

Cotton End Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Cotton End Parish Council held at Cotton End Baptist Church Hall following the Annual Parish Meeting on Thursday 12th May 2022.

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

Also present Linda Carter (Clerk).

Cllr S Gallagher Bedford BC

Cllr J Weir Bedford BC

22/001 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Cllr Andre Merel was nominated and elected as Chair of the Parish Council

22/002 APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

Cllr Andrew Murray was nominated and elected as Vice Chairman of the Parish Council

22/003 TO RECEIVE AND APPROVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received and approved from Cllr Nicholls.

22/004 TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST UNDER THE COUNCIL'S CODE OF CONDUCT RELATED TO BUSINESS ON THE AGENDA

Cllr Stimson declared an interest in relation to the grant request at item 22/010 (c)

22/005 PUBLIC SESSION

No members of the public were present

22/006 BOROUGH COUNCILLOR

Cllr Gallagher had brought Cllr Jim Weir, who is a member of the Bedford Borough Council Planning Committee, to assist members with their queries in relation to local developments and the 2040 Local Plan.

Cllr Gallagher confirmed that the old school site is on a 2-week maintenance rota, she was responding to complaints regarding the footpath in Wood Lane, and she asked the Council to consider whether she should spend her ward fund providing Christmas lights along the A600 between Cotton End and Shortstown. The Clerk was asked to add this to the next agenda. Cllr Gallagher also confirmed that she had passed on a request for the southern speed camera to be relocated.

22/007 MINUTES

Members received and approved the minutes of the meeting held on 14th April 2022.

22/008 STANDING ORDERS

Members approved the Standing Orders adopted in May 2021

22/009 FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

Members approved the Financial Regulations adopted in May 2021

22/010 FINANCE AND RELATED MATTERS:

(a) Members approved the final accounts for 2020/21 showing an end of year balance of £19,629.73 (a VAT refund claim for £1,128.84 was submitted and payment had been received).

(b) Members approved new payments as follows:

HMRC	£57.20
May Salary – Parish Clerk	£229.02
M Green Inv 133 & 134 (paid)	£534.00
CPM Playgrounds Ltd	£2496.00

TOTAL £3316.22

It was noted that the Precept payment for the first half year had been received from Bedford Borough Council

(c) Members considered and approved a grant application, from Cotton End Village Hall, for £150 towards the cost of events to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in June.

22/011 PLAY AREAS

To consider any matters associated with the play areas and open spaces.

- 1) Playground inspection reports - no current reports
- 2) Ditch clearance - this has been scheduled for October.
- 3) Safety Surfacing replacement sources of funding have not yet been identified.
- 4) Trow Close Play area. Cllr Seymour reported that one of the trees needs some attention.
- 5) Goal posts for the Playing Fields - The Clerk reported that a single goal with ground fixing sockets would be around £220.00. Cllr Stimson would ask Mr Simkins if he would be able to dig out and fix the sockets.

22/012 TIMETABLE OF MEETINGS

The timetable for future meetings of the Council (generally 2nd Thursday of each month) was agreed, with the September meeting being held on the third Thursday (15th September).

22/013 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Members reviewed the progress with the Neighbourhood Plan and thanked Cllr Murray for his hard work in preparing the draft.

22/014 LOCAL PLAN 2040 - COLLEGE FARM

An information session was to be held for residents regarding this development at Shortstown Village Hall on Friday 27th May from 12 noon until 8.30pm. Councillors were invited to attend prior to the public session.

22/015 BfARe EAST WEST RAIL MEDIA CAMPAIGN RESPONSE

It was felt that the Council needs to prepare a response giving reasons why there should be no change to the planned route. Cllr Merel would be meeting with Richard Fuller MP and would raise it with him.

22/016 VILLAGE TIDY WEEK

The event was taking place during the coming weekend and various activities had been planned. Cllr Stimson would purchase paint etc. and reclaim expenses.

22/017 CORRESPONDENCE

Richard Fuller MP had offered to meet with the Parish Council to discuss matters of local importance. Cllr Merel would go back with dates and keep other Councillors informed.

22/018 MATTERS FOR INFORMATION OR DISCUSSION

- 1) HIGHWAYS - Bunkers Drive, High Road drainage and Shocott Spring footpath repairs. The Clerk would make another attempt to get a response from Highways.
- 2) Old School site - Cllr Gallagher had given an update and it was still intended that the site would be in use from September.
- 3) Village enhancement – Cllr AGREED that the Council would provide bulbs for planting during the Autumn Tidy Week
- 4) Queen's Jubilee 2022 – events would be held at the Village Hall, including a BBQ and beacon lighting on Thursday 2nd June.
- 5) Shocott Spring – Cllrs AGREED to make a donation of £50.00 to the Forest of Marston Vale Trust on behalf of residents for its work to protect the habitat of turtle doves.

Date of next meeting – Thursday 9th June 2022.

Chairman

Date