

**Meeting of the Annual Parish Meeting held in the Village Hall
Tuesday 19th May 2008 at 7:30pm**

Present: Bryan Pitman (Chair), David Charles, Lesley Greensmith, Terry McGrath, Brian Murchie, Derek Newman, the Clerk, 2 representatives from Hertfordshire Police and 35 members of the public.

1. Apologies for absence: Jim Ranger and Jane Pitman
2. The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Tuesday 13th May 2008 were approved as a correct record.
3. Bryan Pitman welcomed invited visitors and members of the public and presented the annual report of the Parish council. A copy of the report is held on file with the minutes. The financial report was given by the Clerk. Summary accounts held on file with the minutes.
4. Bryan Pitman read a letter/report from Jim Ranger, held on file
5. Sgt Duncan Wallace and PCSO Joanna Alston attended on behalf of the local **Police**.

Sgt Wallace lives in Buntingford where there are 2 police officers, one dedicated to schools. The locality plan is to detect and prevent crime and Sgt Wallace's preference is to prevent crime. He hopes that the Parish will provide a representative to attend meetings on the local plan. Speeding is seen as a big issue in most places but generally we live in a low crime area and the statistics show a reduction of 3% and a higher detection rate. The start of the new year continued to show a fall in crime in this area.

Previously there was a mobile police station which toured the area, this has been replaced by the PCSOs making themselves available at pre-advertised times, in the village hall car park but so far no one has been to visit them while in Cottered. They urge residents to come along for a chat even if there are no perceived issues.

6. The following local groups gave reports:
 - Cottered Village Hall – report given by Colin Bayles
 - Recreational Ground Charity – report given by Joan Diales
 - Football Club – report given by Allen Chamberlain
 - Village Day – report given by John Harwood Bee
 - Parish Paths Partnership – report given by Allan Cheshire. Allan will be retiring
 - Cottered Ramblers – report given by Bill Johnston
 - Horticultural Society – report given by Ken Sleep
 - Carpet Bowls – report given by Peta Morris

- Friends of Cottered Church – report given by Bill Johnston
 - Welcome Club – report given by John Stearns
 - Royal British Legion – report given by Bill Bennett
 - Badminton – report given by Lesley Greensmith. Lesley will be retiring after this year.
 - Guide Centre – report given by Deidre Williams
7. Matters raised in the open discussion included additional information relating to proposed gypsy and traveller sites and the allocation to East Herts to nominate 25 potential sites. The overall opinion of the meeting was that the Parish Council should object to the increase of pitches to 25.

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

The meeting closed at 9:30pm and was followed by refreshments.