

# COTTON PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the full Council meeting held on 12 April 2023 held in Cotton Village Hall

**Councillors Present:** Sarah Wenban (SW) (Chairman), Peter Gibbs (PG), Beryl Ellis (BE), Trudy Winder (TMW) and Sue Cox (SC).

**In Attendance :** David Rayner (DR) (Cotton Parish Clerk), Andrew Mellen (District Councillor) (AM), Andrew Stringer (County Councillor) (AS). and three members of the public were present.

120423/01     **Apologies for absence:** Paul Howlett (PH) (Vice Chairman) and Trevor Woods (TW) both apologised for their absences which were accepted by the councillors.

120423/02     **Declarations of Interest and Dispensation considerations:** There were no declarations of interest or dispensations to consider.

120423/03     **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.

120423/04     **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. The main points are that there is a consultation period on the local plan, and they hope to get part one through later in the year and, the Stowmarket Health and Education Leisure and Fitness Project (SHELF). Also, this is the time of year CIL money is paid to the Council's if they are due any.

120423/05     AM left the meeting.

120423/06     **Bacton FC grant:** A representative gave the background to what the club are doing and the funding they need. Around 15 players are from Cotton village. The representative left the meeting. Following discussion between the councillors it was decided we would give £200 to be spent on the upkeep of the pitch in Cotton.

### Planning

120423/07     There was nothing to discuss at this meeting.

120423/08     **Financials:** A general discussion of the finances and the difficult year ahead with a tight budget.

Signed: *Sarah Wenban*

Date: *10 May 2023*

- 120423/09     **Election:** DR submitted election papers for 5 members of the Council on 2 occasions and these were accepted. Some details have not been entered correctly – DR to sort. Sadly, TMW and SC have decided not to seek a further term on the council and SW, on behalf of the other council members thanked them for their service and wished them all the best in the future. SW also thanked those standing again and confirmed that no election would be required as there are more places available than people standing.
- 120423/10     **Audit:** DR confirmed the audit had been booked with SALC for the week commencing 26 June and the council approved this appointment.
- 120423/11     **Defibrillator:** This is now in the cabinet outside the hall and is registered with The Circuit as per the instructions from Mid Suffolk Council included with their grant. We do need to get a spare battery at £287 and pads at £69. Council approved the purchases. DR also advised that the electrician has offered to fit a camera when he is doing the other work to the hall is we supplied the camera. The council authorised DR to purchase a camera.
- 120423/12     **First aid:** This went very well. Looking to provide more training in late September or early October and advertise its availability, initially another defibrillator training session but may be a general first aid course if there is enough demand. The council will donate £100 to the providers chosen charity. TMW to supply details.
- 120423/13     **Equipment checks:** At the defibrillator training session the instructor went round and highlighted various items of safety and first aid equipment that needed to be checked. This has now been carried out by a member of the Village Hall committee and will be done monthly. Also, the playpark is being inspected.
- 120423/14     **Coronation plans and Cotton Courier:** The Coronation plans are basically as previously discussed, low key. The Courier has details of the walk taking place on the Monday to highlight the pylons situation. The draft of the Courier was sent for printing and when collected it was in grey scale not colour. Due to the time pressure, it was decided that we would accept the Courier as printed and seek a reduction in price.
- 120423/15     AS joined the meeting.

- 120423/16     **Annual Parish Meeting:** The is advertised in the Courier. The meeting will have an open forum for villagers to raise what issues they want. This will immediately be followed by the Parish Council AGM.
- 120423/17     **Teams meeting with Dan Poulter MP:** It was felt that this was not the right time for this to happen so will leave until the for now.
- 120423/17     **Cotton Village Hall:** Steve Winder reported that the bottle bank is now installed. The bargeboards are rotten, but they have the electrical mains overhead wires attached. Plans are being worked through to have these moved to the wall below and other associated electrical work.
- 120423/18     **County Councillor report:** AS gave his report. He highlighted that borrowing requirement for funding school places is caused mainly by the fact that new developments only contribute to the school buildings if the application is approved without challenge.
- 120423/19     **Road safety:** AS was asked what was going on and he replied that he does not know as we are in a pre-election period no new announcements are being made. AS was advised that the traffic in Cotton has risen by nearly 50% in 6 years.
- 120423/20     **East Anglia Green:** East of England flyway is along the coast so does not affect the Pylons situation. Pylon’s group has asked SW to write to the Grid again.
- 120423/21     **Other matters for agenda’s:** Bench for the Green.
- 080323/28     Councillors noted the date of the next scheduled meeting is 10 May which will be the Annual Parish Meeting and the Council AGM.
- 080323/29     The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.21pm.