

COTTON PARISH COUNCIL

Notes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on May 2, 2018 at 7.30pm at the Village Hall

Minutes of the AGM of the Parish Council held on May 2, 2018 following the APM

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| PRESENT | Cllrs Peter Gibbs, Sarah Wenban, Chris Tester, Paul Howlett, Marian Cocksedge and Beryl Ellis, and Rod Caird (Clerk). 23 members of the public were present together with District and County Cllr Andrew Stringer. |
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1 Apologies

Cllr David Williams had sent his apologies

2 To approve the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on May 18, 2017

The Minutes were approved and signed

3 Reports on 2017/18

Written reports presented to the meeting by the Chairman, District and County Councillor, Village Hall, Village Produce Association and the Church, Friends of Cotton Church (the minutes of the final AGM), Carters Meadow, the Local History Society, and notes from data captured by the Vehicle Activated Speed sign are all published on the village website [.](#)

Kirsty Pollintine reported that the Cotton Quarterly continues to thrive but always needs new contributions. Feedback is very welcome. Cllr Marian Cocksedge is in charge of the smooth-running distribution process.

4 Open discussion on issues of concern to the Village, to include plans for the commemoration of the end of World War I

A planning meeting had been held on April 30 and a follow-up meeting will be held on Monday July 2 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. It is likely that on Saturday November 10 there will be an exhibition and tea in the Village Hall during the afternoon, followed by a screening of a 1919 documentary film made about World War I. Events on Sunday November 11 are likely to include a bagpiper playing at 6.00am at the War Memorial, marking the time the armistice was signed, and a special Remembrance Day Service in the Church at 3.00pm.

A number of specific issues – nuisance related to horse keeping in Mill Hill and persistent flooding in Mill Hill near the junction with Cock Road - were raised by residents which will be progressed by Parish Councillors and the Clerk

5 To Agree the date of the next meeting

The next Annual Parish Meeting will be held on May 8, 2019.

AGM OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

1/020518 To elect the Chair and Deputy Chair for 2018/19

Peter Gibbs was elected Chair and Sarah Wenban Deputy Chair without contest.

2/020518 Apologies and approvals of absence

David Williams had sent his apologies and his absence was approved.

3/020518 Declarations of interest and requests for dispensation

None.

4/020518 To approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on March 21, 2018

The minutes were approved.

5/020518 Members of the public are invited to make any comments on items on the Agenda or to raise issues for consideration at future meetings

The Clerk agreed he would update content on the website concerning the Local History Society in cooperation with Peter Wenban, chair of the Society.

6/020518 To consider planning application - DC/18/01204 - Aporia, 1 Mill Hill, Cotton, Stowmarket Suffolk IP14 4RT, erection of dwelling and new vehicle access

No objection in principle was raised though it was noted this land was not a site identified as suitable for new housing in the recent consultation on the District's local plan; and some concern was expressed about drainage and the capacity of the sewage treatment works.

7/020518 To consider recommendations from the Annual Parish Meeting on the future management of the Village Hall and make any necessary decisions

It was felt the most urgent need was to recruit new volunteer support for the running of the Village Hall.

8/020518 To consider and approve the following:

The accounts of the Parish Council for 2017/18 (and to sign the relevant annual return paperwork)
The updated Standing Orders
The asset register
The risk assessment
The updated Financial Regulations

The documents listed above were approved and adopted. The annual return was signed in preparation for audit.

9/020518 To receive a report from the Clerk on the current financial position and any payments due

The Clerk presented a bank reconciliation showing a net balance of £21,824.32. The first instalment of the precept (£3,000) has been received and a new CIL payment has been received of £558.77. No new payments were due; cheques were issued at the meeting on April 30 for £251.26 (Rod Caird, Clerk pay); £62.60 (HMRC, PAYE); £250.81 (SALC, subscription) and £78 (Mid Suffolk, bin emptying). Of the bank balance amount, £4,118.47 is held as a specific reserve for Community Infrastructure projects (CIL payments to date) and a further £10,000 for village projects. The remainder is held as a general reserve.

10/020518 Correspondence and urgent matters to be brought to the attention of the Parish Council

It was agreed to renew the current annual agreement with A.J. Collins for grass cutting in the sum of £1,440. It was also agreed to raise the pay level of the Clerk to the next level (LC1 SCP19), backdated to April 1, 2018. *The Clerk is very appreciative.*

11/020518 To confirm dates for Parish Council meetings during 2018/19

Wednesday July 18, and Wednesday September 19, at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. The Village Hall is not available for a meeting on the next regular date, which would be November 21.