

# COTTON PARISH COUNCIL

**MINUTES** of the Parish Council Meeting held in the Village Hall on  
Wednesday July 14, 2021 at 7.30pm

**PRESENT** Cllrs Peter Gibbs, Sarah Wenban, David Williams, Trudy Winder and Rod Caird (Clerk). Three members of the public were present. District Cllr Andrew Mellen was unable to attend but County Cllr Andrew Stringer was also present.

**1/140721 Apologies and approvals of absence**

Paul Howlett, Sue Cox and Beryl Ellis had sent apologies and their absence was approved.

**2/140721 Declarations of Interest and dispensations requested**

None

**3/140721 To approve the Minutes of the meetings on May 6 and June 10, 2021**

The minutes were approved.

**4/140721 To receive comments from members of the public on matters on the Agenda and reports from the District and County Councillor**

Cllr Stringer noted that the bus contract comes up for renewal next year, in the knowledge that it is now possible for loss-making routes to be subsidized by more profitable services. A new Highways maintenance contract is also being considered, with the possibility that it may be divided between more than one supplier. Recent simultaneous road closures were coincidental but a serious planning error.

**5/140721 To consider any updates on current planning applications. No new applications have been received since the last meeting**

No new applications have been received.

**6/140721 To review plans for village events once coronavirus restrictions have been lifted**

Events are beginning to happen again. The recent tea party was well supported, the Church quiz is due to take place on August 20 and the café restarts on July 31. An open meeting will be held in the Village Hall on September 2 to discuss how the village might contribute to the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in 2022; various projects are in hand and the

September meeting will test residents' enthusiasm for the Queen's Green Canopy; the Festival of Suffolk; and more directly local ventures such as beacon lighting and bell-ringing.

**7/140721 To consider a report on the new play area**

Problems regarding the uneven ground are being address urgently by the contractor.

**8/140721 To consider an update on the vehicle-activated speed indicator**

There continue to be problems in sourcing replacement batteries; the German manufacturer is unable to provide them owing to Brexit-related procedures and costs.

**9/140721 Financial report to date, including any payments due**

It was agreed an Agenda item would be included for the next meeting to discuss issues arising from the annual audit by SALC, and any action points which were necessary as a result of the report.

A bank reconciliation to July 13, 2021 was presented, showing a balance of £16,091.76. A VAT refund of £354.55 had been received from HMRC for the previous year.

The following payment is due for supply of benches as previously discussed:

|              |                 |              |            |              |         |
|--------------|-----------------|--------------|------------|--------------|---------|
| July 9, 2021 | Realise Futures | Bank payment | £ 1,746.90 | VAT £ 349.38 | Benches |
|--------------|-----------------|--------------|------------|--------------|---------|

Councillors had previously agreed to set aside £1000 to support public events in the Village which will assist residents returning to more normal social activities, now the Covid restrictions are being lifted.

The Village Hall will be making a payment to the Parish Council for grounds maintenance of £578.30

**10/140721 Correspondence and urgent matters to be brought to the attention of the Council**

Planting is now possible in the orchard and several people had already come forward.

The misplaced post box at the Village Hall is being moved by Royal Mail.

The Cotton Quarterly may become an “as and when” proposition; a special edition may be a very useful part of the Jubilee plans after the September 2 meeting.

A brief discussion about general planning and house design policy, and about other matters, initiated by a member of the public, was brought to an end by the Chairman in order to preserve a tone and manner of debate appropriate to the Code of Conduct for meetings agreed by all councillors.