



MINUTES of the **ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING** held on

Monday the 12th May 2025 at Cottam Community Centre Haydocks Lane commencing at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs Abram, Butler, Brown, Gibson, Jewell, Lambert, Parker, Rayfield, Harper and Smith

There was one member of the public present

33/25 To elect the Chairman for the following 12 months

Cllr Butler was elected Chairman for the following 12 months; he duly signed the Acceptance of Office form.

34/25 To elect the Vice Chairman for the following 12 months

Cllr Gibson was duly elected as the Vice Chairman for the following 12 months.

35/25 To receive apologies

Cllrs Whitham and McFarlane

36/25 To consider and approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on the 7th April 2025 (enclosed)

It was resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on the 7th April 2025 should be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true and accurate record.

37/25 To receive Declarations of Interest

None

38/25 To adjourn the meeting for a period of public discussion

The resident who was present commented that the replacement trees in Cottam looked very good.

He also asked about further works to pond areas and it was confirmed that the double pond on Valentines was on the list of high-profile ponds that this Council had agreed to investigate for further enhancement works.

He also mentioned that Ingol and Tanterton Neighbourhood Council were intending to write to Central Government raising concerns that dwellings were often being used as Children's Homes under the existing permitted development legislation which meant that they did not need planning permission. The concern being that in some cases issues with the occupants had arisen, causing concern amongst local residents. The Chairman indicated that this Council would be interested in whatever response was received.

39/25 To approve the following payments:

19/03/2025	EON NEXT ELECTRIC SUPPLY	122	15.46
27/03/2025	PRESTON CC XMAS TREES	123	5418.31
27/03/2025	GGs LENGTHSMAN TEAM	124	2556.00
27/03/2025	G THOMPSON LENGTHSMAN TEAM	125	540.00

27/03/2025	A BARTLETT LENGTHSMAN TEAM	126	540.00
27/03/2025	S FITZPATRICK LENGTHSMAN TEAM	127	720.00
27/03/2025	A CROSS LENGTHSMAN TEAM	128	900.00
27/03/2025	SOFT SURFACES 50% PROJECT COST WAR HORSE	129	3522.00
27/03/2025	W V MCWHITTLE 4 TH QTR SALARY	130	2956.57
27/03/2025	HMRC 4TH QTR	131	2252.41
31/03/2025	BANK CHARGES	132	7.05

It was resolved that the payments mentioned above should be approved

40/25 To approve the enclosed Financial Statement as at 31st March 2025

It was resolved that the Financial Statement as at 31st March 2025 should be approved

41/25 To receive and note the Internal Auditors Report for the year 2024/25

It was resolved that the Internal Auditors Report should be noted

42/25 To approve Section 1 Annual Governance Statement 2024/25 and Section 2 Accounting Statements 2024/25 (enclosed) being part of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2024/25 and authorise the Chairman and Clerk/RFO to sign them on behalf of this Council.

It was resolved that Section 1 Annual Governance Statement 2024/25 and Section 2 Accounting Statements 2024/25 being part of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2024/25 should be approved and that the Chairman and Clerk/RFO should sign them on behalf of this Council

43/25 To consider the following report regarding potential additional work to the War Horse area.

This Council has already set a £10K budget in order to bring the War Horse area back into a good state of repair which included works to rectify damage to the sculpture itself, replacement of the immediate surrounding area with resin mulch and wet pour. These works have been completed in line with quotations received. It was envisaged that the area to the front would then be cleared and grassed by our own lengthsmen team.

It was discovered, once clearance started that the underlying ground was not soil as originally thought. The frontage appears to be made up of dark grey shale which had over time become overgrown with weed and whilst the weed has now been cleared the remaining shale is considered unattractive in comparison to the works that have been undertaken. The area is therefore not conducive to laying grass.

Quotations which are enclosed have been obtained to cover the frontage with either resin mulch or wet pour to match with the already undertaken enhancement works (colour to be agreed) at up to £3381.00.

The costs of this project so far are:

Sculpture £2200

Wet Pour and Rubber Mulch £5870

Total Expenditure £8070

There remains £1930 available from the existing allocated budget

Members are asked to consider the quotations received, agree what further work should be undertaken and increase the budget by the shortfall between the existing available allocated funds and whichever quotation is accepted. (Maximum additional £1431 bringing project cost to £11431)

It was resolved that the quotation of £3381.00 plus Vat to install Premium Grade Bonded Rubber Mulch should be approved and the overall project budget increased to the maximum as outlined above. It was further resolved that a colour chart should be obtained and circulated by the Clerk to give members an opportunity to choose a suitable colour such as a sand colour if possible.

44/25 To note that the next meeting is scheduled for the 30th June 2025.

It was noted that the next meeting is scheduled for the 30th June 2025