

COTTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Parish Council Meeting held online on May 15, 2020 at 7.30pm

PRESENT	Cllrs Peter Gibbs, Beryl Ellis, Sarah Wenban, Sue Cox, and Rod Caird (Clerk). Two members of the public, County Cllr Andrew Stringer and District Cllr Andrew Mellen were also present.
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1/150520 Apologies and approvals of absence

Paul Howlett and David Williams had sent apologies and their absence was approved. Ryan Grimwood was absent.

2/150520 Declarations of Interest and dispensations requested

Beryl Ellis declared a family interest in the planning application at The Meadows and would take no part in the discussion of that item.

3/150520 To approve the Minutes of Parish Council meeting on March 11, 2020

The minutes were approved.

4/150520 To receive comments from members of the public on matters on the Agenda and reports from the District and County Councillor

Cllr Mellen reported efforts at all levels of the District Council to deal with the pandemic. Volunteer support groups are being coordinated, there is assistance with council tax problems, homeless people and rough sleepers are being accommodated. Grants are available for local businesses. Most planning, scrutiny and cabinet meetings are being held online. Some planning matters are being devolved to officers for decision. Brown bin collections have resumed and recycling centres are reopening with a booking system.

John Doherty reported that the Village Hall has received a grant of £10,000 which would help offset the complete loss of earning from bookings.

Cllr Stringer reported the County Council was issuing regular briefings on the coronavirus situation. There was some frustration that announcements were being made by the government (on schools, for example) with little or no notice. Problems at school with lack of space and teachers are very real, and there are continuing issues in the care sector. Parish Councillors noted that the County Council's response has been very impressive.

5/150520 To consider any updates on current planning applications including:

20/01622 The Meadows, Scuffins Lane - Proposed enlargement and alterations to previously extended double garage/workshop with office space over (as approved in 0627/16 amended by 1151/17), to create single guest annexe ancillary to use of main dwelling. Removal of previously approved external staircase. Repositioning of existing access. Erection of wall and gates to frontage – *no objection was raised.*

20/01550 Boundary Farm, Cotton Road (partly in Cotton) - Change of use, conversion and extension of existing dairy buildings into annexe accommodation following partial demolition – *no objection was raised.*

20/01168 Gable End, Cock Road - Erection of dormer to front elevation – *no objection raised, decision awaited*

DC/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 – *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.

6/150520 To discuss the Village Hall improvements project

When the lock-down began only about three more days' work were needed to complete the renovations. Some funding is available to start work on the play area.

7/150520 To discuss any matters arising from welfare and related efforts in the village during the coronavirus pandemic

The Rev Carl Melville had moved to the village only two days before the lock-down began. He and a team of volunteers set up a food bank serving the six villages in the benefice, and he was very impressed by the amazing generosity of residents both in terms of food and money. Councillors congratulated him on what had been achieved and it was agreed to stay alert for local residents who may still be in need of help, using the email list in particular to promote what is available. It was noted that the closure of all churches will have a big financial impact in the long term.

It was suggested that it may be possible to bulk buy hand sanitiser and dispensers which could be of benefit to churches, village halls and other public places.

It was also agreed that while it is still impossible to print and distribute the Cotton Quarterly, the website could be used to publish local stories, photos and videos.

8/150520 Financial report to date, including any payments due; and approval of the accounts for 2019/20 including the Annual Governance and Accountability Return

A bank reconciliation to May 11, 2020 was presented, showing a balance of £23,010.78.

Payments were made as follows: HMRC £66.20 (PAYE); JMP £480 (clearance of fly-tipped material in the Village Hall car park) and MSDC £93.94 (bin emptying).

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

The completed Annual Governance and Accountability Return for 2019/20 was presented and approved; the Chair and Clerk were authorised to sign the paperwork.

9/150520

Correspondence and urgent matters to be brought to the attention of the Parish Council, and to consider inviting reports for publication by village organisations in the light of cancellation of the Annual Parish Meeting

The funeral of long-term resident Quentin Bretherton was to be held later in the week. The Parish Council wished to record its sincere gratitude for his many years of hard work and commitment, especially to the churchyard and Carter's Meadow.

The Council also wished to extend a warm welcome to Rev Carl Melville, newly appointed Rector to the Bacton Benefice.

It was agreed local organisations were very welcome to submit reports of their activities in 2019/20 to the Clerk so that they can be published on the website.

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