

Cotton Annual Parish Council Meeting

Parish Council Report for 2016/7

The Parish Council plans to meet six times a year, as ever planning applications necessitate more regular meetings to ensure matters are dealt with appropriately. Copies of all meeting minutes are available on the village web-site.

All Parish Councillors have been regular attenders at meetings but following the resignation of Elliott Knight one vacancy was carried for much of the year. Following local advertising Paul Howlett volunteered to become a Councillor and has attended his first meeting.

Following Colin Hall's retirement a new Parish Clerk, Rod Caird, has been appointed and took up his role on 1st April 2017. Rod is an experienced clerk and has settled in well to the job in Cotton.

Many issues have been dealt with by the Council, the following are worthy of particular note:

- The usual audit of potholes has been undertaken twice with the population of holes seemingly growing faster than they can be filled. The County Council contractors appear to be using the most economic means possible to deal with the issue resulting in incomplete and often poor standards of repair – this is a matter being pursued by Andrew Stringer our recently re-elected County Councillor
- Information flow within the village has improved with the revised Cotton Quarterly (which now has a coloured picture on the cover) and the increased use of the Cotton Parish Grapevine Facebook page. Also the Saturday Coffee Mornings get ever busier. It is hoped these are indications of parishioners feeling part of an active community.
- Dealing with the long-running issue of speeding has taken a step forward with the purchase of a Vehicle Activated Sign to indicate to motorists their speed. The sign also records times and speeds of vehicles. Early indications are that high numbers of motorists are exceeding the speed limits, some to a staggering degree! The roads receiving attention in the first instance are Broad Road at both ends of the village and Mendlesham Road. The sign was purchased with monies provided by Andrew stringer from his locality budget. It is hoped a co-ordinated approach to the speeding issue across all local villages can be achieved in due course using the data collected by the V.A.S.
- Elliott Knight kindly painted the inside of the bus shelter and a local resident is cutting the grass outside it, thankfully the earlier misbehaviour by certain individuals has ceased and further improvements are planned to make the place more useable.
- The Parish Council takes on responsibility for the grass cutting round the Village Hall and playing field, the previous contractors provided an indifferent service, this year the contract has been let to a local resident who promises an improved service.
- The Council is financially sound raising sufficient income to cover its commitments.

The Parish Council receives few 'pleas for action' from residents, nonetheless Council meetings are informal and anybody attending is encouraged to join in with discussions, however more public participation would be most welcome.