

MINUTES OF COTTERED AND THROCKING PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN COTTERED VILLAGE HALL ON TUESDAY 8th MARCH 2016 AT 7.30 PM

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

Officer attending: Denise Anderson (Clerk) 10 members of the public

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

APOLOGIES

16.23 None

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

16.24 Councillor Bryan Pitman (Chairman) declared an interest in Agenda item 6.2 Planning Application **3/16/0341/FUL** Land Adjacent To: Ivy Bank Baldock Road Cottered Buntingford Hertfordshire and stated he would leave the room when this item was being discussed.

MINUTES OF MEETING

16.25 The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 12th January 2016 were before the meeting and signed as a correct record.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

16.26 **Chairman's Report**

12th January 2016

Parish Council meeting

31st January

The Householder of Bull Cottage called to say his garden was being flooded with raw sewage and hence a blocked main sewer was suspected. Thames Water was immediately contacted, although it was early evening before they arrived to unblock the pipe located in the A507 near The Bull. The next day Thames Water returned to clean up the effluent in the area affected.

As this type of blockage has happened several times in the past, it may now be appropriate for the Parish Council to raise the question as to the reliability of the old sewage pipes. It is understood that the pipe size is small when compared with modern requirements.

1st March

The Chairman attended a meeting at EHDC Wallfields office's concerned with briefing Parish Councils about the District Plan. Little new information was available and the meeting lasted under an hour.

6th March

The Chairman met with the owner of The Glebe, regarding a Parish tree in contact with the properties BT overhead telephone line and the bad state of the lane leading to the A507.

FINANCE

16.27 **Finance report and payments authorised**

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

16.28 **New Audit arrangements**

Councillors were in possession of the Smaller Authorities' Audit Appointments Limited (SAAA) Second Communication which provided more detailed information on the new External Audit arrangements.

It was resolved by a unanimous vote by Councillors to remain an opted in authority.

PLANNING

16.28 **Planning Report**

The updated planning schedule is an appendix to these minutes.

3/15/2272/OUT Prestwick Ermine Street Buntingford Hertfordshire – **Refused**
Planning Applications since the Parish Council Meeting 12th January 2016

3/16/0126/PNHH Island View Brook End Cottered Buntingford Hertfordshire – **Refused**
Express planning permission not required for this application

3/16/0457/PNHH Island View Brook End Cottered Buntingford Hertfordshire
Revised application - express planning permission not required for this application

16.29 **Planning Applications**

Councillor Pitman (Chairman) left the room and Councillor McGrath (Vice Chairman) took over proceedings.

3/16/0341/FUL Land Adjacent To: Ivy Bank Baldock Road Cottered Buntingford Hertfordshire
Councillors were concerned that the application stated there was vehicular access to the proposed new property. It was decided that Councillors would undertake a site visit prior to making a decision on this application. A site visit was arranged for Saturday 12th March 2016 at 10.00am.

Councillor Pitman returned to the room and resumed the role of Chairman

16.30 **3/15/2054/CLE** The Farm House Lordship Farm (Certificate of Lawful Use or Development)
Councillors were in receipt of a letter from the applicants of this Planning Application.

It was resolved by a unanimous vote by Councillors that the Clerk would reply to the applicants stating that they considered this matter now closed. A copy of this letter along with a copy of the applicant's letter to the Council would be sent to Mr Jeff Hughes, Head of Democratic and Legal Support Services at East Herts Council.

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

The Buntingford Community Area Neighbourhood is still with East Herts District Council having been returned once. It is now on the last phase with the Planning Authority.

HIGHWAYS

16.31 **Junction of The Crescent with A507 Baldock Road**

The Clerk had reported the Council's concerns regarding this junction via the HCC online facility for reporting highway issues. To date an acknowledgement of the email has been received along with a reference number. It was suggested that a letter to the 'appropriate person' at Highways would maybe achieve a better result. Councillor Bull would investigate further and advise the Clerk.

PARISH MATTERS

16.31 **Telephone Box**

The Clerk had obtained two quotes for repainting the telephone box and provided a breakdown of additional costs involved in the refurbishment. This information was before the Council.

It was resolved to accept the quote from Gary Thrusell and proceed with the refurbishment of the Cottered telephone box

Council also agreed that the Clerk should contact the owner of the car that has been parked adjacent to the telephone box for quite some time advising them of the planned refurbishment and asking them to move their car. It was also felt that other residents parking in that area should be notified of the planned works and an explanatory notice be placed on the telephone box.

16.32 **The Old Barn and Village Green**

The Water Company is still being pursued for an easement.

16.33 **Notice boards**

The Clerk had put together a report outlining the various options open to the Council with regard to the replacement of the Throcking notice board and had made some recommendations.

The Clerk also suggested that an insurance claim was pursued for the replacement of the badly damaged original notice board. The report was before the Council.

It was resolved to purchase a new A2 Aluminium notice board from Greenbarnes and to pursue an insurance claim.

16.34 **Grass cutting contract**

The Clerk had obtained three tenders for the Cottered and Throcking grass cutting contract for the next three years. The three tenders were before the Council.

It was resolved to accept the tender from John O'Connor Grounds Maintenance.

16.35 **Village Green in front of the Old Barn (new dwelling)**

As custodians of the Village Green the Council is concerned about the planting of beech trees along Village Green in front of the Old Barn.

It was resolved to contact the owner of the property with a view to having a discussion about this issue.

RECREATION GROUND**16.36 Annual Playground Inspection Report**

The Clerk had put together a report on the cost of replacement parts for the Cottered Recreation Ground Childrens Playground from Wicksteed. The report was before the Council.

It was resolved to revisit this issue next year.

CLERK'S REPORT

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

Correspondence for noting or not on the Agenda

1. Correspondence from Tower Mint Ltd presenting their 2016 collector medal range for schools and councils to commemorate the 90th birthday of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. A free sample was enclosed which the Clerk will hold for interested parties.

DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS

All meetings to start at 7.30 pm in Cottered Village Hall

Tuesday 10th May 2016

Annual Parish Meeting Tuesday 24th May 2016

Tuesday 12th July 2016

Tuesday 13th September 2016

Tuesday 8th November 2016

Tuesday 10th January 2017

Tuesday 14th March 2017

The meeting closed at 9.05pm

Signed _____

Date _____

PUBLIC SESSION

The owner of the Old Barn wished to have recorded that he has made an application under Section 19 (2a) Commons Act 2006 to the County Council to correct a mistake regarding the Village Green. This is currently under consideration and until that is resolved he felt any discussion regarding the Village Green in front of his property should be put to one side.

Further discussion took place regarding both the Council's comments relating to 3/15/2054/CLE The Farm House Lordship Farm (Certificate of Lawful Use or Development) and the issue of the Village Green.

Public session closed at 9.30pm