

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

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

Officer attending: Marty Kilby (clerk) 3 members of the public

APOLOGIES

13.129 Francis Ridley

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

13.130 None

MINUTES OF MEETING

13.131 The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 14 January 2014 were before the meeting and signed as a correct record.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

13.132 **17th January** More information released concerning the Draft District Plan of which a draft plan for consultation is to be issued at the end of February.

23rd January Roger Gomm and the Chairmen attended the inaugural Stakeholders Meeting at Buntingford, apologies sent by Neville Chuck who had a previous engagement.

7th February David Charles and the Chairman met Julian Thornton (HCC Rights of Way Officer) and a representative of the Countryside Management organisation, to inspect and discuss the ditch and drainage problems in Brook End Lane. HCC report to be produced. As a result of this meeting the footpath access from Brook End Lane to the Recreation Ground has been improved. The recommendation from HCC was awaited.

27th February Draft District Plan issued for public consultation, the end date for consultation being 22nd May. Every resident in East Herts may comment on any aspect of the plan.

10th March - The access to 41 The Crescent is in a dangerous state of repair. The occupant is a lady of some 80 years of age and has great difficulty in negotiating the muddy path. There is a dispute between Circle Anglia and East Herts Council about who is responsible for the reinstatement of the access and the chairman is attempting to get the problem resolved.

FINANCE

13.133 Finance report and payments authorised

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

692	M Kilby	£262.40	salary Feb-March
693	M Kilby	£34.19	expenses Feb-March
694	HMRC	£98.40	PAYE Months 10-12
695	NFU Mutual	£153.71	Tractor insurance
696	M Kilby	£47.40	LCN website renewal
697	Cancelled cheque		
698	SLCC	£87.00	Annual subscription

13.134 Internal auditor

There being no other proposals, it was agreed unanimously that Mr Keith Street, chartered accountant, be asked to take the vacant post of internal auditor at an annual fee of £100.

PLANNING

13.135 Planning schedule

The updated planning schedule is an appendix to these minutes.

13.136 3/14/0318/FP - The Old Barn, Lordship Farm, Cottered

Change of use and alteration of existing barn to dwelling (amendments to Planning Approval ref 3/10/1459/FN) amendments to layout and additional window

This amended planning application was before the meeting.

After a vote it was resolved to suspend standing orders and open the meeting to the public

A neighbour adjacent to the planning application spoke against the proposed development. There was discussion relating to several aspects of the application, and all members of the public took part.

Resolved to resume standing orders

It was agreed to object to the planning application on the following grounds:

1. There is insufficient detail shown on the application to ensure that the sewer and drainage systems within the sunken area of the site, where car parking was indicated, were sufficient and adequate so that the existing drains and sewers would continue to operate effectively. More detail should be shown on the application. If the application is granted, then the site appears to be overdeveloped and the sewage and drainage systems would appear to be inadequate.
2. There appeared to be no disabled access which, given that this is an application for a family home that is accessed only by steps from a sunken area, needs to be shown that the dwelling is accessible by elderly, disabled, and infants.
3. The drawings show a rainwater downpipe on the north of the building, but does not show any drain or soak away into which this downpipe would debouch.
4. The ground floor drawings show inadequate access for vehicle into the site. Additionally there is not enough parking and general amenity space shown for a 4 bedroom property. No vehicles may be left outside the site curtilage (which is within a private drive and access) so if a 4 bedroom property is intended then more parking space needs to be allocated.
5. The wood burner flue and boiler flue as shown on the drawings as under a protected lime tree, which will inevitably suffer from the outcome of these flues. The flues need to be repositioned.

13.137 1/2146/11 - Nuthampstead Shooting Ground Variation of Condition 14 (Types of Waste)

Cllrs John Harwood-Bee and Brian Murchie declared an interest in this application as both councillors used the shooting range on a personal basis. The councillors took no part in the subsequent discussions.

After discussion it was agreed that the parish council had no objection to this application.

13.138 3/14/0243/FP - The Limes, Throcking Two storey front extension

After discussion it was agreed that the parish council had no objection to this application.

13.139 3/14/0178/FP - Cheynes Coach House, Cottered Removal of window and replacement doors

After discussion it was agreed that the parish council had no objection to this application.

13.140 East Herts District Plan

East Herts Council draft District Plan Preferred Options consultation papers were available on-line, from the Parish Council, and from the District Council the consultation runs from 26 February 2014 until 22 May 2014. Buntingford Civic Society AGM is 15th April and the plan will be discussed at that meeting.

A series of consultation meetings for the area had been arranged by EHC and there were two relevant to Cottered. 1st April at 7.00 pm in the Seth Ward Community Centre, Luynes Rise, Buntingford, and the second on 17th April at 7.30 pm in Cottered Village Hall, Cottered. All members of the public were invited as well as parish councillors.

13.141 Neighbourhood Plan

A third Cottered & Throcking stakeholder had yet to be identified. The chairman had heard that one person was thinking of volunteering and the chairman would contact him.

HIGHWAYS

13.142 Peasecroft parking

No response had been received from East Herts Council about the possibility of introducing staggered parking in Peasecroft. After discussion it was agreed that EHC/Hertfordshire Highways be asked if the fee for kerb dropping could be waived if residents wished to drop the highway kerb to allow easier access to their property from the road and bring their vehicles within their own boundaries.

13.143 Brook End drainage

Further reports from HCC were awaited.

13.144 Throcking Road

No response had been received from Ringway regarding a site meeting to discuss the parlous condition of Throcking Road and the road round the church. Clerk to follow up.

RECREATION GROUND**13.145 Mower and grasscutting**

Agreed to have the mower serviced. Cllr Harwood-Bee agreed to cut round the playing field equipment within the next few weeks but long term a new person needed to be found to cut the grass round the playing field equipment.

13.146 Pavilion

Clerk to ask EHC again about possible grants for upkeep of the pavilion.

13.147 Litter

Roger Gomm offered to take over the regular picking up of the litter on the Recreation Ground.

CLERK'S REPORT

13.148 The Clerk's report was before the Council and the correspondence noted. It was agreed to join the Police Parish Watch scheme. The Neighbourhood Watch conference would be drawn to the attention of Dennis Thorpe.

TRACTOR

13.149 Agreed to have the tractor serviced and charge the Parish Council for oil changing etc.

LITTER PICKING

13.150 Noted that the litter picking was still being carried out by volunteers.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

13.151 Tuesday 13 May 2014 (Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Meeting of the Parish Council)
The Annual Meeting of the Parish Council would be at 7.00 pm, with the Parish Council meeting at 7.15 pm, and the Annual Parish Meeting at 8.00 pm.

The meeting closed at 9.05 pm

Signed _____

Date _____

PUBLIC SESSION**Opened at 9.05 pm**

1. The drains at the end of the Lordship Farm drive appeared to be blocked as surface water was coming up through the grate.
2. The telephone number for the Rights of Way officer (Julian Thornton) to be put in the Parish newsletter and on line.
3. Planning issues relating to the Old Barn, Lordship Farm, were discussed and it was noted that the parish council would be objecting to the current application.

The public session closed at 9.20 pm.