

The Minutes of Fenny Compton Parish Council Meeting – 15th February 2016

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at the Village Hall, Fenny Compton on 15th February 2016 commencing at 7.45pm.

Present: Miss Deborah Lea in the Chair, Jon Dutton, Michael Guest, Ian Hartwell, Derek Carless, Samantha Parkes, Councillor Christopher Williams & Parish Clerk Catherine Lambert.

1. **Apologies:** Mike Davies.
2. **Minutes of the last meeting:** Derek Carless, seconded by Michael Guest, proposed acceptance of the Minutes to the Parish Council Meeting held on the 18th January 2016. Michael Guest, seconded by Derek Carless, proposed acceptance of the Minutes to the Parish Council Meeting held on the 2nd February 2016.
3. **Declaration of Interests:** None.
4. **Open Forum:** None.
5. **Matters Arising:**
 - a) **Defibrillator:** Sam Parkes reported that unfortunately due to overwhelming demand the Parish Council was unsuccessful in obtaining funding for a defibrillator. Another round of funding will open in April, however, it will require a contribution of £400. The Parish Council agreed to apply again in April. Thanks were given to Sam for her work on this project. SP
 - b) **Risk Assessment:** Jon Dutton reported that it was agreed to include an inspection of Parish Council's trees into the risk assessment. The Council needs to compile a list of trees that they own. Derek Carless agreed to do this if provided with a plan of the areas which the Parish Council own, Michael Guest agreed to supply this. The Clerk has completed the computer back up and passed this to the Chair. The main outstanding item is the business continuity plan. This will deal with the issue of how the Parish Council will continue to carry out its duties if the Clerk is not available. JD/DC/ MG
 - c) **Neighbourhood Development Plan:** Derek Carless has passed the folder to Sam Parkes. SP
 - d) **Allotment Provision:** Jon Dutton reported that the Parish Council should renew their membership with the Allotment Society which was agreed. JD
 - e) **Land Registry:** Deborah Lea, Mike Davies and Michael Guest met on the 25th January and they recommend that the Parish Council has enough documentation to register the Bowling Club, War Memorial and the Avon Dasset Green with the Land Registry. This was approved by all the Parish Council. DL/MD/ MG
 - f) **Highways:** Patch Byrne confirmed that he has inspected the footpath on Church Street and all the pre-existing timber posts are in place, given the width of the footway he would not be in favour of installing more. He also looked at the footway on Brook Street and he considered it to be in a fair condition with no action to take at this time. The footway on High Street appears to be in a relatively good condition, however there is a section damaged outside Quoin Cottage which has been marked for patching. The Clerk has reported the blocked drain on Mill Lane by the school playing field, Patch Byrne will look at this when he is next in the village. The Highways Department have received a request for a speed sign on the Slade as there is no indication of the speed limit in this area. A sign is to be installed in Mid-March. The Clerk will report a pot hole in the pavement outside of the Co-op Store. CL
 - g) **Street lighting:** Annette Mackie confirmed that she has issued instructions to their contractor to attend and repair the streetlight on Thompsons Field. With respect to the light opposite the surgery, they have replaced the photocell and relay and on several visits to Fenny Compton they have not seen this light on during the daytime. Unfortunately, the Clerk has reported that there still is a problem and Annette believes that the next best option is to replace the lantern with a new 27W LED lantern at a cost of £323.75 excluding VAT. The Parish Council agreed to monitor the light before replacing the lantern. The Clerk will report that a streetlight on the Avon Dasset Road, opposite the end of the Slade is defective. CL
 - h) **Police Report:** Nothing to report.

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- i) **Standing Orders:** Mike Davies is still in the process of updating the Standing Orders. MD
- j) **Empty homes:** No new updates.
- k) **Fly Tipping:** Councillor Williams reported that this has now been removed. Cllr CW
- l) **War Memorial:** No update as yet.
- m) **Tree work:** The Clerk met with Anthony Thornton and Wendy Maries to ascertain which trees were of concern. Andrew Saunders inspected the wildlife area in Squire Place and did not see anything that he thought was an issue. There are a couple of young sycamores by the parking bays which have dropped some small branches, this is due to squirrel damage. He couldn't see anything to warrant work on them which would improve them. The squirrels will continue to strip the bark and weaken them regardless. A lot of the trees are covered in ivy which hinders viewing any possible hazards. The Chair and Vice Chair confirmed that the best course of action was to ask Andrew Saunders to deal with the ivy on the trees that he feels would enable him to get a better view of any possible hazards that may need attention. The Clerk will ask him to report back after he has removed the ivy to clarify if any further work is required. The Clerk updated Mr Thornton of the action taken. The work outside the school has been completed. Christine Barker had reported concerns regarding a tree on the footpath to the playing field and at the access to Thompson's Field. Ian Hartwell agreed to look at these trees when they are in leaf. CL/IH
- n) **War Memorial Committee:** Deborah Lea is meeting Jenny Cranfield on Thursday. DL
- o) **Emergency Plan:** Michael Guest reported that the draft plan has been submitted to Warwickshire County Council and he is awaiting a response. MG
- p) **Bench in Bus Shelter:** Michael Guest had received a quote from Simon Bradley to attach the bench to the bus shelter using brackets and screws at a cost of £50. The Clerk has heard from local residents that there is noise from the bus shelter during the night and the bench may exacerbate that. The Parish Council agreed to fix the bench into the bus shelter at the price quoted by Simon Bradley. MG
- q) **Councillor Training:** There is a new date for the new Councillor training. It will now be held on the 2nd July in Southam. Derek and Sam will confirm if they can attend the new date. SP/DC

6. **Correspondence:**

- a) **WALC:** Latest information on Audit arrangements. Circulate to all Parish Councillors. CL
- b) **Warwickshire County Council:** WCC Chairman's Open Evening Saturday 27th February 2016.
- c) **WALC:** Details of WALC's Annual Briefing Day 2016.
- d) **Warwickshire County Council:** Eyes & Paws Event 2016. The Rural Crime Coordinator Lucy Lambert has teamed up with Lisa Parkes the Dog Warden to provide a series of exciting events across the District.
- e) **Warwickshire County Council:** Details of Web Wise Courses.
- f) **Warwickshire County Council:** Free Home Composting Workshops in Warwickshire.
- g) **WALC:** NALC have produced a new version of the model Financial Regulations for the Parish Council's consideration. Pass to Mike Davies.
- h) **VASA:** February newsletter for Events, Funding & Development. Pass to Mike Davies.
- i) **Brenda Parsons:** Writing on behalf of Mrs M Grant, expressing their disappointment at not being invited to the Parish Council Special meeting on the 2nd February to discuss the Planning Application submitted by Mrs M Grant. The Parish Council confirmed that they acted in accordance with their Standing Orders and Code of Conduct.
- j) **Warwickshire County Council:** Our Warwickshire will be at Southam Library on Tuesday 16th February from 2-4 pm.
- k) **Sarah Brooke-Taylor - Rural Housing Enabler:** Enquiring whether the Parish Council would like to undertake another Housing Needs Survey. The Parish Council agreed not to pursue this at this time, if the Council decide to undertake a neighbourhood plan they will reassess their decision.
- l) **Warwickshire County Council:** Neighbourhood Development Planning for Health document which has been produced by Public Health Warwickshire.
- m) **WALC:** The approved Local Councils Charter.
- n) **Sandra Brookes:** Reporting a problem with a broken drain, the Clerk will pass on the

details to the Highways Department.

7. **Planning:**

- a) **Notice of Decision. Permission with Conditions 15/04125/FUL:** Erection of a detached garage/shed with associated works. Claraden Cottage, Bridge Street, Fenny Compton.
- b) **Planning Application 15/04110/REM:** Application for approval of reserved matters relating to appearance, layout and scale for the construction of Class C3 dwelling houses, together with public/amenity open space, structural landscaping and means of access in association with outline planning permission 13/02734/OUT. Compton Buildings, Station Works, Fenny Compton. Bloor Homes Limited.
Fenny Compton Parish Council OBJECTS to the application for the following reasons:
1. The number of houses proposed, on the basis that:
 - a) The Outline Planning Permission for the site (13/02734/OUT) specifies housing densities of not more than 25 dwellings per ha (“low density”) on the southern part of the site, and not more than 35 dwellings per ha (“medium density”) on the northern part of the site. The Design and Access Statement attached to the Outline Planning Application suggested that the area of low density housing was 1 ha, and that of medium density housing was 1.5 ha, suggesting a maximum of 77 dwellings.
 - b) The number of houses proposed for Fenny Compton as a Category 2 Local Service Village for the period from 2011 to 2031 in the version of the Core Strategy currently being considered by the Inspector is not more than 12% of 700, or 84 dwellings.
 2. The housing mix does not conform to Policy CS18 in the version of the Core Strategy currently being considered by the Inspector.
 3. The lack of any provision of areas of landscaping within the developed area of the site, other than the LEAP and on the periphery of the site, contrary to interim adopted Policies CS5 and CS9.
 4. The negative effect of the proposed development on the Ironstone Hills Fringe Special Landscape Area (which is immediately adjacent to the development site), contrary to interim adopted Policy CS12.
 5. The designs of the proposed dwellings, which do not reflect the character and distinctiveness of the locality, as required by interim adopted Policy CS9, and which do not conform to the Village Design Statement.
 6. The effects on the sustainability of the village infrastructure, and on the sustainability and social cohesion of the community.
- Fenny Compton Parish Council wishes to record that it still supports development of the site for housing, subject to the development being more in line with that proposed in Outline Planning Application 13/02734/OUT.
- c) **Planning Application 16/00141/TREE:** G1: Conifer: remove. Claraden Cottage, Bridge Street, Fenny Compton. Miss Lesley Ross. No Representation.
- d) **Planning Application 16/00072/COUNTY and Warwickshire County Council Planning Application SDC/16CM001:** Retrospective application for the importation of approximately 2000 tonnes of blue clay to allow the creation of equestrian exercise area. Waylands Farm, Station Fields, Fenny Compton.
Fenny Compton Parish Council does not object to the application, subject to the change of use to “equestrian” being specifically limited to the area delineated in the planning application, and for personal use only.
- e) **Planning Application 15/01025/FUL:** Conversion and extension of barns into a single dwelling and annex. Some poorly built lean-to structures behind the barns east elevation will be demolished (Updated Ownership Certificates received 18 January 2016). Land Rear of School Hill Farm House, Church Street, Fenny Compton. Mrs Margaret Grant.
Fenny Compton Parish Council OBJECTS to the proposal for the following reasons:
The proposed development represents an over development of the site.
The proposed development is not in sympathy with adjacent buildings, particularly as the site is located in the Fenny Compton Conservation Area.
The proposed development does not address the problem of existing flooding on the site, which will potentially be exacerbated by the proposed treatment of surface water drainage.
There are discrepancies in the drawings (e.g. a ground floor window shown on a plan but

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not shown on the relevant elevation).

- f) **Planning Application 16/00229/FUL:** Siting of proposed dwelling on scrubland to the West of Applegarth, Church Street, Fenny Compton (resubmission of 15/01925/FUL) Applegarth, Church Street, Fenny Compton. Mr A Curtis. No Representation.

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

Councillor Williams gave the following report.

The County Council have set their budget for next year's expenditure. The Chancellor's statement regarding the budget settlement figure was the cause of lengthy debate. The County Council will have to find an extra £12 million from reserves over the next 2 years. By using £5 million from reserves, this year's budget will remain more or less as planned. However, next year they will have to find the full £12 million. Most of the budget (over 50%) goes on providing Adult Social Care. The government has agreed that a special year on year levy of 2% on the Council Tax can be raised to help towards the cost of Adult Social Care. This will hardly cover the new minimum working wage and leaves the additional pressures of increasing numbers to be funded. The County Council are also working with the Health Authorities to maximise savings and efficiency through more joint working especially with respect to hospital discharges and subsequent care in the community. There is also continued pressure on Children's Services and the establishment of a Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) as the number of reported child abuse cases continues to increase. These cases now have to be investigated immediately regardless of their credibility. The overall outcome is that 2016/17 Budget will be tight but manageable with a total Council Tax rise of 3.9% with further cuts a real prospect for 2017/18. The current financial position with central government significantly reducing settlement allowances to authorities does mean that the County Council is having to re-evaluate the cost savings produced by having a Unitary Authority for Warwickshire. A cross-party group of Members will carry out this evaluation and report back to the Council at the end of the summer. The Labour Party is proposing two Unitary Authorities for Warwickshire, one in the north and one in the south. The Conservative and Liberal Democrats do not support this proposal since the size of each authority would not reach minimum sizes of population. The guide line at present for Unitary Authorities requires a minimum population of 500,000.

9. **Finance:**

- a) **Review of the Fees and Charges:** Deborah Lea, seconded by Jon Dutton proposed to keep the level of fees and charges unchanged due to low inflation rates, this was agreed by all.
- b) **Budget and Precept Request 2016/17:** The Clerk had forwarded all the relevant documentation to the District Council
- c) **Unmetered Streetlight Electricity Supply:** The Clerk had confirmed acceptance of the Southern Electric quote for the street lighting supply. The implementation date was the 1st February 2016, and the Clerk has received an invoice from E-On for usage up until the 31st January 2016
- d) **Parish Council documentation:** The Chair had priced the cost of a fire proof cabinet for the storage of Parish Council documents at a cost of £659.90 inc VAT. Derek Carless, seconded by Sam Parkes proposed the purchase of the cabinet which was agreed by all.
- e) **Pavilion Water:** Jon Dutton reported that he is monitoring the water usage and it is in line with the expected usage.
- f) **Village Violin School:** The Clerk is awaiting the funds.
- g) **Aqueous:** The Clerk confirmed that the WCC Grant for Aqueous has been received.
- h) **Pavilion Electricity:** Jon Dutton has read the meter.

Bank Balances 15th February 2016

Commuted sum on deposit	£3,731.69
Deposit Account	£12,781.45
Higher interest fixed term deposit	£15,000.00
Current Account	£736.69
Partial Withdrawal High Interest Deposit	£11,155.55

Transfers

19/01/16: Commuted sum on deposit to Deposit Account to cover £522.17

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Cost and interest for Field Gate Lane 2014/15.

16/02/16: Business Call to Current Account £500.00

Interest Income included in Bank Balances

Business Call Account £1.07

Commuted Sum £0.19

Cheques paid since the last meeting

None.

Cheques requiring payment

1885: Warwickshire County Council: Streetlight Maintenance 2015/16 £574.37

1886: The National Allotment Society: Membership Renewal. £66.00

1887: M Jones: Landscape Maintenance. £190.00

1888: Andrew Saunders: Tree work, Memorial Road. £130.00

1889: E-On: Streetlight Electricity 1 Jan – 31 Jan 2016. £201.65

Payments Received

1: Aqueous WCC Councillors Grant Fund. £500.00

Jon Dutton, seconded by Ian Hartwell, proposed acceptance of the financial statement, which was agreed.

10. **Updates:**

- a) **Flood Prevention:** Michael Guest reported that he had contact the agent to the owner of the land for the second flood alleviation scheme who will set out his client's demands for the use of the land as a flood prevention plan, this will be passed to WCC who will incorporate this into the proposed business plan. Councillor Williams reported that the business plan will be ready in March. MG
- b) **Playing Field:** Jon Dutton reported that someone has roped off the cricket square even though there is no news of a reformed Cricket Club. There is a small window in the pavilion which has been removed and has been boarded up. Ian Hartwell said that the wind had blown it out. There are at least two windows in need of attention. It is secure at present. Jon Dutton agreed to contact Simon Bradley to see if he can quote a price to undertake these repairs together with the broken fence panels and the broken gate spring in the under 7s play area. JD
- c) **Play Equipment:** The Clerk has forwarded details of the see-saw installer to Mike Davies.
- d) **Superfast Broadband:** Nothing to report.

11. **Any Other Business:**

- a) The Chair was approached by the school gardening club who would like to do something for the Parish. It was agreed to refer them on to the Village Hall Committee. DL
- b) Mike Davies had requested a Councillor attend the meeting being held by the Fenny Compton Surgery to discuss the changing challenges for a rural practice. Sam Parkes agreed to attend. SP

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