

MINUTES OF COTTERED AND THROCKING PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN COTTERED VILLAGE HALL ON TUESDAY 12th SEPTEMBER 2017 AT 7.30 PM

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

Officer attending: Denise Anderson (Clerk) 4 members of the public

APOLOGIES

17.90 County Councillor Jeff Jones
(Cllr Jones sent an email with two points to be raised at the meeting)

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

17.91 None

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

17.92 Standing Orders were suspended to allow Public Participation.
A representative from the Petanque Club raised the ongoing issue that members of the Club and visiting teams were unable to park in the Club Car Park due to the increased amount of unauthorised parking by local residents.
Standing Orders were resumed.

MINUTES OF MEETING

17.93 The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 11th July 2017 were before the meeting and signed as a correct record.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

17.94

Several reports have been received regarding long-term parking in the Cricket Pavilion car park so denying the use of the car park by the Petanque Club.
There are several places on the Village Green where cars are being parked and advice from the Council's solicitor is still awaited regarding access to a property.

FINANCE**17.95 Finance report and payments authorised**

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

PLANNING**17.96 Planning Report**

The updated planning schedule is an appendix to these minutes.

3/17/1376/FUL	1 - 4 Peasecroft Cottered Buntingford Hertfordshire SG9 9QS	Refused
3/17/1463/FUL	The Bull Inn Baldock Road Cottered Buntingford Hertfordshire SG9 9QP	Approved
3/17/1205/LBC	4 Home Close Cottages Baldock Road Cottered Buntingford Hertfordshire SG9 9QW	Approved
3/17/1273/HH	1 Cottered Road Throcking Hertfordshire SG9 9RR	Approved
3/17/1146/HH	Ye Olde Off Licence Baldock Road Cottered Buntingford Hertfordshire SG9 9PU	Approved

17.97 Planning Applications since the Parish Council Meeting 11th July 2017

3/17/1527/FUL	Land Adjacent To A10 Between Throcking Lane And Baldock Road Buntingford Hertfordshire	There was no objection by the Parish Council but comments were submitted to EHC Planning
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17.98 Planning Applications

3/17/1926/FUL	Garden House Cottered Buntingford Hertfordshire SG9 9PZ	There was no objection by the Parish Council but comments were submitted to EHC Planning
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The Clerk raised a second point brought up in the email from Cllr Jones. He wished the Parish Council to be aware that he had commissioned a study with Herts Highways for the possibility of a crossing on the A507 in Cottered. The proposed location is opposite the Village Hall. The study will be paid for from his Highways Locality budget 2017/18 with the approved works from the 2018/19 budget.

17.99 **The District Plan**

An independent government inspector is set to conduct an Examination in Public of East Herts Council's District Plan starting on 3rd October 2017 when for the first two weeks the inspector will consider general matters. From 6th November 2017, the inspector will consider specific sites in detail.

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

Cllr Jeff Jones stated in his email to the Clerk that 'an update is expected from EHC at the yearend 2017.' Councillors noted that by that stage a number of houses on the development would be occupied and the views of those occupants would be relevant and this would be a larger task in canvassing their views with regard to the boundary review.

17.101 **Cottered Conservation Area Appraisal**

Councillors confirmed they had no further comment to make with regard to the Cottered Conservation Area Appraisal having already made representation about the 'Swedish houses' in Peascroft.

HIGHWAYS

17.101 **The junction of The Crescent and A507**

The Clerk reported she had received an email from the Circle Housing Officer saying she had emailed with a suggested a date in June for Councillors to meet with herself and the Circle Housing surveyor. The Clerk stated she had not received that email and had informed the Housing Officer. The Housing Officer suggested another meeting could be arranged with the surveyor and asked for Councillors availability.

It was resolved that the Clerk would contact Circle Housing again requesting another meeting.

PARISH MATTERS

17.102 **The Old Barn and Village Green**

Cllr Pitman stated that an easement had been paid for electricity cables running through the greens but not specifically to the Old Barn. Easements from the water company were still outstanding; complications had arisen due to the retirement of the solicitor handling the case and the takeover of the firm of solicitors acting on behalf of the Parish Council by another company.

17.103 **Annual Playground Inspection Report**

It was noted that the Annual Playground Inspection Report identified gaps opening up in the safety surface around many of the pieces of playground equipment.

It was resolved the Clerk would contact Wicksteed Playgrounds for a quote for the repair to the tiles.

The Clerk presented the information from her conversation with the Playground Inspection Company with regards as to what would be considered appropriate wording for the Recreation Playground signage.

It was resolved that the Clerk would investigate possible signage options and the cost of producing a suitable sign.

17.104 **Brook End Lane**

Cllr Charles presented a quote from Andy Pettitt for £180.00 to provide top soil and seed to repair the holes in the Village Green either side of Brook End Lane. There were discussions about erecting additional 'No Parking' on the Green along Brook End Lane.

It was resolved to accept the quote and the Clerk to organise for the work to go ahead.

17.105 **Unauthorised parking in the Petanque/Cricket Club Car Park**

It was resolved to write a letter to the households adjacent to the Petanque/Cricket Club Car Park stating the Parish Council's responsibilities with regard to this Car Park and to ask householders to prove their right to park there if any such historical permissions had been given.

17.106 **STANDING ORDERS**

It was resolved to remove the following wording 'in respect of business on the agenda'

Cottered and Throcking Parish Council Standing Orders MEETINGS 1.7 will now be worded as follows: *Subject to standing order 1.6 above, each member of the public is entitled to speak once only and shall not speak for more than 5 minutes.*

CLERKS PAY and HOURS

17.107 **Resolved to move this agenda item to the end of the meeting.**

CLERK'S REPORT

17.108 Clerks Report

Correspondence for noting or not on the Agenda

1. The Clerk had received an anonymous letter regarding concerns about activities at 1 Crows Croft Cottered Hertfordshire SG9 9QF.
The Parish Council stated this property was in the Parish of Ardeley and came under their jurisdiction.
2. Cottered resident John Harwood Bee had emailed the Clerk with information he wished to make the Council aware of:
Parish Boundary dispute
Mr Harwood Bee stated that the Cottered Village Appreciation Society is to seek to be registered as an interested party when this matter comes up for consideration by EHDC as may Cottered Village Hall. He felt that the stronger justification for keeping the boundary 'as is' the better and that the New Homes Bonus would benefit the many projects in the village including the installation of safety elements on the A507, a crossing near to the Village Hall and other traffic calming measures.
Community Safe Drive Campaign
Mr Harwood Bee reported the Cottered Village Appreciation Society has obtained sufficient signatures for a petition to apply for training to enable a group of volunteers to operate the speed recognition equipment available to qualifying communities. The DRIVE SAFE campaign endorsed, by the Police Commissioner, enables a community to record and report excess speed through the 30mph area of the village. He asked if any member of the Parish Council wish to be included on the volunteer list to advise himself or David Broxup.
3. The Clerk has received a letter from the Heating Oil Club. She will place the poster and flyers on the noticeboard at the Village Hall.

DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS

All meetings to start at 7.30 pm in Cottered Village Hall

14th November 2017

9th January 2018

13th March 2018

The meeting closed at 9.40pm

Signed _____

Date _____

CLERKS PAY and HOURS

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

It was unanimously resolved that the Clerks pay would be increased from SCP 24 to 25.

The Clerk will make the necessary arrangements with the Parish Council's Payroll Administrators.