

**MINUTES OF COTTERED ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD IN COTTERED VILLAGE HALL ON TUESDAY 14 MAY 2013 AT 8.00 PM**

Present Bryan Pitman (Chair), County Cllr Rose Cheswright; District Cllr Jim Ranger, Sgt Duncan Wallace (Hertfordshire Police), David Charles; John Harwood-Bee; Terry McGrath; Brian Murchie; Francis Ridley; and 28 members of the public

Officer attending Marty Kilby (Parish Clerk)

**1. APOLOGIES**

County Councillor Jane Pitman; Deirdre Williams, Hertfordshire Guide Centre.

**2. MINUTES OF MEETING**

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 22 May 2012 were signed as a correct record.

**3. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

The Chairman (Cllr Bryan Pitman) gave the following report

**Meetings**

Following the 19<sup>th</sup> May 2012 Annual Parish Council meeting when the Chairman and Vice Chairman were elected, a total of 6 formal Parish Council (PC) meetings have been held at bi-monthly intervals. A number of small meetings have also taken place to discuss various issues that have arisen, but any resulting formal actions have been decided at subsequent PC meetings. Councillors and Marty our Clerk, have also attended various training courses in order to keep up to date with the changing law effecting Parish Councils, especially in the areas of building development and the conduct of Councillors.

Once elected the 6 Parish Councillors automatically become the 6 Trustees of the Trust responsible for managing and protecting the Village Greens. In this role the Trustees are answerable to the Charities Commission and in this role we are reassessing the way in which these duties are performed, especially the relationship between the PC funds and the money held by the Trust. To date the majority of the costs of cutting the greens has been funded by the PC supplemented by "top ups" from the Trust funds.

**PC Activities**

The principle issues dealt with by the PC during the year included the following: -

**Funding**

The PC obtains its funding from the locally raised council tax, the PC being asked every year what amount it needs. This money is known as "the precept" and consists of a small percentage of tax paid by the majority of householders. In these very stringent economic times the PC has been very anxious to keep this small. For the last 6 years the precept has been kept at £6000 and the PC have decided it will remain at this level for the forthcoming year. This means that funds will be restricted to the basic regular tasks and no new undertakings can be embarked upon, even though we know that such things as new litter bins are required throughout the village.

**Planning Applications**

During the year the PC considered a total of 18 planning applications.

If the Local Planning Authority, in our case East Herts District Council, refuses a planning application, the applicant can appeal to a government appointed Inspector, who will independently decide the outcome and can overrule the EHDC decision. Three applications in Cottered are currently undergoing this process and the PC are supporting EHDC in opposing these developments. The local EHDC councillor Jim

Ranger and the PC Chairman have both given evidence at the resulting public inquiries. At the time of writing no notification of the decisions have been received.

One of the appeals concerns the demolition of the Peasecroft garages. It was suggested that a possible way of saving the garages was to investigate whether other development land was available in Cottered on which South Anglia Housing Association could build new dwellings. Five sites were identified and the owners asked to submit written offers to the Parish Clerk, only one was received in this form, but at least two others made approaches. The feasibility of such a scheme is on hold, awaiting the outcome of the appeal.

### **Village Housekeeping**

In their twin roles as Trustees of the Village Greens and custodians of the general PC village assets, such as the playing field, children's play equipment, seats litter bins etc, the PC have continued to perform a "policing role" in order to protect and preserve these features for the benefit of all who live in the village. To assist in this protection task the process of registering village owned land with The Land Registry is currently taking place and so far the Recreation Field has been registered and hence for the first time, publicly available maps exist defining the extent of the land originally purchased by parish funds in the early 1960s.

The police, encouraged by local residents, have stepped up their activities to slow down traffic through the village.

### **General Matters**

One of the essential members of any PC is the Parish Clerk and Cottered has always been very fortunate in having a long line of very conscientious ladies in this part time role. Marty Kilby, more than lives up to this tradition and works many more hours than her formal contract requires to ensure the ever growing bureaucratic paperwork is dealt with as well as arising issues and telephone calls from parish residents.

Eddie Hayden has continued his never-ending job of keeping the village free from litter. Bill Pooley remains vigilant as the PC internal auditor of finance and other procedural issues to ensure these are kept in line. One of the joys of living in Cottered is the large number of footpaths in the parish and we are fortunate in having Roger Gomm, who walks and monitors the conditions of these and liaises with Hertfordshire County Council Officers to insure the paths remain in good condition.

Finally Mrs Woodgate must be congratulated for achieving what the PC did not manage to achieve, and that is to obtain a new second bus shelter completely free from the County Council, this solely due to her efforts over many years.

To these people and many others in the parish, I and the other members of the PC express thanks for helping to keep this village a desirable place in which to live. Long may it continue.

#### **4. HERTFORDSHIRE POLICE - SGT DUNCAN WALLACE**

Sgt Duncan Wallace gave an update on the changes to the neighbourhood policing policy. He reported that crime incidents had reduced to 12 over the past year, with the majority being motor vehicle related. The focus in a rural area such as Cottered is crime prevention, and the same strategies that have resulted in the reduced crime rate will continue to be pursued in the coming year. The main concern in Cottered is speeding vehicles, particularly at the east end of the village. Motorcycles are a particular issue - on the previous Sunday more than 100 motorbikes were pulled into the Village Hall car park in order to educate them about the dangers on the local roads. There have been 4 motorbike fatalities over the past 5 years. The other area of education is youth related behaviour, some of which occurs at the village hall.

Sgt Wallace answered questions on speeding and the use of HGV vehicles of the local narrow lanes.

The Chairman thanked Sgt Wallace for attending, and Sgt Wallace left the meeting.

## **5. COUNTY COUNCILLOR JANE PITMAN**

Jane Pitman was stepping down after some 28 years on Council both as a County Cllr and as Chairman of Hertfordshire County Council. CClr Rose Cheswright, newly elected, read the following report from Jane Pitman:

### **Last Report from County Councillor Jane Pitman 2012/13**

It is with mixed feelings that I retire on May 2<sup>nd</sup> at the County Council Elections, although I remain Chairman of the Council till May 21 when I hand over the chain of office to the new Chairman.

The interests of Cottered both its residents and the lovely environment have held a high place in my work as the village representative on the Council. I have been made to feel so welcome especially at the Horticultural Show Prize giving event.

I can only describe the last two years as Chairman of the Council as being 'the icing on the cake' following 28 years on the Council, I believe I am longest serving Member.

The County Council is a very different Authority from when I first joined. In the 1980s it worked in a 'silo' fashion so not in a joined-up way with other organisations, also outsourcing services was rare .

Over the years I have been Executive Member (last 12 years in the Cabinet) for all the service departments on the Council ( not corporate centre , HR or finance).

I was involved with outsourcing 600 staff from the Highways Department to the private sector; moving all the 34 homes for Older People into a 'not for profit organisation' known as Quantum Care; splitting Adult Social Care from Children Services; formally opening 60 of the 82 Children Centres which have played a major role in supporting families with very young children in whole range of ways.

2012 was such a memorable year for all of us. As Chairman I hosted the "water paddlers" (Team GB) at County Hall . They competed in the White Water Centre in Waltham Cross , the best slalom course in the World. They won Gold and a Silver medals. I hosted the Chairman's Garden Party where I so enjoyed meeting people from all walks of life, around 350 people representing voluntary ,charities, community and statutory organisations. There has always been a long tradition in Hertfordshire of valuing and working with the voluntary/community sectors.

The highlight for me was to meet Her Majesty the Queen at Hitchin Station when she came to Hertfordshire as part of her Diamond Jubilee tour round the UK. I managed to get her to sign a large photographic portrait of her which is now hanging at Count Hall. I along with others was privileged to join her for lunch at Hatfield House.

As always the Council has had to make some incredibly difficult decisions to keep within budget. The Council kept to its commitment not to increase the Council Tax for 4 years. Keeping pace with ever increasing demands for more and better quality services with less funding has been challenging. The Council has almost met its savings target of £200m over the last three years . The standard of the highway network is the area that most people understandably feel most concerned about despite increasing the funding every year there is still an unacceptable high backlog of work. The new contract with Ringways is saving over £1m a year , I only hope they will manage to reduce the number of potholes , damaged surfaces and broken drains. This is one of the highest priorities for County Councillors to see improvements .

I apologies that I cannot be at the Annual Village Meeting in May , may I wish everyone all the very best for the future and thank you for your kindness.

## **5. COUNTY COUNCILLOR ROSE CHESWRIGHT**

CCllr Rose Chewright said she would do her best for the area, but Jane Pitman was a hard act to follow.

## **6. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR**

District Councillor Jim Ranger presented his report. He highlighted that councillors were halfway through their period of office, and financially most of the savings promised had been

targetted and achieved. All services had been maintained, even though the Government grants had been severely restricted. The District present was reduced by 1% in the previous year, and this target will continue to be achieved for the coming year.

DCllr Jim Ranger explained the planning situation relating to the Peasecroft application and told parishioners that it was hoped that all the current planning appeals would be won by East Herts Council.

## **7 FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

The unaudited financial statement for the year ending 31 March 2012 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. Hertfordshire Guide Centre - Deirdre Williams Chairperson**

In many ways 2012 was a disappointing and difficult year. There was a significant drop in usage of the Centre by Guides. We have high quality facilities in pleasant surroundings so we must give serious thought as to how we can encourage more use of the Centre. The Centre is now 37 years old and at a stage where significant expenditure is required to update plant and equipment. This year we have concentrated on the water system to get a better flow throughout the building and control its temperature. Outside we have installed a new gate to the playground and the gate to the field required re-aligning and a new post. We are grateful to East Herts Division for giving us a donation of £1,500 towards the gate. We have also had the overhanging Ash trees cut back from the building. To add to our woes we had to replace the pump to the sewage system by the toilet – a lengthy and costly business. In addition we replaced a hand drier in the toilet block.

The heavy rains caused our drainage system to silt up so it has been cleared of silt and jet washed and a damaged drain pipe has been replaced.

This is the last report I will be giving as both Carole and I are retiring after 16 years at the helm. I have enjoyed my time here. It is beautiful place to visit and a source of great satisfaction to see so many young girls enjoying the Centre. I would like to thank Bryan Pitman, Marty Kilby, and the Parish council for their support over the years and Councillors Jane Pitman and Jim Ranger for their interest in our activities. I would like to thank everyone for making us so welcome in the village. I always enjoy attending the Parish AGM and hearing about your activities. I will miss the Guide Centre and Village very much. I will continue to follow your activities with interest.

### **8.2. Bell Ringing - Neville Chuck**

Neville Chuck reported on the bell ringing and bells, and added a please for more people to offer to become bell ringers.

### **8.3. Cottered and Throcking News - Neville Chuck**

Neville Chuck reported on the news, and reminded everyone that the subscriptions were due and encouraged everyone to renew as soon as possible.

### **8.4. Cottered Village Hall Trust - Colin Bayles**

You may be struck by similarities between this report and last year's. I am Colin Bayles. I am chairman of the management committee. This is the hall. We manage it. My colleague committee members are dedicated, hard-working, long-serving and rarely recognised or thanked for what they do. I take this opportunity to recognise and thank them now.

A little historical and legal stuff - In 1952 the Rector gave part of his glebe as a site for a village hall. In 1962 a charitable trust was created to hold and manage the hall. We now operate within the framework of that trust. Our registered charity number is 302358 and we report to the Charity Commission. Our goal, spelled out in the 1963 declaration of trust, is to provide "a Village Hall for the use of the inhabitants of Cottered and the neighbourhood (hereinafter called "the area of benefit") without distinction of sex or political religious or other opinion and in particular for use for meetings lectures and classes and for other forms of recreation and leisure-time occupation with the object of improving the conditions of life for

the said inhabitants". We hope you agree that we are continuing to reach that goal. Financially speaking, our income in recent times covers our running costs; but it is not enough to allow us to build up a decent reserve from which to fund non-routine projects.

That brings me – again – to the changing rooms. As I told you last year, they are worn out. It may cost as much as £25,000 to repair, refurbish and improve them. We have not yet been able to start this project. Though we have put on fund raising events (particular thanks to John Harwood-Bee and Nigel Bentley), planned others and now had a provisional grant offer, we are still short of money. We hope and need to get on with this job shortly. Please help us by supporting our fund raising efforts and – dare I say it - please think seriously about making a donation or loan.

#### **8.5. Cottered Village Club - Colin Bayles**

Similarities to last year's report may be even more striking here. At the moment I am chairman of the club committee. The club was established in 2002, not long after the opening of this new hall. Its object is to "use Cottered Village Hall and to lend support to the trustees of the hall ... in the development and promotion of the use of its facilities". All profits made by the club are paid to the trustees of the hall. The club has its annual general meeting in April or soon as can be managed after that and members of the committee are elected then.

Membership is open to all and costs £1 per year. Note however that current members may object to your application if they have reason to think you will not behave nicely! The club holds a Club Premises Certificate which authorises and regulates the operation of the bar and the supply of alcohol in the hall. It also puts on social evenings on some Fridays in the bar.

#### **8.6. Cottered Village Festival - John Harwood-Bee**

Despite some very changeable weather the 2012 village festival still attracted reasonable numbers of visitors. Unfortunately some stall holders and attractions decide not to attend at the last minute but it did not prevent our guests from enjoying a day out in Cottered. The local clubs and societies taking part all reported acceptable revenues and stall holders and commercial enterprises, whilst noting that takings were down on the previous year, were keen to book again for 2013. The car rally was again a great success as was the evening entertainment in the village hall where there was a barbecue and party from 6pm to 11pm attended by over 100 people.

The Festival committee would like to thank all those volunteers who worked to make the day a success especially David Charles for the use of his tractor to pull stuck cars out of the mud and Brian Murchie for the use of his tractor and roller to level the green and car park field to prevent permanent damage.

Village day this year is on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> June and volunteers for car park duties and general help will be most welcome.

#### **8.7. Cottered Golf Society - John Harwood-Bee**

The society played 5 tournaments at a variety of courses in 2012. Each attracted some 20 players competing for the various trophies. In addition we celebrated our tenth anniversary with a gala dinner attended by 50 members and partners held in the barn at Lower Farm. Hearty thanks to Mr & Mrs Snell for their continued support. The society continues to flourish and has a full calendar of events for 2013. New members are always welcome and those interested should contact John Harwood-Bee or Rita Broxup. You do not need to be a low handicap player to join in the fun. Our next match is on 25<sup>th</sup> May at Stevenage Golf Club.

#### **8.8. Cottered Village Appreciation Society - John Harwood-Bee**

Since the society was formed in 2010 the committee has taken on responsibility for entering the Hertfordshire Best Village competition. This has been done with remarkable success in that Cottered has been a winner in one or more categories each year since. This effort was demonstrated particularly well last year when our nominations for the Abel Smith award for young people and the Peterkin Award to an adult were won by Cottered residents Felix Shaw and Neville Chuck. This was in addition to the village being named Well Kept Village. The society has made a significant contribution to maintaining the churchyard as well as helping to keep the village tidy. The Best Village competition has changed significantly this year but the society will continue to be actively involved in any areas of village life to which it can make a contribution. Volunteers are always welcome and the next event will be a Churchyard

Challenge in July in partnership with FOCC , date to be advised, to revive the old tradition of villagers helping to tidy the churchyard. A barbecue and beverages will be available so please keep an eye on the notice boards and village website for more details.

### **8.9. Football Club - Allen Chamberlain**

This season is all about the Cottered Reserve side who have surpassed all expectations by outdoing the first teams last year and winning the league cup and narrowly losing out on winning the League, but getting promoted to the Premier League. This year, with a new group of players, Cottered Reserves won the Division 3 cup, beating local side Watton at Stone Reserves 3-2 at Letchworth Herts FA County ground. They then completed the double by winning the league against their rivals Nazeing Reserves 3-2 on Nazeing ground, with still two games to play. They have now won those games so are unbeaten in the League all season, with just losing the one game to Nazeing Reserves in the Reserve Cup 1-0. So it's a well done for our Reserve side this season.

The down side is the First team, having done so well last year and getting promotion to the Premier League, then struggled against the top sides. This was not helped when I lost two of my best players to family problems, and also the goalkeeper to work commitments. It left me using one of my outfield players as a temporary goalkeeper and then also left just before Christmas. The team suffered badly in confidence and never recovered, and we have finished bottom of the League.

The First team have been offered the chance to stay in the League and not get demoted back to Division One, but although I feel we should stay in the Premier League, it will be best for us to go down and regroup in order to strengthen the team for the future, and hope to win promotion again with a stronger team.

### **8.10. Friends of Cottered Church - Alan Smith**

Cottered Church needs major repairs to the church heating, the amount might be as much as £5,000. All the Friends are working hard to realise this money. Everyone is also working very hard to improve the churchyard.

### **8.11 - Carpet Bowls - Terry McGrath**

The club has between 25-30 members. Last year we entertained two non-playing teams from Baldock and Christchurch. The ladies were Women of Worth, and the men were the Band of brothers. Never having played Carpet Bowls there were plenty of laughs and everyone really enjoyed themselves are hope to come back. The Christmas party was a great success and £180 was raised for the Garden hospice at letchworth. New members are always welcome, we meet at 8.00 pm on Mondays. The cost is £2 per session which includes tea, coffee, and biscuits.

### **8.12 - Horticultural Society - Julian Bishop**

Roger Hayles presented the following report from Julian Bishop.

Membership remains at a satisfactory level and our finances are sound, although we are always pleased to welcome new members. Again this year there has been a full programme of events starting with: -

February 5<sup>th</sup>. A trip planned to Bennington Lordship for "Snowdrop Sunday" that had to be cancelled. Too much snow and not enough snowdrops.

May 4<sup>th</sup>. A talk by Mr Simon White, of Peter Beales Roses, a renowned rose grower in Norfolk. His subject was "Roses A – Z" and he cracked through his address at a remarkable pace and kept the audience engrossed with his comments and tips on propagation and the growing of roses. A real expert. As a bonus, Mr. White brought along a van full of roses and other plants, in excellent condition that he sold at a discounted price.

June 14<sup>th</sup>. Our annual outing this year by coach was to the Chelsea Physic Garden, founded in 1673, and also to the Museum of Garden History, in London. The party was divided into two for a tour of Chelsea Physic guided by experts who introduced us to the world of plants with medicinal properties. Beautiful gardens on the Thames Embankment followed by lunch. We moved on by coach after to the Museum of Garden History that although still interesting, was largely disappointing to those who remembered it before it had been taken over and "developed".

June 24<sup>th</sup>. Village day was decidedly wet following a very wet week.. Nevertheless the Society manned a stall of home grown plants that was a sell-out and profitable. Mrs Ingrid

Snell opened her magnificent garden to the public and sold tea and cakes and we benefitted from a generous donation. The Lordship Manor was also open to the public by courtesy of Mr and Mrs Leach and again to our benefit. We assisted with the gate to the Japanese Gardens that, in spite of the weather, the gardens were still magnificent.

July 12<sup>h</sup> Although well advertised, the trip to the Cambridge Botanical Gardens was not well supported.

August 10<sup>th</sup> The Societies Garden Ramble in the early evening took in the fine garden of Mr and Mrs Hayes, the lovely Cottage Garden of Caron Lawton and the Bishopp's garden at "Shepherds" that was up to the mark and the chat and refreshments on the sunny patio were great.

September 1<sup>st</sup> Our Annual Show on September 1<sup>st</sup>. suffered to an extent that reflected the generally poor growing conditions over the summer period with only 269 exhibits, the smallest number for several years. Nevertheless the Village Hall looked good and the general standard remained high.

12<sup>th</sup>. November The Societies AGM when the Committee of the Association was re-elected for 2013 and I remain as Chairman. The meeting was followed by a dinner in celebration of 70 years since the foundation of the Society in 1942.

2013 the year has commenced with a visit to Bennington Lordship for Snowdrop Sunday on February 17<sup>th</sup> and will continue with a full program of events and outings for the remainder of the year.

Membership of the Society is open to all and not restricted to Cottored Village at a subscription of £3 single or £5 per family. (Telephone Roger Hayes 01763 281484)

#### **8.14 - Luncheon Club - Cilla Grist**

Presented by Dinah Cain

The Luncheon club has been in our village for over ten years, and we'd like to think our team of ladies have been received very well.

Food - Our meals are always wholesome and traditional - and so we've been told very enjoyable.

Price - We charge £3 per 2 course meal, including seconds and tea & coffee. With the exception of our christmas meal, and all the trimmings, this is a cost of £6. This has included wine in the past. Our meals we feel are of great value.

Guests - We provide a dinner every other month, with a range of 30-50 guests each time.

Thanks - Once again, we would like to extend our gratitude to the ladies and gentlemen of the bowls club, who kindly set out all our tables and chairs. Without their help, this would be a difficult task.

Our thanks go to all involved.

#### **8.15 - Parish Paths Partnership - Roger Gomm**

The Parish is signed up to a partnership with the County Council for the maintenance of the surface of those footpaths and bridleways which don't run across private land, and for all stiles, gates, bridges and way marker posts. Basically the Parish Council keeps an eye on the paths and reports any problems to the County. If the path or its furniture is own maintained publicly the County puts in hand work to solve the problem, and if it runs across private land the County officer contacts the land owner or land user to have the work carried out.. With the cuts in local Government expenditure the number of officers dealing with footpaths and rights of way has been halved and the maintenance budget has been cut. So far this hasn't resulted in any great deterioration in the paths. That is because prior to the cuts the county spent a great deal of money in replacing stiles with gates, replacing way mark posts and signposts, draining and resurfacing. It seems likely that over the coming years ordinary wear and tear and erosion will result in some deterioration, but at present most paths are in fairly good repair, despite the exceptionally wet weather earlier, and despite the use of very heavy machinery to harvest the maize crop on some fields. For a couple of months paths were very muddy, but there is little which can be done about that except to wear appropriate footwear. The persistent wind more recently then has dried most of them out. Most of the paths affected by ploughing seem to have been restored by land owners or users – for which thanks, though on some fields ploughing has reduced the width of paths to less than the statutory 1.8 metres. There are some broken or faded way-markers which I will replace during the coming year. The good news is that the programme for putting up misleading signposts has been stopped. The bad news is that the ones already installed are going to stay there until they rust away – which would be in about 20 years time.

Details of the rights of way in Cottered (indeed for the whole of Hertfordshire) are available on the web, both as an interactive map and written descriptions. This gives much more detail and on a larger scale than on the Ordnance Survey map. Put *Hertfordshire Rights of Way* into the search engine and click through to Definitive Map. If you notice any obstructions on the paths let me know. My telephone number is in the Parish Magazine.

#### **8.15 - Cottered Ramblers - Roger Gomm**

Cottered Ramblers meet on the first Sunday of every month, except August in the Village Hall car park for a leisurely walk between 2.p.m. and 4 p.m. We usually walk from the Village Hall, but sometimes share cars and go on an adventure further afield.

#### **8.16 - Petanque - Margaret Leathem**

The season has already started and we have already hosted a regional competition which was a great success with a record number of players entering. Last season went well with us staying in the first division and hopefully doing the same this year.

#### **8.17 - Royal British Legion - John Harwood-Bee**

2012 was indeed a sad year for the branch. We lost some very long serving members including our President Brigadier Charles Hince. Fortunately the branch voted to continue its existence at its AGM and so we are still able to parade our standard at the Armistice service each November. Our membership has been dwindling but now remains steady at around 20. Our small committee must be thanked for their continued support. The National RBL is in the process of change itself and has recently made the decision to open a number of High Street 'walk in' shops in an effort to raise more awareness and support for our military colleagues in need. If anybody wishes to join the branch or know more about the legion please speak to Bill Bennett or John Harwood-Bee.

### **9. OPEN DISCUSSION**

The Parish Council was asked if the problems with the boundary between the Recreation Ground and 1 Home Close had been resolved. The Chairman responded saying that the registration of the Recreation Ground land had been confirmed with Land Registry and the boundary was shown starting from the point of the wall on Flint Cottage, then in a straight line down the rest of the Recreation Ground land with no deviations within the Home Close land. The Chairman went on to say that as far as the Parish Council were concerned, the boundary had been registered clearly and agreed with the boundary line shown on the 1 Home Close registration, and the Parish Council was content that the land was registered correctly and the Parish Council Recreation Ground included the ditch, and this was shown on the Land Registry deeds because the ditch was on the Recreation Ground side of the Flint Cottage wall point. The Chairman was asked again if the problem had gone away, and the Chairman responded that it was resolved as far as the Parish Council was concerned.

Questions were asked about projecting brambles and tree branches into the highway along the Walkern Road. It was noted that such projecting branches were the responsibility of the landowners to remove, but if they constituted a danger to traffic or pedestrians, then both the Police and Highways had authority to remove them.

Roger Gomm stated that the same problems arose along footpaths, and suggested that walkers carry seccateurs at all times so such branches could be clipped back.

There being no other questions, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and giving their reports.

The meeting closed at 9.40 pm.

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Chairman

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Date