

MINUTES OF COTTERED ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD IN COTTERED VILLAGE HALL ON TUESDAY 15TH MAY 2018 AT 7.30 PM

Present: Cllr Bryan Pitman (Chair), Cllr Colin Bayles, Cllr John Bull, Cllr David Charles Cllr Barry Dean and 19 members of the public

Officer attending: Denise Anderson (Parish Clerk)

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed the attendees.

1. APOLOGIES

Sgt Duncan Wallace (Hertfordshire Police) – report sent by a colleague
Gill Park (Chair Hertfordshire Guide Centre Management Committee) – report submitted

2. MINUTES OF MEETING

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 23rd May 2017 were signed as a correct record.

3. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

This report was written shortly after receiving the sad news that Marty Kilby has recently passed away. Marty was for many years Parish Council Clerk and many people will remember her as being very helpful, cheerful, and a great assistance to the community.

Meetings

The Parish Council (PC) has held a total of 6 formal meetings throughout the year these were interspersed with progress and site inspection meetings, whenever the need arose. In addition to their own meetings, Councillors and the Clerk attended various other events in order to keep up-to-date with issues that may affect our area.

The main issues dealt with by the PC during the past year fell into the following categories:

Planning Applications

During the year the PC have considered 23 Planning Applications. Two Applications were of particular interest to the Parish. One was for a development on the field adjacent to The Old Rectory, this was refused by EHDC, it then went to appeal and again was refused. The second Application was for a lagoon at Buttermilk Hall Farm and this was withdrawn by the Applicant.

Parish Boundary Review

The new Redrow housing estate along Ermine Street (old A10) is in our Parish and so are the houses in Parkside. Buntingford Town Council have requested that the Parish Boundary should be changed such that these two areas would become part of Buntingford. The PC has submitted a comprehensive letter objecting to this proposed change and a large number of people in our Parish have also submitted objections to EHDC. It is EHDC who is to decide whether the change is implemented.

The PC wish to thank all the people who supported the PC by contacting EHDC.

Traffic &/Parking

As this report was being written an HCC report was issued giving the results of their study into the feasibility of having a pedestrian crossing in Cottered. The report has yet to be studied and it can be found on the PC's web site www.cottered.org.uk

Parking in Peascroft remains very difficult and the PC is still open to ideas as to what can be done to tackle this growing problem. We were very pleased to see an amicable agreement being reached between the Cricket Club, the Petanque Club and the Parishioners, who use the parking area. The agreement is aimed at ensuring the parking area is available and to be 'empty' when required by the clubs.

Village Housekeeping

One of the most visually obvious activities performed in the village is maintaining the Village Greens, this task is shared with a Registered Charity, locally referred to as The Green Trust. Members of the Parish Council automatically become Trustees of this Trust, officially known as the Cottered Recreation Ground Trust. A slice of the annual precept (budget to spend) is expended on cutting and maintaining the greens and the trees.

This year the children's playing field equipment has been repainted and a small amount of maintenance performed. Cllr John Bull successfully obtained a £2,000 donation from the Redrow developers which is to be used for much needed further maintenance.

Thanks

The Parish Councillors are very fortunate in having two permanent part-time staff members, Denise Anderson, our Clerk, and Nigel Bentley, who keeps the village free of litter and also keeps the Recreation Ground grass well cut. During the last few months Nigel has been recovering from an operation and John Bull quickly volunteered to carry on the litter picking task. Brian Murchie began cutting the Recreation Ground, using his own tractor.

Dr Roger Gomm has continued monitoring the conditions of our many footpaths and being the important liaison link with the HCC footpaths authority. Councillors also wish to convey their sincere thanks to these people and all others, who help ensure the Parish remains a very pleasant place in which to live.

4. COUNTY COUNCILLOR Jeff Jones

County Councillor Jeff Jones was not in attendance and no report had been received.

5. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR Paul Kenealy

District Councillor Paul Kenealy was not in attendance and no report had been received.

6. HERTFORDSHIRE POLICE • Report submitted by PCSO Karen Broad

Update for the year for the Annual Parish Meeting

	17/18	16/17
Crimes	20	28
Burglary	2	7
Damage	3	3
Theft	2	4

PC Bridger has left and PC Chapman has taken his place.

Crimes are down from last year by 8 which is good and so far, this year the crimes are very low.

The issues of drugs at a property in Peascroft has been resolved.

The lead from the Church roof is still an issue after being stolen last year and replaced it has recently been stolen again, a lead substitute has been suggested to be used this time.

7. FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The unaudited financial statement for the year ending 31 March 2018 was available for inspection (kept on file with the minutes).

8. LOCAL GROUP REPORTS

The following local village groups gave reports and updates.

8.1 Badminton • Terry Pratt (read by Denise Anderson)**Usage**

Cottered Village Hall provides facilities for Badminton on Wednesday nights throughout the year. The hall is set up for play between 7 and 9pm but players join and depart at different periods dependent on their other commitments.

Players

It is a loose association of badminton players of all standards from beginners to accomplished players. It only caters for adults. The number of players per evening varied from 5 to 12 with an average of 8 a night in 2017. These were drawn from a list of 19 players with a number of these playing irregularly. This list has reduced to 17 in 2018.

Finances

The club raised £812 in playing fees in 2017 and paid out £735 in costs, creating a small surplus. All costs relate to hall hire. Shuttlecocks and rackets are provided by the players themselves.

Playing fees	£812.00
Hall hire	<u>£735.00</u>
P&L	£77.00

People

The collection of playing fees and paying for hall hire is organised and administered by Eddie Hayden helped by Carol Perry. Terry Pratt and Margaret Harrison manage player numbers if an evening is short of regulars. Anyone interested in playing should contact Eddie Hayden or Terry Pratt.

8.2 Bell Ringing • Neville Chuck

Bell Ringers from other parishes continue to ring occasionally such as from Enfield on 28 April. However, local ringers help out by ringing for weddings.

On a brighter note, I'm pleased to report that currently three Cottered folk are learning to ring, so when the 100th Anniversary of the end of the First World War is marked on 11 November 2108 we hope to ring the Cottered bells on Remembrance Sunday.

8.3 Carpet Bowls • Eddie and Jo Hayden (read by Lesley Greensmith)

Cottered Bowls Club started in 2002 is now 16 years old. The membership has remained constant over the years with approx. 24 members. We meet every Monday 8.00pm to 10.00pm and charge £2.00, this includes refreshments of tea and biscuits. At Christmas, we have our Annual Dinner and hold a raffle to raise funds for our nominated charity.

New members will be most welcome to join us on Monday evenings.

8.4 Cavaliers Golf Society • John Harwood Bee

The society had a very successful 16th year managing to stage five tournaments at different courses in the region as well as adding the occasional challenge match with other societies. For 2018 we have six tournaments on the calendar, in April to September. The events are well attended and act as good opportunity for members and guests from Cottered and surrounding communities to enjoy a healthy active walk and a great social event in the evening.

We hold other interim events where players are able to take advantage of special discount deals at selected courses. As in previous years, we have attracted new players to replace those who have moved away or have finally given up playing. It is regretful that at the young age of 92 that Bill Bennett has decided to park his trolley. Until two years ago he was still walking the courses whilst others of us chose the more leisurely transport of buggies. We all wish him well. For more information please speak to John Harwood-Bee or David Broxup.

8.5 Children's Society • Simon Cassia

The Children's Society runs two activities in the village.

Change Boxes

The Society provides a box for people who want to collect and donate their small change to the Society. This year we had 12 box holders. When the boxes were opened in October we collected the sum of £190.

Christingle Service

Normally the annual Christingle Service in December is donated to the Children's Society. Unfortunately, it was cancelled this year, because of a heavy snowfall on the day. However, the Church kindly donated £80 from its coffee mornings.

The total funds generated for the Children's Society in 2016 were therefore £270.

8.6 Cottered and Throcking News • Neville Chuck

The magazine continues to bring residents information about the community. However, we have had to make the first real increase for six years, bringing the annual subscription to £5 a year. This represents less than £1 over a two - month period.

We thank all those who continue to send in their reports and photos and especially all who give their valued support by advertising in our publication.

8.7 Cottered Voices • Rita Broxup

I am Rita Broxup one of the funder members of your award-winning village songsters and am presenting tis report on behalf of all the singers tonight.

- Now in its 5th year the voices are now well known in the East Hertfordshire Area and continue to attract singers from as far afield as Cheshunt, Bennington and Buntingford.
- Currently there are some twenty singers in 'the voices' and we have attracted four new singers from the Village that have joined us.
- The highlight of the year is that Cottered Voices won the Community Cohesion award from the CPRE which was presented to us by Councillor Jeff Jones at a ceremony at County Hall last October.
- As in previous years we have been privileged to be asked by Buntingford Chamber of Commerce to sing at their street events.
- Again, we sang on several occasions at the Barn Theatre in Welwyn Garden City where we are now seen as their Choir of choice for Christmas and other celebrations. Our next performance there will be on Sunday 3rd June.
- For the second year running the voices have supported the Cottered Appreciation Society's Burns Night Supper, the Harvest Festival dinner, Carols outside The Bull and our own Carol Service in our Church St John The Baptist.
- Our major fundraiser was a garden party on what was arguably one of the warmest days of the summer in aid of Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital. We were pleased to have raised an excellent donation to their work of £800 and a good night was had by all.
- Sadly, this year we have said goodbye to our eldest member, Bill Bennett, who although no longer a regular singer made a real effort and joined us at our annual Christmas dinner at The Bull.
- In November we will be putting on a major evening of songs, good food and charity fund raising to mark the centenary of the end of the First World War. Tickets will be available nearer the date.
- Cottered voices would like to express their thanks to the County Councillors for the financial support they have been given.
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This year there has been 14 performances and they look forward to the Summer Garden Party on 17th June when they will be joined by friends from over the County for a big performance along with the Hertfordshire winners of Young Talent with proceeds going to Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital.

All are welcome to join us we practice at the Village Hall on Thursday evenings at 7.30pm, please either talk to any of the committee, David and Rita Broxup, Alan and Maureen Weston or just turn up and be welcomed as a new member. The group meet on Thursday evenings at 7.30pm

8.8 Football Club • Allen Chamberlain

This has been one of the best years for Cottered Football Club that I can remember, since I played when we won the Greg Cup in the old East Herts League then went on to win the Premier League! But I think this Team has outdone the days when I played!

This Year Cottered FC have been in 3 Cup Finals winning two and losing one.

It started with playing Waltham Abbey this Year's Premier league Champion's in the League Cup at the Letchworth County Ground on Friday night and they won this 1-0.

Then the following Friday they played against Broxbourne Badgers in the Centenary Trophy which they only lost 1-0 in a very tight game.

Then came the Herts Junior Cup on the Following Tuesday night against a very good team Tring Athletic from the West Herts League, who currently are on a run of 18 games unbeaten, 17 wins and one draw and are top of their league. The game started with Cottered getting the better of the game and scoring early in the first half Mathew Smyth giving us the lead 1-0. Tring came close a few times but our back four defenses moped up any danger. The second half was much the same and finally with Tring pressing to get the goal back Cottered broke away and Mat Ashworth our top goal scorer, scored the second 2-0 game over.

The Team have finished fourth in the League they could have finished Runners up but with the cup games all close together the league games took a toll with a few bad results including double header games.

The Reserves with a new manager have also had a good run of results and they came close to getting into the League Cup final losing out in the semi-final. They have one more game to play and if they win that one they will come second in the league and get promotion to division one next season. That will be a great achievement for the new manager Laurence Salmon and the reserve team.

So as Chairman of the Club I am a very happy person and hope we can go on next season, the First Team win the League and perhaps retain a cup or two! And the Reserves to maybe win a cup.

8.9 Parish Paths Partnership • Roger Gomm

Particularly wet spells over the last 12 months meant that several footpaths were flooded and then were very muddy, especially bridle paths. Now they have dried out there are ankle twisting ruts. However, the worst problem has been with the eight (or more) cross field paths which were not restored after ploughing and were then obstructed by being planted with sugar beet. This crop puddles water in its leaves which fills your boots when walking through it and walking on sugar beet is like walking on cannon balls. At least one rambler severely twisted her ankle in this way, though declined to take legal action against the farmer. Then with the harvest, parts of these paths disappeared under liquid mud, as did some of the field edge paths nearby. At the moment the fields concerned have been harrowed but the paths have not been restored by rolling, long after the 14 days period of grace.

This is the time of year when the nettles and other vegetation threatens to swamp footpaths: later the problem is with brambles and suckering blackthorns. They are your paths and if you walk them frequently this helps to keep them accessible, beating down the vegetation with a stick as you walk is better, and in the autumn using secateurs on the occasional errant bramble keeps them in order. My thanks to those local people who clear sections of footpath near their houses, and to the farmers who do obey the law and keep the footpaths across their fields open for walkers.

Landowners or tenants are responsible for maintaining the paths that cross their land. As the Highways Authority and the Rights of Way Authority, the County is responsible for the maintenance of those footpaths which don't run across private land, and of all stiles, gates, bridges and way marker posts. It is also responsible for enforcing maintenance on landowners/ tenants who have paths crossing their land. The County has a small number of standing contracts with contractors to mow or strim sections of our paths (2.8k out of the 37k total) and they will come and clear badly obstructed paths if their resources allow, though their resources have been severely cut over the last few years.

The Parish Council has no statutory responsibility for footpaths and bridleways but is signed up to a so-called Parish Paths Partnership agreement. The 'partnership' simply means that the Parish keeps the state of the paths under surveillance and reports problems to the County Council. The Parish has 37 kilometres (23 miles) of foot paths and bridleways, not counting the sidewalks along the roads. I can't keep all of those under surveillance myself, so I do rely on people ringing me up to report obstructed foot paths. My number is in the Parish magazine. Alternatively, the *Ramblers Association* provides a web site with an interactive map on which you can report footpath problems direct to the relevant authority where ever the problems occur in Britain.

8.10 Friends of Cottered Church • Simon Cassia

The Committee of the Friends of Cottered Church (FOCC) during the period

Chairman: Andy Karn (to March 2018); Simon Cassia (from March 2018)
 Treasurer: Kathy Cassels
 Secretary: Simon Cassia (to March 2018); Bill Johnston (from March 2018)
 Members: Trish Agnew
 David Broxup
 Rita Broxup
 John Harwood-Bee
 Andy Karn

The Friends are very grateful to Andy for his leadership over the past 2 years.

Events

Between May 2017 and April 2018, the Friends of Cottered Church held the following events:

- Village Day: Tombola and help for refreshments in the Village Hall
- Film Night: 'The Italian Job' at Lower Farm
- Christmas Get-Together: Lower Farm
- Quiz Night: in Village Hall

Financial Position 31 Dec 2017

Income: £872.58
 Expenditure: £744.98
 Net Profit: £127.60
 Funds at Bank: £33,588

Future Claims on Funds

Over the next few years the following requests may be made on FOCC funds:

- Repairs to Boiler
- Clock maintenance

8.11 Guide Centre • Gill Park (read by Denise Anderson)

The Guide Centre continues to be busy with bookings for weekends and holidays from Guide and Scout groups, and we continue to update and improve our facilities. School and Duke of Edinburgh Award groups are also regular users.

Currently we are waiting to hear if the application to erect a new camp shelter will be approved which will allow the younger members of Girlguiding, the Rainbows and Brownies to make more use of our facilities. Unfortunately, one negative thing has been the use of our camping field by dog walkers and others using the site as a cut through from Bull Lane. As with all playing fields people not clearing up after dogs puts our young members at risk.

For enquiries please contact Hertfordshire Guides County Office:

01763 281311 or email countysec@girlguidinghertfordshire.org.uk

Further information about Girlguiding Hertfordshire is available at www.girlguidinghertfordshire.org.uk

and the Hertfordshire County Guide Centre at www.hertsquidecentre.co.uk

8.12 Horticultural Society • Caron Lawton (read by Denise Anderson)

Caron Lawton was elected as chairwoman at the first Horticultural Society meeting which was on the 6th February.

Membership stands at 119.

A single membership is £3 p/p and is increasing to £4.

A family membership is £5 and is increasing to £7.

The increases will take place at the next AGM 16th November, 2018

We had 6 events in total.

The Plant Sale at Lower Farm

This is always a successful evening with a truly great selection of plants, bar and light refreshments on the side. Thanks went to Jacqui Gray, Jo Hayden, Val Devenish and Ingrid Snell for preparing the light refreshments and also Julian Bishopp for hosting the bar and of course huge thanks went to Mr & Mrs Snell for providing us all with such a beautiful venue.

The Garden Ramble

Consisted of The Old Rectory by very kind permission of Debbie & Robert Taussig. This was very well attended.

Mr John Hoyland, who is a writer for The Gardens Illustrated magazine, gave this garden the highest accolade for its truly magnificent outstanding beauty, all created from excellent plant knowledge and sublime plant combinations.

We then wandered through the village to the Japanese Garden where Fraser and Albiero welcomed us with open arms and a glass or two of wine.

The committee made some light refreshments.

We also gathered 23 members of Sandon Gardening Club together to join us for the evening and which we gained, as a society £69. The evening was perfect.

Village Day

We found our position at the top of Lower Farm's drive very positive. We sold all our plants by mid-afternoon.

Day Out to Helmingham Hall

On arrival at the Hall, we were greeted by Jacqui who showed us to our seats in the Restaurant where Chicken Chasseur or Beef in Adnams Ale were served for lunch, it was delicious!

The day came to a close at 4.30pm when we were collected by Richmond's coaches for the return journey home.

The Horticultural Show

Brought in 33 participants, all exhibiting 257 entries between them. The standard was very good.

The judges were

Roger & Marion Green for the vegetables Class with Guy Snell mirroring with the foresight of becoming a vegetable judge himself one day!

Pauline Broadhurst and Susan Wight for the domestic class.

Rosemary Sleep for the Flower Class.

Janet Westerman for the Children's and miscellaneous classes.

Annual General Meeting

Was on 17th November where the Society provided a buffet and bar.

PS this year we are going to East Ruston Old Vicarage in Norfolk, see magazine for details.

8.13 Luncheon Club • Trish Agnew

Lunch Club meets on the second Tuesday every month in the Village Hall at 1.00pm and is open to all residents in the village.

A wonderful group of ladies cook and serve a two-course lunch followed by coffee or tea all for £3.00.

Over the past year we have been very lucky to secure funding which has enable us to offer afternoon tea on alternate months. Due to a lack of support for this event we have decided to offer a light lunch instead at the usual time of 1.00pm.

Please come and have a have a home cooked lunch, meet new people and chat with friends. All we ask is that you contact either Jo Hayden on 281389 or Angela Thody on 281556 in order that the kitchen know how many to cater for.

Dates for the rest of 2018 are:

Tuesday 12 June	2 course lunch
Tuesday 10 July	light lunch
Tuesday 14 August	2 course lunch
Tuesday 11 September	light lunch
Tuesday 9 October	2 course lunch
Tuesday 13 November	light lunch
Tuesday 11 December	Christmas meal with all the trimmings

8.14 Petanque • Kevin Daisley (read by Denise Anderson)

The club as usual is doing well with a few new members this year. We have three regional competitions this year, one already gone but two more in August which should be very busy both days with people coming from all over the country.

8.15 Cottered Ramblers • Roger Gomm

At 2.00pm on the first Sunday of the month, Cottered Ramblers meet to take a walk, perhaps better called a wander, of about 3 miles. Most walks are within the parish and start from the village hall, but last year we also walked down the Lea Navigation, and from Buntingford to Alswick, and walked over to Ardeley for one of their Sunday teas. Numbers are small, with as many people from outside the parish as within and we would welcome your company.

There are other organised walks in this area most days of the week, ranging from 12 miles to 2 miles, morning, afternoon and, in the summer, short evening walks too. I am usually involved in organising short walks on other Sundays starting at 11.00am from various venues within a ten-mile radius. Contact me if you are interested.

8.16 Royal British Legion • John Harwood-Bee

The good items to report this year are that once again the village proved its generosity during the annual Poppy Appeal when in excess of £1,200 was raised via the door to door collection, the Remembrance Service collection and the traditional raffle in The Bull after the service. For such a small community Cottered has a big heart. This was proven yet again when, with assistance from the Village Appreciation Society and particularly Justine Fancy, we held a very successful quiz night in the village hall. Another £760 was raised for the Poppy Appeal. For the future, we shall be assisting with and benefitting from a special event being organised by Cottered Voices to mark the 100th anniversary of the end of the Great War. This will be on Saturday 10th November. More information will be available in due course.

On a sad note it appears that this will be the last year that the Cottered Branch will be able to remain independent. Our Chairman and joint treasurer Bill Bennett has declared his intention to resign and whilst we do have a number of Legion members in the village it has not been possible to recruit branch officers to take over the administrative duties required by Head Office. I am in discussion with the Regional Group office to find a way to ensure that we may continue with the local Poppy Appeal collection but it is likely that we shall lay up the branch standard after the remembrance service on 11th November this year after 71 years in existence. The Legion is changing and we have to change with it.

8.17 Cottered Village Festival • Alistair Hill

Purpose and Financial Goals

Provide an entertaining family day for residents of Cottered and for those visiting.

It was decided that the financial goals would continue to be:

Ensure sufficient funds were retained to finance 1 future Village Day outright.

Retain sufficient funds to allow increased spend on events and attractions in following years.

Charitable giving to nominated worthy causes as agreed by the Committee.

Date

Saturday 30th June 2018.

Planning

Open invitation flyer sent to all Cottered and Throcking residents inviting them to a 'Have Your Say' open meeting on 26/09/17. 25 attendees from across the villages.

Initial ideas included moving to Saturday, live music, artisan foods and a children's corner.

Through ongoing meetings these ideas have allowed the following events and attractions to augment the usual popular ones:

Live music running from 13:30 through to 23:00

Laser clay shooting

Flyball competition

Artisan food and drink stalls

New arts and craft stalls

Children's corner (face painting, LabTots, kids crafts etc.)

Village scarecrow competition (starting to display around the Village from 1st June)

Facilities and Infrastructure

The live music will be performed from a mobile stage sited adjacent the Village Hall. The sports ground will continue to provide the focal point on the event, with stalls and attractions along the main road.

Media

Facebook has been used extensively in the lead up with promotion of events, exhibitors and music acts all receiving very positive responses.

The reach has led to new exhibitors requesting stands via the Facebook page.

Print and spoken media will also be utilised in the weeks immediately prior.

A programme will be delivered to all residents in the week before the event.

8.18 Cottered Village Appreciation Society • John Harwood-Bee

CVAS continues its role as a volunteer organisation ready to help with projects in and around the village and to offer support with manpower when requested. In the past year volunteers have helped with, amongst other things, the upkeep of the churchyard, the cleaning of road signs and assisting with Village Day. The Society continues to maintain the comprehensive insurance policy that covers the volunteers and subsidises the public liability insurance for Village Day. Work on the churchyard has commenced again as there is now a specific maintenance policy in place. The society held its second very successful Burns Night Supper attended by over 80 people. Big thanks to Christine Robinson and her team for the excellent traditional food. The society has also been instrumental in the coordination of the objections to the attempted land and money grab by Buntingford Town Council which would see the loss of a significant area of the parish along Ermine Street and a potential £320,000 of New Homes Bonus. Thanks are due to the Safer A507 campaign for joining with this initiative. CVAS have formulated another plan of attack on this matter and that is to campaign for a different boundary change more in favour of the Parish. This will require a petition signed by 187 parishioners and would force EHDC to consider it. Unfortunately, the opportunity for the Parish Council to submit a direct request was declined. The petition is available to sign on the small table in the corner of the hall. We should be grateful for your support.

If anybody would like to be included on the volunteers list please contact John Harwood-Bee on 01763 281581. or at jhb@cottered.org or via the village website www.cottered.org

8.19 Cottered Village Hall Trust • Colin Bayles

Introduction

The 2018 Village Hall AGM took place on 10/05/18. Our AGMs are open to members of the local public. We are a registered charity and we report to and are overseen by the Charity Commission.

Summary of the year 2017-2018

I am in no doubt that we have delivered during 2017-2018. We have achieved the objective set for us in our 1963 Declaration of Trust and our 1977 Scheme. We have provided a thoroughly useful and widely admired community facility for Cottered and the surrounding area. This summary is supported by all committee officers' reports given at our AGM.

Thanks

Here I want to say a few words of very sincere thanks to my fellow trustees and other colleagues, to hirers and other supporters of the hall and to our several individual and institutional donors. I recognise and applaud too all the personal, practical and administrative time, effort and enthusiasm contributed by officers and other committee members. We are of course delighted to see the hall well used by anyone and everyone who values what it provides but we are perhaps particularly appreciative of our long-term, regular and repeat hirers.

Comings and goings

Faces on our management committee during the last year have been old and trusted rather than new. Our treasurer Bill Graham continued efficiently in post during times of personal difficulty and sadness and we are delighted to have him back again at our committee meetings.

Repairs, maintenance, decoration and equipment

In the main, with volunteers, professionals and adequate funds, we have kept on top of all these aspects of hall management. We shall surely have the same target in 2018-2019. An agreed immediate priority for cosmetic, marketing and safety reasons is the surface of our car park.

Elections and appointments

All five elected members of the management committee have been re-elected for 2018-2019. In the usual way other members have been appointed to represent various village organisations and others may be appointed if appropriate. At present our team for 2018/2019 is pretty much as before.

8.20 Cottered Village Club • Colin Bayles

The club's stated objective is to support the village hall itself. A majority of members present at the AGM on 18/07/17 felt that the club no longer achieved that objective and voted to disband it. It was formed in 2003.

9. OPEN DISCUSSION

A question was raised about an easement for the access to Wellyboot Cottage. The Chairman explained that the Cottered Recreation Ground Trust discussed this at their last meeting in February and a solicitor engaged by the Trust was pursuing an easement for the Village Green under the Trust's jurisdiction.

There being no other questions, the Chairman thanked the Parish Councillors, and everyone for attending and giving their reports and announced tea and cakes were served courtesy of a number of parishioners for all those attending the Annual Parish Meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.50pm.

Chairman

Date