

MINUTES OF COTTERED AND THROCKING PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN COTTERED VILLAGE HALL ON TUESDAY 8th SEPTEMBER 2015 AT 7.30 PM

Present: Bryan Pitman (Chair) Terry McGrath
John Bull David Charles
Barry Dean

Officer attending: Denise Anderson (Clerk) District Councillor Paul Kenealy
7 members of the public

APOLOGIES

15.75 Colin Bayles

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

15.76 None

MINUTES OF MEETING

15.77 The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 14th July 2015 were before the meeting and signed as a correct record.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

15.78 **Chairman's Report**

14th July

Parish Council meeting.

22nd July

The Chairman attended a meeting of the HCC Development Committee and spoke to oppose the application for a waste site at Buttermilk Hall Farm. A Cottered resident also spoke in opposition to the application. The application was not approved.

13th August

In response to a telephone call from a Throcking resident the Chairman inspected a large hole at the edge of the road near the Throcking sewage works. The hole had been reported to HCC Highways by the public spirited resident and it appears on the HCC fault website. No repair has yet been carried out although HCC have inspected the hole.

1st September

Roger Gomm, Neville Chuck and the Chairman commenced a leaflet drop into every property in the parish. The leaflet was aimed at encouraging residents to comment on the draft Neighbourhood Plan as a 6 week consultation period had started.

FINANCE

15.79 **Finance report and payments authorised**

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

15.80 **Register of Fixed Assets**

Councillors reviewed the insurance values of the items listed on the Fixed Assets Listing and suggested some amendments. The Clerk will contact the Council's insurance company and make the required changes.

PLANNING

15.81 **Planning Report**

The updated planning schedule is an appendix to these minutes.

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

Planning Applications since the Parish Council Meeting 14th July 2015

3/15/1413/FUL and 3/15/1414/LBC

Nottingham Baldock Road Cottered Buntingford Hertfordshire.

The Parish Council objected to the application.

3/15/1569/FUL and 3/15/1570/LBC

The Bull Inn Baldock Road Cottered Buntingford Hertfordshire.

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

15.82 **Planning Applications**

3/15/1725/FUL Elmfield Stables Thirty Acre Farm Broadfield Throcking Buntingford

Councillors voted unanimously to suspend Standing Orders to allow public participation to discuss this application

There was discussion relating to the many aspects of this application and all members of the public participated

Resolved to resume Standing Orders

Councillors voted unanimously to object to planning application **3/15/1725/FUL**

3/15/1757/HH Layston Brook End Cottered Buntingford Hertfordshire
There was no objection by the Parish Council to this amended planning application.

15.83 Buntingford Community Area Neighbourhood Plan (BCANP)

Cottered and Throcking Parish Councillors had studied the document and unanimously approved the intentions, objectives and policies set out in the Buntingford Community Area Neighbourhood Plan.

15.84 Telephone Box

The Clerk provided a report on the current state of the telephone box and an indication of the cost of replacement parts and materials required for renovation based on initial investigations. Councillors felt it appropriate to go ahead with the purchasing the required items. The Clerk will order the parts and materials and obtain quotes for painting and general repairs.

15.85 The Old Barn and Village Green

UK Power Networks have agreed to pay £2,000 for the easement.

HIGHWAYS**15.86 Drain cleaning and flooding issues**

These issues have been reported to Highways.

15.87 Pothole in Throcking

As confirmed in the Chairman's Report the hole had been reported to HCC Highways appears on the HCC fault website. No repair has yet been carried out although HCC have inspected the hole.

LITTER**15.88 Litter Bins**

All 5 new litter bins have been secured at the bottom of Peascroft, the Children's Play Area, The Bull, the Guide Centre and the Well.

RECREATION GROUND**15.89 Tractor**

The Clerk secured the purchase of a tractor for the cutting of the Recreation Ground grass. It was serviced prior to purchase, has been insured, registered with the DVLA and housed in a suitable place.

15.90 Annual Playground Inspection Report

The Playground Inspection Report is an appendix to the minutes. The Clerk is tasked with finding a suitable individual to address some of the 'wear and tear' issues requiring repair or refurbishment detailed in the report.

CLERKS PAY and HOURS

15.91 Resolved to move this agenda item to the end of the meeting.

CLERK'S REPORT

15.92 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 Herts Air Ambulance requesting a small grant towards their work.
Councillors agreed a £50.00 donation to Herts Air Ambulance
2. Letter from Herts Sustainability Forum about their latest campaign "Green your Garden" promoting environmentally friendly gardening to residents. The poster advertising a competition and information leaflets have been placed on the Village Hall noticeboard.
3. Emails from HATPC regarding Transparency Code for Smaller Authorities.
4. Emails from Peter Knight informing the Parish Council about the Scouts Night Hike which is taking place in Cottered and Throcking Saturday 3rd October 2015 from 5.00pm until midnight and requesting details of landowners in order that he could, as a courtesy, inform them about the hike, its route and supervision. Councillors were able to furnish him with the required information.

DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS

All meetings to start at 7.30 pm in Cottered Village Hall

Tuesday 10th November 2015

Tuesday 12th January 2016

Tuesday 8th March 2016

The meeting closed at 9.45 pm

Signed _____

Date _____

PUBLIC SESSION

No members of the public were still present for the Public Session.

Councillors raised the issue of the hedges still obscuring a clear view for drivers when turning onto the A507 Baldock Road from The Crescent and Peascroft. The hedges had been trimmed on one side but not the other. The Clerk would contact Circle Anglia Housing again with a view to getting this issue resolved.

Public session closed at 9.50pm

CLERKS PAY and HOURS

15.91 **Resolved to close the meeting to public and press due to the confidential nature of the business discussed.**

After discussion it was unanimously resolved that the Clerks pay would be increased from SCP 22 to 24.

It was also resolved that the hours per week should increase from 4 to 5.

Both decisions were arrived at due to the increased responsibilities of the Clerk and the increase in the workload as a result of various Acts of Parliament recently passed.