

MINUTES OF COTTERED AND THROCKING PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN COTTERED VILLAGE HALL ON TUESDAY 14th JULY 2015 AT 7.30 PM

Present: Terry McGrath (Chair) John Bull
Colin Bayles David Charles
Barry Dean

Officer attending: Denise Anderson (Clerk) 2 members of the public

APOLOGIES

15.60 Bryan Pitman

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

15.61 None

MINUTES OF MEETING

15.61 The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 12th May 2015 were before the meeting and signed as a correct record.

ANNUAL REVIEWS

15.62	Standing Orders	Code of Conduct
	<u>New</u> Financial Regulations	Risk Assessment
	Register of Assets	Complaints Procedure

Resolved: Council agreed to adopt the council documents for the next term of office with the standard yearly review at the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council.

Council felt the Register of Assets needed further discussion to review the insurance values and amend as felt necessary. This will be an agenda item for the next meeting.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

15.63 **Chairman's Report**

12th May

Parish Council meeting.

13th May

Roger Gomm, Neville Chuck and the Chairman attended a Neighbourhood Planning Forum at Buntingford. Concern was expressed that the yet to be funded Buntingford traffic plan (The Phoenix Project) should not be confused with the Neighbourhood Plan.

15th June

Cllr Rose Cheswright came to Cottered and inspected the drainage problem at the crossroads of the B1037 and Warren Lane. Rose and the Chairman walked down Peasecroft and discussed possible options for improving the parking problems.

29 June

The track forming the access to 40, 41 and 42 The Crescent was finally improved by the housing association.

1st July

Roger Gomm, Neville Chuck and the Chairman attended a Neighbourhood Planning Forum. A resident from Parkside had asked if his property and its surrounding land could be designated for the development of a number of bungalows. After consultation with Cottered and Throcking Parish Councillors and an appropriate Buntingford representative it was decided that the Neighbourhood Plan would not be the place to promote individual housing development sites.

FINANCE

15.64 **Finance report and payments authorised**

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

15.65 **External Audit**

The Clerk confirmed that the Internally Audited and approved accounts for Cottered and Throcking Parish Council had been sent to the External Auditor.

PLANNING

15.66 **Planning Report**

The updated planning schedule is an appendix to these minutes.

3/15/0586/HH Layston Brook End Cottered Buntingford Hertfordshire - **Refused**

3/15/0782/HH Pinewood Baldock Road Cottered Buntingford Hertfordshire – **Approved**

Planning Applications since the Parish Council Meeting 12th May 2015

3/15/0860/HH and 3/15/0861/LBC

Shipwrights Cottage Baldock Road Cottered Buntingford Hertfordshire - **Approved**

Councillor Pitman declared an interest and took no part in any discussions related to this Planning Application. The Parish Council objected to the application.

15.67 Planning Applications

3/15/1265/HH Lordship Barn Cottered Buntingford Hertfordshire SG9 9QL

There was no objection by the Parish Council to this application.

15.68 East Herts District Plan and Neighbourhood Plan

Parkside Development

Council concluded that the development of this land should go through the normal channels by submitting plans to East Herts District Council. Council felt that the Buntingford Community Area Neighbourhood Plan would not be the place to promote a specific site, rather the aim of the Neighbourhood Plan is to set out local policies which will then be used by East Herts Council, along with other national and district policies, in determining the applications that are put before them.

15.69 Telephone Box

The Clerk reported that we did not qualify for free paint to repaint the telephone box in Cottered; free paint could only be obtained if a defibrillator had been ordered through Community Heartbeat. Telephone box replacement parts and paint can be obtained from a number of suppliers. X2 Connect Kiosk Spares supply a complete Paint Kit (Red, black, white paint, undercoat and accessories) for £119.00 or individually ie.2.5 litres of Currant (red) Gloss costing £40.08.

The Clerk is to compile a list of the required repairs to the telephone box, cost those repairs and obtain quotes to get those repairs carried out.

15.70 The Old Barn and Village Green

This issue will be discussed at the next Parish Trust meeting on Tuesday 28th July at 7.30pm in Cottered Village Hall.

HIGHWAYS

15.71 Peascroft

Councillors discussed a number of items relating to both Peascroft and The Crescent.

It was thought the problem of cars driving across the green had been dealt with by the Police.

Parking was still an issue and various suggestions had been considered from having a single yellow line to opening up the green at the end of Peascroft and making The Crescent and Peascroft one way.

Concern was raised about the junction of The Crescent and Peascroft with the A507 Baldock Road. It was considered this was a dangerous junction and there had been a number of 'near misses' especially with cars turning right towards Buntingford. Vehicles leaving Cottered are accelerating as they leave the 30mph limit and the signage showing a right hand turning is obscured by overgrown trees.

The hedges outside number 4, 19 and 20 have grown considerably and are obscuring a clear view of the A507 for vehicles turning out of The Crescent.

The Clerk will contact Highways and Circle Anglia with a view to getting the trees and hedges outside the houses concerned cut back.

LITTER

15.72 Litter Bins

3 of the 5 of the new litter bins have been secured. The one at the Guide Centre needs to be slightly relocated as it hasn't been possible to remove the old one and replace with the new one on the same site. There has been some dispute as to where to place the one at the bottom of Peascroft; residents had reported being able to smell the contents so it was suggested the new bin should be relocated further from the properties.

RECREATION GROUND

15.73 Repair/replace tractor

Resolved: Council unanimously agreed to purchase the tractor, currently being hired to the Council by Brian Murchie, to cut the Recreation Ground grass.

The Clerk will contact Brian Murchie to organise the sale, deal with necessary paperwork and insure the vehicle.

CLERK'S REPORT

15.74 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 The Local Government Boundary Commission re Electoral Review of Hertfordshire: Final Recommendations. Web links to view recommendations and invitation to participate in online opinion survey.
2. Email from Parish resident expressing their concern about the placing of the Waste Not Want Not signage and the distraction it causes especially on the Throcking Road junction with the A507.
3. Email regarding the Changes to Hertfordshire County Council contracted local bus services. Clerk will upload the information to the website.
4. Email from East Herts Council announcing a new grants pot to put on events for Silver Sunday weekend, a national event celebrating the contributions of older people to the wider community. Grants of up to £300 are available for voluntary and community organisations (including village halls) to organise events on the 2nd, 3rd and 4th of October 2015 for people aged 65 plus. Clerk will upload the information to the website.
5. Email from EHC Planning Policy Team explaining they are undertaking a Village Hierarchy Study, which will form part of the evidence base for the District Plan and inform the overall development strategy for the district. Clerk to email to Councillors for information and action as appropriate.
6. The Clerk is having issues with the website and is dealing with Style Cymru our website administrators to resolve the issues.

DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS

All meetings to start at 7.30 pm in Cottered Village Hall

Tuesday 8th September 2015

Tuesday 10th November 2015

Tuesday 12th January 2016

Tuesday 8th March 2016

The meeting closed at 8.45 pm

Signed _____

Date _____

PUBLIC SESSION

Opened 8.45pm

Complaints had been heard about grass being deposited on paths after the contractors had carried out their regular grass cutting visits.

The resident stated that the grass outside the Old Barn was not being cut as part of the contractors designated areas. It was thought there was a history of problems with this area due to flints falling from the wall and being hazardous to the grass cutting machinery. The resident had spoken to Councillor Pitman who had agreed to look into it.

In Cottered cars were being parked on pavements and totally obscuring the footpath. It was felt residents needed reminding not to do this and the best way to get the message out to the community was through the Cottered and Throcking News. The Clerk would contact the Editor with a view to having this message included in the next issue.

The sign on the A507/B1037 stating it was unsuitable for HGVs was being obscured by trees. The Clerk would investigate and inform Highways.

Public Session closed at 8.55pm