

COTTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Parish Council Meeting held on November 13, 2019 at
7.30pm at the Village Hall

PRESENT

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

1/131119 Apologies and approvals of absence

Beryl Ellis had sent apologies and her absence was approved.

2/131119 Declarations of Interest and dispensations requested

None

3/131119 To approve the Minutes of Parish Council meeting on September 11, 2019

The minutes were approved.

4/131119 To receive comments from members of the public on matters on the Agenda and reports from the District and County Councillor

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

Major Council decisions are on hold during the general election period. Planning processes proceed but full council meetings have been postponed. It was suggested the Clerk discuss with John Doherty a date for a coffee morning recycling talk.

5/131119 To consider any updates on current planning applications including:

19/05111 Brookside, Mendlesham Road – erection of front porch and first floor extension over existing single storey dwelling; erection of a two storey cartlodge/garage including rooflights (following demolition of rear extension, garage and outbuilding) –

It was agreed to support this application

19/03309 Land Adjacent Long Meadow, Broad Road, Cotton – granted.

A response to the Parish Council's complaint about this outcome has been received from Mid Suffolk's Chief Planning Officer, Philip Isbell, in which he concludes:

"I consider it likely that a planning permission would have been granted in all the circumstances. There have been defects in our processes and we have not been as clear about our evaluation as I would have wished. That

said I believe our conclusion on the merits would rest in favour of granting permission.”

It was agreed to reply expressing disappointment at the outcome and Indicating a summary Mr Isbell’s response which will be shared with the village.

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

It was noted this has been approved as an outline subject to continued discussion about the footway under the bridge

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 – granted

19/04079 Proposed change of use of Agricultural Building to Dwellinghouse – Cotton Hall, Cotton Hall Lane – granted

It was noted these applications have been approved.

6/131119 To discuss the Village Hall improvements project

After discussion it was unanimously agreed to commit a further payment of £3,416.50 plus VAT to cover the remaining balance due on the kitchen equipment for the Hall. The Parish Council will have paid a total of £6,833.00 plus VAT which will come from CIL funds received by the Council (currently totaling £15,439.55). At its July 10 meeting the Council had agreed to set aside £8,000 for Village Hall improvements.

7/131119 To consider further action on speeding problems in the village

It was agreed to pursue a partnership approach with the parishes of Bacton and Finningham so that a joint campaign can be developed.

8/131119 To consider the current consultation on division boundaries for Suffolk County Council

It was agreed after discussion to make no comments on this consultation

9/131119 To note the outcome of research into the positioning of Royal Mail letter boxes

It has been established that current rules require a letter box within a **direct** half mile distance of any property to which mail is delivered. This requirement is currently met. Details of the government consultation which established this rule are on the village website.

10/131119 To consider a draft budget for 2020/21, to appoint internal auditors for 2019/20 and to agree the annual CIL receipts and expenditure return

The draft budget was presented and will be confirmed at the January Parish Council meeting, when the precept for 2020/21 will be set. Consideration would be given to funds which may be required for refurbishment of the play area. It was agreed to appoint SALC as auditors for 2019/20. The CIL return was signed and will be submitted to Mid Suffolk and published on the website as required.

11/131119 To receive a financial report from the Clerk including any payments due, and to confirm the Parish Council's commitment to supply of a wreath for the annual Act of Remembrance

A bank reconciliation to Sept 10, 2019, was presented, showing a balance of £27,929.19. Cllr Paul Howlett confirmed that the bank statement balances matched the figures in the reconciliation.

Payments were made as follows: £13.20 to MSDC for bin emptying, £265.44 to Rod Caird for clerk pay, £66.40 to HMRC for PAYE, £500.00 to St Andrews PCC for churchyard upkeep, £60.00 to Community Action Suffolk for website hosting, £20.00 to Ghyll House for printing, and (subsequent to the meeting) £4,099.80 to SMS for Village Hall kitchen equipment.

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

It was agreed to commit approx £30.00 on an annual basis to provide a Parish Council wreath for the November Remembrance Service.

12/131119 Correspondence and urgent matters to be brought to the attention of the Parish Council

Cllr Mellen agreed in response to a resident's request to look into the planning restrictions governing activities at site used by the company Freedom, (formerly Timberwolf).