

# Fenny Compton Parish Council

Minutes of an Ordinary Meeting Of Fenny Compton Parish Council Held by Zoom On Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2020 At 7.45pm

**PRESENT:** Parish Councillors: Jon Dutton in the Chair, Derek Carless, Michael Guest, Alan Payne, Sam Parkes and Roly Whear

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Parish Clerk Lydia Cox and Cllr Bob Stevens (Warwickshire County Council (WCC))

1 Apologies

Cllr Nigel Rock (Stratford District Council (SDC))

2 Acceptance of Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the Ordinary meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> June 2020 (already circulated) were considered and the minutes were **agreed**

3 Declarations of Interest

Alan Payne declared an interest in any discussions around HS2

4 Requests for Dispensation

There had been no requests for dispensation

5 Open Forum

There were no members of the public in attendance

6 Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

- (i) Grass Cutting – The clerk reported that she had been in contact with the grass cutting manager at Orbit again and was still waiting for confirmation of how much Orbit would be prepared to contribute towards cutting the grass at Grants Close and Berry Meadow
- (ii) Clerk confirmed that Zurich Insurance have received the cheque for the annual renewal
- (iii) Clerk reported that there has been no further correspondence regarding the damage to a car in Squire Place
- (iv) Clerk has responded regarding the agreed level of spend for new tennis posts
- (v) Derek Carless reported that Stratford District Council had responded to say that there were no planning rules regarding replacement windows within a conservation area

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## 7 Correspondence

The meeting noted the following correspondence:

Damaged manhole cover Avon Dassett Road  
Further details ref planning application 20/01324/ful  
Quotes regarding tree maintenance  
SDC – Next Steps, Pest Control, Guidance on opening and safe use of community facilities  
WALC – June Update and Newsletter, continuation of community support  
WCC - Carry on Vaccinating campaign, COVID-19 recovery plans, Mental health challenges, 'Click and Collect' library service, Video for Year 6 to Year 7 transition  
WCC (Localities) – Guidance update for clinically extremely vulnerable 'shielded' individuals, Test and Trace webinar  
Severn Trent & Environment Agency – High water demand  
NALC – COVID-19 Updates (remote meetings, resources to discourage littering, risk assessment templates, advice for re-opening play areas, online courses for rebuilding communities)

- (i) The council was informed of Michael Guest's resignation from the Parish Council due to moving away from the area
- (ii) Roly Whear has reported a damaged manhole cover on Avon Dassett Road to BT for repair
- (iii) The councillors were informed that Cllr Rock had suffered a heart attack the previous week. We understand that prospects for recovery are good and our best wishes have been passed on. For the time being, Nigel's colleague Louis Adam, the Councillor for the adjoining ward of Long Itchington and Stockton will help with any queries where he can

## 8 Planning

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>                                                                                   |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <a href="#">20/00874/LBC</a>  | 29/07/2020                      | Contone House Bridge Street<br>Fenny Compton CV47 2XY              | Underpinning of internal wall and associated remedial works                                       |
| <a href="#">20/01324/FUL</a>  | 21/07/2020                      | Old Toft Bridge Street Fenny<br>Compton CV47 2XY                   | Change of use of domestic garage to Mirco brewery and the use of the existing residential parking |
| <a href="#">20/01707/TREE</a> | 21/07/2020                      | The Old Rectory Church Street<br>Fenny Compton Southam CV47<br>2YE | -T1 maple - Fell and treat stump.                                                                 |
| <a href="#">20/01576/FUL</a>  | 21/07/2020                      | Saddlers Cottage High Street<br>Fenny Compton Southam CV47<br>2YG  | Insert new conservation rooflight to North West (front)<br>Elevation for escape purposes.         |

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| <u>Reference</u>              | <u>Consultation Expiry Date</u> | <u>Address</u>                                         | <u>Proposal</u>                                                                        |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <a href="#">20/01577/LBC</a>  | 21/07/2020                      | Saddlers Cottage High Street<br>Fenny Compton CV47 2YG | Insert new conservation rooflight to North West (front) Elevation for escape purposes. |
| <a href="#">20/01821/TREE</a> | 04/08/2020                      | Harefield House High Street<br>Fenny Compton CV47 2YG  | T1 - cherry - Fell                                                                     |
| <a href="#">20/01893/TREE</a> | 15/07/2020                      | Rose Cottage Church Street<br>Fenny Compton CV47 2YE   | T1 - leyland cypress - Remove                                                          |

The Parish Council made no representation for these applications

There haven't been any decisions received since the last meeting

## 9 Reports from WCC and SDC representatives

CLLR Stevens submitted a report on behalf of WCC which can be found in Appendix 'C'

## 10 Financial Administration

The meeting noted the bank balances and bank reconciliations (attached) and agreed the following payments:

|                                                               |                  |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| Ian Wilson (Salary and Expenses June)                         | £279.08          |
| Lydia Cox (Salary and Expenses June)                          | £393.30          |
| Mick Jones (Handyman – Grass Cutting etc.)                    | £575.00          |
| E-ON (July 2020 – Streetlights June)                          | £214.61          |
| Michael Mann (Grass cutting)                                  | £342.00          |
| WALC Annual Subscription                                      | £326.00          |
| WALC Training (Lydia Cox)                                     | £ 18.00          |
| Utility Warehouse (Sports Pavilion Electricity – June & July) | £ 20.92          |
| CPRE Membership                                               | £ 36.00          |
| Roly Whear (Playground equipment)                             | £ 67.87          |
| <b>Total</b>                                                  | <b>£2,273.78</b> |

The meeting received and noted the latest budget report for June 2020 (Appendices A & B)

- (i) The grass cutting budget was discussed and the clerk agreed to investigate whether the allocated reserves for Cotters Croft should be used to fund some of the works
- (ii) The 3 monthly check of the financial statements, bank reconciliations and receipts will now be undertaken by Alan Payne

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## 11 Updates

- (iii) Flood Prevention – Alan Payne reported that general maintenance continues to take place along the watercourse. There has been no response from Warwickshire as yet regarding whether the allocated money has been spent on offsite flood mitigation works.  
There has been no recent Aqueous meeting due to COVID-19 restrictions.  
A drain cover has been damaged at the junction of Memorial Road and Bridge Street and will be escalated for repair
- (iv) Trees – Three quotes were received regarding the ‘medium’ priority trees identified in the tree survey plus additional work in Squire Place. A decision was reached as to which contractor to progress with, however, all quotes were higher than the budget available. It was agreed to progress with the dead wooding around the playing field and the trees that need to be felled this year and to delay the other items until next.  
Derek Carless reported that the purchase of new trees to replace those that will be felled will cost c.£100 per tree (including stake). Planting costs will need to be factored on top. Possible other areas to plant new trees were discussed and include; Playing Fields, church yard boundary and left hand side of Fieldgate Lane
- (v) Playing Field – The play area has been risk assessed and reopened.  
Roly Whear will prepare a new weekly inspection report for the play equipment and look into advertising for the removal of the garages
- (vi) Neighbourhood Plan – Michael Guest reported that the draft plan is ready to proceed to the consultation stage. Derek Carless will take over from Michael as Parish Council representative
- (vii) Allotments – Jon Dutton reported that he is now in receipt of the solicitor letter that needs to be signed to start the process to register the lease. This will cost £200-£400
- (viii) Highways – WCC jobs to clear pathways and trim hedges in the village and at the Wharf remain outstanding. The clerk will continue to escalate and also add the following:
  - a. Pot hole outside coop
  - b. Pavement at junction of Church Street and Memorial Road
  - c. Pavement opposite Blacksmith Cottage on High Street
  - d. Corroded sign on North End Road
- (ix) Street Lighting – Repairs previously identified still remain outstanding
- (x) Traffic Calming – No updates
- (xi) Emergency Planning – Sam Parkes has agreed to take over from Michael Guest as lead for Parish Council.  
On-line banking forms will have to be altered for new clerk details

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- (xii) Parish Councillor Vacancy – No election has been requested for Ian Hartwell's vacancy. Clerk has received correspondence from one potential candidate. The vacancy to replace Michael Guest closes tomorrow, July 22<sup>nd</sup>

The Chair expressed his thanks to Michael Guest for his work on the Parish Council over the last ten years. Michael has played a leading role in improving our flood defences and the development of the Neighbourhood Plan process. The Chair wished him well in his new home

### 12 Items to Publicise

- (i) Parish Councillor vacancy following Michael Guest's resignation
- (ii) Medium risk tree works will be progressing. Suggestions for replacements for those trees that will be felled

### 13 Future Discussion

Nothing identified at this meeting

### 14 Date of next meeting

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

**MEETING CLOSED 21.15**

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## Appendix A

### June Financial Administration

|                                                             |           |                         |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-------------------------|
| <b>Balances:</b> (See attached bank reconciliation)         |           | <b>£</b>                |
| <b>30 Day Notice</b> (Commuted on deposit)                  |           | <b>910.61</b>           |
| <b>12 Month Partial Withdrawal</b> (High interest deposit): |           |                         |
| Cotters Croft                                               | 9,750.00  |                         |
| PC Balance                                                  | 250.00    |                         |
|                                                             |           | <b>10,000.00</b>        |
| Deposit                                                     | 22,355.03 |                         |
| Traffic Management                                          | 2,136.00  |                         |
| Flood Relief Grant                                          | 1,037.76  |                         |
| WCC Flood Attenuation Grant                                 | 1,133.76  |                         |
| Over 8's Play Area                                          | 604.00    |                         |
| NP Plan Projects                                            | 1,207.51  |                         |
| Defibrillator                                               | 2,023.26  |                         |
| WCC Violin Grant                                            | -         |                         |
| <b>Deposit Account</b>                                      |           | <b>30,497.32</b>        |
| <b>Current Account</b>                                      |           | <b>(1,323.82)</b>       |
| <b>Total Balances</b> (See Bank Reconciliation)             |           | <b><u>40,084.11</u></b> |
| Less Payments (See agenda item 9)                           |           |                         |
| Ian Wilson salary                                           | (279.08)  |                         |
| Lydia Cox salary                                            | (393.30)  |                         |
| Mick Jones                                                  | (575.00)  |                         |
| WALC Training                                               | (18.00)   |                         |
| WALC Subscription                                           | (326.00)  |                         |
| Utility Warehouse Electricity                               | (20.92)   |                         |
| Playing Fields Grass cutting                                | (342.00)  |                         |
| Eon Electricity                                             | (214.61)  |                         |
| CPRE Membership                                             | (36.00)   |                         |
| Playground Equipment                                        | (67.87)   |                         |
| <b>Current Account</b>                                      |           | <b>(2,272.78)</b>       |
| <b>Total Balances carried forward</b>                       |           | <b><u>37,811.34</u></b> |

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## Appendix B

### June Bank Reconciliation

| Bank Balances                      | £                       |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>30 Day Notice</b>               | <b>910.61</b>           |
| <b>12 Month Partial Withdrawal</b> | <b>10,000.00</b>        |
| <b>Deposit Account</b>             | <b>30,497.32</b>        |
| <b>Current Account</b>             | 1,777.52                |
| Less cheques outstanding           |                         |
| 2281 Mick Jones                    | (540.00)                |
| 2284 Jon Dutton                    | (9.99)                  |
| 2275 Website Hosting               | (437.77)                |
| 2280 WCC                           | (500.00)                |
| 2287 Eon                           | (221.76)                |
| 2285 Ian Wilson                    | (379.51)                |
| 2286 Mick Jones                    | (590.00)                |
| 2288 Frank Mann                    | (380.40)                |
| 2289 WaterPlus                     | (41.91)                 |
| <b>Current Account</b>             | <b>(1,323.82)</b>       |
| <b>Total Bank</b>                  | <b><u>40,084.11</u></b> |

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## Appendix C

### Parish Council Update July 2020 - Warwickshire County Council

#### Introduction

The last 140 days have seen a County Council whose Modus operandi has been on its head. All offices have been shut and staff are working from home. Meetings have been virtual and words like ZOOM, Teams and Webinar have become common language. The IT team have met most of the challenges unfortunately any “breakdowns” are more significant. Officer’s telephones have been transferred to their home. All meetings are virtual. There has been less staff sickness and most staff have found homeworking does not interfere with their working. However communication between officers is much slower and they miss the office politics (Banter) which office working offers. Priorities since March have concentrated on the effects of Covid 19 and many lower priority tasks have been delayed. It is a credit to all concerned that this is now being rectified as the effects of the virus are now well controlled. It is envisaged that this situation will continue for some time and until government guidelines reduce social distancing restrictions.

#### Covid 19

As councillors we get updated regularly with statistics. The headlines are:

- 1) Warwickshire is following the national trend in the reduction in cases. There are spikes in Nuneaton and Bedworth and figures at George Elliot are slightly distorted by the Leicester outbreak. Coventry is under observation and could cause concern. Stratford District cases were high but now reduced. None of these are far from Feldon so stay alert and obey the distancing.
- 2) There is no shortage of PPE in Warwickshire, Testing continues to be easier to get and Coventry Warwickshire and Solihull have been selected as a beacon Authority for test and trace rollout once details are finalised
- 3) Assistance to those who are isolated is well under control and staff who were assigned to these centres are returning to their normal duties. Well done all the parishes who set up help lines and still help the vulnerable. The army assistance has been invaluable in this respect especially planning and distribution.
- 4) The one off cost to the County council after government grants is in the region of £28 million. This can be met from our reserves. However, extra cost in future will affect the budget calculations over the next years, especially with respect to care homes and children safeguarding.

#### The Way ahead

The county council have set up 4 Covid recovery groups to establish what the New Normal will look like as the council resumes its Role in the community. These groups will report in September to the Cabinet. As well as the front line workings for Adult services, other factors that will affect the outcome include: The government financial settlement for local

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government (expected before the end of the year); Changes to planning regulations, Devolution and local government reorganisation (Unitary Authorities?). The effects of climate change have not gone away either!

## HS2

During the lock down period and subsequently HS2 sub contractors and archaeologists have been continuing work to meet their perceived dates. The first train is still scheduled for 2030 but The Prime Minister would like it sooner. There are protests and traffic disruption along the line as HS2 and their contractors push their interpretation of the hybrid Bill to its limits. Locally there is the preparation for the tunnel Boring machine (TBM) and the massive upheaval as the utility supplies are installed .The route the actual machine will take is still under discussion. I am informed that it has now been ordered from a German company and will be delivered in large pieces possible starting before the end of the year. My estimate is that we will see trials about this time next year watch this space. Then of course once one tunnel is complete it is planned to dismantle the TBM and move it back to do the return tunnel (more disruption for 2024). Other preparations include major works in and around Wormleighton and Ladbroke as Plant Depots, etc. are established and the bed for the track is prepared. Planning and communication continue to be HS2's Achilles heel disrupted by staff reorganisations. Regular liaison meetings will continue including those with the MP and Southam Town council's Forum for all local parishes.

## Highways

It won't have escaped your notice that there has been an enormous number of road closures, traffic lights and diversions, Despite signing (often confusing) drivers find their own rat runs and HGV's are relying on sat navs. Although the main culprits appear to be associated with HS2 there have been emergency repairs (Potholes and very bad verges), a disrupted resurfacing programme, Severn Trent emergency repairs and some forestry work. During lock down there have been less cars but more speeding – the police handled over 3000 fines last month. 10 out of the 12 parishes in Feldon have asked for speed restrictions/measures and the requests are prioritised by the reduced staff and limited budget. Permanent signs entail a costly legal process and extensive consultation. During the lockdown there have been less accidents. Schemes along the Fosse are still being progressed and there is a call for cycle ways where Sustrans are taking the lead

## And finally ...

Community grants will again be available. The rules are the same but payment unlikely before Christmas. I will inform Clerks when the system starts. The highway grant scheme has been modified and no more are available until next year's budget present schemes will be completed (sometime!).

I hope to be able to join your meeting but technology and Bob's computer skills are not the most compatible! Enjoy what's left of the summer and a pint in your local!

**Bob Stevens**  
**County Councillor Feldon Division**

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