

# **COTTON ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

## **MINUTES AND MEETING NOTES**

**MAY 18, 2017**

### **COTTON VILLAGE HALL**

#### **Introduction and welcome by the Chair, Cotton Parish Council**

Peter Gibbs welcomed all those who had come to the meeting and extended thanks and a gift on behalf of the Parish Council and village to the outgoing Clerk, Colin Hall.

#### **Reports on 2016/17:**

##### **Peter Gibbs, Chair, Cotton Parish Council**

A written report was presented which will be published on the website alongside these minutes

##### **Andrew Stringer, County and District Councillor**

Written reports were presented which will be published on the website alongside these minutes

##### **Andrew Stringer, on behalf of Friends of Cotton Church**

A written report was presented which will be published on the website alongside these minutes

##### **Bert Bertoloni – Cotton Town Estate Charity**

A written report was presented which will be published on the website alongside these minutes

##### **Geoff Lowndes-Toole – the War Memorial**

The funding application to the Heritage Lottery Fund was unsuccessful. A new repair quote from Suffolk Masonry Services is being sought and application will be made for support to the War Memorials Trust. A Faculty has been granted by the Church authorities for work to be carried out. It is likely the yew tree near the memorial will need to be felled.

### **Kirsty Pollintine – a report on the Cotton Quarterly**

The Quarterly has expanded its content and more contributions are being made by residents. The distribution system needs to be reviewed and it could also be sent out electronically via the new village email list.

### **James Collins – a report on the Village Hall**

The committee meets six times a year; bookings and cash flow are good. A refurbishment programme is under way. It was agreed to explore low-cost wi-fi options for the hall.

### **Quentin Bretherton – a report on Carter's Meadow**

The Trust was bequeathed a substantial sum last year and new oak gates and posts are being installed as a memorial to Mrs Carter and family. The current Trust structure is felt to be very cumbersome and the Parish Council will look into alternatives.

### **Mervyn Walker – a report on St Andrew's Church**

Friends of Cotton Church is likely to wind up; funds passed to the Parochial Church Council will be devoted to path repairs and securing the bell frame. The churchyard is now very nearly full and the Parish Council needs to consider the future implications of this situation. The cremated remains area in the churchyard is underused.

### **Martin Yates – a report on the VAS**

The sign is being repaired by its manufacturer and will shortly be returned. Previous data on speeding on Station Road by the water tower was reported to the last Parish Council meeting. When the sign comes back it will be installed at another location. Speed data will be shared with Bacton in order to build up a body of evidence.

### **Peter Wenban - Bacton and Cotton Local History Society**

Meets nine times a year in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday in the month in Bacton Village Hall for talks on a range of subjects; East Anglia generally is very rich in historical material, from the home base of the Witchfinder General to the origins of organic farming. A

committee of six members is preparing a programme for 2017/18. Suffolk Local History Council also organises special days through the year.

## **Closing remarks by the Chair and Discussion**

It was noted that it is important to encourage people to get involved in village activities, so that the “volunteer base” can be widened. Basic First Aid courses would be investigated by the Parish Council; Bacton WI is holding a CPR evening. Cotton now boasts a **Bucket Club** which enables its 14 (retired!) members to talk about anything they choose and organise events and trips. It meets on the third Monday of the month and new members are welcome.