

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

**Present:** Jon Dutton in the Chair, Michael Guest, Ian Hartwell, Sam Parkes, Cllr Bob Stevens and Parish Clerk Lisa Andersson.

1. **Acceptance of Apologies:** Cllr Chris Williams and Derek Carless.
2. **Minutes of The Previous Meeting:** Michael Guest, seconded by Sam Parkes, proposed acceptance of the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 21<sup>st</sup> January 2019.
3. **Declaration of Interests:** Sam Parkes and Jon Dutton declared an interest in item 14 e).
4. **Dispensations:** None.
5. **Open Forum:** 4 residents attended the meeting. The first issue raised as part of the Open Forum was the Planning Appeal that has been made relating to Application Reference 17/03520/OUT (Land West of Avon Dasset Road). The previous response to this planning application was discussed, and discussions on whether there was much to add to this response. It was agreed that the PC would object again, on much the same grounds, and suggested that any concerned residents do the same. All written representations must be in by the 14<sup>th</sup> March 2019.

Members of the Open Gardens team asked if the PC would object to bunting being strung up in the village during the Open Gardens this year. It was noted that the bunting would be alongside the road, not across it. The PC said that it had no issue with this suggestion. The Open Gardens team would like to make and put planters at the entrances to the village – two at each entrance, except for at the Northend Road entrance, where they propose one. These planters would be made by the Open Gardens team – exact construction details to be finalised. How long the planters would be in place still needed to be decided upon. One of the concerns was whether the PC's current insurance would cover these. It was agreed that any additional cost would be covered by the Open Gardens group. The flower planters would also be maintained by Open Gardens. The placement of these planters would need to be agreed on by both the PC and Highways.

**Action: Clerk to request a date for a meeting with Highways to discuss the placement of the planters, and also check whether these planters would be covered on our insurance.**

6. **Matters Arising:**
  - a) **Traffic and Speeding:** No current update.
  - b) **Emergency Plan:** Cllr Guest noted that the contact he'd been dealing with had left the organisation, and requested help from Cllr Stevens in locating contact details of the person who had taken over this role.
  - c) **Defibrillator at Doctors Surgery:** Cllr Parkes is proceeding with the application for funding for the cabinet for the defibrillator at the Doctors Surgery.
  - d) **Indolighting:** The quotation for replacing street lighting has been received. Some of the figures had been omitted from the original document sent through, but had since been received. The quotation document was not very clear and the Clerk requested that Cllr Guest take a look at it and provide feedback on his interpretation of the document. A quotation for providing the maintenance on our street lighting was also received from E-On, and it was agreed that it was substantially more expensive than our current provider, so it would not make financial sense to accept this

quotation.

e) **Resident: Bench of Avon Dasset Road needs repairing:** The bench been repaired and put back in place.

f) **Resident:** Village Hall Light. The form to request funding from the PC to help with these costs has been forwarded.

g) **Zurich:** Cllr Carless has completed the task of noting where there are trees that that fall on land that the PC are responsible for. The Clerk has found a tree specialist who is qualified to do a report on the trees in our care, stating if there are any risk factors attached to any of the trees.

**Action: Cllr Carless to contact the tree specialist to set up a meeting.**

h) **Resident:** Noisy Manhole Cover. The Clerk noted that this issue has been raised with BT and we await feedback from Highways on this issue.

**Action: Clerk to await feedback from Highways.**

i) **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.**

j) **SDC:** Rural Broadband Bid. Two residents have complained about their broadband speed and the Clerk has forwarded on our feedback to the relevant authority.

k) **Resident:** Yews Are Awesome. The Clerk has responded to this email.

#### 7. **Correspondence:**

a) **Resident:** No papers delivered to the Co-Op again. An email was received noting that a complaint had been made to the Co-Op regarding non delivery due to bad weather. The PC noted the complaint, and the Clerk will respond accordingly.

b) **WCC:** Footway Lighting Maintenance 2019/20. The Parish Council decided to accept the quotation.

c) **Resident:** Planning Application 17/03520/OUT Land West of Avon Dasset Road. The resident is currently busy looking at grounds for objecting, and is happy to share her findings.

#### 8. **To receive written applications for the office of Parish councillor and to Co-opt a candidate to fill the existing vacancy:** As Neil Andrew has recently tendered his resignation, the PC had advertised the vacancy, and now has two places to fill. There were two applications for co-option, and the PC felt that both applicants were strong candidates. Michael Guest proposed that we co-opt both applicants, this was seconded by Sam Parkes, and agreed by all. As Mr. Whear (one of the applicants) was at the meeting, the Clerk got him to sign the Declaration of Acceptance of Office, and Mr. Whear joined the meeting.

**Action: The Clerk will contact the other applicant to congratulate him on successful co-option to the PC.**

#### 9. **Planning:**

a) **Notice of Decision: Permission with Conditions: Application(s) reference: 18/03622/FUL:** Replacement single storey rear extension to create living/kitchen/dining area. The Cottage, Brook Street. Granted.

b) **Notice of Decision: Permission with Conditions: Application(s) reference: 18/03638/FUL:** Change of use of 2 prefabricated timber framed holiday let bungalows to permanent dwellings. Nursery House, Avon Dasset. Refused.

c) **Application(s) reference: 19/00078/FUL:** First floor rear extension. 12 Berry Meadow. No representation.

d) **Notice of Decision: Permission with Conditions: Application(s) reference: 18/03162/FUL:** Demolition of existing detached garage and replacement with two storey extension to side. Windy Ridge, Mill Lane. Granted.

e) **Apple Construction:** installation of 21 porta cabins. The planning officer noted that

no laws had been broken here.

f) **Notice of Decision: Permission with Conditions: Application(s) reference:**

**18/03676/OUT:** Outline application with all matters reserved for a new dwelling and access. Wayland Farm Cottage, Station Fields. Refused.

10. **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.

11. **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> February 2019**

Commuted Sum on Deposit	£1,934.53
Deposit Account	£30,356.12
High Interest fixed term deposit	£0.00
Current Account	£1152.34
Partial Withdrawal High Interest Deposit	£10,000.00

**Transfers**

Business to Call Account	£1,000.00
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**Interest Income Included In Bank Balances**

	February
Business Call Account	£0.09
Commuted Sum	£1.41

**Cheques Paid Since Last Meeting**

2066 Utility Warehouse – Pavilion Electricity	£10.05
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**Cheques Requiring Payment**

1) 2167 SDC: Bowls Club Recycling 2018	£50.00
2) 2168 SDC: Bowls Club Recycling 2017	£50.00
3) 2169 Warwickshire Wildlife Trust Ltd: NP Expense	£300.00
4) 2170 Avon Planning Services: NP Expense	£180.00
5) 2171 WALC: Training	£30.00
6) 2172 WCC: Staff pension contribution	£93.47
7) 2173 Lisa Andersson: Clerks' Expenses	£53.94
8) 2174 E.On: Street Light Electricity	£218.28
9) 2175 WCC: Footway Lighting Maintenance: 2018/19	£657.48
10)2176 Utility Warehouse: Pavilion electricity	£12.46
11)2177 Allotments Association: Membership	£66.00
12) S/O Staff Salary	£305.63

**Payments Received**

None.

c) Grass Mowing Contract: We await the amended quote from Frank Mann Farmers

with the changes we've requested. This shall be finalised at our next meeting.

Ian Hartwell, seconded by Sam Parkes, proposed acceptance of the financial statement, which was **agreed by all**.

Michael Guest reconciled the bank statement with the bank reconciliation, and signed to confirm that all was in order.

12. **Update Standing Orders, Asset Register and Financial Regulations are up to date:** The acceptance of the Standing Orders and Asset Register was proposed by Michael Guest and seconded by Ian Hartwell. As a newer version of the Financial Regulations is available, the Clerk needs to complete working through the comparison between the existing and the proposed new document, and make any changes that require making. These will then be presented to the PC for acceptance at the next meeting.
13. **Vacancy:** Two new councillors were co-opted earlier in the meeting (point 8 in the Minutes).
14. **Updates:**
  - a) **Flood Prevention:** No current updates.
  - b) **Playing Field/Play Equipment:** The Clerk had requested new dog fouling signage from Street Scene. Street Scene promised to drop off some signs with the Clerk. Once these have been received the PC will decide whether they are suitable, or if they need to look at purchasing some signs.  
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.**
  - c) **Neighbourhood Development Plan:** A meeting will be held shortly to agree a draft document to forward to the consultant.
  - d) **Allotments:** There have been some slight modifications to the site layout. It is now rectangular, with a two meter wide footpath. A revised lease is now awaited. There may be a new provider for the fencing – they will be asked to provide a quotation.
  - e) **Highways:** The leak outside the Co-Op seems to have been fixed.  
The drain issue on Mill Lane appears to have been solved.  
The developer has not yet finalised the path on the roadway near Ridgeway.
  - f) **Street Lighting:** The number 2 Fieldgate Lane light is not working. This has been reported to our supplier. The light closest to the Wharf is still not functioning. The numbering will be done soon.  
**Action: Clerk to follow up on light closest to the Wharf.**
  - g) **GDPR:** Cllr Parkes will be attending a course in March.
15. **Fenny Compton Parish Risk Assessment:** Safety check lists for the playground were received and shall be filed for records purposes.
16. **Items to Publicise:**
  - a) Planning Appeal (Land West of Avon Dassett)
  - b) Thanks to Neil Andrew for his service.
  - c) New Parish Council Members.
17. **Items for Future Discussion:**
  - a) Grass Cutting Quotes
  - b) Financial Regulations
  - c) Councillors Responsibilities
  - d) Risk Assessment and Continuity Plan
18. **Date of Next Meeting:** 18<sup>th</sup> March 2019

The meeting closed at 9:24pm.

## **Appendix 1 -**

County Councillor Bob Stevens' report:

### **Fenny Compton Parish Council WCC Councillors report February 2019**

#### **Budget**

The 2019/20 WCC Budget debate and settlement took place earlier this month and, like the parsons egg, it was good in parts. It is a budget that is based on the last of the 5 year operational Plan. It reflects areas where there are still savings to be made and other areas where the sound state of WCC finances together with extra money from all the additional houses and increased government grants in some specific areas that have occurred as the purse is eased slightly to reflect the move away from austerity. Extra money has been found for both children and adult care so that the Council can meet the added requirement of an ageing population and increase in children being taken into care. The budget anticipates savings as we work more closely with Health and other Counties with respect of children's services. More money is allocated to transport both rural buses and home to school, this should alleviate for the time being any reduction in Home to school provision. There are schemes to improve safety along the fosse way, funded mainly from developer contribution. Inflation and increased pay rates have been absorbed in departmental budgets but not without further staff post reductions. There are no contingencies for the effects of BREXIT but reserves are kept modestly high in order to accommodate any possible adverse impact. Indeed the director of finances commentary on the proposals reinforce the need for maintaining a high level of reserves at least until future local government funding ,including business rate retention, is finalised.. Council tax will be increased by 4.99 %( 2.99% general tax plus 2% government adult service levy). A new 5 year plan 2020 -2025 will be developed over the next 6 months.

#### **Highways**

Various road closures and traffic lights are to be expected around the village as various S106 works and works related to the housing developments as well as HS2 and work associated with water mains repairs takes place.

#### **HS2**

There has been a lot of activity on the ground over the past month as the early works have progressed. Communications continue to be a problem as HS2 strive to keep parishes informed of what is happening and when. There will continue to be unscheduled road closures until the early works are completed.

Locally, a series of Parish Council Briefings and road shows will be held soon and should be advertised on HS2 web site when it has been updated. Present indications are that the programme has slipped by at least 6 months although HS2 are still looking at a 2026

completion. I wonder????!! HS2 community engagement manager has agreed to attend next month's community forum.

### **Buses**

WCC scrutiny committee held the MD of stage coach to account last month. I was unable to attend but by all accounts he played a straight bat and little was achieved. Generally the revised timetable is settling down as the drivers learn their new routes and timetables. WCC transport Manager has agreed to attend the next Feldon forum on March 13th at Southam Primary school.

### **Elections etc.**

As well as yourselves there are district Council elections and a period of restricted debates will be the order of the day as election Purdah takes over. BREXIT continues to dominate national politics and I am keeping a watchful eye over what other legislation is being passed by Parliament. In particular there is a Bill in the system to change parliamentary constituency boundaries due to be debated when time allows. This will effect who our MP is, if passed.

### **Bob Stevens**

### **Appendix 2 –**

District Councillor Chris Williams' Report:

### **Fenny Compton Parish Council 18th February 2019**

#### **District Councillor's Report**

Please accept my apologies for not being with you over the past few months. I still have some 18 weekly chemotherapy treatments to undergo but hopefully I will be able to attend future meetings.

I would like to thank the Parish Council and the residents of Fenny Compton for their good wishes for my recovery. It is much appreciated and please feel free to contact me by email should there be any issues requiring my attention at any time.

Administration – The past few months have been quite busy at the District Council although not effecting the residents of Fenny Compton. Stratford District Council, like other authorities, is facing a problem with the growth of homeless people sleeping on the street. Steps have been taken to provide limited accommodation for these people and persuading them to take advantage of the help that is offered but this is not always an easy task. Stratford has also been plagued by travellers who have taken up residence at the Stratford Leisure Centre on two occasions. Investigations to find more permanent solutions in relation to the needs of the travellers is being undertaken. The problem of empty buildings is also being tackled and from the beginning of the New Year these buildings will be subjected to the doubling of the Council Tax. It is hoped that many empty buildings will be converted to use somewhat quicker than the present situation.

Budget – On Monday 25th February, there will be a full meeting of the District Council where the budget proposals will be debated. It is expected that this year the Localism Act has made significant changes to the Local Government Finance Act and now requires the Billing Authority to calculate a Council Tax requirement for the year and not its budget requirements as previously. It is expected that the District Council portion of an average Band D property will be 61.02p for the next year. This is equivalent to an increase of 1.5%. In addition to this sum will be individual parish council precepts which in the case of Fenny Compton for a Band D property equates to 71.42p per annum. For Warwickshire County Council the precept has already been set at £1,431.81 per annum for a Band D property. Finally, The Warwickshire Police and Crime Commissioner has increased his precept by 11.77% to £227.98.

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

17.02.2019