

COTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish meeting of Coton Parish Council

Held on April 8th 2008 in the W.I. Hall, High Street, Coton

Commencing at 8.00pm

Members present: Messrs G. Diplock (Chairman), G. Kinsey, J. Fox, A. Storkey, Mesdames B. Smart, W. Sadler, R. Darling, Dr C. Thorne, Councillor F. Burkitt, , Mrs D. Wilson (Clerk). 6 parishioners were also present.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Mrs Edwards/

2. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

This year the council decided to revert back to monthly meetings hoping this would shorten the time for each session.

Nevertheless we have been quite busy with business items throughout the year. We have had 11 Parish Council Meetings, the Annual Meeting of the Council and 12 Extraordinary Meetings.

Only four people decided to stand for election last May. 6 people replied to our local advertising and 5 were co-opted on to the Council at our first meeting in May to fill the vacancies.

We have at long last got our new noticeboard opposite the W.I. Hall, one side is for the use of the Council had the reverse for general use. The Coton Countryside Reserve were very pleased to accept our old noticeboard thus keeping the village updated on events..

The Council is endeavouring to take on board some of the recommendations of the Parish Plan.

We are still getting vandalism in the village and we suspect most of the offenders are Coton people. The police are aware of this and will take appropriate action but they need to know names. I would ask you all if you see this sort of thing happening to let us or the police know so that we can put an end to it.

Another matter which is causing concern in the village is dog fouling on the Recreation Ground and the Churchyard. We have recently installed two more dog litter bins, one near the Church and one in Benny's Way near the play area. The situation has got to the state where the sports clubs have to clean the pitch before playing a match and we were getting a lot of complaints. You should all know what action we have reluctantly had to take.

The condition of the roads and pavements are still causing concern but we have been fortunate in getting a large area of paths resurfaced.

During the year we have dealt with 29 Planning Applications, 26 of which we approved and 3 not. One of those not approved was the Airey House development which has gone to appeal and we await the result. We approved 6 tree applications.

Lastly, I would like to thank our Clerk, Dot, for the things she does for the Council and my fellow Councillors for their help and support throughout the year.

3. WORK PARTIES' REPORTS

- a) Planning already covered in Chairman's Report.
- b) Finance The Finance Work Party after much deliberation recommended to the Council a precept of £22,000.00, an increase of £1,000 and this was accepted at the Parish Council Meeting on January 15th 2008.
This amount includes several large sums which occur annually such as Insurance, Grass cutting ie. Village Green and Recreation Ground. Clerk's salary also we still support various organisations with smaller amounts.
- c) Allotments Mr Fox reported there are 38 allotments of which 8 & 1/2 are vacant.
On the whole Coton allotments continue to be very well maintained and cared for by the tenants. Many thanks go to Ed Bradford who carries out much maintenance both at the request of the clerk and, also, where he sees that it is needed.
Sadly there has been a recent case of theft. It is difficult to secure the allotment area without extra substantial fencing to the east. Also many routes to the allotments exist through a number of private properties.
We encourage use of the allotments by villagers. Historically, it has been the aim of the council to clear the land for new tenants but some vacant half plots exist where machinery cannot access without damaging existing plots.
A number of letters were sent out last summer to remind people of the need to keep their allotments in order at that time of the year to prevent weeds from seeding onto neighbouring allotments.
- d) Footpaths Mrs Smart reported: This year we have sufficient money in hand to do all the regular work and so no grant was applied for. Little work has been needed during the year. We are going to put in a further waymark post but await information from C.P.S. before doing this. Work will be done to improve the slippery surfaces of two stiles. The paths are in reasonable condition and are periodically inspected.
- e) Trees Mr Storkey reported he had contacted South Cambs and asked for copies of Tree Preservation Orders for Coton, and will be assessing the situation.

4. SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Councillor Burkitt reported he is Councillor for Coton, Barton, Madingley and Grantchester. Since being elected he has been impressed with South Cambs – Full of more dedicated people than he thought – the desire of all is to help everyone as best they can. There are 57 councillors.
He feels his job is to inform Parish Council what is going on namely, Objection Sites, North West Cambridge plans and Congestion Charging. Also to help people locally with housing/planning matters.
Important matters at the moment are: Planning – Trumpington Meadows, North West Development, and Council Housing.

5. COUNTY COUNCILLOR 'S REPORT

Councillor Baldwin had sent in a written report. Attached at end of minutes.

6. ACCOUNTS

Everyone saw a copy of the last bank reconciliation – unconfirmed. – there were no questions.

7. ANY OTHER REPORTS AND QUESTIONS

Village Hall Mr Mason reported on the progress of the village hall. The treasurer is now Mrs Ely and they have appointed two more Trustees. Fundraising has been raising £1000 a month. Planning permission granted, now looking at building design detail, and then will be applying for grants. They have to take on the ownership of the W/I/ Hall and legal transfer of ownership is being sorted at the moment.

Dog Banning on Recreation Ground Mr Weatherby spoke about the dog ban the Council have applied to the Recreation Ground. He understood why it was done but thought the Council should have warned people first. Who is going to enforce it? Who will review it?

Disturbances by Youths on Recreation Ground car park. Ms Baumgarten reported there had been disturbances by youths in cars with loud music and engines revving on the Recreation Ground car park. When approached by her husband they had been abusive. She had contacted the Police. As it is the Council's car park could she call on parish councillors for back up if this happens again. Mr Diplock, Mr Kinsey, Mr Storkey and Mr Fox said they would be willing to be called by Ms Baumgarten

Miss Fowle asked that everyone be made aware that the Clerk is now fully qualified having passed her CiLCA Exam.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS for next agenda and information only.

There was no other business.

MEETING CLOSED AT 9.15PM