

COTTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Parish Council Meeting held on January 16, 2019 at 7.30pm
at the Village Hall

PRESENT

Cllrs Peter Gibbs, Sarah Wenban, Paul Howlett, David Williams, Marian Cocksedge, Chris Tester and Beryl Ellis, and Rod Caird (Clerk). One member of the public, together with Cllr Andrew Stringer was also present.

1/160119 Apologies and approvals of absence

None

2/160119 Declarations of Interest and dispensations requested

None

3/160119 To approve the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting on November 21, 2018

The Minutes were approved and signed

4/160119 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 District and County reports are published with these Minutes.

A response is still awaited from the County Highways Department about filling the new grit bins.

It was noted that Parish Council elections would be held on May 2, 2019, and that publicity would be undertaken to encourage interest and candidates. The Clerk is attending a SALC briefing about the elections on February 20. The Parish Council AGM and the Annual Parish Meeting will both be held on May 22, 2019. This date falls after the election and therefore will not be affected by the rules affecting expression of opinions by the Parish Council in the run-up to the election, after the election has been called.

A number of projects were outlined which could improve the Village Hall, including purchase of a new screen and the projector used at the WWI event; new LED lighting units and new heaters. Cllr Stringer indicated funds may be available from his budget to help with these purchases and this was noted with thanks, to be followed up.

5/160119 To consider any updates on current planning applications, including:

18/04480 Erection of dwelling at Aporia, 1 Mill Hill – granted, discharge of conditions applied for

18/05406 Notification for Prior Approval for a Proposed Change of Use of

Agricultural Building to a Dwellinghouse (Class C3) and for Associated Operational Development under Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 2015 Schedule 2, Part 3, Class Q (a) and (b). Cotton Hall Cotton Hall Lane – pending

18/05024 Householder Planning Application - Erection of a single and two storey rear extension, Stanmore House 2 Stewart Field - pending

The current status of these planning applications was noted.

6/160119

To consider notes of the meeting which reviewed the WW1 commemorative events and to consider an event marking the centenary of the dedication of the war memorial

The events held in Cotton in November to mark the centenary of the end of World War I were discussed at a very well attended meeting in the Trowel and Hammer on December 12. A number of people remarked that not only were the events themselves – the tea, the film-showings, the churchyard early morning piping, the remembrance service – extremely well attended (each seeming to attract 100 plus residents), but there was also a lasting legacy.

The research done by John Telford-Taylor into the stories of the men behind the names on the memorial is a long-term contribution to village history and efforts are being made to ensure that those stories – and photographs and videos recorded over the remembrance weekend by Peter Wenban and others – are permanently available to locals and visitors.

The work done by Peter Gibbs, Geoff Lowndes-Toole, David Williams and many others on repairing, righting and cleaning the memorial itself was also much remarked upon and valued.

Quentin Brotherton's wonderful catering on the new outdoor grill – also a long-term asset for Carter's Meadow and the village generally – made the early morning start on Sunday 11th much more palatable. The Village Hall team led by John Doherty was exceptionally generous in making facilities and catering available for the events there. Without the efforts and support of Jane de Beer, the church would not have been such a central element of the weekend.

The total cost of the events, including the work done on the memorial, was approximately £1,928.13.

A display book should be created and made available in the Church, recording the events over the commemoration weekend and also including the rededication of the memorial. Details of how to create a lasting visual record should be discussed further by the Parish Council.

A special service will be held on May 12, attended by the Diocesan Bishop, to mark 100 years since the Cotton war memorial was first constructed and erected in the churchyard. There will be a further planning meeting for this on Wednesday March 13 in the Trowel and Hammer. It is anticipated that it will again be a ticketed event and that tea will be available in the church after the service. Bells may be rung and pipers may again be invited to play.

7/160119 To discuss a date for a village litter pick

After discussion it was agreed the litter pick would be held on March 16, 2019, starting at 10.00am at the Village Hall.

8/160119 To discuss the fact that the County Council has been advised of the location of new grit bins in the village but has not yet supplied grit

It was agreed that if no satisfactory response was received from highways, then the Parish Council would go ahead and purchase grit for the bins.

9/160119 To receive a financial report from the Clerk including any payments due, consideration of a draft budget for 2019/20 and confirmation of the precept requirement for 2019/20

A bank reconciliation to January 16, 2019, was presented, showing a balance of £18,554.60. It was noted that the Parish Council was likely to end the 2018/19 year roughly on budget, spending £7,095.

It was agreed to approve a budget for 2019/20 showing likely spend at the slightly higher level of £7,628. This takes account of possible costs flowing from the election and also the current level of inflation. It was agreed therefore to set the precept at £6,180, an increase of £180 over the previous year.

10/160119 Correspondence and urgent matters to be brought to the attention of the Parish Council

The next scheduled meeting of the Parish Council is due to be held on Wednesday March 22 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.