

COTTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the full Council meeting held on 11 January 2023 held in Cotton Village Hall

Councillors Present: Sarah Wenban (SW) (Chairman), Paul Howlett (PH) (Vice Chairman), Peter Gibbs (PG) Sue Cox (SC), Beryl Ellis (BE), Trudy Winder (TW), and Trevor Woods (TW).

In Attendance : David Rayner (DR) (Cotton Parish Clerk), Andrew Mellen (District Councillor) (AM), Andrew Stringer (County Councillor) (AS) and one member of the public.

110123/01 **Apologies for absence:** None received; all Councillors in attendance.

110123/02 **Declarations of Interest and Dispensation considerations:** PH declared that he does work for Bacton FC, item 12 on the agenda. This was noted and accepted by all councillors.

110123/03 **Minutes of previous meeting:** All Cllrs confirmed receipt of the draft minutes for the Parish Council meeting held on 11 January 2023 prior to the meeting. All Cllrs accepted the minutes.

110123/04 **Noticeboard:** SW asked for further update on the condition of new Noticeboard. DR advised he had checked with PH and had offered to contact Greenbarnes on behalf of the Council. PH accepted. DR phoned Greenbarnes and spoke to Andy Brewer. DR took photos of the noticeboard and sent them to Andy Brewer. Andy Brewer phones back and advised the Noticeboard was sitting on the old ledge of the previous noticeboard, and that this was blocking the bottom vent. DR removed the ledge and will monitor the situation. DR reported that the inside of the Noticeboard is less wet than it was, but it is not dry. After discussions, DR to go back to Andy Brewer and ask what the guarantee is for the Noticeboard and if the backing boards inside are replaceable.

Public Forum:

110123/05 Martin Yates has signed up to have the ANPR speed trial offered by SCC. There is concern that if works are required to reduce speeding, who pays?

Planning:

110123/06 Response to the planning application at Hempnalls Farm Plot 2 DC/22/05611 has been circulated and now passed, but our submission, together with others, has been looked at.

Finance:

110123/07 The only payments made this period are the ones agreed at the last meeting. The PAYE refund has been received for my salary and since the figures were put together the Locality grant from Andy Mellen for the defibrillator has come in at £677.20.

110123/08 Councillors resolved to approve the following gross payments, confirming a full schedule supported by invoices and receipts had been received prior to the meeting.

	Payee	Description	£
110123/09	Cotton Village Hall	Hall hire for meetings	27.00
110123/10	David Rayner	Clerk's wages and tax refund	572.12

110123/11 **Insurance payment:** There is a further insurance charge to cover the Defibrillator and also to have the speed device insured as a movable asset not static. A member of the public asked if it was insured at replacement cost as they cost £3,500 new. Clerk will check and all council members agreed that if the additional cost for the insurance was less than £80.00 that we can pay this without needing additional authorisation from the council.

110123/12 **Defibrillator:** Thank you to Bernie Cox for fixing the defibrillator cabinet to the outside of the hall. Clerk is waiting for the electrician to come over and to give a quote, and the person quoting for the CCTV is meeting this Saturday.

110123/13 Thanks to AM for his Locality grant of £677.20 towards the defibrillator.

110123/14 The councillors all agreed that as we have had the £300 grant from London Heart and the above grant, the council would cover the additional costs in connecting the cabinet to an electrical supply, and the providing and fitting the CCTV camera. PG suggested, once it's up and running, we should publicise it as it is a good news story.

- 110123/15 **Village Events and Publicity:** SC advised there is a popup pub night on 27 January. The New Year's party went really well. There is a pub night arranged for February and another in March. There are ongoing discussions about what events are to be put on relating to the Coronation. SW asked if there was any way to testing the temperature for the Coronation. A poll will be done on the Grapevine to seek local opinion. The Coronation could be live streamed in the Hall for those who want to watch it.
- 110123/16 Andy Mellen joined the meeting.
- 110123/17 **St Andrews Church Cotton:** PG reminded the council there is an agreement that we contribute £750.00 to the Church against their insurance costs once they ask for it.
- 110123/18 Andy Mellen gave his report. There are new waste freighters on the fleet which can be powered by waste cooking oil saving lots of carbon. There are new solar carports at the leisure centre which are all working. He mentioned they are waiting for the final budget position, but it looks likely that there will be no rise in Council Tax this year for the District Council as they are sitting on lots of cash following the sales of land.
- 110123/19 Andy Mellen left the meeting.
- 110123/20 **Bacton United 89 FC:** PH advised that the grant has already been provided and the work has been done. SW was concerned how many Cotton residents use the club. Clerk to email and ask if they have got grants to cover the work.

Community groups

- 110123/21 **East Anglia Green:** National Grid have not yet published their response to the first consultation, and it isn't that long before the start of the statutory consultation. The energetic lady running the pylons group for Essex, Norfolk and Suffolk have contacted SW and said its important, when National Grid launch their consultation, that we are ready to go in three areas and maximise the consultation period by preparing now. The 3 areas are: 1 – Leaflet drop, how many would Cotton need? 300 was agreed, 2 – A walking relay along the whole route of 180km to generate publicity and demonstrate how beautiful all the areas of the route are, and would we organise the relay through our Parish from the previous coordinator to the next? SW will have an initial chat and then ask for more support, 3 – Drop-in events.

It's hoped once National Grid publish the dates of their 2023 consultation events, we will be able to turn up on mass at these events. SW to keep the Council informed as to developments.

110123/22 Andrew Stringer joined the meeting.

110123/23 **Tree Warden:** PG confirmed to SW that the tree work on The Green was in hand. He also said the wildflower seed has arrived.

110123/24 Andrew Stringer went through his report. The County Council expected Council Tax rise which looks to be about 3%. There is a new website, please report broken links etc. AS was asked who picks up the cost to any work needed relating to reducing the speed on Station Road. AS stated, that it will depend on what is needed, and the costs involved. We should think about adding a provision in the 2024/25 budget. The date for the litter-picking is 18 February starting at 09:30 was decided to coincide with the cafe. The date will be advertised on the Grapevine.

110123/25 **Training:** Clerk to circulate the details.

110123/26 **Other matters for agenda's:** Draft budget, Coronation events, future meeting dates.

110123/27 Councillors noted the date of the next meeting is 8 February.

110123/28 The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.05pm.