

# **COTTON PARISH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES** of the Parish Council Meeting held on July 18, 2018 at 7.30pm at the Village Hall

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| <b>PRESENT</b> | Cllrs Peter Gibbs, Sarah Wenban, Chris Tester, Paul Howlett, David Williams, Marian Cocksedge and Beryl Ellis, and Rod Caird (Clerk). Four members of the public, together with Cllr Andrew Stringer and Suffolk Police Community Engagement Officer Stefan Henriksen were also present. |
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**1/180718 Apologies and approvals of absence**

None

**2/180718 Declarations of Interest and dispensations requested**

None

**3/180718 To approve the Minutes of the Parish Council AGM on May 2, 2018**

The Minutes were approved and signed.

**4/180718 To receive comments from members of the public on matters on the Agenda and reports from the District and County Councillor; to discuss Policing issues with Suffolk Police Community Engagement Officer Stefan Henriksen**

The appointment of Police CEOs is an effort to improve communications between communities and the police, which have been poor since most PCSOs were withdrawn and stopped attending Parish Council meetings. Nine CEOs will cover Suffolk; PC Henriksen is based in Stowmarket and will attend village events such as the Community Café when possible. He is contactable by email (Stefan.Henriksen@suffolk.pnn.police.uk), Twitter (@policestow) and Facebook (search for Stowmarket Police). Non-emergency crime reporting can be done either by calling 101 or, on the website [www.suffolk.police.uk](http://www.suffolk.police.uk). The website may be a quicker and more effective reporting tool. A discussion about speeding problems in the village, and the data gathered by the VAS, led to consideration of the possibility of re-visiting a Community Speedwatch Scheme, previously dropped because of the difficulty of finding suitable safe sites for volunteers with the camera equipment. Cllr Stringer also noted that a number plate recognition trial is being conducted in Suffolk which may be a suitable initiative in the future. He also noted that a raised pedestrian crossing outside J. Lawes Ltd on Station Road may offer an engineering solution to the speeding problem in that area.

Cllr Stringer's written District and County reports are published with these Minutes. He noted in particular that Mid Suffolk has now announced it can

confirm a five-year building land supply.

- 5/180718 To consider any updates on current planning applications, including: 18/02995 Erection of two-storey side extension and garage at 8 Hempnalls Meadow, Dandy Corner; 18/02208 Discharge of Conditions at Kimberley, Blacksmith Road (refused); 18/02887 and 8 Lime Tree Farmhouse, Parkers Road, Cotton, Stowmarket Suffolk IP14 4QQ, conversion of existing barn to annexe and alterations (Parish Councillors already consulted by email and no objection lodged).**

No objection was made to 18/02995 (Hempnalls Meadow extension) or to 18/03204 (Concrete hardstanding at Oak Tree Farm, Willow Lane).

- 6/180718 To consider an update on plans for the WWI centenary commemoration in November 2018 and an update on the work on the War Memorial**

A meeting of the WWI commemoration planning group had been held on July 2 and details of current plans will be published in the Quarterly, in the Parish Magazine and on the village website.

The concrete surround to the memorial has been lifted and broken up. The metalwork will be straightened, sandblasted and coated. Plans are in hand to restore the memorial itself to a vertical position. It is hoped the work will be completed by November, in time for the centenary events.

- 7/180718 To review progress on refurbishment of the village sign**

The sign has been taken down. It is badly pitted and will be sandblasted by the same company which is treating the metalwork round the war memorial.

- 8/180718 To consider the Consultation on an Update to the Mid Suffolk Draft Statement of Community Involvement:**

<https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/planning/planning-policy/adopted-documents/babergh-district-council/statement-of-community-involvement/>

The consultation was noted.

- 9/180718 To receive a financial report from the Clerk including any payments due, and to consider and approve the report of the internal audit for 2017/18 including any action points arising.**

A bank reconciliation was presented showing a balance at the bank of £20,393.84. Payments had been made on July 2 as follows: £40 to the Information Commissioner for data registration; £70.64 to J. Lawes Ltd for materials re the war memorial work; £170.40 to SALC for the internal audit; £266.42 to Rod Caird for Clerk pay; £35 to Polstead Press for the Quarterly. Payments were made under the General Power of Competence conferred by the Localism Act 2011, ss.1-8 and the War Memorials (Local Authorities' Powers) Act 1923, s.1; as extended by Local Government Act 1948, s.133.

The report of the 2017/18 Internal Audit was received and approved. The regular bank reconciliation will now include a budget tracker section enabling Parish Councillors and others to see how spending matches the agreed budget, and the minutes will note the powers used to make payments. Other items will be dealt with at regular meetings.

**10/180718 Correspondence and urgent matters to be brought to the attention of the Parish Council**

The Village Hall Committee now has a full complement of members and the temporary Chairman is John Doherty.

The new grit bins are installed and the Clerk will liaise with the County Council about having them filled on a regular basis.

The next meeting will be held on September 19, 2018 at 7.30pm.

DRAFT