councillor Payne declared an interest in any discussions around HS2 due to employment and planning application 21/00496/LBC as neighbour

Councillors Payne and Johnson declared an interest in the Bowls Club as members

4 Requests for Dispensation

Councillor Whear requested a dispensation regarding the Fenny Water Company share discussion as he is a Director of the company

5 Open Forum

Amy Aylward was in attendance to discuss traffic calming measures along Bridge Street

Amy Aylward raised the issue of speed of vehicles, and particularly large vehicles, passing houses in the village with no foundations (Bridge Street and Brook Street). She raised the question of whether bollards and chicanes could be installed

Councillors responded to say that

- (i) WCC are looking into the possibility of reducing the speed limit in to the village
- (ii) Speed watch volunteers are in the process of being vetted prior to training
- (iii) WCC have surveyed the village and will be responding with traffic management schemes (Councillor Dutton will chase response)

Councillors have proposed to wait for the WCC proposals and to see how much they will cost. If there were money left in the Traffic Management reserve then the council will request another survey for Bridge Street

**Amy Aylward left the meeting and Councillors Payne and Crump joined at 20.05**

6 Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

- (i) Orbit grass cutting – Clerk has received information to say that Orbit do not own the verges between Berry Meadow and Station Road, the ownership was transferred to WCC in 2016. WCC have responded to say that SDC are responsible for the grass cutting

Councillor Rock has requested that the Clerk sends all the details to him and he will

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escalate the issue

- (ii) Problems with large vehicles on Mill Lane/ The Lankett – The SDC Enforcement Officer has visited the site but has now transferred responsibility to Highways. There have been no further complaints from residents and the amount of mud on the road seems to be less
- (iii) State of Playing Fields – Councillor Dutton has not received a response to the request for a meeting with the Colts representatives but will propose a meeting date
- (iv) Internet Banking – Councillor Dutton and Parkes now have access and can authorise payments. A request has been submitted to alter the Clerk’s access to enable request for payments to be raised
- (v) Street lighting charges – Clerk has received the new EAC certificate from Western Power and this has resulted in a £503 refund from Eon for the previous year’s invoices and lower rates going forwards
- (vi) Allotment maintenance agreement – The Allotment Association has approved the agreement that was discussed at the last meeting
- (vii) Pump at Ridgeway – Councillor Rock will liaise with Mark Banning from WCC regarding the issues already raised with the pump
- (viii) Compton Buildings planning – Councillors Dutton and Rock met with representatives from Orbit and SDC regarding the current planning proposals, in particular the environmental concerns that have been raised previously. The meeting was more positive and Orbit have agreed to investigate a range of proposals and submit a new scheme
- (ix) Neighbourhood Development Plan – The Aspirations document has not yet been written by Councillor Johnson  
  
Councillor Rock suggested that the group should be aware not to repeat the Core Strategy in the NDP as the document would have to be re-written if the Core Strategy changes. Councillor Carless will forward an email that the group received to Councillor Rock that seemed to contradict this
- (x) Surface Water on Avon Dasset Road – Councillor Payne to raise this as part of Aqueous conversation
- (xi) Paving at Millennium Stone – Clerk is waiting for quotes from Mick Jones
- (xii) Sports Pavilion Structural Survey – Clerk sent to Councillors

## 7 SDC Report

Councillor Rock submitted a report which can be found in Appendix C

## WCC Report

Councillor Crump updated the Councillors on the latest news regarding the closure of the A425 and the fire service integrated risk management project that WCC are looking at

**Councillor Crump left the meeting at 21.00**

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### 8 Correspondence

The meeting noted the following correspondence:

- Residents correspondence
  - Pothole opposite co-op
  - Traffic calming along Bridge Street
  - Reinstate toddler swings at playing fields
- WALC Correspondence
  - Current covid regulations allowing virtual meetings end on 6th May
  - Annual Parish Assembly
    - Must be held on a day between 1st Mar and 1st June
    - The Assembly could be held between the 17th May and the 1st June outdoors or WALC recommendation would now be to hold it virtually ideally in April when annual accounts should be ready in draft form. The suggestion is that another Assembly is held in late summer when hopefully it will be safer to meet physically
  - Annual Parish Council Meeting
    - Must be held on any day in May
    - WALC recommends holding the meeting between the 1st and 6th May as a virtual meeting and extend the agenda beyond the essential items. This should include looking at delegation of powers to your clerk, renewing or extending them. This suggestion is based on trying to remove the need before restrictions are lifted on 21st June and then to keep the first few ordinary meetings as short as possible as we come out of the risks presented by Covid
  - As things stand we will no longer be able to hold virtual meetings but no more than 6 people could meet indoors so between 17th May and 21st of June we would have to meet outdoors
- Public consultation on proposals for new council wards and ward boundaries for Stratford-on-Avon District Council
  - An electoral review is being held to recommend new electoral arrangements for Stratford-on-Avon District Council. It will propose:
    - the total number of councillors elected to the council in the future;
    - the number of wards;
    - the number of councillors representing each ward;
    - ward boundaries; and
    - the names of wards
  - It is expected to recommend that 41 councillors should be elected to the Council in the future. This is five more than the current number of councillors
  - Consultation closes on 03 May 2021
  - Draft recommendations published in August 2021
  - A further period of consultation will be held on the draft recommendations. The final recommendations are expected to be published in January 2022

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- The new electoral arrangements will come into effect at the local elections in May 2023
  - Consultation on new planning proposals
    - The Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) have recently launched a consultation seeking views on proposals to reform of Strand 2 (land owned by a local authority or certain other public bodies) of the Right to Contest under the Local Government, Planning and Land Act 1980
    - Currently longstanding vacant, derelict or underutilised public sector land can have a significant impact on the attractiveness of a local area. The public are able to request that the government considers whether certain publicly owned land is unused or underused, and if so direct that it be sold
    - The government believes that reforming the Right to Contest and relaunching it as a new 'Right to Regenerate' could provide a quicker and easier route for individuals, businesses and organisations to identify, purchase and redevelop underused land in their area
    - Currently local councils are not in the list of public landowning bodies which can be challenged under this right – but this consultations seeks views on whether local councils who own underused or derelict land should indeed be challengeable under this right in the future
    - NALC is concerned that developers will be tempted to approach local people and remunerate them for putting their names on the challenges being made. Whether local councils are subsequently subjected to the 'Right to Contest' or the 'Right to Regenerate', there needs to be a requirement about how the land or buildings are subsequently dealt with after they are passed on to ensure that developers are not tempted to use a front to acquire land or buildings, perhaps at below market value
  - Solar Together Warwickshire
    - A new scheme from WCC and IChoosr aims to make solar panels and home battery storage accessible to all. It is an innovative new scheme offering the procurement and installation of high-quality solar photovoltaic (PV) panels. It is a group-buying scheme, which brings Warwickshire households together to get high-quality solar panels at a competitive price helping residents through the process and keeping them informed at every stage.
    - Residents can register before 23 March 2021 for free and without any obligation at: <https://www.solartogether.co.uk/warwickshire/home>
  - Joint Strategic Needs Assessment for those over 16
    - WCC are carrying out a Mental Health and Wellbeing Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) to understand the needs of the Coventry and Warwickshire adult populations. As part of this they want to hear from residents aged 16 and over and professionals about their own mental health and wellbeing
    - <https://ask.warwickshire.gov.uk/insights-service/adult-mental-health-services/>
- (i) Clerk has reported the pothole opposite the coop and it has already been repaired

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- (ii) Councillors discussed the possibility of reinstating the toddler swings in the playing fields. Councillor Whear will look into various options and quotes. Councillor Parkes will investigate the possibility of applying for a grant

### 9 Planning

- (i) The following applications have been received for consideration since the last meeting:

<u>Reference</u>	<u>Consultation Expiry Date</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Proposal</u>
21/00537/TREE	10 Mar 2021	Knotts Cottage, Bridge Street, Fenny Compton, Southam CV47 2XY	T1 - leylandi - Fell T2 - leylandi - Reduce to hedge height
21/00497/TREE	10 Mar 2021	The Old Rectory , Church Street, Fenny Compton, CV47 2YE	-T1 Yew: Fell
21/00381/TREE	12 Mar 2021	6 Cotters Croft, Fenny Compton, CV47 2XS	T1: - Bay: fell T2: - Bay - crown reduction by 25% reducing height from approx. 3.5m to 3m
21/00496/LBC	18 Mar 2021	Old Toft , Bridge Street, Fenny Compton, CV47 2XY	Install solar panels to east elevation roof

Between meetings Councillors agreed to respond with ‘no representation’ for the Tree applications

It was also agreed to respond with ‘no representation’ for application 21/00496/LBC

- (ii) The following decisions have been received since the last meeting:

<u>Reference</u>	<u>Decision Date</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Proposal</u>
20/03490/FUL	10 Mar 2021	Planning permission granted	Bumble Bee House, Station Fields, Fenny Compton, Southam CV47 2XD	A single storey side extension to the dwelling.

- (iii) Dead/Dangerous Tree Notification- 21/00508/DDT – Gredenton, Dog Lane, Fenny Compton

### 10 Financial Administration

- (i) Councillors **approved** the following payments (Proposed by Councillor Parkes and seconded by Councillor Carless):

MAR_21_1	Lydia Cox (Salary and Expenses February)	£ 413.30
MAR_21_2	E-ON (Streetlights February)	£ 200.30
MAR_21_3	Utility Warehouse (Sports Pavilion Electricity)	£ 7.15
MAR_21_4	WCC (Streetlight Repairs)	£ 1,807.82
MAR_21_5	WCC (Streetlight Replacements)	£ 3,040.25
MAR_21_6_DD	WaterPlus (Sports Pavilion water)	£ 35.04
MAR_21_7	APS (Neighbourhood Dev Plan consultancy)	£ 84.00
MAR_21_8	PKF Little John (External Auditors)	£ 240.00
MAR_21_9	Mick Jones (Village maintenance)	£ 80.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>£ 5,374.69</b>

- (ii) Councillors noted the bank balances and bank reconciliations (Appendix A & B) and

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**agreed** them

- (iii) Fenny Water Company has offered to buy back the shares that the Parish Council hold (20) at £2 per share. Councillors unanimously **agreed** (Councillor Whear did not vote, Proposed by Councillor Carless and seconded by Councillor Parkes)
- (iv) Councillors reviewed the first draft of the 2020/2021 accounts. Clerk will update at the end of the month for approval at the next meeting
- (v) Councillors reviewed the latest fixed asset register. Clerk will update for the recent street light replacements
- (vi) Clerk has received correspondence to state that Utility Warehouse are increasing the price of electricity at the Sports Pavilion. Clerk will investigate alternative providers
- (vii) WCC have sent the latest street lighting maintenance prices. Councillors **agreed** to the contract  
  
Councillors discussed the structural testing option of the contract. It was agreed that Councillor Carless would investigate which columns need testing
- (viii) The External Audit for 2019/20 is now complete
- (ix) The bowls club have asked that the Parish Council pay for the three green bins that they use. Councillors **agreed** to pay for one of them

## 11 Updates

- (i) Flood Prevention – Following meetings with WCC and submission of design principles, Aqueous have received an initial subjective comparison on the options and will review and comment back as appropriate. WCC have excluded any proposals for capital investment around the Ridgeway. Aqueous have asked for this to be reconsidered due to the non-implementation of the offsite works following the developer contribution to discharge the S106 planning condition  
  
**Councillor Rock left the meeting at 21.40**
- (ii) Trees – Councillors agreed that the remaining work that the tree survey highlighted should be undertaken. Clerk will liaise with Andrew Saunders
- (iii) Playing Field – Councillors agreed to spend £200 on a skip for the removal of the cricket club. Councillor Whear will circulate dates
- (iv) Neighbourhood Plan – The plan has now been updated for resident’s comments. APS are now writing the Conditions Statement
- (v) Allotments – No further updates
- (vi) Highways – The corroded sign on Northend Road has been replaced. Clerk to chase the for an update regarding the telegraph pole on Memorial Road
- (vii) Street Lighting – No further updates
- (viii) Traffic Calming – No further updates
- (ix) Risk Assessments – The Bowls Pavilion risk assessment will be completed when the building is open again and Councillor Whear has agreed to undertake the assessment

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for the war memorial

- (x) Internal Controls – Councillors approved the document (Proposed by Councillor Payne and seconded by Councillor Whear). Clerk will add to the website
- (xi) Documents for review – Councillors will review the following documents prior to the audit:
  - a. Standing Orders, Cemetry Charges and Financial Regulations (Councillors Dutton, Parks and Briscoe)
  - b. Code of Conduct, Environmental Policy and Social Media Policy (Councillors Whear and Johnson)
  - c. Complaints Policy and Health & Safety Policy (Councillors Carless and Payne)

## 12 Items to Publicise

- (i) Cricket scoring hut removal
- (ii) Tree works
- (iii) Virtual meetings to continue

## 13 Future Discussion

Audit

## 14 Date of next meeting

The next meeting planned is an Ordinary Meeting scheduled for Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> April. The Parish Council is meeting virtually in line with COVID-19 legislation

**MEETING CLOSED 22.05**

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## Appendix A

### February Financial Administration

<b>Balances:</b> (See attached bank reconciliation)		£
<b>30 Day Notice</b> (Commuted on deposit)		
Fieldgate Lane		<b>910.74</b>
<b>12 Month Partial Withdrawal</b> (High interest deposit):		
Cotters Croft	7,497.34	
PC Balance	2,502.66	
		<b>10,000.00</b>
Deposit	16,814.17	
Traffic Management	2,135.82	
Flood Relief Grant	2,510.00	
WCC Flood Attenuation Grant	305.96	
Over 8's Play Area	604.23	
NP Plan Projects	437.31	
Defibrillator	2,009.29	
WCC Violin Grant	-	
<b>Deposit Account</b>		<b>24,816.78</b>
<b>Current Account</b>		<b>1,818.57</b>
<b>Total Balances</b> (See Bank Reconciliation)		<b><u>37,546.09</u></b>
Less Payments (See agenda item 10)		
Lydia Cox salary and expenses	(413.30)	
Eon Electricity (Streetlighting)	(200.30)	
Playing Field Electricity	(7.15)	
APS (Neighbourhood Dev Plan)	(84.00)	
WCC (Streetlight Repairs)	(1,807.82)	
WCC (Streetlight Replacements)	(3,040.25)	
WaterPlus (Sports Pavilion water)	(35.04)	
PKF (External Audit)	(240.00)	
Mick Jones (Village maintenance)	(80.00)	
<b>Total Payments</b>		<b>(5,907.86)</b>
<b>Total Balances carried forward</b>		<b><u>31,638.23</u></b>

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## Appendix B

### February Bank Reconciliation

<b>Bank Balances</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>30 Day Notice</b>	<b>910.74</b>
<b>12 Month Partial Withdrawal</b>	<b>10,000.00</b>
<b>Deposit Account</b>	<b>24,816.78</b>
<b>Current Account</b>	1,828.00
Less cheques outstanding	
2351 Utility Warehouse	(9.43)
<b>Current Account</b>	<b>1,818.57</b>
<b>Total Bank</b>	<b><u>37,546.09</u></b>
Cash Book Balance b/f	36,998.79
Add receipts since last meeting:	
Bank Interest	0.22
Refund for WALC Training Course	30.00
SDC contribution to grass cutting	211.08
Burial Fees	205.00
Monuments	95.00
Other:	
Error in cheque (Written for £435.63 should have been £441.63)	6.00
<b>Total Cash Book</b>	<b><u>37,546.09</u></b>

## Appendix C - District Councillor for Napton and Fenny Compton Report

### HS2

There are suggestions that the road closure of the A425 at the Polo Ground will continue for a considerable period beyond the current proposed end date of June 2021. When the HS2 Acts were passed the plan for the A425 was to temporarily realign the road, but this idea was scrapped last year by HS2 at short notice causing significant disruption and anger in local businesses and residents. It seems that this disruption, originally for nine months, is now likely to be extended for some considerable period. I am, with the support of other councillors, organising an urgent review with the MP

### Covid

The number of cases across the District has continued to fall back, so we have rates last seen at the beginning of October. As of 12th March, with a 3 day lag, the 7 day rate per 100,000 was 45.4 for Stratford district

As at 4th March 2021 there have been 53,317 people vaccinated in the Stratford on Avon District Council area with at least one dose. Local data as follows:

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	Number of people vaccinated with at least 1 dose				
	Under 65	65-69	70-74	75-79	80+
Southam, Stockton & Napton	1,991	518	608	485	617
Feldon ( incl Priors & Fenny Compton)	1,777	616	615	571	589

## Elections

As per my report last month, County Council and Police and Crime Commissioner Elections are due go ahead on 6 May. The pandemic is a continuing and changing factor and there is still concern about the availability of sufficient temporary polling staff – I have a contact if anyone wants to volunteer. There will be a drive to increase postal voting to minimise the visits to polling stations. There will an emergency ‘Covid proxy’ available on the day so positive Covid positive electors do not have to go the polling station

## District Council Merger

Stratford and Warwick Districts are investigating the prospect of a merger. This is forecast to save £4.5m a year across both councils and the government has signalled a desire for bigger councils. There is already some joint working going on, particularly in planning policy, but a merger is a big step and we need to make sure that local government does not ‘move further away’ from the residents they serve. The ambition is that that the merger is achieved by 2024. Between then and now there is much exploration of detail to be done, and after all that the government could refuse the merger as proposed by the councils. During the debate at the Council where it was decided to progress the idea of a merger, Councillors were keen to ensure that full public consultation is carried out when more information is available

## Budget

The District Council debated its budget on 22nd February. Local government is expected to face considerable challenges in the next few years although central government has yet to announce how much they will be providing, so financial planning is difficult. The Liberal Democrat opposition proposed an economic development officer to generate funding and also that money should be set aside for local community groups involved with climate change projects. These proposals which would not have increased the level of council tax, were defeated. The level of council tax for all authorities is now known and is as follows:

	Property Band D equivalent	Increase for 2021/22
Stratford District council	£149.12	3.47%
Warwickshire county council	£1533.51	3.00%
Police and crime commissioner	£252.96	6.30%
Fenny Compton Parish Council	£69.05	5.6%
For interest, some of the other villages in our council ward are as follows:		
Napton Parish Council	£83.78	2.0%
Priors Marston Parish Council	£65.79	-0.6%
Ladbroke Parish Council	£39.50	-0.3%

This means the total council tax for a band D property in Fenny Compton is £2008.48. More information should be sent to households in a council tax booklet by the time you read this

Nigel Rock, Councillor for Napton & Fenny Compton Ward 07971 343065