

Cottenham Annual Parish Meeting

Tuesday 27th April 2021

Present: Cllrs Bailey Bolitho, Collinson, Henderson, Hewitt, Hutchison, Loveluck, Morris, Stewart, Ward, Wotherspoon, SCDC Cllrs Gough and Wilson, the Clerk, Asst Clerk, RFO and 15 members of the public

Apologies: Jonathan Graves, Eddie Murphy and Ian Stuchbury

The minutes of the previous 2019 meeting were confirmed as being a true record and were signed by the Chair (Cllr Morris).

Cottenham Parish Council – report noted. On behalf of the Parish Council Cllr Morris paid tribute to former Cllr Tony Nicholas and residents Jack Merritt and Danny Granger. Also paid respect to everyone who had battled covid over the past year and all those who had helped out. Ran through the report including the forthcoming Neighbourhood Plan referendum, completion of the new Village Hall and Nursery buildings, covid support, flood mitigation and planning enforcement. Expressed disappointment that the Parish Council hadn't been able to do more on projects due to the pandemic. Resident asked why the Village Hall wasn't shown as a fixed asset in the council accounts. Also questioned how would depreciation be shown. Cllr Morris stated that Parish Council's aren't obliged to show long term assets on their accounts. The Responsible Finance Officer commented that the Hall would be shown on the asset register but that Parish Council's don't show depreciation on assets. Everything will be added to the Parish Council website shortly.

Cricket – item brought forward. Report noted. Last season was a right off due to covid. Want to increase number of younger players so need some help from parents. All Stars (for 5-8 year olds) is starting at the end of May.

SCDC – report noted. SCDC Cllr Gough gave an overview of SCDC as a whole. Not been hit by revenue reduction during covid but they have been pushed into doing other things i.e. grant dispersal. SCDC Cllr Wilson praised the refuse collectors for being able to carry on during the pandemic. A lot of other staff had to adapt to different duties whilst being dispersed to varying roles other than their usual jobs.

County Council - report noted and a short version will appear in the Cottenham Newsletter. County were tasked with looking after 44,000 shielding residents. CCC Cllr Wotherspoon highlighted the team effort. A quarter of the year was taken up with flooding – have dealt with 750 flood reports since Christmas 2020. We need to be better prepared for warmer/wetter winters due to climate change. Noted that carbon emissions in Cambridgeshire are higher than average. 2020 has demonstrated the importance of life sciences and digital technology. Cllr Morris raised concerns that most life sciences companies aren't profitable and was worried about their sustainability.

FECA report – report noted. Currently have 71 member organisations so they are growing and have an active base. It was disappointing to cancel the Fen Edge Festival last year but are looking for volunteers to help with an event in summer 22. Concerns raised regarding

organisations and clubs who have been dormant during Covid and it will be a big task to get them up and running again. SCDC Cllr Wilson mention FECA helping with the covid payment system and Bob Turner was thanked for his help in reconfiguring the Fun Run payment system for a cashless system. This made a huge difference to how the covid support team helped residents.

Bowls Club – report noted. hoping for a full outdoor 2021 season following the lockdown last summer. There are 50+ home matches linked up with 1200 visitors expected. The extra parking at the recreation ground will be a bonus along with the addition of disabled spaces. Thanked SCDC Cllrs Gough and Wilson for their help with a Community Chest grant.

Cottenham Colts – Report noted. They have been attracting players from outside of Cottenham. FECA were thanked for their grant towards mobile floodlights. Cambs FA have been very supportive of all clubs. Rampton PC were also thanked for the use of their recreation ground. 5 years ago there were no girls teams; now have 5 and a total of 26 teams.

Covid support team – Report noted. Treats had gone out for Easter and VE Day to various vulnerable residents. The team also helped with the free school meals during the closure of CPS. The team were thanked and video shared of their work.

With no further resident questions the meeting closed at 8.47pm.