

**Minutes of the Meeting of Cottered Parish Council held on
Tuesday 20th July, 2010 at 7:30p.m. in the Village Hall**

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

The Clerk and 10 members of the public

Action

1. **Apologies:** no apologies were received
2. The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 18th May 2010, having been circulated, were approved as a correct record.
3. **Chairman's report**
 - (i) 9th June: Meeting of the Parish Trust was held.
 - (ii) 10th June: East Herts Rural Parish Conference attended by the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Clerk. Due to the way that planning regulations are changing under the new Government there was no mention of the Parish Plan in any of the presentations. Planning applications, including the plans are now available on line. Some of the other topics were Church Farm Ardeley, Agrarian Renaissance and "Meals on Wheels" now run by Hertfordshire CC,
 - (iii) 17th June: Village of the Year judging took place in Cottered
 - (iv) 25th June: The Chairman attended a Civic reception in Buntingford.
 - (v) 27th June: Village Day, Mrs Woodgate went round with a petition for an additional bus shelter and obtained 102 signatures, 72 from Cottered residents representing 15% of the population of the Parish.
4. **Football pitch**

A 2nd request from Stevenage Ladies Football team and a request from Stotfold Junior Football Club to use Cottered's football pitches for 12 Sunday games through the Winter were considered. After much discussion and re-assurances that the state of the pitch would be the primary consideration in deciding whether matches would take place the decision was taken that Stotfold Junior Football Club would not be permitted to use the facilities but a vote of 3 for and 2 against, with the Chairman abstaining, agreed that Stevenage Ladies could use the facilities during the 2010/11 season with the proviso that the Parish Council would still have the final say.
5. **Village of the year:**

In recognition of Cottered being judged Hertfordshire Village of the Year East an award ceremony will take place from 2:30pm on Saturday 24th July outside the Village Hall for the unveiling of the totem pole followed by tea and cake at the Girl Guide Centre. However it was noted by the Chairman that some concerns had been expressed by some residents "being told to cut their hedges" in a rural community and some wild life habitat being removed and should be considered if it is intended to continue to enter the competition in following years.

6. Bus shelter

Consideration was given to a 2nd bus shelter in Cottered. The Clerk produced figures from 2007 when the existing shelter cost £3691 less a grant of £2,050, from the public transport unit. Representatives from the Village of the Year Committee offered to raise funds for a 2nd bus shelter but only if the 2nd bus shelter is wooden. It was pointed out that this would not be in keeping with the existing bus shelter. The sum of £20 had been raised on Village Day by the sale of goods donated by Mrs Woodgate and was handed to the Clerk to be banked.

The Clerk to investigate whether any grants are available for a 2nd bus shelter.

Clerk

7. Maintenance

- (i) Hertfordshire CC require a **tree** to be planted to replace the one cut down outside "Norton Cottage". As planting should not take place until late Autumn consideration of species and location to be considered at the September meeting.
- (ii) The Clerk stated that in her opinion the **Notice Board in Throcking** is in need of attention. Brian Murchie was asked to take a look. BM
- (iii) **Cricket club access road** repair. Although the dry weather meant that the road appeared much better it was agreed that the work should still take place: Brian Murchie agreed to contact a contractor to get a price. BM
- (iv) Bullards have strimmed the grass bank east of The Bull opposite Glebe House which had been requested by a resident affected by the overgrown bank.

8. Registration of village greens: The decision was taken not to register the Village Greens with the Land Registry.

9. Finances

- (i) The balance of the current account is £3,336.17 and the balance of the interest account is £3,791.70. The budget report for the 3 months to the end of June 2010 was accepted.
- (ii) The following sums have been received since the last meeting

£353.00	B M Murchie, sale of the old gang mower
£1523.82	EHDC, litter picker payment 2010/2011 (increase of £60.85)
£3.45	EDF Energy, wayleave payment
£68.41	EDF Energy, refund from telephone kiosk unmetered supply
£250.00	Herts & Essex Newspapers Ltd., Village of the Year prize
- (iii) Parish Trust received:

£250.00	Darling Homes, "to let" board on village green, Stocking Hill
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- (iv) The following cheque signed since the last meeting was approved:

576	£359.50	HAPTC, subscription
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- (v) The following cheques were approve and sign:

577	£100.00	East Herts Citizen's Advice Service, grant
578	£318.47	P Thody, materials for repair to seat outside Bull public house
579	£20.00	Cottered Village Hall, hall hire July
580	£35.00	The Information Commissioner, Data Protection subscription
581	£50.17	J Diales, Clerk's expenses May to July 2010 inc. training telecons and cork backing for the noticeboard by the postbox.

Action

10. To receive **Planning** report

Planning applications received

- (i) 3/10/0894/FP: The Limes, Cottered Road, Throcking, SG9 9RR; Proposed conservatory to East Elevation, application supported. The decision made on 06-Jul-2010 by EHDC Planning for this application was Approved with Conditions
- (ii) 3/10/1000/FP: The Pightle, Cottered, Buntingford, Herts, SG9 9QB; Two storey side, single storey side, front and rear extension, although a large extension, due to the location this application was not opposed. Updated plans have since been received which show a reduction in the size of the western extension.

Decision notices from EHDC Planning:

- (iii) 3/0770/LB alterations to Grade II stable block, Broadfield Hall, Throcking, Listed building consent **granted** subject to conditions

Other planning matters:

- (iv) Notification from Drake Consultants of mobile telecommunications planning application at CSR1032 Throcking Water Tower, Throcking, replaced 2 masts with 1.
- (v) Notification from resident of their application for secondary glazing at Thatch Cottage (listed building) advises that this will have no effect on the exterior appearance of the cottage as the secondary units will fit into the window recesses. No notification has been received from EHDC Planning Department.

11. **Clerk's report**

- (i) Notification of Scouts night hike on Saturday 25th September, on the web site and will be displayed on notice boards nearer the time.
- (ii) BT Phone box in Throcking is now owned by the PC and the required notice has been displayed in the kiosk. The Clerk noted that paint is peeling off around the door of the kiosk. Brian Murchie was asked if he would inspect this. BM
- (iii) Hertfordshire Local Access Forum 2nd Conference Workshop will be held on 9th October 2010.
- (iv) Introduction to East Herts LDF Core Strategy issues and options consultation "issues and options introductory session", the Chairman & Clerk will attend on Monday 26th July in Bishops Stortford.
- (v) It was agreed that the £250 prize money from the Village of the Year competition should go towards the cost of the materials for the repair of the seat outside The Bull.

12. **Village sign:** following the suggestion that a village sign should be considered to replace the "Village of the Year East" winning plaque, it was suggested that an article be placed in the Parish Magazine, the article to include information regarding design, likely cost etc.

13. **Litter bin** as the sign put on the litter bin close to the flats at the end of Peascroft asking that dog faeces not be placed in this bin was now being ignored Lesley Greensmith asked if this litter bin could be relocated. The Clerk to contact EHDC. Clerk

14. Date of next meeting: Tuesday 14th September 2010 at 7:30pm