

MINUTES OF COTTERED AND THROCKING PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN COTTERED VILLAGE HALL ON TUESDAY 8 JULY 2014 AT 7.30 PM

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

Officer attending: Marty Kilby (clerk) 2 members of the public

APOLOGIES

14.25 Cllr Francis Ridley

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

14.26 None

MINUTES OF MEETING

14.27 The minutes of the meetings held on Tuesday 13 May 2014 were before the meeting and signed as a correct record.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**14.28 - Chairman's Report**

13th May - Parish Council meeting

19th May - The distribution of the Neighbourhood Questionnaire forms around the parish, organised by Buntingford Town Council, was not 100% successful, so the Chairman set about identifying the areas not covered and making up the shortfalls. Roger Gomm and the Chairman then carried out a house-to-house collection and then entered the gathered data from the 58 forms onto the IT system.

29th May - Chairman attended a small meeting of the Neighbourhood Planning Team at Buntingford to review the Questionnaire process and it became obvious that the previous agreed end date would have to be extended.

2nd June - As the access track to 40 to 42 The Crescent had not been repaired, one month after the Chief Executive (CE) of Circle Anglia had stated it would be repaired on 2nd May, the Chairman sent an e-mail to her requesting follow up actions. The e-mail was copied to Oliver Heald MP who responded by stating he would "chase it up".

Another housing problem raised with Oliver Heald, that being the uncertain future of 1 to 4 Peasecroft, has now been resolved by Circle Anglia concluding that thermal cladding can be applied to the outside walls, so achieving the required insulation values.

27th June - The Chairman and his wife attended the Buntingford's Mayor Civic Reception.

29th June - Provisional data from the Questionnaire Survey indicated that 70 completed surveys were returned from our parish. As there are approximately 253 households in the parish this represents a 27.6% response. Since it is uncertain that all households received the forms the actual percentage is likely to be higher.

4th July - Initial indications from the Questionnaire Survey show that the main concerns in the parish are the safety and traffic flow on the A507 and the need for more affordable houses in the area. Full analysis is now underway and results and actions should be available by August.

FINANCE**14.29 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	
707 Information Commissioner	£35.00 Data Protection 2014-2015
708 W Murchie & Sons	£49.68 Diesel for grass cutting
709 Business Services at CAS	£769.89 Insurance
710 M Kilby	£262.40 Salary June-July 2014
711 M Kilby	£29.24 Expenses June-July 2014

14.30 New Homes Bonus and Litter Picking Grant

The New Homes Bonus for 2014-2015 will be £3,603. The Litter Picking Grant will be £1,718.60 and Lloyds Bank has been asked to amend the Standing Order to the litter picker accordingly.

PLANNING**14.31 Planning schedule**

The updated planning schedule is an appendix to these minutes.

14.32 East Herts District Plan

EH< will discuss the District Plan at their meeting on 17th July 2014.

14.33 Neighbourhood Plan

Questionnaires had been distributed and returned. The parish return for Cottered & Throcking was 15.8%. Noted that East Herts DC had not yet identified the exact areas for development in any of the parishes.

14.34 Telephone boxes

EHC had now said that a change of use of a telephone box to a Defibrillator site would not need planning permission. Costs for the placement of a defibrillator were in the region of £2,000 which did include all electricity payments and free paint to repaint the telephone boxes. Clerk to find out if grants were available to help in such provision.

14.35 Old Barn, Lordship Farm

The Chairman agreed to take photos of additional oil pipes and downpipes on the site. Solicitor Graham Thornes acting on behalf of the Parish Trust was formally pressing the developers to respond to queries relating to easements requested, or being used without authority, over Parish Trust land. Clerk to send map of Parish Trust land to Tracy Thomson.

HIGHWAYS**14.36 Peasecroft parking**

No response had been received from East Herts Council or from Cllr Rose Cheswright about the possibility of introducing staggered parking in Peasecroft or the dropping of the highway kerb without a fee. Cllr Bryan Pitman to telephone Cllr Rose Cheswright asking for a response.

14.37 Brook End drainage

HCC had said that Ringways were now responsible for this drainage problem and Julian Thornton (HCC) is contacting Ringways.

14.38 Throcking Road

Councillors were available to meet Raj Goutam (Ringways) on 21st July, 22nd July (Morning only) and 23rd July. Clerk to ask Ringways for their preferred date.

14.39 Throcking Road junction with A507

The overgrowth of hedges and grass has made this junction exceptionally dangerous with no proper sight lines. Clerk to contact Cllr Rose Cheswright, Ringways, DCllr Jim Ranger and the Police requesting that the vegetation growth at this junction be cut back to enable safe sight lines.

LITTER**14.40 Litter Bins**

Clerk to obtain prices for replacing 5 litter bins from the Bin Shop. Bins to be 56 litre capacity with locking brackets. Cost thought to be in the region of £800.

RECREATION GROUND**14.41 Recreation Ground area grasscutting**

Agreed to accept the quotation from Stewart Bullard Ltd for adding the cutting round the play equipment and cutting the Recreation Ground area each time the rest of the village grass was cut. The cost is £25 and will happen 14 times per year.

14.42 Pavilion grants

Grants were available for redecorating/repairing the pavilion. What was needed was a schedule of works, together with estimated cost, which could then be presented to East Herts Council. Cllr David Charles agreed to draw up what needed doing and the possible cost.

14.43 Grass Cutting Equipment

The mower used by Cllr Terry McGrath was in poor repair. The mower was parish property and it was agreed that the Chairman would contact Colin Bayles regarding auctioning the mower. The strimmer will be donated to the Village Appreciation Society who will give a donation to the Parish Council.

CLERK'S REPORT

14.44 The Clerk's report was before the Council and the correspondence noted.

OTHER URGENT BUSINESS**14.45 Misuse of Footpaths**

A parishioner brought to the Council's attention that people walking dogs in the parish continually let the dogs of the lead, had no control over them, let the dogs roam over land and away from the public footpaths, harassing animals in the fields, and fouling the land. Councillors acknowledged the problem and accepted that this was a very difficult problem.

14.46 - Warren Lane Caravan

A concern had been received that a large mobile caravan had been sited at the east end of Warren Lane on land belonging to Ian Benton. Clerk to ask EHC for advice.

RESOLVED to close the meeting to the Press and Public to discuss the Parish Clerk vacancy**14.47. Applications**

Three applications for the post of Parish Clerk had been received. Concern was expressed that one of the applicants lived some 30 miles away from the parish. After discussion agreed that the Chairman would arrange a date to interview the applicants.

RESOLVED to open the meeting to the Press and Public**DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS**

All meetings to start at 7.30 pm in Cottered Village Hall

Tuesday 16th September 2014

Tuesday 11th November 2014

Tuesday 13th January 2015

Tuesday 10th March 2015

The meeting closed at 10.12 pm

Signed _____

Date _____