

**Minutes of Meeting of Cotton Parish Council
Held on 3rd August 2011 in Cotton Village Hall**

Present:-Chairman Mrs. Couldridge
Councillors' Halliday Hutchinson Tester Wenban Williams
Parish Clerk Colin Hall
S.C.C./M.S.D.C. Councillor Stringer
4 members of the public

1. Apologies for absence.
No apologies were received
2. Declarations of Interest
There were no declarations of interest
3. Introduction by Chairman
The Chairman welcomed members of the public to the meeting saying that the meeting would be adjourned before any relevant agenda item to allow them to address the meeting on that item.
Mr. Yates said he wished to speak on agenda item 5a, Miss Gibbs & Mr. Doherty wished to speak on agenda item 7 & Ms Hilary Smith wanted to address the meeting under any other business
4. To confirm the minutes of the previous meeting
The minutes of the meeting held on 8th June 2011 were approved by Councillors and signed by the Chairman.

The meeting was adjourned for Mr Yates to address the meeting on agenda item 5a, Then re-convened.

5. Matters arising from the meeting held on 8th June 2011
 - a) Village Twinning
The names of all interested parties (5 in three households) have been passed on to Mr. Yates who will contact them to see if they wished to proceed further.
 - b) Village of the Year
The Clerk reported that Cotton had come 4th in the Village of the Year competition run by MSDC and understood from MSDC Councillor Stringer that there were only one or two points between the winner and the other five entrants. Cotton scored highly for its Carters Meadow Project but poorly community business projects. Councillor Wenban thanked those who had helped on the day as she had supported the entry but then had been unable to attend the presentation. She said , and other Councillors agreed, that Cotton has not needed community business projects and was unlikely to, this meant that unless the criteria for scoring in the competition changed the village would never be in with a chance of winning.
 - c) Quarterly Newsletter printing
The Clerk reported that he has received confirmation, from Polstead Press, of the increased cost for printing the quarterly newsletter. The new costs were as previously reported at £72.00 per issue until April 2012 then £92.39 from May 2012.
 - d) Meet our MP
Mendlesham P.C. & Wickham Skeith P.C have both said that they wanted stand alone meetings with Dr. Poulter, Wickham Skeith have arrange a meeting on 10th August 2011 & have invited Cotton P.C. Councillors to attend if they wish.
The Clerk suggested that an insert be put in Newsletter asking residents if they would like an opportunity to meet their MP. Councillor Tester said that the questions should be do they want to meet the Mp or do they not want to meet the MP. An appropriate fleyer will be included in the next newsletter.

6. Reports from County/District Councillor & Police

There was not a report from Suffolk Police

SCC/MSDC Councillor Stringer presented his reports.

He reported from SCC that an interim replacement for the Chief Executive had been appointed. The County Council have increased their contribution to support better Broadband in Suffolk from £225,000 to £10,000,000. He had voted against the proposal for the waste incinerator at Great Blakenham but the proposal had been approved .

MSDC is looking to gain the views from a wide range of our Community, and is looking to ask which services people value most and where they might be able to scale back. After the proposal to merge Babergh DC & MSDC was rejected the consultation between the two authorities on integrating services continues. MSDC have signed up to Affordable Rent Tenure, so in future will be able to bid for an Affordable Housing Grant.

7. Charitable Grants

The meeting was adjourned for Becca Gibbs & John Doherty to address the meeting Miss Gibbs presented her case for a grant of £150.00 to replace the existing funding which has now expired. This will allow the Cotton Theatre Group, which was one of the ideas in the Parish Plan and has been extremely successful, to continue.

Mr. Doherty requested a small grant of £30.00 to enable the Community Circle Club to ,another Parish Plan request, to be set up.

The meeting was then re-convened.

Councillor Couldridge said that the Theatre Club which is for youngsters had been a great success providing facilities for young people in the village, Councillor Wenban agreed saying that this kind of facility helps give confidence to those taking part.

Councillor Couldridge proposed that the request be approved this was seconded by Councillor Wenban and unanimously approved by the Council

The request for funding for the new Community Circle Club was also approved.

8. Jubilee Bank Holiday 2012

The chairman reported on a meeting held between all the village organizations to discuss how the village would celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee week-end. She explained that several ideas had been discussed including a party, dance etc plus a permanent memorial to the week-end. It was thought that the offer from the Woodland Trust to provide trees to enable the planting of a Jubilee wood or hedge should be investigated. The Council unanimously voted that if all organizations are in complete agreement that they would arrange for the supply of trees (and their planting) from the Woodland Trust.

It was proposed that once there is an agreement in principle that a committee consisting of 3 Parish Councillors and representatives from all other interested parties should be formed to discuss and arrange in detail the celebrations. The proposal was unanimously accepted. Councillors Couldridge, Halliday & Wenban are to be the Council representatives

9. Planning

a) Applications

No applications have been received since the publication of the agenda.

b) MSDC results

No planning application results have been received

The clerk reported that MSDC are changing the method of notifying Councils of planning applications. They will now email the application direct to the Council, the Clerk said that he would then forward this information onto Councillors but would telephone them to ensure they are aware of the application. He said that as Cotton is considered a non sustainable village he did not expect many applications would received

10. **Correspondence**

The Clerk reported that he had received letters of thanks from 5 of the 6 organisations that the Council had made grants to.

An email has been received about the installation of a flashing speed warning and the possibility of obtaining funding from a Central Government fund to reduce crime. On further investigation this fund was set up mainly to counter drug related crime. The Clerk suggested that the Council should investigate the possibility of Joining Wickham Skeith & Wyverstone in the Community Speed Watch.

Councillors agreed with this and it was pointed out that a minimum of 5 volunteers are required to undertake the training. A request for volunteers will be put in the next quarterly newsletter

11. **Any other Business**

a) Risk Assessment

As a result of the annual audit a financial risk assessment for the Council has been made and presented to Councillors. Due to the urgency of the matter the draft assessment was approved and will be discussed and or amended at the next meeting.

b) Litter & Dog mess bin emptying

It was reported that MSDC have notified all councils that there will be a charge for emptying letter and dog mess bins in the next financial year, the cost to Cotton will be £25.00 pa The Council unanimously approved to accept the new scheme.

c) Village Archive

The Clerk apologized for omitting an item on the agenda which had been put forward by Mr. Wenban, this will now be on the agenda for the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned for Ms Hilary Smith to address the meeting.

As part of Bacton's Parish Plan she is one of a group setting up a Good Neighbour Scheme in order to amake it more viable they have decided to set it up as the Bacton & District Good Neighbour Scheme which includes Cotton.

She requested assistance in advertising the scheme in order to attract those willing to assist and those who may need assistance.

The meeting then re-convened

Councillor Hutchinson said that she would email a copy of Cotton's Parish Plan to Ms Smith to assist her initial set up and Councillor Couldridge said that once more detail is available the organization would be featured in the Cotton Quarterly Newsletter

12. **Date of next meeting**

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 28th September at 7.30pm in the village hall

The meeting closed at 9.08pm

Chairman.....

Date.....