

COTTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the full Council meeting held on 8 March 2023 held in Cotton Village Hall

Councillors Present: Sarah Wenban (SW) (Chairman), Paul Howlett (PH) (Vice Chairman) and Sue Cox (SC).

In Attendance : David Rayner (DR) (Cotton Parish Clerk), Andrew Mellen (District Councillor) (AM), Andrew Stringer (County Councillor) (AS). There were no members of the public present.

080323/01 **Apologies for absence:** Peter Gibbs (PG), Beryl Ellis (BE), Trudy Winder (TW) and Trevor Woods (TW) all apologised for their absences.

080323/02 **Declarations of Interest and Dispensation considerations:** There were no declarations of interest or dispensations to consider.

080323/03 **Minutes of previous meeting:** All Cllrs confirmed receipt of the draft minutes for the Parish Council meeting held on 8 February 2023 prior to the meeting. All Cllrs accepted the minutes.

080323/04 **District Councillor report:** AM gave his report. He stated that as we are moving into the pre-election period decisions will slow down. AM confirmed he is standing again.

Planning

080323/05 **DC/23/00953:** Old Cock Inn, Cock Road, Cotton, Stowmarket, IP14 4QH. Erection of garage with first floor annexe.

CPC to comment in relation to additional off road parking if used for Airbnb or visiting relatives given the closeness to the junction.

080323/06 **DC/23/00958:** Nettenach Barn Dandy Corner, Cotton, Stowmarket, IP14 4QX
CPC to support.

080323/07 **DC/23/00270:** 15 Mill Road, Cotton, Stowmarket, IP14 4QR
CPC to will not support as we are unable to see how the roof line ties in with the existing roof and also there are no materials mentioned.

080323/08 **DC/23/00268:** Broadway Cottage Broad Road, Cotton, Stowmarket, IP14 4ND

CPC to support.

080323/09 DC/23/00389: Stonham Road, change of materials has been approved.

080323/10 **Clerk's salary:** councillors agreed to change the pay frequency to monthly. Clerk to prepare amended contract for signature at next meeting.

080323/11 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	£
080823/12	Cotton Village Hall	Hall hire for meetings	13.50
080323/13	David Rayner	Clerk's wages and expenses to 31 March	597.10
080323/14	Chris Schulen	Defib electrical work plus certification	143.00

080323/15 **Noticeboard:** DR reported that the pinboard inside the noticeboard is made of self-healing rubber and is replaceable and the whole noticeboard is covered by a 5-year guarantee. The lefthand post, as you view the noticeboard from the front is showing signs of rot and a minor repair is in hand.

080323/16 **Defibrillator:** The electrical work has been completed and the case is ready for the defibrillator to be put in place and registered. DR to look again at a camera and the CCTV situation and report back.

080323/17 **Equipment checks:** A member of the village hall committee has volunteered to carry out a monthly check of all equipment and would include the defibrillator and any other equipment that the Parish Council needs checking. SW made the point that there should be a second person familiar with the role if needed. A checklist would need to be prepared of what checks were needed..

080323/18 AS joined the meeting.

080323/19 **County councillor report:** Confirmed Council Tax would rise by 2.99% as expected. The archives will be moving to Western Way in Bury St Edmunds into a more cost-effective building fit for the twenty first century. AS also mentioned a planning application in Bacton right on our border, which is not in his report, to replace a car

showroom with a convenience store. AS also mentioned that the definitive map on SCC website has been digitalised and is much more readable than previously.

- 080323/20 AM left the meeting.
- 080323/21 **First aid training:** This has been arranged for Saturday 1 April. 6 have confirmed with 5 further who have not yet confirmed.
- 080323/22 **Coronation plans:** These will be low key on the Saturday with villagers encouraged to bring their own picnic and eat on the grass. There will be walks planned from Carters' Meadow relating to the proposed pylons which SW will be discussing with Peter Gibbs.
- 080323/23 **Cotton Courier:** SW has drafted an outline, and would like to get published by the beginning of April, to include the Coronation plans, proposed pylons walk. SW is thinking of 3 sections, Village Hall activities, Parish Council information and Coronation plans.
- 080323/24 **Election timetable:** DR to email councillors.
- Correspondence**
- 080323/25 **Teams meeting Dan Poulter:** Council agreed to consider this again at the next meeting in April.
- 080323/26 **Village Hall:** An email has been received from the Village Hall community asking if the Council would contribute towards some extra shelved in the kitchen costing £748. After discussion it was decided that the Council would decline to contribute as the budget is overspent this year and a lot has been given to the Village Hall over the last two years. DR to communicate this to the Hall committee.
- 080323/27 **Other matters for agenda's:** Planning applications for Willow Farm and Convenience store in Bacton.
- 080323/28 Councillors noted the date of the next scheduled meeting is 12 April and DR will try to arrange a short meeting for 22 March to discuss planning items subject to the availability of the village e hall.
- 080323/29 The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.06pm.