

MINUTES OF COTTERED AND THROCKING PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN COTTERED VILLAGE HALL ON TUESDAY 16 SEPTEMBER 2014 AT 7.30 PM

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

Officer attending: Denise Anderson (Clerk) 4 members of the public

The Chairman welcomed the newly appointed Parish Clerk.

APOLOGIES

14.48 Cllr Brian Murchie

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

14.49 None

MINUTES OF MEETING

14.50 The minutes of the meetings held on Tuesday 8 July 2014 were before the meeting and signed as a correct record.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**14.51 - Chairman's Report**

8 July

Parish Council meeting.

11th July

The chairman was contacted by the chairman of Little Munden and Nasty Parish Council seeking the support of Cottered PC in opposing a large solar panel project. On referring to the results of the newly completed village questionnaire it was found that 62% of the returned forms showed that the residents of our parish were in favour of solar panels. Given these results the Parish Council did not oppose this planning application.

14th July

Contact Cllr Rose Chestwright concerning the possibility of having yellow lines along Peasecroft to encourage people to park cars only on one side of the road to ease traffic flow problems.

Week Beginning 4th August

A cow that was grazing on The Lordship Farm land was found with the end of its tail missing and this appeared to have been bitten off. It has been suggested this may have been caused by a dog. Advice was sought from the EHDC Dog Warden who suggested that notices be erected informing the public that dogs must be kept under control and that livestock were subject to legal protection under the 1963 Dog Act. Notices to this effect have now been erected.

1st September

A Cottered resident reported that a glass panel was broken on the bus shelter by The Bull. The Chairman cleaned up the broken glass on the ground, applied warning tape to the broken section and next morning reported the breakage to Hertfordshire Highways. Highways have now totally removed the broken section, which hence is now devoid of glass.

12th September

The Clerk and Chairman attended the annual EHDC Rural Conference amongst other information gained the following was noted: -

1) Although budgets were limited, some grants were still available; the community grants were directed towards supporting volunteers aimed at generating "more connected communities".

In addition to the Community Grants, EHDC are applying for a multi million £ EC / DEFRA type grant project over the next few years aimed at generating jobs and growth.

EHDC are also bidding for a Sport England grant to improve the physical activity opportunities for people over 60 and are seeking the support of Parish Councils in justifying the application.

2) A Community transport system has been developed to move the elderly, frail and disabled. Volunteers using their own cars operate this scheme. A charge of 45p per mile is applied.

3) EHDC Planning staff are in the process of analysing the public consultation of the Draft District Plan. A report is expected by October.

The number of new pitches for Gypsies and Travellers is now defined as being 12 and in addition 5 sites are required for Show People.

FINANCE

14.52 Finance report and payments authorised

The finance report was before the meeting. The authorised payments were:

Standing Order 28th each month Nigel Bentley - £143.21

712	W Murchie & Sons	£33.12	Diesel for grass cutting
713	EHDC Annual Play Area inspection	£55.86	
714	HMRC 1-3	£98.40	
715	M Kilby	£131.20	Salary August 2014
716	D Anderson	£131.20	Salary September 2014
717	M Kilby	£62.39	Expenses August 2014

14.53 AUDIT

BDO External auditors approved the final audit for Cottered and Throcking Parish Council

PLANNING

14.54 Planning Report

The updated planning schedule is an appendix to these minutes.

14.55 East Herts District Plan and Neighbourhood Plan

Next Buntingford Town Council Plan meeting is 16th September 2014. Neville Chuck is representing Cottered and Throcking.

14.56 Telephone Boxes

EHC does not fund medical equipment through its grants scheme but provided information on alternative funding sources. Council felt interest should be sought from parishioners regarding their interest in training to be a volunteer to oversee the deployment of a defibrillator prior to investigating funding. Clerk to draft a notice for circulation to the parish via notice boards, website and parish magazine. Notice to be approved by Parish Council Chairman.

14.57 The Old Barn Lordship Farm

The Chairman and Clerk are meeting with Limbach Banham Solicitors on Thursday 25th September 2014 to ascertain whether the land is Village Green (Parish Council) or Trust Land (Parish Trust) in order that easements due can be paid accordingly.

HIGHWAYS

14.58 Peasecroft parking

Cllr Rose Cheswright responded to the Parish Councils request for the application of yellow lines to restrict parking to one side of the road. The estimated cost of the work was put at £7,957. Cllr Rose Cheswright stated she did not have the funds for the 2014/15 year but it would be considered in the 2015/16 year. The Clerk will contact Cllr Rose Cheswright to urge her to put this issue in the 2015/16 budget.

14.59 Brook End drainage

No update

14.60 Throcking Road

A number of dates were suggested when councillors were available to meet Raj Goutam (Ringways) but none of these were suitable. Council has been waiting to hear Raj Goutam's availability which has not been forthcoming. Clerk to contact Raj Goutam with a view to arranging a date for a site meeting

LITTER

14.61 Litter Bins

Council voted unanimously to purchase 5 new litter bins. Clerk to place order and arrange delivery.

RECREATION GROUND

14.62 Pavilion grants

Cricket Club to obtain 3 quotes on headed paper in order to pursue grants.

14.63 Playground Inspection Report

The Playground Inspection Report is an appendix to the minutes. Council asked to consider obtaining quotations for refurbishment of all items.

14.64 Recreation Field

Councillors to investigate the condition of the overhanging trees at the southern end of the recreation field.

WEBSITE

14.65 The providers of Cottered and Throcking Parish Council website have removed the web builder element and will no longer support the website. A quote was obtained from StyleCymru with one off cost of

£128.00 to create a new website for the current year. Thereafter there would be an annual charge of £119.00 to maintain and host the website.

Council voted unanimously to proceed with StyleCymru and engage them to recreate the Cottered and Throcking Parish Council website

CLERK'S REPORT

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

DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS

All meetings to start at 7.30 pm in Cottered Village Hall

Tuesday 11th November 2014

Tuesday 13th January 2015

Tuesday 10th March 2015

The meeting closed at 9.15 pm

Signed _____

Date _____

PUBLIC SESSION

1. Members of the Cricket Club/Petanque Club raised the issue of the cars parked on the land by the Cricket Club which caused difficulties for visiting teams to park.
2. Access to Pavillion
3. Parish Council and Village Hall Committee to be kept informed of suggestions relating to right of access.
4. A parishioner raised the issue of dog excrement being placed in bags but being thrown into bushes and trees along Recreation Ground footpaths
5. It was reported that Council bins were being used to dispose of excess fruit.

Public Session closed at 9.30pm