

COTTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Parish Council Meeting held on March 11, 2020 at 7.30pm at the Village Hall

PRESENT

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

1/110320 Apologies and approvals of absence

Paul Howlett and Beryl Ellis had sent apologies and their absence was approved.

2/110320 Declarations of Interest and dispensations requested

None

3/110320 To approve the Minutes of Parish Council meeting on November 13 and January 8, 2020

The minutes were approved.

4/110320 To receive comments from members of the public on matters on the Agenda and reports from the District and County Councillor

The new landlords of the Trowel and Hammer were warmly welcomed and a short discussion was held, focusing on hopes that the pub's future was now secure.

Cllr Stringer and Cllr Mellen presented written reports, which will be published with these minutes.

Following a separate meeting held earlier on March 11, which included representatives of Bacton and Finningham, Cllr Stringer is proposing a speed-sign trial using automatic number plate recognition equipment, in order to take measures to control speeding to a new level. The sign would tell approaching drivers that their registration plate has been recorded. The trial requires funding and police support.

5/110320 To consider any updates on current planning applications including:

20/00331 Erection of front porch and 2no single storey rear extensions. Erection of garage (following demolition of existing) and formation of extended driveway. Woodfield 4 Mill Hill – awaiting decision, no objection raised

19/05507 Jasmine Farm, Wickham Lane, Cotton – Erection of shed and conversion of stable block into annexed living accommodation - granted

19/05791 4 Goodrich Close, Cotton – erection of single storey rear extension – granted

19/00646 Outline Planning Application (All matters reserved) Erection of up to 65No dwellings with attenuation basin on land on the west side of Broad Road, Bacton – still listed on the website as “awaiting decision

The status of the current applications was noted.

6/110320 To discuss the Village Hall improvements project

Painting is currently in hand. The Parish Council agreed to raise its commitment to the cost of the improvements to £10,000.00

7/110320 To consider further action on speeding problems in the village following a joint meeting with Bacton and Finningham parish councillors

This meeting had taken place earlier on March 11 and Cllr Stringer reported on its outcome earlier in this meeting.

8/110320 To consider an update on the village grit bins

The Clerk will order a replacement grit bin through Highways for the site outside the Village Hall, the existing bin having been removed. The disappearance was reported to the police.

9/110320 To consider Highways’ policy and practice on pothole repair

1,000 miles of county roads are being resurfaced and this will itself reduce potholes. It is essential to keep reporting new potholes as they appear on the Highways website. Grips need to be kept clear in order to drain surface water off the roads, as the water contributes to pothole creation. Common sense needs to be used as to whether to clear grips individually or report them.

10/110320 To confirm arrangements for the village litter pick on March 28, 2020

Subsequently to the meeting, the litter pick was cancelled due to the coronavirus crisis.

11/110320 To receive a financial report from the Clerk including any payments due

£570 had been raised on Casino Night in the Village Hall towards the cost of the play area renovations. It was agreed to contribute £100 towards the VE Day Celebrations

A bank reconciliation to March 8, 2020 was presented, showing a balance of £20,557.25. It was confirmed that the bank statement balances matched the figures in the reconciliation.

Payments were made as follows: Rod Caird (Clerk pay, £265.44); HMRC (£132.80, PAYE); MA Heating (Village Hall, £433.92); the Village Hall (£100.00, VE Day); Industrial Doors (Village Hall, £1317.00).

A VAT refund claim has been made for £1,785.12.

Payments were made under sections 111,112 and 137 of the Local Government Act 1972.

12/110320 Correspondence and urgent matters to be brought to the attention of the Parish Council, and to confirm arrangements for the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council and the Annual Parish Meeting on Wednesday May 13, 2020

It was agreed that as the coronavirus situation develops, a close eye should be kept on the needs of vulnerable and isolated people in the village. Assistance will be sought from volunteers who may be able to help with shopping and other errands.

The May 13 meeting arrangements will be reviewed.

Since the meeting it has been agreed nationally that online Parish Council meetings will have the same legal status as meetings in person. The May 13 meeting will therefore take place online, with details to be confirmed by the Clerk. Members of the public will be able to attend using a published link. The Annual Meeting of the Parish Council will be postponed to May 2021, and the form of the Annual Parish Meeting will be discussed as an Agenda item on May 13.

DRAFT