

# COTTON PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes** of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held on May 6, 2021, which was held online

<b>PRESENT</b>	Cllrs Peter Gibbs, Sarah Wenban, Sue Cox, and Rod Caird (Clerk). Three members of the public were present together with County Cllr Andrew Stringer and District Cllr Andrew Mellen
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**1/060521 To elect the Chair and Deputy Chair for 2021/22**

Peter Gibbs was elected Chair and Sarah Wenban Deputy Chair without contest.

**2/060521 To co-opt Parish Councillors to fill vacancies on the Parish Council**

Trudy Winder was co-opted to serve as a Parish Councillor

**3/060521 Apologies and approvals of absence**

Beryl Ellis and Paul Howlett had sent their apologies and their absence was approved. David Williams was not present.

**4/060521 Declarations of interest and requests for dispensation**

None.

**5/060521 To approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on on March 10, 2021**

The minutes were approved.

**6/060521 Members of the public are invited to make any comments on items on the Agenda or to raise issues for consideration at future meetings**

County Cllr Stringer reported on a very hard year and complimented everyone on hard work in difficult circumstances and presented his annual written report. He noted that a serious climate change issue is being presented by the prevalence of oil-fired home heating in rural areas; older houses are extremely hard to heat in the most carbon-neutral manner.

District Cllr Mellen presented a written annual report and commented on the size of the planning workload during the year.

Parish Councillors thanked both Councillors for their consistent attendance at remote meetings during the year. Their understanding of the issues

**7/060521 To consider any updates on planning issues**

None

**8/060521 To discuss the current status of the speed warning device and the County's proposal to deploy Automatic Number Plate Recognition devices on a trial basis**

The ANPR pilot scheme in the County is relatively minor and will not result in prosecutions. The battery on the SID is worn out and cannot immediately be replaced by the German supplier because of Brexit difficulties. An alternative solution is being sought. It was agreed to spend up to £100 on a pop-up PC to deter speeders.

**9/060521 To consider a report on the Village Hall and play area**

Work is ready to begin on the new play area and many congratulations were offered to Kirsty Pollintine and her team on raising the necessary funds at a very difficult time.

The Village Hall has not yet fully re-opened and indications are awaited as to the likely level of demand.

**10/060521 To consider a proposal to make an annual financial commitment to the PCC to help with churchyard maintenance**

It was agreed after discussion to make an annual contribution of £750.00 towards upkeep of the churchyard.

It was also agreed to help promote the working party needed to maintain the churchyard.

**11/060521 To consider a financial report from the Clerk, including any payments due, and to approve the accounts for 2020/21**

The Clerk presented a bank reconciliation for year ended March 31, 2021 showing a net balance of £20,393.42. This would form the basis of the annual accounts and audit process and the Chair and Clerk were authorised to prepare and sign the necessary paperwork.

A bank reconciliation to May 5 was also presented showing a balance of £19,256.13.

Payments had been or were about to be made as follows:

April 5, 2021	Broxap	£ 158.00	£ 31.60	Grit bin
April 5, 2021	Lawes	£ 32.17		Postcrete
April 22, 2021	SALC	£ 266.59		Subscription
April 22, 2021	Sue Cox	£ 74.32		Expenses
April 22, 2021	Village Hall	£ 8,000.00		Play area grant
April 22, 2021	Rod Caird	£ 272.80		Clerk pay
May 8, 2021	Cotton PCC	£ 750.00		Section 173
June 2, 2021	MSDC	£ 167.60	33.52	Waste services

Payments were made under sections 111 and 112 of the Local Government Act 1972.

**12/060521 Correspondence and urgent matters to be brought to the attention of the Parish Council**

None at this time

**13/060521 To confirm dates and the venue for Parish Council meetings during 2021/22**

The next scheduled meeting would be held on July 14, 2021 in the Village Hall

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