

Cotton End Parish Council

Draft Minutes of the Meeting of the Cotton End Parish Council held on Thursday, 13 August 2026 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall Social Club

Present: Councillors A Merel (Chairman), A Stimson, A Murray, L Seymour, A Simpson.

Also Present : V W Hislop (Clerk).

- 26/098 APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE**
 i. Apologies had been received from Cllr Bangher.
 ii. Cllr Bangher's reason for absence was approved.
- 26/099 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
 None.
- 26/100 MINUTES**
 The minutes of the meeting held on 9 July 2026 were confirmed as a true and accurate record, and signed by the Chairman.
- 26/101 PUBLIC SESSION**
 None present.
- 26/102 UNITARY AUTHORITY REPORT**
 No report received, Cllr Coombs was absent on holiday and had sent his apologies.
- 26/103 PLANNING**
 i. New applications: none.
 ii. Applications decided by Bedford Borough Council: 23 Wood Lane - front extension, and front and side extension to form annex - Refused. (The Neighbourhood Development Plan had informed the decision.)
 iii. Applications notified to the planning authority, where it has no determining powers: outside 101 and 121 High Road - 9 metre light wooden poles (electronic communications).
- 26/104 FINANCE AND RELATED MATTERS**
 i. To receive the bank reconciliation: it was **agreed** to receive the report. Cash at the bank was £30,657.86.
 ii. To approve the accounts to be settled: the following were **agreed**:
 SLCC membership fee - £331.00
 Clerk's net August salary - £432.77
 Reynolds Landscaping Services Ltd Invoice SI 21400 - £336.00
 M J Hughes Fencing and Property Services - £140.00

(Additional to the above, reported, the following were **agreed** retrospectively:

Npower - £169.69

Geosphere Ltd - £76.80.)

26/105

CRIME STATISTICS AND SPEED CAMERA DATA

The latest two sets of crime data had shown no incident. No camera data had been received from the principal authority. In future, the Clerk would contact the police direct. **Action: the Clerk.**

26/106

REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE AND IMPROVEMENTS, AND PLAYING FIELD AND VILLAGE HALL MATTERS

i. The completion of fencing repairs to the Trow Close play area was **noted**.

ii. It was **agreed** to fund a one-off cut of the public footpath from the High Road to Shocott Spring. **Action: the Clerk.**

iii. A proposal to pave/infill the former flower border on the car park boundary with Meeting Close, and associated works was **agreed**.

(The Clerk would request weekly emptying of the black bin adjacent to the junior playground. **Action: the Clerk.**)

26/107

HIGHWAYS RELATED MATTERS

It was **agreed** to purchase a second speed indicator sign, this one requiring a solar kit and pole. The generous proposed contribution by a resident was welcomed, and would now be accepted by the Clerk. **Action: the Clerk.**

(The Clerk reported that the road island works outside Trow Close had been scheduled for October.)

26/108

COMMUNICATIONS

The various pieces of correspondence at sub-items i. to v. were **noted**.

26/109

REGISTER OF PARISH LAND, ETC. OWNERSHIP

The establishment of a register of land, etc. owned by proprietors other than the Parish Council was **agreed**. This would take the form of a schedule to the Asset Register. **Action: the Clerk.**

26/110

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The following were discussed:

i. Bunkers Drive's potholes;

ii. 41 Wood Lane (empty property);

iii. Bus service subsidies;

iv. The Parish Council's member vacancy; and

v. The dissolution of the village's Street Watch scheme.

26/111

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

10 September 2026.

26/112

NEED FOR EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

Pursuant to s.1(2) of The Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, The Council **resolved** in respect of **Agenda Item 26/113** to exclude the public, including the press, from the meeting on the basis that it was likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that if a member of the public were present during the item there would be publicity prejudicial to the public interest by reason of its confidential nature.

26/113

GENERAL RESERVES POLICY AND ANY EARMARKING OF RESERVES

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

The meeting concluded at 8.20pm.

Signed by the Chairman..... 10 September 2026