

COTTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Parish Council Meeting held on September 11, 2019 at 7.30pm at the Village Hall

PRESENT

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

1/110919 Apologies and approvals of absence

Sarah Wenban had sent apologies and her absence was approved.

2/110919 Declarations of Interest and dispensations requested

None

3/110919 To approve the Minutes of Parish Council meeting on July 10 and August 1, 2019

The minutes were approved.

4/110919 To receive comments from members of the public on matters on the Agenda and reports from the District and County Councillor

Cllr Stringer's written report will be published with these minutes. He urged anyone with home to school transport problems to contact him direct. He also drew attention to the revised County Highways grit bin procedure and recommended completion of the new paperwork as soon as possible so that Cotton's bins can be part of the Highways system. Cllr Mellen's report will also be published with the minutes. He emphasized the importance of contributing to the consultation on the Mid Suffolk Local Plan.

5/110919 To discuss the Parish Council's response to the consultation on the Mid Suffolk District Council Local Plan

After discussion it was agreed to re-submit the comments made at the time of the first round of consultation on the Plan, together with the Parish Council's proposed settlement boundary including possible sites for development known to be acceptable to residents.

The comments conclude that:

The Parish Council very strongly believes that the future plan for the District should retain and support the character of Cotton as a rural village. It would wish to see a clear distinction between Cotton and Bacton, noting that Bacton is classified in the proposals as a "Core Village"; any creeping blurring of the boundary between Cotton and its neighbouring settlements would be strongly resisted as it would undermine the character of the village. The Parish Council

feels it is responsible for retaining that essential character.

6/110919 To consider any updates on current planning applications including:

19/03309 - Land Adjacent Long Meadow, Broad Road, Cotton – reconsultation following new information

This application has now been approved in spite of the Parish Council's objection and in spite of a request that it be called in for consideration by the Planning Committee. It was agreed to write a letter of complaint about the handling of this application.

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 – granted

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

This application is being considered at a meeting of the District's Development Control Committee, which will be attended by the Clerk.

19/03518 Retention and alteration of existing building, contrary to condition 4 (demolition of existing barns/sheds) of planning permission DC/17/05520, Willowfields Willow Lane Cotton – pending

19/04079 Proposed change of use of Agrcultural Building to Dwellinghouse – Cotton Hall, Cotton Hall Lane – it was agreed to make no objection

7/110919 To discuss the Village Hall improvements project

It was agreed to pay £4,099.80 to SMS Stainless Ltd as a 50% deposit for the new kitchen. At its July 10 meeting the Council had agreed to set aside £8,000 for Village Hall improvements. This payment can be made under Section 133 of the Local Government Act 1972.

8/110919 To receive a financial report from the Clerk including any payments due

A bank reconciation to Sept 10, 2019, was presented, showing a balance of £22,968.58. Cllr Paul Howlett confirmed that the bank statement balances matched the figures in the reconciliation. Payments were made as follows: £210.67 to CAS Services for PC insurance renewal, £279.74 to Zurich for Meadow insurance renewal, £132.80 to HMRC for PAYE, £48 to Ladywell for payroll srevices, £265.44 to Rod Caird for clerk pay, £1,858 to Andrew Collins for mowing and maintenance. It was agreed to make a donation of £500 to the PCC for churchyard maintenance at the next meeting.

Payments were made under sections 111, 112 and 214 (6) of the Local Government Act 1972.

9/110919 Correspondence and urgent matters to be brought to the attention of the Parish Council

It was agreed to contact the Clerks at Finningham and Bacton to discuss joint action on speeding on Broad Road.

Following a question raised by a resident, it was agreed to look into positioning of Royal Mail post boxes in the village.

DRAFT