

COTTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Parish Council Meeting held on November 22, 2017 at 7.30pm at The Village Hall

PRESENT	Cllrs Peter Gibbs, Sarah Wenban, Beryl Ellis, Chris Tester, Paul Howlett, David Willams and Marian Cocksedge, Rod Caird (Clerk) and Cllr Andrew Stringer. Three members of the public were also present.
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1/221117 Apologies and approvals of absence

None

2/221117 Declarations of Interest and dispensations requested

None

3/221117 To approve the Minutes of the meetings on September 27, 2017 and November 9, 2017

The Minutes were approved and signed.

4/221117 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 reports are circulated with these minutes, and will also be sent to all subscribers to the village email list.

It was noted that the County Highways website reporting tool may be showing reported potholes as repaired when in fact the repair has been ordered and not yet completed.

5/221117 To consider any updates on planning issues and the Babergh Mid Suffolk Local Plan consultation.

The Parish Council's comments on the Local Plan consultation have been submitted and a map will be added by Cllr Stringer.

Planning consultation request 05520, Willowfields, Willow Farm, Willow Lane, Conversion of redundant agricultural building and construction of extension.

The Parish Council is not opposed to the application, but some concern was expressed at the meeting about the significant increase in the size of the building compared to the structure agreed to in the original (2003) application.

6/221117 To consider the implications of the new data management regulations coming into force next year.

Clerk reported that the new regulations being introduced in May 2018 will require the Council to appoint an external Data Protection Officer and there may be cost and administrative implications, as well as the need for training. It was agreed to keep this under review.

7/221117 To consider progress on repairs to the Cotton war memorial.

Clerk reported that two professional surveyors from a list provided by the War Memorials Trust have been contacted and are submitting survey costs. It was noted that the memorial has been proposed for listing. It was agreed to check the expiry date of the faculty allowing work to take place once agreed.

8/221117 To consider an update on data from the Vehicle Activated Sign and related issues.

Martin Yates reported that the process of involving the police in responding to the data gathered by the VAS has now been activated, and he will progress chase.

9/221117 To receive a financial report from the Clerk including any payments due, and to consider the budget and precept requirement for 2018/19.

A bank reconciliation was presented showing a bank balance of £19,709.21. A payment of £115 was made to Polstead Press for printing the Quarterly. A budget for 2018/19 was proposed and approved, showing estimated spending of £6,700 in the year. It was unanimously agreed to hold the precept for 2018/19 at its 2017/18 level of £6,000. CIL funds of £3,559.70 are held for specific community infrastructure projects in addition to an earmarked village reserve of £15,000. Possible projects include: play area improvements and equipment; the war memorial; the village hall kitchen and solar panels, and section 137 grants to local groups. It was agreed to discuss further.

10/221117 Correspondence and urgent matters to be brought to the attention of the Parish Council

The AGM of the Carter's Meadow Trust confirmed that the management of the meadow would return to the Parish Council. Legal advice would be sought on the best process to follow.

The next meeting will be held on January 17, 2018.