

**Meeting of the Cottered & Throcking Annual Parish Meeting held in the Village Hall
Tuesday 18th May 2010 at 8pm**

Present: Terry McGrath (Chair), David Charles, Lesley Greensmith, Brian Murchie, Derek Newman, County Councillor Jane Pitman, District Councillor Jim Ranger, the Clerk, Sgt Duncan Wallace and PCSO Becky Rousell from Hertfordshire Police and 37 members of the public.

1. Apologies for absence: Bryan Pitman
2. The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 19th May 2009 were approved as a correct record.
3. Terry McGrath welcomed invited visitors and members of the public and referred to the Chairman's report already published in the Parish Magazine and printed copies together with the financial report in the hall on the night. A copy of the report and financial summary will be held on file with the minutes.
4. County Councillor Jane Pitman gave an update on the progress made on road repairs following the harsh winter with thousand of potholes having been filled with hot patching with a corresponding increase in costs. Although doing what they can, not every rural road can be tackled and her advice was to learn to live with potholes by driving more slowly. Budget constraints over the next few years will be quite an undertaking but Jane is confident that we will get there by providing lots more for less money.
5. District Councillor Jim Ranger gave an update. Report on file with the Minutes.
6. Sgt Duncan Wallace and PCSO Rebecca Rousell attended on behalf of the local Police.

Sgt Wallace reported on a good year with a 17% overall crime reduction in the area. There are now two dedicated officers working out of Buntingford. He thanked the village for opening up the Village Hall and for helping on the night of the snow and Deirdre Williams added that the Girl Guide premises could be made available in similar circumstances in the future. The emerging trend is for metal theft and three separate arrests have been made relating to metal theft by forces working together.

7. Clerk's Report, Joan Diales. Report kept on file with the Minutes
8. The following local groups gave reports which will be kept on file with the Minutes:
 - Bell Ringing, Neville Chuck
 - Cottered & Throcking News, Neville Chuck
 - Cottered Village Hall Trust, Colin Bayles
 - Cottered Village Club, Colin Bayles
Colin Bayles paid tribute to Stan Wilds and Bill Murchie both recently deceased, both of whom had worked for many years for the community and would be sadly missed.
 - Cottered Village Festival, John Harwood-Bee
 - Cottered Cavaliers Golf Society, John Harwood-Bee
 - Cottered 'Best Village in Herts' Campaign, John Harwood-Bee

- Football Club, Allen Chamberlain
 - Friends of Cottered Church, Bill Johnston.
Bill has been succeeded as Chairman by Alan Smith who will provide the report next year.
 - Carpet Bowls, Bill Johnston
 - Guide Centre, Deirdre Williams
 - Horticultural Society, Ken Sleep
 - Luncheon Club, Cilla Grist
 - Parish Paths Partnership, Roger Gomm
 - Cottered Rambler's, Roger Gomm
 - Petanque, Margaret Leathem
 - Royal British Legion, Bill Bennett
9. Matters raised in the open discussion included:

Village web site, www.cotteredvillage.org is up and running and people were invited to suggest what should go onto the Village web site.

Now the warmer weather is with us, the vehicles from Cumberlow Green going through the village uncovered are very smelly and should be covered to contain the smell.

Ken Sleep paid tribute to the number of successful activities in such a small village.

The Chairman concluded the meeting by thanking those who had attended the Meeting.

The meeting closed at 8:55pm and was followed by refreshments.