

**Minutes of the Meeting of Cottered Parish Council held
Monday 13th March, 2009
7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall**

Present: Bryan Pitman (Chair)
David Charles
Lesley Greensmith
Terry McGrath
Brian Murchie
Derek Newman

The Clerk and 7 members of the public

Action

1. **Apologies** there were no apologies for absence.
2. The **minutes** of the meeting held on 12th January 2009, having been circulated, were approved as a correct record.
3. Matters brought forward:

Tree work:

 - (i) **Replacement tree:** obtained and waiting to be planted.
 - (ii) Willow trees causing a problem in Brook Lane have been trimmed.
4. **Chairman's report.**
 - (i) The Chairman & Clerk attended a **Sustainable Community Strategy Consultation** presentation on 21st January 2009 at East Herts Council Offices. This is Government initiative to generate a sustainable strategy plan. The meeting was well attended and a handout will be circulated with the minutes.
 - (ii) A new **bus stop sign** was put in place at the top of Potato Lane.
 - (iii) An additional **VA sign** is soon to be installed close to the Bull and following consultation with Mr Amey, trees and bushes have been trimmed on the approach to the new sign.
 - (iv) As the final stage to transfer the **Council's bank accounts with Lloyds TSB** into the name and address of the new Clerk, the Chairman, Councillor Terry McGrath and the Clerk visited the bank to complete the identification process.
 - (v) As the deadline given to the Football Club to produce a safety certificate for the **Football club lights** was not met, the power to the lights was disconnected and will not be re-instated until a Safety Certificate has been received.
 - (vi) Following concerns at the January meeting, documents relating to Herts Highways **gritting of roads** policy were circulated to Members of the Council
 - (vii) A number of Highways problems including new salt bins, re-filling existing salt bins, outstanding pavement repair, excess water etc. were highlighted. The Clerk to communicate all faults to Herts Highways.
 - (viii) **Oakmead Lodge** – The Chairman, having looked at the planning application and the new permitted development rules that came into effect

Clerk

in October 2008, confirmed that the outbuildings being erected at Oakmead Lodge appeared to fall under permitted development which allows certain outbuildings to cover up to 50% of a garden.

5. **Finances.** The balance of the Parish Council current account is £681.29 and the interest bearing account £6,287.58. Due to 0.5% Bank of England interest rate, the interest received for January and February was only 54p and 53p respectively.

Cheques signed since the last meeting:

527	SLCC	£66.00	Membership
528	D Newman	£27.75	replacement tree

The following cheques were approved and signed:

529	E Hayden	£117.05	litter picking March 09
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531	Cottered Village Hall	£20.00	hire of hall 13/03/09
532	S J Howell	£370.00	tree trimming Brook End
533	J Diales	£424.22	salary and expenses Jan to March

6. Planning

The following applications were received and circulated since the last meeting:

(i) **Land at, Stocking Hill Lane**, Cottered, Hertfordshire - Alteration of double garages to 2 no. elderly persons (defined as being over 50 years of age) dwellings to single garages with residential accommodation, provision of 2 no. surface parking spaces with associated landscaping and minor alterations to bin store.

(ii) **Wildwinds, Warren Lane** first floor front & two-storey infill extension incorporating Juliet balcony to rear elevation. The plans were circulated and the Parish Council raised no objections.

Updates

Cumberlow Green Farm, Rushden Application for four additional in-vessel composting clamps; Letter sent to County conveying the Parish Council's objections. A decision notice has subsequently been received which permits the development to proceed.

Southern Green Farm, Rushden formation of soil bund around existing grain store. A letter was written to North Herts DC objecting to this. However the DC has now decided that this type of development should be dealt with by the County as it involves substantial disposal of waste. North Herts DC have therefore returned the application to the applicant.

Decision Notices

Lodge Farm, Cottered: Erection of new storage building, permission has been granted.

Lordship Farm: replacement of agricultural storage building the proposed replacement due to its size and siting in rural/conservation area. Permission had been refused.

7. Clerk's report.

Questionnaire from NHS Primary Care Trust: regarding the merging of the North East & West PC trusts was circulated and the clerk completed and returned the questionnaire.

SLCC (Society of Local Council Clerks) membership: The Clerk attended a "Nuts & Bolts" training session at Wheathampstead in January. This proved a useful introduction to the role of a Parish Clerk. The Council agreed to the expenditure of £50 to enable the Clerk to undertake the Working with your Council SLCC training programme.

HAPTC (Hertfordshire Association of Parish & Town Councils) The Council's membership of HAPTC was cancelled some years ago but to provide a source of information and help for the new Clerk the Council was asked to give consideration to re-joining HAPTC at a cost of £352 per annum. The Council agreed to proceed with membership for 12 months and review the membership before renewing next year.

A507 Baldock Road notification from Hertfordshire Highways of proposed "no waiting at any time" and "no waiting at any time on verges" signs to be erected along the A507 both east and west of Throcking Road and The Crescent.

Storage of Council papers: A formal request made to the Village Hall Committee to allow the Parish Council to store Council papers Village Council. EH Council provide regular tours of their Archive facility and the Clerk will aim to attend the session in June to ascertain what facilities exist.

East Herts Rural Parish Conference: is being held in Standon & Puckeridge Village Hall on Wednesday 27th May 2009. Up to 3 representatives from each parish can attend. A draft Agenda is attached to the Minutes. Councillors wishing to attend should advise the Clerk.

Hertfordshire County Council Minerals Development Plan– Site selection methodology consultation. The County Council is keen to get The Council's views on the proposed site selection methodology, by 6th April. The Chairman agreed to make the Council's response.

NATS update letter to conduct a new consultation on revised proposals to redraw the aircraft route map in the area of south-east England.

Publications received and available to councillors:

Community Voice: Minutes of the January meeting plus notification of meeting on 30th March 2009

Hertfordshire Local Access Forum Annual Report 2007-2008

Local Development Framework Bulletin No. 2 – Winter 2008/09

CPRE Fieldwork March 2009.

The Hertfordshire Society Newsletter February 2009

Town and Parish Standard Issue 4 – February 2009

8. Other matters

- (i) The mowing machine used to cut the grass on the playing field is not working which could cause problems to both the Football and Cricket Clubs.
- (ii) The dirt behind the curb at the top of Warren Lane, as the road turns left onto the B1037 has eroded so that the curb sticks out into the road with a dip behind it. This has caused damage to at least one vehicle. Council members will inspect on Friday 20th March at 6pm
- (iii) Members of the public present, express their concerns regarding the

proposed changes to the garages on the new development at Stocking Hill. The Parish Council undertook to take these views into account since they were currently assessing the active Planning Application

- (iv) Questions concerning how to apply for Rights of Way across the Village Green were discussed and answered.

The meeting closed at 9:20 pm and was followed by an open session.

Dates of future meetings:

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Tuesday 19th May, 2009 at 7:30pm

Monday 18th May 2009 Annual Meeting of the Parish Council

Monday 13th July 2009

Monday 14th September 2009

Monday 9th November 2009

Monday 18th January 2010