

MINUTES OF COTTERED AND THROCKING PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN COTTERED VILLAGE HALL ON TUESDAY 11th NOVEMBER 2014 AT 7.30 PM

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

Officer attending: Denise Anderson (Clerk) 9 members of the public

APOLOGIES

14.67 Francis Ridley

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

14.68 None

MINUTES OF MEETING

14.69 The minutes of the meetings held on Tuesday 16th September 2014 were before the meeting and signed as a correct record.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

14.70 **Chairman's Report**

7th October

Councillors attend the Annual Meeting of Recreation Ground Trust in their separate role as Trustees.

10th October

The Chairman received an e-mail from Sir Oliver Heald containing a letter from Circle Anglia stating that they now accept that the repairing of the access route to 40, 41 and 42 The Crescent is their responsibility.

12th October

The Council's website (cottedred.org.uk) was re-established.

22nd October

As an observer the Chairman attended a meeting of EHDC Executive Panel concerned with the District Plan. One of the agenda items was a consultant's study of potential sites for Gypsies and Travellers. Three potential sites have been identified "beyond the green belt" and one of these is Elmfield Stable at Throcking. A planning application for this site was refused by EHDC and the Planning Inspectorate dismissed a subsequent appeal.

6th November

The Chairman attended a liaison meeting with the East Herts Association of Town and Parish Councils and EHDC Planning Policy team chaired by Cllr Mike Carver. Bryan Pitman expressed surprise that the Throcking site had been identified by the Consultant in the Gypsies site survey, since it had already been refused by EHDC and the Planning Inspectorate. Cllr Carver stated that the Council were seeking legal advice and that a Council working party had been established who would select the sites by January or February 2015

FINANCE

14.71 **Finance report and payments authorised**

The finance report was before the meeting and the report is an appendix to the minutes.

14.72 **2015-2016 Budget Proposal**

The 2015-2016 Budget Proposal was before the meeting. Councillors discussed the proposal and will come to the January Parish Council meeting with an agreement for the 2015-2016 budget and precept.

PLANNING

14.73 **Planning Report**

The updated planning schedule is an appendix to these minutes.

14.74 **East Herts District Plan and Neighbourhood Plan**

The Chairman has contacted Cllr Jim Ranger regarding the issue of the proposed traveller's site at Elmfield Stable at Throcking asking for his full and active support in ensuring this site is not selected because previously a planning application had been turned down on appeal.

14.75 Telephone Boxes

The Clerk has drafted a notice to seek interest and support for the purchase of a defibrillator to be housed in the unused telephone box in Cottered. The notice has been placed on the Parish notice boards, been uploaded onto the Cottered and Throcking Parish Council website and sent to Neville Chuck for inclusion in the next Parish Magazine. Interested parties have been asked to contact the Parish Clerk.

14.76 The Old Barn Lordship Farm

The site developer had informed the Councillors' solicitor that they will be relocating the rain water pipe and oil pipe so they do not encroach on the village green. The developers have also asked the water and electricity suppliers to contact the solicitors to seek an easement to cross the village green.

HIGHWAYS**14.77 Peascroft parking**

The Clerk has emailed Cllr Rose Cheswright urging her to include the application of yellow lines to one side of Peascroft, to elevate access issues due to parked vehicles on the road, as part of her 2015/16 budget.

14.78 Brook End drainage

No update received from HCC

14.79 Throcking Road

The Clerk has made contact with Raj Goutam (Ringways). He is willing to undertake a site visit but has limited availability due to a heavy workload. Councillors asked that he provide them with a date and time he can visit the site and they will make themselves available to meet with him. Clerk to obtain a date and ensure all Councillors are informed.

14.80 Salt

The Clerk is to contact HHC regarding the refilling of the salt bins and for salt supplies to be used within the Parish.

14.81 Overhanging hedge by Old Rectory

It was noted that the hedge belonging to this property required cutting back. Clerk to contact the owners with a view to getting this done.

LITTER**14.82 Litter Bins**

It was agreed not to purchase locking brackets. The 5 new bins have been ordered and the Council is awaiting delivery.

RECREATION GROUND**14.83 Pavilion grants**

No quotes received to date

14.84 Trimming of trees and undergrowth

Councillors voted unanimously to proceed with the quote provided by JW Salmon to cut back the trees and overgrown hedge encroaching on the football pitches and play area and to remove the brambles to maximise car parking spaces to the right hand side of the Cricket Hall.

14.85 Slippery state of the children's play area matting

Councillors were informed by the manufacturers that the nature of the safety matting material meant it became slippery in adverse weather conditions. The matting had been treated with a jet wash on more than one occasion and it was reported this made very little difference soon returning to a slippery state in certain weather conditions. It was hoped that the trimming of the trees and undergrowth around the play area would enable safe passage around the matting.

14.86 Repair/replace tractor

The tractor is currently out of commission due to mechanical problems. It was ascertained that the tractor was owned by the Cricket Club but the Parish Council pays for the insurance and fuel. Cllr Murchie had investigated the cost of a suitable secondhand replacement but it was felt appropriate to firstly determine the problem with the current tractor and the cost of repair. Cllr Murchie will contact specialists in this area and come to the next meeting with an update.

CARPET BOWLS CLUB**14.87 Grant application for replacement mat**

The Clerk has sent an email on behalf of Cottered and Throcking Parish Council to East Herts District Council supporting the application by the Cottered Carpet Bowls Club for a grant for £500 to replace one of their mats. Cllr Jim Ranger also sent an email in support.

CLERK'S REPORT

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

The Councillors agreed unanimously to support the Clerks request to undertake the Getting You Started for New Clerks session in December and the Certificate in Local Council Administration (CiLCA) course starting in January 2015.

DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS

All meetings to start at 7.30pm in Cottered Village Hall

Tuesday 13th January 2015

Tuesday 10th March 2015

The meeting closed at 9.10 pm

Signed _____

Date _____

PUBLIC SESSION

Opened at 9.10pm

1. Frustration was expressed by a parishioner about dogs not being controlled and kept on the footpaths. Signs have been erected reminding dog walkers they have to keep their dogs on a lead.
2. A parishioner was concerned that HCC had marked the village green over their existing road access and wanted assurance that this would not affect their right of way. It was agreed to ask HCC to give written assurances that their current access will not be affected in the future.
3. Nigel Bentley was thanked for organising the cutting the grass when the usual tractor was out of commission.

Public Session closed at 9.25pm