

# **COTTON PARISH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES** of the Parish Council Meeting held on March 18, 2019 at 7.30pm  
at the Village Hall

<b>PRESENT</b>	Cllrs Peter Gibbs, Sarah Wenban, David Williams, Marian Cocksedge, Chris Tester and Beryl Ellis, and Rod Caird (Clerk). Three members of the public, together with Cllr Andrew Stringer were also present.
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**1/180319 Apologies and approvals of absence**

Paul Howlett had sent apologies and his absence was approved

**2/180319 Declarations of Interest and dispensations requested**

None

**3/180319 To approve the Minutes of Parish Council meetings on February 11, 2019 and February 27, 2019**

The minutes were approved

**4/180319 To receive comments from members of the public on matters on the Agenda and reports from the District and County Councillor**

It was noted that construction vehicles on Mill Road were causing traffic obstructions.

Written reports from the Cllr Andrew Stringer are published with these minutes. He drew attention to the announcement by Mid Suffolk that it does have a 5-year housing land supply, and to MSDC's funding of two Police Community Support Officers.

Following the District Council elections on May 2 Cotton will no longer be in the same ward as Mendlesham, meaning that after 16 years the parish will have a different District Councillor. The Parish Council expressed sincere thanks to Cllr Stringer for his commitment, support and enthusiasm. He will of course continue as County Councillor.

Similarly, the Parish Council thanked Cllrs Paul Howlett, Chris Tester and Marian Cocksedge, who will not be standing again as Parish Councillors, for their long-standing hard work for the village.

**5/180319 To consider any updates on current planning applications including:**

***19/00338 Erection of two dwellings and creation of new vehicular access (resubmission of 18/03558) at Willow House, Mendlesham Road - pending***

***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***

The current status of both applications was noted.

**6/180319 To confirm arrangements for the May 2 Parish Council elections and the dates of the Annual General Meeting of the Parish Council and the Annual Parish Meeting**

The new Parish Council formally comes into existence on May 7, following the May 2 elections. The AGM of the Parish Council and the Annual Parish Meeting will both be held on Wednesday May 22 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. Village organisations will be invited to contribute reports on their activities over the past year to the APM. Refreshments will be provided.

**7/180319 To discuss funding for improvements to the Village Hall**

Quotes have been received so far for about £18,800 worth of improvements to the Hall ranging from new kitchen equipment and play facilities to insulation, decoration and heating. It was agreed priorities should be established with the help of a survey of opinions in the village; public support for improvements would assist with fund-raising. It was agreed to make contact with Mid Suffolk's grants team and Cllr Wenban volunteered to assist the Village Hall committee chaired by John Doherty.

**8/180319 To discuss how to make sure the grit bins are refilled by the County Council in future.**

Cllr Stringer reported that the County Highways team is reviewing its grit bin supply and refill policy.

**9/180319 To receive a financial report from the Clerk including any payments due**

A bank reconciliation to March 17, 2019, was presented, showing a balance of £20,725.15. Payments were made as follows: £125 to Polstead Press for the Cotton Quarterly and £57.55 to Rod Caird for storage charges. Payments were made under the General Power of Competence conferred by the Localism Act 2011, ss.1-8

**6/180319 Correspondence and urgent matters to be brought to the attention of the Parish Council**

It was decided to respond to Bacton Parish Council's request that Cotton share the cost of a Broad Road defibrillator by indicating this may clash with Cotton's own proposal to purchase equipment for the village. Cotton may also decide to go ahead with a first aid and CPR course.

It was also decided to welcome Bacton's support for use of the VAS, which had been acquired for both parishes, and to inquire who was taking responsibility for its use in Bacton.