

COTTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the full Council meeting held on 5 October 2022 held in Cotton Village Hall

Councillors Present: Sarah Wenban (SW) (Chairman), Paul Howlett (PH) (Vice Chairman), Peter Gibbs (PG) Sue Cox (SC), Beryl Ellis (BE), Trudy Winder (TW).

In Attendance : Andrew Mellen (District Councillor) (AM), Andrew Stringer (County Councilor) (AS) and two members of the public.

051022/01 **Apologies for absence:** None received; all Councillors in attendance. David Rayner (Parish Clerk) was not in attendance as there was Covid in the family.

051022/02 **Declarations of Interest and Dispensation considerations:** There were no declarations of interest or dispensations to consider.

051022/03 **Minutes of previous meeting:** All Cllrs confirmed receipt of the draft minutes for the Parish Council meeting held on 20 July 2022 prior to the meeting. Councillor PH proposed to accept these as a true record of the decisions made seconded by SC with all Cllrs in favour SW signed the minutes (ref 1/200722 to 56/200722).

SW said she would speak to another small village on its approach to a basic Neighbourhood Plan, (albeit recent statements by the new government may move the goalposts on planning)

Public Forum:

051022/04 AM: MSDC business has been delayed due to the death of the Queen.

Tree canopy survey being done which will feed into MSDC doing tree and meadow planting.

Join Local Plan - part 1 could be completed by May 2023. MSDC currently has over ten years of housing supply.

Some locality money is still available for local projects.

Refuse collections - a Parish Councillor reported collections were becoming infrequent and not as reliable as they used to be with unhelpful MSDC staff answering calls to report problems. AM said he will follow the matter up.

051022/05 AS: Report circulated. The newly appointed highways officer will be dealing with local road and traffic issues. In the past local liaison was poor. SCC has money available to support public EV charging points.

There was widespread concern over the possible relaxation of planning rules and infrastructure and countryside issues.

051022/06 There were no comments from the public.

Planning:

051022/07 DC/21/05897 Land opposite Brickwall Farm, Broad Road, Cotton application is GRANTED

Finance:

051022/08 Due to the change in Parish Clerks and a slow process allowing the new clerk to have complete access to Barclays on-line banking a comprehensive analysis of our financial position was not available before the meeting. However, at the start of the financial year we had £8000 in our community Account and £11000 in reserves. All the precept money for 2022/3 has now arrived but further CIL money is expected. The position was healthy with £11,885.03 in the current account at the end of September and before approving the payments below.

The clerk will email the bank reconciliation and finance report which the Chairman had received late this afternoon to all the Councillors

051022/09 Councillors resolved to approve the following gross payments, confirming a full schedule supported by invoices and receipts had been received prior to the meeting.

	Payee	Description	£
051022/10	Polstead Press	Late invoices £516 plus Cotton Courier £100	616.00
051022/11	Lawes	Jubilee purchases	80.27
051022/12	ACS	Parish Council Insurance	439.96
051022/13	Greenbarnes	Noticeboard	2072.48

051022/14	CAS	Website hosting – 2021/22	60.00
051022/14	CAS	Website hosting – 2022/23	60.00
051022/15	ICS	Information Commissioners Office	35.00
051022/16	David Rayner	Salary 11 weeks	526.68

051022/17 Parish Clerk now has limited access to the bank and full access will follow.

051022/18 **Defibrillator:** London Defibs offer grants to communities. An application has been made, if it goes at the Village Hall the electrical work could be incorporated with other work.

Sarah will speak with David Chambers at Bacton to learn from their experience.

Peter Gibbs to speak Georgina Rice to see if she is still available to do training.

Trudy Winder also offered to speak to a contact about wider first aid training.

051022/19 **Noticeboard:** Thanks to Paul Howlett for installing the new noticeboard.

051022/20 **Streetlights:** Andrew Stringer circulated details about buildouts/streetlights/paint by the new SCC officer. A paint solution would not need streetlights but is said to still be effective. Further details with costings would be coming in due course.

Also, the Bacton road closure proposed for 4 weeks has been suspended for the time being.

051022/21 **Cotton Courier:** The current issue is being delivered

The circulation list needs updating in view of staff changes. Sarah will be circulating a new amended list shortly.

It was agreed that the Courier will be issued as and when needed, acknowledging that a significant number of households did not use electronic means of staying in touch. It was also agreed that 'Communicating the Message' will be added to every agenda.

Jacob Stringer volunteered to deal with layout of such publications.

051022/22 **Generator socket:** The final figure for the socket and switch will be £800, installation will cost about an additional £800. Because of the cost, the unlikely need for this addition and the likelihood that suitable generators will have already

been taken elsewhere in an emergency, the decision was made NOT to pursue the facility for an external input socket.

- 051022/23 **Dog litter bin:** Following some local research it was felt that demand is not sufficient to warrant the cost.
- 051022/24 **Correspondence – MP Dan Poulter:** Notes from the meeting with Dan Poulter have been circulated.
- 051022/24 **Correspondence – Mr Robert Harrington:** The letter from Mr Harrington was about EAG and the Chairman had replied.
- 051022/25 **Correspondence – Mid Suffolk Council:** The land supply document noted.
- Community groups**
- 051022/26 **Road safety:** As above
- 051022/27 **East Anglia Green:** The Essex, Suffolk and Norfolk pylons groups are actively monitoring the situation, and the National Grid will be circulating results from consultation in due course. Meetings at a high level in Government are being sought but the hiatus in government over the summer has not helped. The ESN Group plan a spring campaign, would like Parish Councils to hold further meetings and organise leafletting. Sarah is the link person.
- 051022/28 **Future social events:** Trudy/Trevor/Sue reported that there will be a meeting next Wednesday to discuss events esp. opening the VH for more community social use in view of the recent closure of the Trowel and Hammer. Jacob Stringer offered his services and expertise.
- Current plans include, October - Halloween + November Quiz Night. Possible New Year event.
- 051022/29 **Tree warden:** Judy Fearn is the tree warden and is seeking venues for tree planting.
- 051022/30 **Neighbourhood Watch officer:** A volunteer still being sought.
- 051022/31 Councillors noted the date of the next meeting is 9 November.
- 051022/32 The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.10pm.
- 051022/33 Parish clerk thanks Peter Gibbs for taking the minutes in his absence.

Signed: *Sarah Wenban*

Date: *09/11/2022*