

COTTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Parish Council Meeting held on July 26, 2017 at 7.30pm at
The Village Hall

PRESENT	Cllrs Peter Gibbs, Beryl Ellis, Chris Tester, David Williams, Sarah Wenban, Paul Howlett and Marian Cocksedge, Rod Caird (Clerk) and Cllr Andrew Stringer. Four members of the public were also present.
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1/260717 Apologies and approvals of absence

None

2/260717 Declarations of Interest and dispensations requested

None

3/260717 To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on July 6, 2017 and May 24, 2017

The Minutes were amended, approved and signed.

4/260717 To receive a report by the Chair, with updates on current planning matters, including the Planning Inspector's report allowing the proposal to build two houses to the rear of Broadway Cottage

The bus shelter has now been cleaned and solar power lighting will be provided from Cllr Stringer's budget.

The Cotton Quarterly distribution list has now been finalised.

There were no other planning updates.

5/260717 To receive reports from the County and District Councillor and also comments from members of the public on matters on the Agenda

The Parish may want to contribute to the consultation which will develop the new Mid Suffolk Local Plan, designed to find room for about 6,000 new homes in the next 20 years. It was agreed to hold public meetings in the Village Hall on September 8 and 9 in order to gather opinion about suitable sites in Cotton for perhaps 10 or 20 houses of various types. The meetings will be widely publicised and a sub-committee was formed in order to plan the event: Andrew Stringer, Beryl Ellis, Chris Tester, Peter Gibbs, Paul Howlett (and Clerk Rod Caird) would hold a planning meeting in the next week.

6/260717 To consider planning application DC/17/02809 - Kimberley, Blacksmith Road, Cotton, Stowmarket Suffolk IP14 4QN, construction of a two-storey dwelling with detached garage.

After discussion it was agreed to support the application with the proviso that a biodiversity report should be produced and proposals for rainwater dispersal should be monitored.

7/260717 To discuss the condition of Willow Lane, Cotton and to review plans to refurbish the village sign

Willow Lane is in very poor condition. The response from Highways has so far been unsatisfactory. It was agreed to pursue further with Cllr Stringer's support.

The Parish Council agreed to budget £250 towards repair of the village sign and Cllr Williams said he would provide an estimate of the cost. A very generous private offer to co-fund the repair was also welcomed.

8/260717 To receive a report on data from and positioning of the Vehicle Activated Sign.

It was agreed to continue to gather data from Mendlesham Road, Station Road and Broad Road. Crucial to the process is information about the volume of traffic at all locations exceeding about 40mph.

9/260717 To discuss the Mid Suffolk boundary review.

The boundary review will result in a reduction of Councillors from 40 to 34. Some parishes will be grouped differently. After discussion it was agreed to comment into the process that Cotton will combine more organically with rural parishes such as Mendlesham. It seems appropriate to group parishes of similar character, which share a common ethos and values. The closing date for the consultation is August 14.

10/260717 To receive a financial report from the Clerk including any payments due

A bank reconciliation was presented showing a bank balance to date of £16,340.22. Since the May meeting payments had been made as follows: £240.54 to Rod Caird (clerk pay April/May); £78 to Mid Suffolk for dog bin emptying; £35 to the Information Commissioner for data protection registration; £671 to Clarkes of Walsham and £100 to Screwfix for the Meadow gate (£771 was received from the meadow as reimbursement); £60 to HMRC for PAYE; £240.30 to Rod Caird (clerk pay June/July). It was reported that the £100 to Screwfix would not be presented as not required.

11/260717 Correspondence and urgent matters to be brought to the attention of the Parish Council

None. The next meeting will be held on September 27, 2017.