

**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING OF COTTERED PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN COTTERED VILLAGE HALL ON TUESDAY 13 SEPTEMBER 2011 AT 7.10 PM**

Present Bryan Pitman (Chair) Terry McGrath  
David Charles Brian Murchie  
John Harwood-Bee Francis Ridley

Officer attending Marty Kilby

Present: 10 members of the public.

**APOLOGIES**

11.39 None

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

11.40 None

**MINUTES OF MEETING**

11.42 The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 19 July 2011 were before the meeting. The minutes were signed as a correct record.

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

11.43 **20<sup>th</sup> July:** The Chairman contacted James Smyth regarding footpath 45 and sought his views regarding the PC proposal that the PC explore with HCC the possibility of a cost sharing arrangement. A letter to the HCC was drafted and sent to James Smyth for comment, who is currently considering the situation.

**23<sup>rd</sup> July:** The Chairman received telephone calls and e-mails from Cottered residents who were very concerned about the high volume of tractor and trailer traffic running backwards and forwards to Cumberlow Green, up to five tractors were reported to have been flowing in a rotational pattern. People were becoming aware that a further planning application was being considered to increase the throughput of the waste site by 33.3 %, together with a request for Saturday working. It was suggested that neighbouring Parish Councils should be contacted and their views sought about this application and also the application for the waste transfer site at Buttermilk Hall. The Chairman contacted the Chairman of Rushden and Wallington and was told that they were seeking assurances that Saturday working would only be allowed when a working week contained a bank holiday, i.e. the 5 working day would be maintained. After various attempts to contact Aspenden PC, their new Chairman left a telephone message to say that he was not aware of the application and would be away for a period before the matter could be investigated. On his return he made contact again and reported that Aspenden PC had not commented on the application. Yesterday he telephoned to say he had visited the site and found it very tidy and well organised.

**1<sup>st</sup> July:** Leon Snell reported the main village sewer pipe running through his garden was leaking badly. The water company found a blockage and subsequently reported that it had been cleared. However over the following week this sequence of blocking and unblocking re-occurred.

**9<sup>th</sup> August:** The re-occurring sewage problem in Lower Farm's garden was finally resolved when large tree root material was retrieved from the pipe.

**12<sup>th</sup> September:** The Chairman accompanied the HCC Development Control Committee on a visit to the Cumberlow waste site.

**15<sup>th</sup> September:** Chairman and Vice Chairman are to attend Parish Conference at Datchworth.

**PLANNING****11.44 Notification of planning applications**

The change to email only of notification of planning applications was not satisfactory mainly because for a large application the size of the drawings was too small to see full details of proposals. Agreed Chairman would discuss with Kevin Steptoe at the parish conference. Agreed to return to the previous method of circulating the planning form, but with A4 size drawings.

**11.45 Planning Schedule**

The updated planning schedule is an appendix to these minutes.

**11.46 Mayville, Stevenage Road, Cottered**

The Chairman stated several parishioners had reported to him that the cow barn on the Stevenage Road, now known as Mayville, was being occupied. Cllr Ridley also said he believed this was the case. Clerk to ascertain exact details from Cllr Ridley and then enquire from EH Planning what permissions apply to the site.

**11.47 Village Hall Art Exhibition**

An art exhibitions was to be held at the Village Hall on 1st - 2nd October. Agreed that publicity posters could be erected by Mrs Westerman at both entrances to the village. All councillors agreed.

**RIGHTS OF WAY****11.48 Footpath 45**

The history of the problems relating to Footpath 45 were related from 1950 when the original walk was wrongly reported. In the 1980s the Court found in the landowner's favour that the footpath was not a designated path. In the 1990s the Rambler Association wanted to re-open the matter and divert the footpath. The Parish Council's view is that a diversion is not appropriate because the footpath technically and legally does not exist.

**Resolved:** The Definitive Map Team Leader be invited to a meeting with Parish Councillors when the matter can be fully discussed.

**11.49 Southern Green Farm Track Status**

HCC have stated that in 2008 North Herts District Council determined an application (08/01257/1AG) to upgrade the track, stating that planning permission was not required, presumably on the basis that the works were deemed to be reasonably necessary for the purposes of agriculture. The Parish Council noted that a recent planning application at the farm for extending the track to been withdrawn. Concern was expressed about the materials being deposited on the track, and about the number and type of vehicles using the access.

**11.50 Parish Paths Partnership (P3)**

Groundwork Hertfordshire were considering the work plans for the year 2012/13 on the Parish Paths Partnership. Roger Gomm had compiled a note of work that needed considering. Clerk to arrange a meeting with Groundwork Hertfordshire to discuss possibilities.

**FINANCE****11.51 Financial Report**

The financial report was before the Council and noted.

**11.52 Budget**

The budget would be discussed in full at the November meeting and items for consideration will include the Mowers, grants (among requests received were those from CPRE, Herts Air Ambulance, play equipment report, phone box, bus shelter).

**11.53 Payments Authorised**

612	Clerk	£386.89	Clerk salary and expenses August/Sept
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**11.54 Audit Annual Return 2010-2011**

External Auditors BDO had asked that the annual return be amended to show VAT payments as included in the total expenditure but not included in the balance sheet. This had been done.

**CLERK'S REPORT**

11.55 The Clerk's report was before the Council and the correspondence noted. The report is an appendix to the minutes.

Arising from an item on the report (the boundary between 1 Home Close and the Recreation Ground), after discussion it was agreed that a Greens (Recreation Ground Trust) meeting be arranged to follow the next Parish Council meeting so that this can be discussed fully.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

11.56 Eddie Haydon was unwell and the Parish Council asked that good wishes and hopes for a speedy recovery be sent. In the meantime the Councillors will undertake litter picking duties, emptying bins, etc.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Tuesday 8 November 7.30 pm in the Village Hall. A Recreation Ground Trust meeting will follow the Parish Council meeting (note: Trust meetings are not open to the public).

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

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## **OPEN SESSION**

1. The owner of 1 Home Close stated that they could arrange for the Pitcher Trust solicitors to talk to the Parish Council and explain to them how the Pitcher Trust had procured the Recreation Ground ditch. It was agreed that the matter should be considered at the next meeting of the Cottered Recreation Ground Trust.
2. Planning applications - Parish Council were urged to continue to request paper versions of planning applications.
3. Southern Green Farm Road - comments made that if EHCouncil and the Police got together then they could request that HCC look at the situation again.
4. Southern Green Farm - complaints made that large grain lorries were accessing the farm from Throcking Lane.
5. British Legion - the meeting was reminded that the British Legion was 90 this year, and a celebration evening was to be held on 22 October at the Village Hall.
6. 39 The Crescent - complaint made that the hedge is growing over the path and Highways to be requested to arrange for cutting back. Clerk to again request that this be cut back.

The open session closed at 9.05 pm