

COTTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the full Council meeting held on 14 February 2024 held in Cotton Village Hall

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

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

140224/01 **Apologies for absence:** Paul Howlett (PH) (Vice Chairman) and Beryl Ellis (BE) apologised for their absences which were accepted by all councillors.

140224/02 **Declarations of Interest and Dispensation considerations:** There were no declarations of interest or dispensations to consider.

140224/03 **Minutes of previous meeting:** The minutes were not available and have been postponed until the next meeting.

140224/04 **District Councillor report:** AM report was circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting. AM highlighted that the MSDC element of the Council Tax was going up by 2% which is less than they could. Housing rents will be increased by the maximum permitted. Communities are being encouraged to draw up their own flood resilience plans.

140224/05 **County Councillor report:** Andrew Stringer (AS) outlined his report with the main focus on their budget meeting the following day and the Council Tax rise for 2024/25. He also pointed out some of the cuts that will have to be made. AS drew our attention to the change of phone number for the Blue Badge scheme and the work being done regarding flood resilience.

140224/06 **Tree on the Green:** The tree was inspected today and found to be in a bad state. It is considered unsafe and needs to be removed. The rough figure for its removal is £1,500, given its height and

proximity to power cables and property. PG will contact SALC and explain the position. PG will also get quotes for it's removal and the Council will discuss these either at an additional one item meeting or the next scheduled meeting in March.

Planning

140224/07 **Councillors noted there were no new planning proposals received.**

140224/08 **Councillors to note the follow determination made by MSDC since the last meeting:**

1. DC/24/00120

13 Mill Road, Cotton – Non-material amendment application re fenestration extension.

MSDC: Granted

CPC: Supported

140224/09 **Station Road:** SW and DR had a site meeting with Josh White of SCC and have received his proposals which have been circulated to all Councillors. SW to email AS to get an accurate price for the white line painting from Josh White.

Finance

140224/10 All councillors confirmed receipt of the bank reconciliations as supported by the bank statements for the period to 31 January 2024 prior to the meeting showing total cash held of £12,939.17. This is represented by the Community Account balance at £4,060.27 and the Premium account at £8,878.90.

140224/11 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 January 2024 with no questions.

140224/12 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.

140224/13 Councillors noted the only receipt in January was £30 compensation from Barclays Bank after their error with SW's new card being requested in the wrong name.

140224/14 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 TW and SP authorised to sign the invoices.

Payee	Details	£
A C Collins	Inspect tree	140.00
David Rayner	Clerk salary February	270.48

140224/15 **Budget 2024/25:** The budget has been accepted by MSDC.

140224/16 AS and AM left the meeting.

140224/17 **Standing Orders:** The only question regarding the Standing Orders was raised in an email by PH regarding the time for the annual meeting of the Council. After discussion it was resolved to change the time to 7PM.

140224/18 **Vacancies:** We have been given the go ahead by MSDC to co-opt new members on to the Council as there was no request for an election from the electorate.

140224/19 **Pylons:** SW is waiting for announcements before deciding the next move. Will review again in March.

140224/20 **New website:** PG has been talking to other Parishes and has found a company that have built several websites for Parish Councils and who understand what is required. PG is trying to get some firm costings from them.

140224/21 **New laptop:** DR waiting for a phone from Freethought (Email provider and domain host) tomorrow with some technical details.

140224/22 **Flood signs:** The final pair of signs to be housed at the Village Hall in the lockup.

140224/23 **Barclays Bank:** The request to change the mandate was rejected by the bank as it needed two councillors to sign. SW and PG will sign the mandate change request and DR will forward to the bank.

- 140224/24 **Aggressive dogs:** PG has had contact with the Police but the progress is slow. PG will keep everyone updated.
- 140224/25 **BT Cables:** Carry forward to next meeting.
- 140224/26 **Matters for a future agenda:** Pylons, tree on the Green, traffic calming, asset register.
- 140224/27 **Next meeting:** Councillors advised that the next meeting is scheduled for 13 March 2024.
- 140224/28 The Chairman closed the meeting at 21:14.