

MINUTES OF COTTERED AND THROCKING PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN COTTERED VILLAGE HALL ON TUESDAY 13th JANUARY 2015 AT 7.30 PM

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

Officer attending: Denise Anderson (Clerk) 120 members of the public

APOLOGIES

15.01 County Councillor Rose Cheswright

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

15.02 None

MINUTES OF MEETING

15.03 The minutes of the meetings held on Tuesday 11th November 2014 were before the meeting and signed as a correct record.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

15.04 **Chairman's Report**

11th November

Parish Council meeting.

19th November

The Chairman called at the Old Rectory and spoke to a man in the garden regarding trimming tree branches that were obstructing the public pavement. The branches were subsequently trimmed back.

25th November

Neville Chuck, Roger Gomm and the Chairman attended a meeting in Buntingford concerned with generating the Neighbourhood Plan.

2nd December

The Chairman attended a small Neighbourhood Plan meeting in Buntingford concerned with transport and roads.

9th December

Four Cottered and Throcking Councillors met representatives of Ringway, the HCC Highways Service Agent, and inspected and pointed out the bad state of the roads around Throcking.

10th December

Glass in bus shelter found broken and Clerk seeks repair help from HCC.

16th December

The Chairman attended Neighbourhood Plan meeting in Buntingford

During December the Chairman exchanged e-mails with Sir Oliver Heald who is following up previous reported problems with Anglia Circle.

PLANNING

15.05 **Buttermilk Hall Farm**

Councillors voted unanimously to suspend Standing Orders to allow public participation to discuss this application - to be determined by HCC for - Change of use of existing redundant farm building and aprons, erection of one new building and extension to existing building, all to provide a waste materials recycling and transfer facility.

Buttermilk Hall Farm, Baldock Road, Hertfordshire

OS Sheet: TL3429; GRID Ref: 229373 534110 Applicant: Scott and Scott

15.06 **Standing Orders resumed**

Councillors voted unanimously to object to planning application 3/14/2142/CM at Buttermilk Farm, Baldock Road, Hertfordshire on the basis of the concerns raised during the public discussion.

Proposed Councillor Harwood Bee, Seconded Councillor Francis Ridley.

15.07 **Planning Report**

The updated planning schedule is an appendix to these minutes.

15.08 **East Herts District Plan and Neighbourhood Plan**

The District Plan is still being formulated by East Herts District Council. Cottered and Throcking Parish Council is working with other Parish Councils to produce a Neighbourhood Plan.

15.09 Elmfield Stables Broadfield Throcking

A dedicated committee of EHDC Councillors, including Councillor Jim Ranger, is tasked with the responsibility selecting Traveller Sites. The Clerk has written to the committee to reiterate Cottered and Throcking Parish Council's objection to the proposed site at Elmfield Stables.

15.10 Telephone Box

Councillor Murchie had two individuals, one a Paramedic and the other First Aid trained, show interest in the Defibrillator initiative. Council decided to see if there was any further interest and review at the next Parish Council Meeting.

15.11 The Old Barn and Village Green

The oil pipe feed pipe has been diverted. The rainwater pipe is still debouching onto Village Green land. The Parish Council awaits communication from the Electricity and Water Companies regarding the payment of easement charges.

FINANCE**15.12 Finance report and payments authorised**

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

15.13 2015-2016 Budget Proposal

Councillors agreed a precept of £8,000 for the forthcoming 2015-2016 financial year.

HIGHWAYS**15.14 Throcking Road**

Four of the Parish Councillors had a site meeting with Raj Goutam and colleagues from Ringways to discuss the bad state of roads in Throcking. They inspected the road from The Green to the Throcking Hall T junction and the junction with the A507. It was considered to be a Category A issue and within 2 days cosmetic repairs had been undertaken. The road is scheduled to be closed on 26th January for full repair.

It was suggested by Ringways that the Parish Council mark, on a Parish map, the road areas that need attention and submit to Ringways for inclusion in the April 2015 budget.

This will be an agenda item for the next Parish Council meeting on Tuesday 10th March 2015.

15.15 Bus Shelter

The Clerk contacted HCC regarding the repair to the broken glass in the bus shelter. As the Parish Council contributed about 50% of the original purchase cost of the bus shelter HCC has agreed that the cost of repair will be shared between themselves and the Parish Council.

LITTER**15.16 Litter Bins**

The Parish Council is in receipt of 5 new litter bins. It was suggested they should be placed in the following locations: bottom of Peascroft, Children's Play Area, The Bull, the Guide Centre and the Well. There was discussion about the possible fixing methods to ensure permanent and secure fixing. Councillor Harwood Bee and Councillor Ridley to contact local individuals to seek advice and with a view to getting the litter bins securely fitted.

RECREATION GROUND**15.17 Pavilion grants**

No quotes received to date. A building company has withdrawn their intention to quote for undertaking this work. The Cricket/Petanque Club needs to seek an alternative way forward to deal with this issue.

15.18 Trimming of trees and undergrowth

The Clerk is to contact JW Salmon to ask when this work is scheduled to be carried out.

15.19 Repair/replace tractor

It was felt that the Council needed to acquire ownership of the tractor prior to any further action regarding repair or replacement. Discussion required with the Cricket Club in order to resolve and proceed with this issue.

15.20 Brook End footpath vehicular damage

A resident of Brook End reported that a heavy vehicle has caused damage to the common land at the footpath entrance to the back of the Village Hall leaving deep ruts and churning up the grass. The Chairman went to look at the damage and made some repairs, as far as was possible, by hand.

This is an ongoing issue due to vehicles making the wrong turn, realising it is a dead end and turning around before going any further thus causing damage to the grassed area. Two wooden bollards have already been erected to try and alleviate the problem. It was decided to review this at the next meeting when the weather conditions will have improved and the area more accessible for investigation.

15.21 **Parish Rural Sounding Board**

Council made aware of the results of the survey and the opportunity to share their views.

CLERK'S REPORT

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

Correspondence for noting or not on the Agenda:

1. Letter from Bedfordshire Police regarding the Luton Airport Anti Terrorism Strategy requesting the opportunity to address the Parish regarding the initiative. Clerk to contact Bedfordshire Police to ascertain to whom they wish to address regarding this issue.
2. Email from a Walkern resident requesting Cottered and Throcking Parish Council encourage their parishioners to support the Walkern Action against 100 homes. It was decided that Cottered and Throcking Parish Council would support Walkern in objecting to the development largely on the grounds of the increase in traffic such a development would generate on the unsuitable road infrastructure.
3. Letter from East Hertfordshire Citizens Advice Bureau asking for a donation towards the services it supplies to the local area. Councillors suggested a donation of £50 but on the reassurance that the services would continue to run, especially in Buntingford which serves the Cottered and Throcking community. The Clerk to contact East Hertfordshire Citizens Advice Bureau to gain this assurance.

DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS

All meetings to start at 7.30pm in Cottered Village Hall

Tuesday 10th March 2015

The meeting closed at 9.45 pm

Signed _____

Date _____

PUBLIC SESSION

Opened at 9.45pm

1. A parishioner suggested that there was a link between the Walkern Action against 100 homes and the planning application for Buttermilk Hall Farm with respect to the increased traffic on the roads in both these parishes.
2. A representative of the Cottered and Throcking villagers group 'Waste Not Want Not' thanked the Parish Council for allowing them to present their objections to the planning application for Buttermilk Hall Farm in a public session of the Parish Council meeting.
3. The Parish Council thanked the 'Waste Not Want Not' villagers group for their hard work in putting their objections together and for a professional presentation to the assembled meeting.

Public Session closed at 10.00pm