

**MINUTES OF COTTERED ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD IN COTTERED VILLAGE HALL
TUESDAY 17TH MAY 2011 AT 8.00 PM**

Present: Bryan Pitman (Chair)
David Charles, John Harwood-Bee, Terry McGrath, Brian Murchie, Francis Ridley, County Cllr Jane Pitman, County Cllr Rose Cheswright, District Cllr Jim Ranger, Joan Diales (acting Clerk), Sgt Duncan Wallace and PC Sarah Liddard (Hertfordshire Police), approximately 60 members of the public.

1. APOLOGIES

None

2. MINUTES OF MEETING

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 18 May 2010 were approved as a correct record.

3. WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed all those who attended and asked Sgt Duncan Wallace from Hertfordshire Police if would like to start off the meeting as he had a second Parish Meeting to attend that evening

4. POLICE REPORT

Sgt Duncan Wallace and PC Sarah Liddard attended on behalf of the local Police. Sgt Wallace reported that although some Police Stations were being sold, there was no intention to sell Buntingford Police Station and that staffing levels would be maintained for 2 years. Crime figures for the area were up from 11 last year to 18 this year but down on the 41 crimes in 2008 so moving in the right direction.

A planning application in North Herts, where it was claimed that the local police supported it, the Police don't normally get involved in Planning applications, unless asked to submit a report, which in this case was used by the applicant.

A recent accident outside of the village where motor cycles were involved and 2 lives were lost had already been the subject of a site visit and any remedial work will be done and a full re-construction is planned. Jim Ranger added that consideration has, in the past been given to changes to white lines on the A507 but accidents were not on the same bend, lots caused by overtaking.

Francis Ridley commented on incidents at his light industrial site in Throcking Lane where CCTV was running and asked if feedback could be provided to him? Sgt Wallace apologised for lack of feedback and said that this would be taken on board

5. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

To save time, the Chairman's report was distributed at the meeting, will appear in the Parish Magazine and become available on the Parish Council web site

6. COUNTY COUNCILLOR

County Councillor Jane Pitman gave an update (kept on file with minutes) and received congratulations on being Chairman of the County Council.

7. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

District Councillor Jim Ranger presented his Report, (kept on file with the Minutes) and added a plea to the Parish Council to attend the Rural Parish Conference.

8. LOCAL GROUP REPORTS

The following local village groups gave reports and updates 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
- 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, Alan Smith, (not able to attend).
- Carpet Bowls, Terry McGrath
- Guide Centre, Deirdre Williams
- Horticultural Society, Julian Bishop
- Luncheon Club, Cilla Grist
- Parish Paths Partnership, Roger Gomm, (not able to attend)
- Cottered Ramblers, Roger Hayes
- Petanque, Margaret Leathem (not able to attend)
- Royal British Legion, John Harwood Bee

9. OPEN DISCUSSION

Lesley Greensmith said she would be organising a Cottered Cockney Night on 22nd Oct at the Village Hall on behalf of the British Legion, dress accordingly, tickets £12 including supper, bring your own drinks. Lesley went on to thank all those who had voted and to say how offensive and upsetting she had found the election leaflet circulated which listed only 6 of the 10 candidates

Geoff Lawton addressed the meeting saying that he had created and distributed the election leaflet with the names of the 6 people he wanted to see elected and that this had been done by him with the help of his family and that this was democracy and had created the biggest turnout for a parish election in the parish. The chair commented that as he understood the Election law, it appeared an offence had been committed and if proven, the fine was up to £5000

Francis Ridley re-iterated that he didn't know about the leaflet being distributed.

Brian Murchie stated that he knew nothing about the leaflet.

Terry McGrath said to Geoff Lawton that "what you did was wrong" and he has caused a lot of upset in the village. Terry explained that as soon as he had received the leaflet he posted his own notice in his garden listing all 10 candidates, he also had no prior knowledge of the leaflet and was very concerned his name had been used on it. John Harwood Bee asked not to slander as the only question mark over the leaflet was that it had no contact details

Jim Ranger explained the problems caused by the lack of an official notice being received by the Parish Clerk

The meeting closed at 9:30pm

Signed _____

Date _____