

MINUTES OF COTTERED AND THROCKING PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN COTTERED VILLAGE HALL ON TUESDAY 10th MAY 2016 AT 7.45 PM

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

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

The Chairman reminded the public that the meeting was being recorded for the accuracy of minute taking.

APOLOGIES

16.38 None

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

16.39 None

MINUTES OF MEETING

16.40 The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 8th March 2016 were before the meeting and signed as a correct record.

The Chairman suggested that Agenda item **8.4 BT OPENREACH enquiry: BT cabinets Baldock Road** be brought forward as Stuart Campbell from HCC had arrived in readiness to explain the initiative and the implications of the project. This was unanimously agreed by Council.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

16.41 **Chairman's Report**

8th March Parish Council meeting.

April

The Chairman contacted the Definitive Map Officer at HCC regarding progress on a request from a Cottered resident for the legal status of the Village Green that abuts The Old Barn property, to be reviewed

The main village sewer pipe running below the A507 was blocked again. As this type of blockage has happened many times the Chairman is seeking the help of the Environmental Health Department of EHDC regarding what can be done to improve the ongoing problem.

5th May

A liaison meeting was attended at EHDC which sought to inform local Parish Councillors about the District Plan. The agenda was strictly limited to the subject of Village Hierarchy. This is the name given to the original policy of rating a village's likelihood of being a candidate for development approval. The system had a scale being from 1 to 3. One was the low end and 3 the high. The draft issue Plan showed Cottered as a "2", the old Local Plan rating was "1".

The current thinking, outlined by the Officers, was that **perhaps the entire rating system should be deleted.**

Resolved with a unanimous vote to object to the proposed abandonment of the Village Hierarchy rating system. The Clerk to write to East Herts Planning and copy to relevant HCC Councillors the objections of Cottered and Throcking Parish Council to this proposal.

FINANCE

16.42 **Finance report and payments authorised**

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

16.43 **Internal Audited Accounts**

The Internal Audited accounts were before the meeting and approved. The Annual Governance Statement 2015/16 was completed and signed by the Parish Council Chairman

PLANNING

16.44 **Planning Report**

The updated planning schedule is an appendix to these minutes.

3/16/0341/FUL

Land Adjacent to: Ivy Bank Baldock Road Cottered Buntingford Hertfordshire - **Approved**

3/16/0457/PNHH Island View Brook End Cottered Buntingford Hertfordshire - **Approved**

3/15/1808/FUL Trinity Meadows Throcking Buntingford Hertfordshire - **Approved**

Planning Applications since the Parish Council Meeting 8th March 2016

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

16.45 **Planning Applications**

3/16/0819/FUL Orchard End Brook End Cottered Buntingford Hertfordshire

There was no objection by the Parish Council to this application

3/15/1813/FUL Cheynes House Cottered Buntingford Hertfordshire

Appeal – The Parish Council's original comments will be sent to Planning Inspectorate

3/16/0938/HH Cromack View Baldock Road Cottered Buntingford Hertfordshire

There was no objection by the Parish Council to this application

3/16/0471/VAR Land North of the Park Farm Industrial Estate and Freman College Ermine Street Buntingford Hertfordshire

The Parish Council will comment in response to this application

3/15/2272/OUT Prestwick Ermine Street Buntingford Hertfordshire

Appeal – The Parish Council did not object to the original application

3/16/0341/FUL Land Adjacent to: Ivy Bank Baldock Road Cottered Buntingford Hertfordshire

Planning consent granted but the Parish Council were concerned that no easement request had been sought for access over Village Green. This issue would be pursued by the Cottered Recreation Ground Trust (known as the Green's Trust)

16.46 **Buntingford Community Area Neighbourhood Plan (BCANP)**

The BCANP has commenced the 6 week EHDC public consultation along with its supporting documentation. The consultation finishes on 30th June 2016 when any comments received will be summarised by EHDC Planning Policy before passing to an Examiner and finally Referendum. The District Plan will follow the same process as the BCANP and has a completion date of September 2016.

16.47 **Community Governance Review of the Buntingford Parish Boundary**

Buntingford Town Council have requested a Community Governance Review of the boundary to the south of Throcking, around Parkside and the yet to be built additional 180 new dwellings on the Redrow development. The Parish Council felt that such a review should seek the views of the entire community and that the majority of people it would affect were as yet not in residence.

It was resolved the Clerk would write to Catherine Whitehead, Interim Head of Legal and Democratic at East Herts Council to express those views.

HIGHWAYS

16.48 Junction of The Crescent with A507 Baldock Road

The Clerk has received a response to the request made to HCC to assess the safety and visibility at this junction. The response stated '*we have assessed the issue and it is considered safe. No further action is planned*'. Councillors didn't agree with this response and felt the issue should be further pursued.

16.49 Cottered Right of Way No.1

As a result of concerns raised about the state of the surface and flooding on this Right of Way the Clerk reported the issues to Julian Thornton, Rights of Way Officer at HCC.

PARISH MATTERS

16.50 Telephone Box

The Clerk had been informed that the painting of the telephone box will hopefully take place from the end of May.

16.51 The Old Barn and Village Green

There is still a pipe from the guttering into a gravel soak away on the Village Green and the beech trees are still in place along the Village Green in front of the property. It was felt there should be further communication with the homeowner regarding this issues.

The Water Company is still being pursued for an easement.

16.52 Notice boards

The new notice board had been delivered and the Clerk confirmed that the Parish Council's insurance company had agreed a claim could be made for the cost of the replacement noticeboard. The Clerk is to contact a local tradesperson with a view to getting a quote to remove the old post and install the new notice board on the same site.

16.53 BT OPENREACH enquiry: BT cabinets Baldock Road

The Parish Council had been approached by the Harlequin Group who work on behalf of BT Openreach for their superfast broadband project with regard to siting two new BT boxes in Cottered on the Baldock Road in order to supply this service. Stuart Campbell, Assistant Director HCC responsible for rolling out superfast broadband across the county attended the meeting to provide an overview of the project and to discuss with the Councillors the implications of the project.

The Parish Council were mindful that the two boxes required would have to be sited on Village Green but felt that with the advantages this would bring to the community this could be justified.

It was resolved to respond positively to the proposal and that the Clerk would contact the agencies involved stating the Council's interest but the need for further discussion and clarification.

CLERK'S REPORT

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

Transparency Fund Grant

A laptop, printer/scanner and Microsoft Office Home and Business 2016 software has been purchased and is currently being set up in order that Cottered and Throcking Parish Council can comply with the Transparency Code by the deadline of July 2016.

Annual Parish Meeting 24th May 2016 7.30pm Cottered Village Hall

Emails or letters of invitation have been sent to all representatives of the village groups and activities. Over half of those contacted have responded indicating their attendance or have provided reports. The Clerk will do a 'polite reminder' with a copy of the Agenda.

Correspondence for noting or not on the Agenda

1. Letter from Herts Air Ambulance regarding two summer fundraising initiatives; **The Summer of Open Gardens** and **Afternoon Teas**. The Clerk placed the posters for these events on the Parish Notice boards.
2. Letter from Magpas Helimedix Air Ambulance requesting a grant towards their work.
3. Letter from Herts Independent Living Service promoting their meals on wheels and caring support services. Leaflets for distribution available on request.

DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS

All meetings to start at 7.30 pm in Cottered Village Hall

Tuesday 12th July 2016

Tuesday 13th September 2016

Tuesday 8th November 2016

Tuesday 10th January 2017

Tuesday 14th March 2017

The meeting closed at 10.25pm

Signed _____

Date _____

PUBLIC SESSION

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

Public session closed at 10.25pm