

COTTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Parish Council Meeting held on July 10, 2019 at 7.30pm at the Village Hall

PRESENT

Cllrs Peter Gibbs, Sarah Wenban, David Williams, Paul Howlett, Sue Cox, Ryan Grimwood, Beryl Ellis, and Rod Caird (Clerk). Five members of the public, together with County Cllr Andrew Stringer and District Cllr Andrew Mellen, were also present.

1/100719 Apologies and approvals of absence

None

2/100719 Declarations of Interest and dispensations requested

Cllr Ellis declared an interest in planning application **19/03100, erection of one dwelling at Scuffins Lane**. This application had been received for consideration after publication of the Agenda. It was agreed Cllr Ellis would remain in the meeting but would not take part in the discussion of that item.

3/100719 To approve the Minutes of Parish Council meeting on May 22, 2019

The minutes were approved.

It was noted that the Asset Register should be amended to reflect the fact that there are now two and not three village maps, one at the Village Hall and one which will be placed in the bus shelter.

4/100719 To receive comments from members of the public on matters on the Agenda and reports from the District and County Councillor

Cllr Mellen reported that the new draft Local Plan for Mid Suffolk and Babergh is now out for consultation until the end of September. The Cotton settlement boundary map is unchanged from the previous version so it appears earlier detailed comments have not been incorporated. This has also happened in the case of several other villages.

Cllr Mellen also noted that applications can be made between now and the end of January 2020 for grants from his Locality Budget. In addition, bin collection days are changing in some areas.

Cllr Stringer's written report will be published with these minutes. He noted the County Council's plans to remove subsidies from certain bus routes and said alternative sources of funding are being sought. Meanwhile £4 million were spent on plans for new Orwell crossings in Ipswich which were not built. Proposed routes for a Northern Bypass carry with them a proposal for 15,000 new homes, effectively a new town, though the location is not specified. Also,

some applicants are being refused free school transport on the basis that there is a legal right of way between home and school, even though it may be a difficult footpath or bridleway. Any refusals should be referred to Cllr Stringer for investigation.

5/100719

To consider any updates on current planning applications including:

19/02995 - Kirby Cottage, Dandy Corner, Cotton - Replacement of windows in north and south elevations with French doors and gable end windows; Enclose porch and install windows and doors – no objection was made

19/03100 – Scuffins Lane, erection of one dwelling - It was noted that the site falls within the definition of the settlement boundary proposed by the Parish Council during the consultation on the Mid Suffolk Joint Local Plan, but outside the current boundary. During the Local Plan consultation the Parish Council tested opinion in the village about the nature and location of future development and a clear preference was expressed in favour of somewhat smaller houses. After discussion at the Parish Council meeting, and taking into account the views of residents and neighbours, it was agreed to support the application, while noting that the house will be at the upper end of the size and scale felt desirable during the consultation.

19/02806 Listed Building Consent erection of replacement side extension and rear single storey extension at Rose Cottage, Mendlesham Road – pending

19/00338 Erection of two dwellings and creation of new vehicular access (resubmission of 18/03558) at Willow House, Mendlesham Road - granted

19/00646 Outline Planning Application (All matters reserved) Erection of up to 65 No dwellings with attenuation basin on land on the west side of Broad Road, Bacton – pending

The status of the above applications was noted.

6/100719

To discuss a public campaign in support of the Village Hall improvements project

Quotes are now being sought for the improvement works to the Village Hall, on the basis that the Hall renovations and the play area changes are two separate projects, with the Hall being tackled first. It is likely the cost to the Hall will be in the region of £35,000, with up to about 25% likely to come from sources at Mid Suffolk. After discussion it was agreed that the Parish Council will earmark £8,000 for this project.

For the time being two climbing frames and the large swing will be taken out of use at the play area for safety reasons.

7/100719

To discuss effective development of an action plan for the future of the Village following the matter being raised at the Annual Parish Meeting

It was agreed this would need substantial volunteer effort and would be considered at a later date.

8/100719 To discuss new arrangements for distribution of the Quarterly

Cllr Ryan Grimwood agreed to take on the task of delivering the Quarterly to its distributor network.

9/100719 To discuss Parish Council representation on the Cotton Town Charity

Cllr Beryl Ellis agreed to represent the Parish Council on the Charity committee

10/100719 To discuss carol singing around the Christmas tree in the Church

The Parish Council agreed to support this as a village event

11/100719 To receive a financial report from the Clerk including any payments due

A bank reconciliation to July 9, 2019, was presented, showing a balance of £21,370.91. Cllr Paul Howlett confirmed that the bank statement balances matched the figures in the reconciliation. Payments were made as follows: £12 to Polstead Press for printing, £265.44 to Rod Caird for clerk pay, £500 to Andy Stubbs for the display unit for war memorial information, £27.60 to SALC for councillor briefings, £49.90 to Beryl Ellis for memorial event expenses and £80.00 to St Andrews PCC for catering at the memorial event. It was agreed to hold over to a future meeting a proposal to make a £75 donation to the PCC.

Payments were made under sections 111 and 112 of the Local Government Act 1972.

12/100719 Correspondence and urgent matters to be brought to the attention of the Parish Council

None at this time.