

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING OF COTTERED PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN COTTERED VILLAGE HALL ON TUESDAY 13 NOVEMBER 2012 AT 7.30 PM

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

Officer attending Marty Kilby

Present: CCllr Rose Cheswright; Sgt Duncan Wallace; PC Robert
10 members of the public.

APOLOGIES

12.100 None

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

12.101 None

MINUTES OF MEETING

12.102 The minutes of the meeting held on 11 September 2012 were before the meeting and signed as a correct record.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**12.103 26th September**

Chairman attended an all day course at Kimpton, designed to educate Councillors on the law relating to their duties in managing and protecting village greens and all other open spaces under public administration. Several Parish Councillors reported the infringement of their Parish boundaries by adjacent private property owners.

4th October

Mrs Woodgate is very pleased to report she believes her campaign to have Herts CC fund a second bus shelter is yielding results and they are promising to contact Cottered PC regarding financial arrangements.

11th October

Mr Smith from the Crescent on the A507, is making valiant efforts to reduce the speed of traffic passing through Cottered. He has contacted the police and written to Herts Highways. As a result of his efforts Sgt. Duncan Wallace has arranged to have temporary instrumentation installed to monitor the speed of through traffic. Officers have also been seen to be using speed guns in the village.

20th October

Several residents informed the chairman that a tree was being felled near the footpath alongside the cricket pavilion. Chairman investigated and found a contractor had felled the tree and was cutting it into small logs. The Contractor said he was working for the owner of Flint Cottage and he had been assured that the owners of the tree were the residents of 1 Home Close, who had given their permission. Both property owners were present at the site and were busily carrying the logs away.

22 October

Chairman sent an e-mail to Mr Malcolm Amey querying his decision to destroy an ash tree and informed him that the tree was situated on disputed Parish land. Following a reply from Mr Amey giving his reasons, the Chairman requested Mr Amey to follow his previous practice of informing the PC of tree work in Cottered.

24th October

Chairman attended at EHDC course on the new code of conduct.

31st October

Many calls were received reporting dangerous conditions on the road from a field near Throcking church extending to and along the A507. This road was covered in mud caused by loads of maize feed being transported to the Buttermilk power station. As a consequence of an increasing number of telephone calls the Chairman contacted Mr Warren Scott who apologised for the incident and said he was orderings equipment to ensure the problem would not occur next year.

A request had been made to Herts County Council by a parishioner petitioning for a bus shelter opposite the Bull Public House in Cottered. The HCC Transport Plan Manager was visiting the site and would decide whether to add this location to the programme of shelter builds.

POLICE REPORT

12.104 Speeding, Mud of Roads, Crime figures

The Chairman invited Sgt Duncan Wallace to report on the recent speeding surveys that had taken place in Cottered.

Sgt Wallace reported that complaints had been made about the large number of vehicles exceeding the speed limit through the village, particularly at the eastern end of the A507. Two surveys were carried out, one in September (21-28 September) and one in October (4-11 October). The results from the two surveys were very similar showing little change in either the number of vehicles or the speed.

The average was that there were 53,000 vehicle movements per week, with very little difference in numbers from east to west (about 26,500 vehicle movements each way). Less than 4% of the vehicles were 7.5 tons or over. 25% of vehicles exceeded the guideline limits. The mean speed was 33-34 mph. 11,000 vehicles were over the speed limit in both weeks, 22,000 vehicles altogether.

The main problem was at the eastern end of Cottered from the Throcking road towards Buntingford. Highways would not put in speed cameras because the road did not fall within the criteria and it was not a suitable site for a mobile police speed check. Police would be asking Highways if any traffic calming measures could be taken in this area.

In October movements in and out of Buttermilk Farm had deposited an unacceptable and dangerous amount of mud on the A507 and surrounding roads. The Police had attended, and had also informed Herts Highways who were charging Scott & Scott for their time and equipment expended in clearing up this occurrence. Scott & Scott were taking measures to ensure that a repeat occurrence does not happen next year.

There were no issues arising from Halloween and only 3 crime incidents since September, all of which were domestic related. In the area there has been a 25.9% reduction in reported crime.

The Chairman thanked Sgt Wallace and the Police left the meeting. CCllr Rose Cheswright also left the meeting.

FINANCE

12.105 Finance Report and Payments Authorised

The finance report was before the meeting, together with a budget comparison updated. The authorised payments were:

642	HAPTCBDO LLB	£50	Chairman Open Spaces mtg (£25 received from Chairman towards this expense)
643	Steward Bullard Ltd	£1,862.70	Grasscutting Cottered and Throcking 2012
644	W Murchie & Sons	£39.22	Diesel for grasscutting 2012
645	M Kilby	£511.60	Clerk invoice and expenses Sept/Oct/Nov
646	Village Hall	£15	November meeting
647	Limbach Banham	£50	Land Registry fee Recreation Ground
648	Nigel Bentley	£100	Grasscutting 2012

12.106 Budget 2013-2014

Councillors received budget suggestions and would report back at the January meeting when the precept would be agreed.

PLANNING

12.107 Planning Schedule

The updated planning schedule is an appendix to these minutes.

12.108 3/12/1854/FP - The Old Rectory, Throcking

Two storey front extension

This plan had not been circulated and councillors asked for time to consider it. At the end of the Council meeting the result was

Resolved: No objection

12.109 Mayville, Cottered

EHDC has reported that authorisation has now been given for action to be taken to ensure that the unauthorised residential use of the barn now cease, but that the implementation of this will take some time.

12.110 Elmfield Stables, Thirty Acre Farm, Broadfield, Throcking

EHDC have refused permission for the change of use to a single pitch Traveller site.

12.111 Stocking Hill removal of Section 106 Age Restriction Condition

EHDC had voted not to remove the Section 106 Condition that the dwellings should be inhabited by residents of 50 years of age or over.

12.112 Sainsburys Storage Depot, Buntingford

Nothing further was known on the progress of this application. It was noted that the vehicle movements relating to the application would amount to 600 vehicle movements per day.

HIGHWAYS**12.113 Cotted Road, Throcking**

Clerk to ask Highways again about the provision of kerbs along the verges outside 1-6 Cotted Road.

12.114 Salt Provision

Clerk to request the same amount of salt provision as that provided last year and to ask again for a salt bin at Brook End.

12.115 Parking in The Crescent and Peasecroft and on the A507

Vehicles were being parked along the A507 opposite The Crescent on the grass verges. The number of vehicles parking in Peasecroft had grown so much that it was very difficult for cars to get through. Councillors asked that if any residents had suggestions about how the problem could be overcome, then these would be very welcome.

RECREATION GROUND**12.116 Annual Playground Inspection**

Quotations had been received for the repair/refurbishment of the low risk items in the play area.

It was agreed to authorise Clements Playground to replace:

Cradle Swing chains - £60

Trim Trail missing bungs - £15

HCC to be asked to repair the kissing gate, which they had erected.

Cllr Murchie would bring suggestions for litter bin replacements (all ten) to the next meeting.

Councillors would jet wash the tiled bases to remove algae and consideration would be given to replacing the tiles with another base (sand, grass, and woodchippings were all mentioned).

Cllr Murchie offered to look at the rocking horse to see what repairs were necessary.

12.117 Land Registry

Land Registry were working on the registration of the Recreation Land, and had indicated to the solicitors that a conclusion might be reached by the end of November.

12.118 Tree on Recreation Ground

Noted that a tree at the north west corner of the Recreation Ground, next to Flint Cottage, had been felled and the logs taken by neighbours. The Arboriculturalist at East Herts Council (Malcolm Amey) had been informed that this tree was owned by the Parish Council and had been felled without permission.

RIGHTS OF WAY**12.119 Footpath 45**

Cllr Ridley, Cllr Murchie and James Smyth met Richard Cathbert and Angela Simpkins from HCC Rights of Way unit on site at Middle Farm. It was found that HC|C did not have all the information. HCC would photocopy the missing important information. After discussion it was agreed that Mr Smyth apply for a modification order to safeguard him in anyone complained to RoW about the path. It will also start the progress to remove the path from the OS map. This could take many years. Fresh information is being sought to help further. Cllr Murchie left the meeting and the others walked the path and agreed it was probably in the wrong place and could be part, if not all, of a sheep walk to the buildings.

CLERK'S REPORT

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

OTHER BUSINESS**12.121 Throcking Road**

There were two deep ruts along the Throcking road, which were bad enough for cars to bottom on the middle hump. Highways had been informed and Clerk to contact them again.

12.122 Hedges

The roadside hedges were very overgrown on many of the minor roads and a number needed cutting back. Clerk to contact Highways, particularly mentioning the Walkern Road.

PUBLIC SESSION (Commenced at 9.10 pm)

A request was made for a salt bin down Brook End - this had been requested and Clerk to chase.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

12.99 The next meeting to be at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 8 January 2013.

The meeting closed at 9.12 pm

Signed _____

Date _____