

Minutes of Cotford St Luke Annual Parish Meeting

held at The Community Centre, Bethell Mead, Cotford St Luke on
Thursday 21st May 2026 at 6.30pm

Present: Cllr Draper-Gammon - PC Chair, Helen McGladdery - PC Clerk and
RFO and 15 members of the public

1. To receive apologies for absence

SC Cllr Rigby
SC Cllr Sully
PCSO Mike Bell

**2. To approve the minutes of the Annual Parish meeting held
On 22nd May 2025**

The minutes were approved and signed by Cllr Draper-Gammon

3. To receive the Local PCSO Report

No report received

4. To receive report from The Pickleball club

Dave Stockton of the local pickleball group was present. He advised the court is regularly used and the new pickleball net the PC purchased was welcomed by the members of the club. They are looking into the possibility of hiring the large hall in the winter months to enable play indoors. He commented how the court is in a better condition with the caretaker regularly clearing the leaves.

5. To receive report from the Cotford Village fete

Lisa Davies, village fete representative, was present and gave an update. The village fete will run again this year after a great success in 2025. This year's fete will be bigger than last year's with over 50 stalls, food stalls and activities for all. They will run a raffle and donate to local charities, while managing funds to ensure adequate reserves are kept to run the fete next year. Anyone wishing to volunteer would be greatly appreciated.

6. To receive report from CSL Primary School PTA

No report received

7. To receive report from Cotford Corners

Steve Speck from Cotford Corners attended and gave a verbal report (written report attached).

8. To receive report from The Community Association

Sue Pollard was present and gave a verbal update, in the last year they have 2 additional trustees, 7 regular group bookings each week and they are trying to grow the presence of the Community Centre to increase usage. They plan to provide a warm space over the winter months to compliment the space that the Hub offers. There is an aim to access S106 funding from Somerset Council to develop the outside area to make it safer and more user friendly.

9. To receive presentation from In The Mix Project

Nick Harvey was present and gave a verbal update on work they had previously carried out with youths in the parish. They are keen to develop a programme of events in CSL for older youths in conjunction with the PC and police.

10. To receive report from Somerset Councillors

No report received

11. To receive report from Parish Council Chair

Cllr Draper- Gammon gave a verbal update and written report is attached

12. Have your say

1. One resident raised a request for a community gardening space
2. One resident raised concerns over how the parish can protect the wildlife in the area with current and future housing developments.
3. One resident asked if individual land parcels can be purchased from Crown

Meeting closed: 7.25pm

Signed.....

Attached:

1. Cotford Corners report
2. Chairs report

1. Cotford Corners 2019 - 2026

Created mid-2019. Brainchild of Helen Young. The aim was to tidy-up small areas of the village which missed out on the regular council sponsored grass cutting and maintenance. Also maybe stimulate villagers to similarly look after their own 'corners'?

Grew to regular participation by around 12 members. Organised work parties, or 'ad-hoc. Signed dis-claimers, indemnifying individuals and Parish and District, County Councils. All work at 'own-risk'. Used our own tools.

What did we do?

- o Litter picking
- o Clearing fallen leaves from kerbsides
- o Cutting back overhanging greenery
- o Keeping pathways clear of natural detritus

What didn't we do?

- o Private gardens or property

The obstacles?

o What to do with the green waste? Leaves were generally placed back into their original surroundings, copses etc. for natural decay. Larger items, small branches etc are more difficult. Often taken to the 'tip'.

o Approached Somerset CC re a 'green bin' for community use – wasn't possible.

By early 2020, we were gaining traction. Positive conversations with the school head (Mr Gilding) re involving the children in some way, to encourage the young generation to care for their village environment.

Then COVID. Everything to a grinding halt. 'Corners' went into hibernation.

Coming out of COVID, some ad-hoc work, but momentum largely lost

Fast forward to 2026. The village does have noticeably fewer areas needing attention nowadays, thanks largely to the efforts of the PC in co-ordinating regular visits by contractors to more areas, more often. But there are still 'Corners' which are missed.

Current position.

o Restart Cotford Corners this summer – use Cllr Harrison's Himalayan Balsam clearance work as a soft-launch?

o The Parish Council have been able to source (and fund?) a green bin, and

Thanks to a kind resident, find a home for it.

Aiming to be up and running again through the summer and autumn