

COTTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the full Council meeting held on 10 January 2024 held in Cotton Village Hall

Councillors Present: Sarah Wenban (SW) (Chairman), Paul Howlett (PH) (Vice Chairman), Peter Gibbs (PG), Trevor Woods (TW) and Sue Pushman (SP).

In Attendance : David Rayner (DR) (Cotton Parish Clerk), Andrew Stringer (AS) (County Councilor) and a member of the public.

100124/01 **Apologies for absence:** Beryl Ellis (BE) apologised for her absence which was accepted by all councillors.

100124/02 **Declarations of Interest and Dispensation considerations:** There were no declarations of interest or dispensations to consider.

100124/03 **Minutes of previous meeting:** The draft minutes of the meeting held on 29 November 2023 were approved by all the councillors as a true record of the decisions made and SW signed the minutes reference 291123/01 to 291123/27.

100124/04 **District Councillor report:** AM report was circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting and was discussed briefly.

100124/05 **Communications:** SW mentioned that we should publish highlights from the Council meetings in the Bacton, Cotton and Wyverstone Parish magazine and also relevant topical items with links on the Grapevine.

Planning

100124/06 **Councillors noted there were no new planning proposals received.**

100124/07 **Councillors noted that no planning application have been determined.**

Finance

100124/08 All councillors confirmed receipt of the bank reconciliations as supported by the bank statements for the period to 31 December

2023 prior to the meeting showing total cash held of £16,652.65. This is represented by the Community Account balance at £7,773.75 and the Premium account at £8,878.90.

100124/09 All Councillors confirmed receipt of the budget to actual payments and receipts prior to the meeting. All Councillors accepted the budget to actual report for the period ended 31 December 2023 with no questions.

100124/10 All Councillors confirmed receipt of the reserves account prior to the meeting and with no questions, accepted it as a true reflection of the Parish Councils financial reserves.

100124/11 Councillors noted there were no receipts since the last meeting.

100124/12 All Councillors resolved to approve the following gross payments to be paid by internet banking as shown in the bank papers received prior to the meeting with PH and SP authorising the Cotton Village Hall payment and PH and TW authorising the others.

Payee	Details	£
PCC	Donation for Church upkeep	800.00
A C Collins	Grass cutting at village hall	2,030.00
Cotton Village Hall	Meeting hire	108.00
David Rayner	Reimbursement for 10 Flood signs	435.00
Pauline Diamond	Donation re first aid training	30.00
Derian House	Donation re first aid training	70.00
David Rayner	Clerk salary January	270.48

100124/13 **Budget 2024/25:** The draft budget was discussed and agreed with the addition of £300 for building a new website and £500 for the PCC making a total precept of £9,368.00.

100124/14 AS joined the meeting.

100124/15 **County Councillor report:** Andrew Stringer (AS) gave a brief outline of the difficult budget negotiations ongoing.

- 100124/16 PH reported to AS that reporting issues to Suffolk County Council Highways has no effect as a man comes round in a van, ticks a box and PG gets an email that they are monitoring it! AS explained who was responsible for the works needed. Ditches are the landowner's responsibility and if they won't clear their ditches SDC can serve notice on them. Highways won't jet the culverts until the ditches are clear and the grips are not dug low enough so best to do ourselves. SW suggested we should check over the Parish and draw up a list of what needs to be done and apply gentle pressure to the relevant landowners.
- 100124/17 **Flood signs:** After discussion it was decided to purchase 10 flood signs costing about £40 each. DR to action.
- 100124/18 **Station Road:** DR to contact Josh White regarding speed data sites.
- 100124/19 **Emails:** Freethought have advised that the fake emails we receive are difficult to stop as they keep changing the emails address they are coming from. Running the cursor over the sender address usually shows that it is not from the purported sender.
- 100124/20 **Standing Orders:** DR has circulated the Councils Standing Orders for review, and it was agreed to look at these at the February meeting.
- 100124/21 **New website:** PG stated that not much had happened due to Christmas and illness. It was agreed to look at this again at the February meeting.
- 100124/22 **Aggressive dogs:** DR reported that the policeman he was in contact with has just gone on holiday for a couple of weeks. PG to contact the police again.
- 100124/23 **Matters for a future agenda:** Nothing new mentioned.
- 100124/24 **Next meeting:** Councillors advised that the next meeting is scheduled for 14 February 2024.
- 100124/25 The Chairman closed the meeting at 21:07.