

COTTON PARISH COUNCIL

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

Councillors Present: Paul Howlett (PH) (Vice Chairman), Peter Gibbs (PG), Beryl Ellis (BE), 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) (Joined later) and three members of the public.

100424/01 **Apologies for absence:** Sarah Wenban (SW) apologised for her absence which was accepted by all councillors.

100424/02 **Declarations of Interest and Dispensation considerations:** There were no declarations of interest or dispensations to consider.

100424/03 **Minutes of previous meetings:** The draft minutes of the meeting held on 13 March 2024 were approved by all councillors present as true records of the decisions made and PH was authorised to sign the minutes reference 130324/01 to 130324/24.

100424/04 **County Councillor report:** AS report was circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting. AS highlighted that consultation on the devolution deal for Suffolk is now open. This is in line with the legislation that went through parliament last year. He explained that there is not much extra money available taking into account inflation. They have also been asking why, if this is devolution why isn't power being devolved from County to District and from District to Parish. AS also mentioned the amount of stress on the water supply in the area. Some additional money has been obtained for SEND services and a new director is about to take up the post. Also mentioned briefly at this point is that there are currently 9 NSIP's in Suffolk, 2 of which affect Cotton.

Signed:

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100424/05 **Traffic calming across Cotton:** AS was pushed on the quotation as to what the total figure would be depending on which budget it comes out of. He emailed Josh White for clarification.

100424/06 AM joined the meeting during the above item.

Planning

100424/07 Councillors noted there were no new planning proposals receive and no determination made by MSDC since the last meeting.

Finance

100424/08 All councillors confirmed receipt of the bank reconciliations as supported by the bank statements for the year to 31 March 2024 prior to the meeting showing total cash held of £12,291.42. This is represented by the Community Account balance at £3,379.31 and the Premium account at £8,912.11.

100424/09 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 year ended 31 March 2024 with no questions and the figures will be reported on the AGAR report for the 2023/24 financial year.

100424/10 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.

100424/11 Councillors noted that the only receipt in March 2024 was £33.21 interest received in the Premium account.

100424/12 All Councillors resolved to approve the following gross payment to be paid by internet banking as shown in the bank papers received prior to the meeting with PH and SP authorised to sign the invoice.

Payee	Details	£
Cotton Village Hall	Tea/Coffee at litter pick	10.00
Cotton Village Hall	Hall hire to September	90.00
David Rayner	Clerks salary – April	270.47

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Sarah Wenban	APM flyers	28.50
SALC	Subscription	285.38
Parish Council Website	New website and maintenance	1,213.44

- 100424/13 AGAR report: All councillors were in agreement with the figures on the ARAG report and authorised PH to sign the report and Certificate of Exemption as chair.
- 100424/14 **District Councillor report:** AM reminded everyone that with the Police and Crime Commissioner election on May 2 that photo ID is required to vote. AM also mentioned the homelessness strategy is working well, MSDC jointly wone Council of the Year award and there have been some small adjustment to the CIL scheme so that more sports clubs and community shops and café's can apply. PG mentioned he had reported a caravan in Cotton Lane but nothings had been done about it yet.
- 100424/15 **Pylons:** AM reminded all that the consultancy period had just opened and we have out APM with a senior member of the campaign attending online. AS mentioned that there are numerous questions relating to the Solar Farm that need sorting out as well. PG mentioned the need to have the organisation of the APM agreed in advance to be able to present an informative session. A member of the public asked what success Suffolk County Council has had to date in influencing decisions so far.
- 100424/16 **Dangerous Tree Scuffin's Lane:** PG updated the Council that the tree surgeon is waiting on UK Power and Openreach regarding the cables running through the tree. Once a date is coordinated, the tree will be taken down.
- 100424/17 **New website:** PG had circulated an offline link of the new website. DR mentioned that it should not go live just yet as the one.suffolk web address is shown on the AGAR report and therefore we need to get the audit complete beforehand. Council approved the invoice

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which is broken down as £749.00 for the design and build of the website which will be paid from CIL monies held, £262.20 annual hosting fees which are £21.85 per month charged annually plus £202.24 VAT which gets reclaimed this time next year, making a total of £1,213.44 to pay.

- 100424/18 **New laptop:** Nothing to report yet.
- 100424/19 **Aggressive dogs:** PG has been in contact with Police who have visited the dog owners and there is no more we can do on the subject. BE mentioned that a person in the village had mentioned to her that some dogs keep escaping and torment her chicken. The only advice we can give is to tell the chicken owner to contact the police to get it resolved.
- 100424/20 **Matters for a future agenda:** None.
- 100424/21 **Next meeting:** Councillors are advised that the next meeting is scheduled for 8 May 2024. This will be the Annual Parish Meeting starting at **7pm** followed by the Annual General Meeting.
- 100424/22 The Chairman closed the meeting at 20:16.

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