

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING OF COTTERED PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN COTTERED VILLAGE HALL ON TUESDAY 11 JANUARY 2011 AT 7.30 PM

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

Officer present: Marty Kilby (Clerk and RFO)

Attending: 8 members of the public

1. **APOLOGIES** **Action**
Received from District Cllr Jim Ranger
2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
There were no declarations of interest
3. **MINUTES OF MEETING**
The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 9 November 2010 were before the meeting and after signed replacing the name of Cllr Terry McGrath with Cllr Brian Murchie in minute 6.1, the minutes were signed as a correct record.
4. **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**
The planning application by Southern Green Farm for the erection of a bund has been withdrawn for the moment. It is thought likely that an amended application will be submitted at some time in the near future.
An additional sign by a new estate agent had appeared on the triangle at the top of Potato Lane. This had been removed and the estate agents had been contacted.
A night hike by Scouts had caused some inadvertent noise. The Scout Group concerned had apologised.
During the recent snow the road to Throcking had not been cleared or salted adequately. Clerk to ask Highways how this road fitted into the clearance programme. Clerk
Buttermilk Farm planning application will be before East Herts Development Committee on Wednesday 12 January. Agreed that the Chairman will again represent the Parish Council and speak in opposition to the application. Ingrid Snell would also be speaking in opposition. BP
5. **PLANNING**
 - 5.1. **Buttermilk Farm, Baldock Road, Buntingford – 3/10/1598/FP**
Farm based anaerobic digester.
As recorded in minute 4, the Chairman will be speaking in opposition to the application.
 - 5.2. **Applications previously circulated**
Cherry Green, Westmill to Reed – 3/10/2156/SU
Replacement tower line with wood poles
(Cllr Brian Murchie declared an interest in this application as part of the line runs across his land). Noted that in contravention of regulations, no landowner has been consulted or approached by the applicants.
Resolved: No decision should be taken until the affected landowners had been consulted and reached agreement with the applicants.

Ye Olde Off Licence, Cottered – 3/10/2080/FP
Erection of detached double garage
Resolved: No objections

5.3 **Cottered Service Station, Baldock Road, Cottered – 3/10/2242/RP**

Approval of reserved matters (landscaping and design)

Approval had previously been given to the erection of a 3 bedroom house, and the landscaping and design was now being submitted for approval.

Resolved: Councillors to consider the application of the next two weeks and return to Clerk before 26th January so the decision can be conveyed to East Herts Council

All Cllrs
Clerk

5.4. **Planning Schedule**

The updated planning schedule is an appendix to these minutes.

6. **MAINTENANCE**

Playground Repairs

Clerk had obtain estimates for the minor repairs which had been highlighted in the Annual Inspection Report. It was agreed to accept the estimate from Clements Play Management for the repair of the swing chains, rocking horse timber and regrout gaps the safety matting for a total cost of £456 plus VAT. It was agreed not to replace the bent swing leg on the junior swing at this time, which had been listed as a very minor risk.

After further discussion it was decided to investigate the merit and cost of replacing the safety matting with woodchips.

Clerk

Resolved: Quotation from Clements Play Management for the listed repairs to the play equipment in the sum of £456 to be accepted.

Clerk

7. **RIGHTS OF WAY**

7.1 **Rights of Way Improvement Plan**

HCC Rights of Way Service had requested that Parish Councils consider improvements they might like to see in the parish or local area. In a letter dated 15 November 2010 the RoW Officer listed 12 core actions that might be considered. In discussion it was noted that a lot of good work had been done in the parish already. One particular area of concern was that two stiles along FP 43 had been replaced by HCC with gates that were not stock proof. Clerk to request that this problem be investigated and resolved by HCC.

Clerk

Resolved: Rights of Way Improvement Plan request to be passed to Roger Gomm for the 3PP to consider.

7.2 **Diversion - Footpath 45**

In 2004 the Parish Council applied for a diversion of FP45. This was agreed with the landowners and HCC. HCC have now written to say that applications are not able to be processed free of charge. Concern was expressed at a delay of seven years before HCC addressed this project. Clerk to convey Council's feelings to HCC and also find out the costs involved. CC Jane Pitman might also be able to help.

Clerk

8. **FINANCE**

8.1 **Financial Report**

The financial report was before the Council and noted.

8.2 **Payments authorised**

591	EHDC	£851.69	2007 election recharge
592	Steward Bullard	£2,063.02	2010 grasscutting as contract
593	Clerk	£380.05	Salary and expenses 2 months Nov/Dec
594	Clerk (28.1.11)	£164.00	Salary Jan 2011
595	Clerk 28.2.11)	£164	Salary Feb 2011
597	Nigel Bentley	£34.50	Fuel cutting football field as agreed

Resolved: £100 per year from April 2011 to be donated to the person operating the mower.

8.3 Precept 2011-2012

The precept calculations and agreed budget are an appendix to these minutes. After discussion it was agreed that the precept would not be increased for the coming year.

Resolved: To adopt the Budget for 2011-2012 and to precept for the sum of £6,000 for the coming financial year

9. COTTERED VILLAGE APPRECIATION SOCIETY

The Cottered Village Appreciation Society (CVAS) had been formed and the Chairman invited John Harwood-Bee to speak to the meeting and explain its formation, aims and intended operation. The minutes of the inaugural meeting had been previously circulated.

JHB explained the background, which built on the success of the 2010 campaign which entered and gained the top award in the Village of the Year East. The aims of the CVA are: To promote and enhance the village of Cottered for the benefit on the inhabitants by organising events and by association with the statutory and voluntary authorities in a common aim to improve and maintain the appearance of the village and to proactively encourage pride in the village.

Clerk

A grass roots grant of £3,000 had been obtained and the majority of this will be spent on purchasing insurance and equipment.

Projects to improve the village were coming up and the CVAS was able to apply for funding for the benefit of the village from funds that were not able to be accessed by parish councils.

JHB was thanked, and would be approaching the Parish Trust for permission to go on the Greens as in the previous year. Although invited, no other members of the public made any comment.

Resolved: The Parish Council agreed to support the CVAS

10. CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk's report was before the Council and the correspondence noted. Two items of correspondence were highlighted, the first being a carriageway maintenance works order and it was agreed that this be uploaded to the website. The second was a reminder of the 2012 Diamond Jubilee 4 day special Jubilee weekend from 2nd to 5th June 2012. Agreed to put this on the agenda for the March meeting.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 8 March 2011 at 7.30 pm to be followed by a Parish Trust meeting

The meeting closed at 8.55 pm and was followed by an open session.

Signed _____

Date _____