

Cotton End Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Cotton End Parish Council held at Cotton End Baptist Church Hall at 7.30pm on Thursday 10th March 2022.

Present: Councillors A Merel, A Murray, A Simpson and L Seymour.

Also present Linda Carter (Clerk).

1 member of the public

21/115 TO RECEIVE AND APPROVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Stimson and Bangher and also Ward Cllr S Gallagher.

21/116 TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST RELATED TO ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

No Declarations were made.

21/117 PUBLIC SESSION

No questions or comments

21/118 BOROUGH COUNCILLOR

Cllr Gallagher had sent her apologies but provided the Clerk with updates related to matters on the agenda and also sent all of the recent data from the speed cameras on the A600.

21/119 MINUTES

Councillors received and **APPROVED** the minutes of the meeting held on 10th February 2022.

21/120 CO-OPTION TO FILL CASUAL VACANCY

Following the resignation of Mark Collins, the Council had advertised the casual vacancy and received one application for consideration.

Councillors accepted the application and welcomed Kelvin Nicholls to the Council.

21/121 FINANCE AND RELATED MATTERS:

a) Members **APPROVED** new payments as follows:

HMRC - March	£66.60
March Salary - Parish Clerk	£266.42 **
	<u>£330.02</u>

** included 1.75% national salary increase backdated to 1/04/2021

The Clerk requested permission to set up payment of invoices arriving during March which need to be cleared for the year end, which was **AGREED**. All payments to be presented to the next meeting

b) Clerks Salary

Councillors **APPROVED** a contractual annual increment to the Clerk's Salary (Scale point 18) which is an increase of 0.26 pence per hour to £13.21.

21/122 REVIEW OF ASSET REGISTER.

Councillors reviewed and **APPROVED** the Asset register which had been updated to show the new solar footpath lighting and the replacement dog waste bins.

21/123 PLAY AREAS

Members considered matters associated with the play areas and open space.

- 1) Playground inspection reports - All matters raised in the previous report had been authorised for remedy by the contractor.
- 2) Ditch clearance - the Clerk had contracted two companies recommended by the Internal Drainage Board and was waiting for quotes. Cllr Simpson suggested that the contractors who had carried out the hedge cutting (R F Lane) be contacted.
- 3) Safety Surfacing replacement- The Clerk had been looking for possible sources of grant funding to assist with the costs. WREN funding was no longer available, but it was possible that BRCC may know of other sources - the Clerk would speak to them.
- 4) Trow Close Play area - no current issues but redevelopment/ improvement remains on the agenda.
- 5) Molehills - the Clerk would try to find a contractor to deal with the issue.

21/124 WILSTEAD NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Members were advised that the Wilstead Neighbourhood Plan was out for consultation until 14th April 2022. The plan and its associated documents can be found here:

<https://www.bedford.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planning-policy-its-purpose/neighbourhood-planning/wilshamstead-neighbourhood-development-plan/>

Cllr Murray had checked the proposed for development within the plan.

The Council had previously proposed a presentation to residents at the Annual Parish Meeting in March 2020 (unfortunately cancelled due to Covid-19). It was **AGREED** that the presentation would be made this year at an Annual Parish Meeting to be held prior to the Council's Annual General Meeting on Thursday 12th May with the Parish Meeting starting at 7.00pm.

21/125 CORRESPONDENCE

BATPC had advised that two sessions of new councillor training were available for any Councillor wishing to attend at a cost of £30.00 per person. Cllr Nicholls asked if he would be eligible and was advised that he would. It was **AGREED** that Cllr Nicholls would attend - date to be agreed with the Clerk.

21/126 MATTERS FOR UPDATE, INFORMATION OR DISCUSSION

- 1) HIGHWAYS - Bunkers Drive, High Road drainage and Shocott Spring footpath repairs - No response
- 2) Old School site - negotiation were ongoing. Cllr Gallagher would keep us informed.
- 3) Village enhancement - the Clerk was still waiting to hear from the Borough Council and the 'no-response' had been raised with Cllr Gallagher.
- 4) Queen's Jubilee 2022 - Councillors **AGREED** to the purchase of a 'good-sized' tree as the oak tree provided by the Mayor was very small. The Clerk advised that she could source a native species tree for £75- £100. It would have to be planted before 31st March if the Council wanted it to be listed on the 'Queen's Green Canopy' website.

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- 5) Shocott Spring - there had been number of dog-related issues at Shocott Spring recently - people being harassed by dogs, increasing amounts of dog faeces present etc. The Clerk was asked to contact Forest of Marston Vale to ask if signage could be erected reminding dog-owners of their responsibility.

Cllr Merel commented on dog owners leaving used dog waste bags by the dispenser at the playing fields rather than walking to the waste bin. It was suggested that the 'spare' bin be erected adjacent to the bag dispenser.

Date of next meeting – Thursday 14th April 2022.

Chairman

Date