

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

Present: Terry McGrath (Chair)
 Colin Bayles John Bull
 David Charles Barry Dean
 Paul Kenealy (District Councillor)

Officer attending: Denise Anderson (Clerk) 17 members of the public

APOLOGIES

16.93 Bryan Pitman sent his apologies as he is in hospital.

It was resolved to approve Bryan Pitman’s absence

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

16.94 Colin Bayles Declared an Interest in 3/16/2285/HH and 3/16/2287/HH Ye Olde Off Licence Baldock Road Cottered Hertfordshire as he was a neighbour and stated he would take no part in the discussions related to this Agenda item.

MINUTES OF MEETING

16.95 The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 13th September 2016 were before the meeting and signed as a correct record.

CHAIRMAN’S REPORT

16.96 A Chairman’s Report was not available due to the ill health and hospitalisation of the Chairman.

FINANCE

16.97 Finance report and payments authorised

The finance report was before the meeting and the report is an appendix to the minutes. The Clerk confirmed the receipt of the Litter Picking Grant which had not increased for 2016/2017 as well as the second half of the Precept and a second Transparency Fund Grant.

16.98 2017-2018 Budget

The Clerk presented a Budget Proposal for Council’s consideration.

PLANNING

16.99 Planning Report

The updated planning schedule is an appendix to these minutes.

3/16/1824/HH 3/16/1825/LBC	Bowling Green Farm Baldock Road Cottered Buntingford Hertfordshire SG9 9PT	Application withdrawn
3/16/1706/FUL	Coles Green Farm Throcking Road Cottered Buntingford Hertfordshire SG9 9RB	Refused

16.100 Planning Applications since the Parish Council Meeting 13th September 2016

3/16/2168/HH	Cromack View Baldock Road Cottered Buntingford Hertfordshire SG9 9QT	There was no objection by the Parish Council to this application
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16.101 Planning Applications

3/16/2382/LBC	Farriers Cottage Baldock Road Cottered Hertfordshire SG9 9PS	There was no objection by the Parish Council to this application
3/16/2297/VAR	Ivy Bank Baldock Road Cottered Buntingford Hertfordshire SG9 9QR	The Clerk was asked to request an extension to the deadline for comment so that Council could formulate a response
3/16/2285/HH	Ye Olde Off Licence Baldock Road Cottered Buntingford Hertfordshire SG9 9PU	There was no objection by the Parish Council to this application

16.102 Buntingford Community Area Neighbourhood Plan (BCANP)

The Parish Council had been requested by the Examiner of the BCANP to give explicit consent to allow Buntingford Town Council to act as the qualifying body in accordance with Section 61F (2) of the 1990 Town and Country Planning Act. Councillors expressed concern about giving such consent.

It was resolved that Cllr Bayles would investigate the implications and draft a response to the request for Council's consideration.

16.103 The District Plan

The Clerk had been delivered two copies of the Pre-Submission Consultation Documents for the District Plan for Council's consideration and response as appropriate.

The Clerk suggested that one set of documents should be made available to the residents of the parish and asked if the Village Hall would be a suitable venue. Cllr Bayles said he would ask the Village Hall Committee if this would be agreeable in view of the fact that the Village Hall was being used by Oasis 2 on a daily basis. The Clerk reported that the web link to the documents had been uploaded to Parish Council website.

16.104 Community Governance Review of the Buntingford Parish Boundary

The Clerk reported that no further communication on the process of review had been received.

The Clerk also reported that a letter had been received from the Diocese of St Albans regarding a proposed ecclesiastical boundary change *'for transferring part of the parish of Throcking to the parish of Layston with Buntingford and changing the name of the parish to Buntingford with Layston.'*

Councillors felt that further investigation on this proposal was required. The Clerk suggested that an extraordinary meeting could be considered to discuss and respond to the draft proposals.

16.105 Cottered Conservation Area Appraisal

The Clerk reported that no new date had been forthcoming for Councillors to meet with the Conservation Officer.

It was resolved that the Clerk would get an update on the situation.

HIGHWAYS**16.106 The junction of The Crescent and A507**

The Clerk reported that she had endeavored to ascertain the course of action required to pursue the concerns over the safety at this junction. She stated she had received an email response from Ringway saying *'that from a highway maintenance point of view there are no defects on site and the hedges either side of the junction were being maintained.'* The email also stated *'this was an issue beyond Ringway's remit and that the issue had been forwarded to HCC and that any works will have to compete with other sites across the county.'*

A Cottered resident had contacted the Council with a traffic calming proposal for the Baldock Road encompassing the junction but of course this could only be considered if the declassification of the road were to take place.

Cllrs Bull and Dean agreed to take some photographs illustrating the problem and compile a report which they would submit to County Councillor Rose Cheswright.

16.107 A Safer A507

Although Sanding Orders were not suspended the Chairman allowed members of the public to speak. Representatives of the *A Safer A507* reiterated their request for the Parish Council to provide a letter of support for the campaign to downgrade the A507 from an A road to B road classification.

It was proposed that Cottered and Throcking Parish Council would provide a letter of support for the *A Safer A507* campaign. Proposed by Cllr McGrath and seconded by Cllr Dean. The motion was passed by a majority vote of 3 for and 2 against.

It was resolved that the Clerk would draft a letter, for approval by the Council, giving Cottered and Throcking Parish Council's support for the A Safer A 507 campaign.

16.108 Stopping up of part of the highway known as Anvil Cottage Baldock Road Cottered

The Clerk reported that the Council had received a letter from HCC informing them of the intended application HCC were making to Stop Up a small section of the width of Baldock Road.

Councillors felt it appropriate to investigate the previous use of the highway and for the Clerk to contact the HCC solicitor for clarification should that be felt necessary.

PARISH MATTERS**16.109 Telephone Box**

The Clerk stated she was hoping to report that the refurbishment had been completed but unfortunately there had been a problem with the securing of the 'TELEPHONE' panels which was being addressed.

16.110 The Old Barn and Village Green

Councillors stated they would accept the undertaking by Mr McCormick to maintain the hedge he planted outside the Old Barn to a height of 1.2metres and to a width of 0.6metres in addition to cutting the Village Green adjacent to the property.

With regards to Mr McCormick's request for details about the insurance policy and condition report on the Lime Tree on the Village Green the Clerk stated she had spoken to the Council Chairman, Bryan Pitman, about this issue but had been unable to proceed further due to his emergency admission to hospital.

The Parish Trust secretary advised Councillors to instruct their solicitor regarding the outstanding easements related to this property.

16.111 Defibrillator

The Clerk had received further information from Verity Maclachlan, Guide Leader and British Heart Foundation Instructor, confirming that she would advise of the days and times when free British Heart Foundation courses will be held at the Guide Centre in Cottered.

16.112 Maintenance of posts and fencing around Recreation Ground

The Clerk presented a quote from Andrew Pettitt totaling £480.00 for the replacement or resetting of the damaged posts and top rails around the Recreation Ground in addition the replacement of the gate post and refitting the gate at the entrance by the Cricket Pavilion.

It was resolved to agree the quote and the Clerk to instruct Andrew Pettitt to proceed with the work.

16.113 Winer Self Help

The Clerk had received notification of the Winter Self Help scheme.

It was resolved that the Clerk should order 34 individual 25 kg bags of salt for the Parish and it was to be delivered to Cllr Charles who would then organise distribution within the Parish.

16.114 Annual Playground Inspection Report

Councillors were in possession of the Annual Playground Inspection Report.

It was resolved to make this an Agenda item for the next meeting.

16.115 Cricket Pavilion

The Clerk reported that the Council had received a letter from the Director of Oasis 2 regarding the possible use of the Cottered Cricket Club Pavilion for Oasis 2 accommodation.

Councillors felt the venue would be wholly unsuitable and that discussion regarding further use of the Village Hall would be more appropriate.

It was resolved the Clerk would send a letter to Oasis 2 stating this.

CLERK'S REPORT

16.116 Clerks Report

Correspondence for noting or not on the Agenda

1. Letter from East Herts Citizens Advice Service (now known as Citizens Advice East Herts, CAEH) thanking Cottered and Throcking Council for its donation of £50.00 towards their work.
2. Letter from Herts Air Ambulance thanking Cottered and Throcking Council for its donation of £50.00 towards their work.

DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS

All meetings to start at 7.30 pm in Cottered Village Hall

Tuesday 10th January 2017

Tuesday 14th March 2017

The meeting closed at 9.30pm

Signed _____

Date _____

PUBLIC SESSION

Public session closed at 9.30pm