

# COTTON PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the full Council meeting held on 14 June 2023 held in Cotton Village Hall

**Councillors Present:** Paul Howlett (PH) (Vice Chairman), Peter Gibbs (PG), Beryl Ellis (BE), Sue Pushman (SP) and Jacob Stringer (JS).

**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.

140623/01 **Apologies for absence:** Sarah Wenban (SW) (Chairman), and Trevor Woods (TW) both apologised for their absences which were accepted by the councillors.

140623/02 **Declarations of Interest and Dispensation considerations:** There were no declarations of interest or dispensations to consider.

140623/03 **Minutes of previous meeting:** These were not circulated due to a mix up by the clerk and will be carried forward to the next meeting.

140623/04 **District Councillor report:** PH congratulated AM on his election victory and becoming the leader of Mid Suffolk Council. AM said the main focus has been on the formation of the new administration. They officially took over at a Council meeting on 22 May and AM was voted in as the leader. AS is a cabinet member and oversees Heritage, Planning and Infrastructure. AM mentioned they want a cleanup of the district which will involve litter picking, cleaning road signs etc. They have a large amount of work to sort out the housing stock in their control. AM also mentioned he has a locality budget available for use by the community.

140623/05 AM left the meeting.

### **Planning**

140623/06 There were no new planning proposals to discuss but the application that was passed by Mid Suffolk Council was on the agenda for the previous meeting but when Councillors went to look at the plans the application was not available online.

140623/07 AS joined the meeting.

140623/08 AS spoke on his new role within the council as the planning portfolio holder. AS updated us on some of the changes already made regarding the planning process.

Signed: *Sarah Wenban*

Date: *12/07/2023*

AS said the headline point on his report is the Infrastructure Plan. Water is a major issue and Suffolk is programming to start building desalination plants from 2040. There is some money for Active travel schemes from the Government. The County Council have found an extra £10m for dealing with potholes on non-A and B roads. DR asked AS if there was any news on the Traffic Calming at Lawes. AS replied that there was nothing to report and doesn't expect much movement until the road maintenance contract is changed in September.

- 140623/09 **Training:** Basic new Councillor training is needed for the new Councillors TW, SP and JS. DR to find costs and start dates and report back.
- 140623/10 **Meeting dates:** DR suggested that we standardise the Council meetings to the second Wednesday of the month and schedule meetings for each month except August and December. The Council agreed unanimously. Dates will not be altered for the rest of 2023 but will be standardised from 2024. DR to advise all Councillors of the scheduled meeting dates.
- 140623/11 **Correspondence:** It was noted none had been received.
- Community groups**
- 140623/12 **Road safety:** This was covered in AS report and discussion earlier.
- 140623/13 **East Anglia Green:** It was noted that the National Grid had changed the project name to Norwich to Tilbury.
- 140623/14 **Cotton Village Hall:** The chairman of the Hall committee was approached but mentioned there was nothing to report. DR mentioned that the Hall has got a grant application in progress for the moving or the electricity supply cables to facilitate the work needed on the barge boards which will include moving the electrical meter on to the outside wall.
- 140623/15 **Matters for a future agenda:** None.
- 140623/16 **Next meeting:** Councillors reminded that the next meeting is scheduled for 5 July.
- 140623/17 AS left the meeting.
- 140623/18 **Certificate of Exemption – AGAR 2022/23:** The council had not seen the final figures so could not approve this at the meeting.

- 140623/19 **Annual Governance Statement 2022/23:** DR read out the 8 statements in Section 1 of the Annual Governance Statement 2022/23 and all councillors answered all 8 statements in the affirmative. PH then signed the form as Chairman of the meeting.
- 140623/20 The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.42pm.