

**MINUTES OF COTTERED ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD IN COTTERED VILLAGE HALL ON TUESDAY 22 MAY 2012 AT 8.20 PM**

Present Bryan Pitman (Chair), District Cllr Jim Ranger, District Cllr Rose Cheswright; PC LES Bridgeman (Hertfordshire Police), David Charles; John Harwood-Bee; Terry McGrath; Francis Ridley; and 65 members of the public

Officer attending Marty Kilby (Parish Clerk)

**APOLOGIES**

12.48 County Councillor Jane Pitman; Cllr Brian Murchie

**2. MINUTES OF MEETING**

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 17 May 2011 were approved as a correct record.

**3. WELCOME**

The Chairman welcomed all those who attended and asked PC Bridgeman from Hertfordshire Police if would like to start off the meeting.

**4. POLICE REPORT**

PC Les Bridger (Ward Constable for the area) and PC SO Williamson and PCSO Jarvis attended on behalf of the local Police. PC Bridger reported that crime figures were slightly up from 18 last year to 19 this year, there had been nineteen crimes in Cottered and Throcking over the year, but of these only ten were real crimes against property. Most problems were theft from vehicles, with the taking of catalytic converters being the biggest.

Cllr Ranger commented that the Police held quarterly meetings with Councillors to discuss problems in the area where any concerns could be highlighted.

**5. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Cllr Bryan Pitman gave his Chairman's report to the meeting.

Following the May 2011 elections the new council met for the first time on the 17 May. On election the 6 Parish Councillors automatically become the 6 Trustees of the Trust responsible for managing and protecting the greens that cover much of the village. In this role the Trustees are answerable to the Charities Commission. Since May 2011 the Parish Council (PC) has held 6 formal meetings. The "Greens Trust", confusingly called the Recreation Ground, Trust only holds meetings when issues effecting the Green arise.

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

**Planning Applications**

During the year the PC considered a total of 16 planning applications, two of which caused much concern within the village. The application to build a bund at Southern Green Farm Rushden has been refused by North Herts District Council, however the application to demolish the Peasecroft garages has yet to be determined by East Herts District Council (EHDC).

New planning laws have now been introduced, the overall effect being to make it easier to build new houses and EHDC are currently reviewing their long term plans and the possible development sites. In this respect it should be remembered, that in the past, 3 sites in the parish have been offered up for development by their respective owners.

**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.

**General Matters**

As a PC we are very fortunate to have 2 permanent part time staff members, Marty Kilby as Clerk who insures the village administration runs smoothly and Eddie Hayden who keeps the village tidy. The PC is also very grateful for the valuable help from other people such as Bill Pooley who performs the internal audit, Roger Gomm who looks after the Parish footpath network and Nigel Bentley who week after week keeps the grass cut *on the playing field*. *To these people and many others who help us, the PC and I express our sincere thanks.*

**6. COUNTY COUNCILLOR**

County Councillor Jane Pitman was unable to attend in person, she was presenting Neighbourhood Awards to the Police, and the Chairman read her report to the meeting (kept on file with the minutes)..

**7. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR**

District Councillor Jim Ranger presented his report, (kept on file with the Minutes) and particularly highlighted the planning application relating to the demolition of Peasecroft garages. The Housing Association had not yet withdrawn the application, but the District Council will refuse this. Local residents were urged to contact the Housing Association and ask to rent the garages that were not being let.

**8. FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

The unaudited financial statement for the year ending 31 March 2012 was available for inspection (kept on file with the minutes)

**9. 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 (Deirdre Williams had to leave earlier)
- Horticultural Society, Julian Bishop (read by the Treasurer)
- Luncheon Club, Cilla Grist
- Parish Paths Partnership, Roger Gomm
- Cottered Ramblers, Roger Hayes
- Petanque, Margaret Leathem
- Royal British Legion, John Harwood Bee

**10. OPEN DISCUSSION**

Lorna Bramley asked if anything could be done to control the large amount of heavy traffic that was using Brook End lane, which is also footpath 15/16. The verges along Brook End were getting churned up and badly damaged. Roger Gomm explained that FP15 starts on a metal road, which then turns into an unmade road with no tarmac surface. It was queried whether the Meadow Court property had vehicular access

Cllr Jim Ranger was asked again about the planning application to demolish the Peasecroft garages and he reiterated that the District Council would refuse this application.

The meeting closed at 9:45pm

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_