

MINUTES OF COTTERED AND THROCKING PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN COTTERED VILLAGE HALL ON TUESDAY 14th MARCH 2017 AT 7.30 PM

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

Officer attending: Denise Anderson (Clerk) 6 members of the public

APOLOGIES

17.29 None

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

17.30 None

MINUTES OF MEETING

17.31 The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 7th March 2017 were before the meeting and signed as a correct record.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

17.32 Chairman's Report

Cllr Pitman reported that he had sourced 3 No Parking signs for the Village Green to the left of Brook End Lane to prevent the increased parking and destruction of the verge.

Resolved: Cllr Pitman would source a quote for labour and top soil in order to make the necessary repairs to the verge.

Cllr Pitman also reported the ongoing trespassing and damage to the Village Green caused by the building works to Ivy Bank. He reminded Councillors that this was a Parish Trust issue and that in his role as Trust Chairman he would continue discussions with the Trust's solicitor to resolve this issue.

FINANCE

17.33 **Finance report and payments authorised**

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

17.34 **VAT Reclaim 2016-2017**

The Clerk reported that she had made a claim of £859.00 in respect to VAT paid by the Council

PLANNING

17.35 **Planning Report**

The updated planning schedule is an appendix to these minutes.

3/17/0168/FUL	Warren Cottage Warren Lane Cottered Buntingford Hertfordshire SG9 9QG	Application Withdrawn by Applicant/Agent
3/16/2585/HH 3/16/2586/LBC RECONSULTATION	Shipwrights Cottage Baldock Road Cottered Buntingford Hertfordshire SG9 9QN	Refused
3/16/2684/HH	1 Middle Farm Cottages Cottered Road Throcking Buntingford Hertfordshire SG9 9RN	Refused
3/16/2585/HH 3/16/2586/LBC	Shipwrights Cottage Baldock Road Cottered Buntingford Hertfordshire SG9 9QN	Refused
3/16/2382/LBC	Farriers Cottage Baldock Road Cottered Hertfordshire SG9 9PS	Approved

17.36 **Planning Applications since the Parish Council Meeting 10th January 2017**

3/17/0254/FUL	Westcott Potato Lane Cottered Hertfordshire SG9 9PX	There was no objection by the Parish Council to this application
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17.37 **Planning Applications**

3/17/0387/OUT	Land Adj To The Old Rectory Baldock Road Cottered Buntingford Hertfordshire SG9 9QP
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The Chairman thanked Tom Routh, the architect, for his swift response to the queries raised by Councillors at the previous Parish Council meeting dedicated to this Planning Application.

Cllr Dean felt that the District Plan and Neighbourhood Plan should be adhered to.

Cllr Bayles stated he felt that Council should refer to the policies in place when making a decision. He also felt that the Council should be mindful of the views expressed by the 22 members of the public who attended the last meeting. He thanked Tom Routh for providing the requested information so promptly.

Mr Routh was allowed to respond to comments made. He stated that the parking was in excess of the dwellings need and that was to reflect the current parking on the verge and that it was felt it would be better placed off the road. The allocation was half for residents and the remainder for outside the development. He added if there was the appetite in the village, land beyond the development could be used for allotments and an honesty shop would be an extension of the allotments. Mr Routh stated that they were trying to do things that make a positive impact in the village.

Cllr McGrath questioned how the 15 houses proposed in this application related to the village's quota for future development.

Resolved unanimously by Councillors to respond to this Planning Application with comments stating:

- **that they wished to comply with the policies contained within the National Planning Policy Framework, the emerging District Plan and the Buntingford Area Neighbourhood Plan.**
- **their acknowledgment of the support for the development from attendees of the meeting but addressing their concerns about road and pedestrian safety**
- **if EHDC support the application assurance that the specific items of community benefit are delivered**

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

It was confirmed a hard copy of the documents were available in St John the Baptist Church, Cottered for the public to view. Neville Chuck was organising the delivery of leaflets providing an overview of the BCANP and details of the forthcoming referendum to local households in Cottered and Throcking. The Chairman gave a vote of thanks to Neville Chuck and Roger Gomm for their involvement in the BCANP and their proactive approach to delivering the leaflets.

17.39 **The District Plan**

The Chairman stated he had been called to meetings during the process but not recently so had no further update.

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

The Chairman provided an overview on the review. The Clerk had contacted the Head of Legal and Democratic Services at EHC in January asking for an update on the process. He stated he was setting out a timetable for the process and he would consult on this with the Clerk. No further update has been received.

It was resolved the Clerk contact Kevin Williams again, copying in Paul Kenealy, District Councillor to seek a further update

17.41 **Diocese Boundary Change**

The Clerk confirmed the email previously circulated to Councillors stating that the Diocese of St Albans had decided to go ahead with the boundary change as proposed.

17.42 **Cottered Conservation Area Appraisal**

It was confirmed that John Bull had accompanied John Bosworth, from the EHDC Conservation Team, around the Village. He reported that he was pleased with the maintenance of the greens. Unfortunately, he couldn't get into the Japanese Gardens but Neville Chuck was able to provide some information for him. He noted the lack of maintenance on the Cricket Pavilion and scoreboard (it was reported work to address this is scheduled for this year). Mr Bosworth has organised a public meeting for Thursday 25th May 2017 at 6.00pm in the Village Hall to report back on the Cottered Conservation Area Appraisal, opportunities for improvement and help with grant aid.

HIGHWAYS

17.43 **The junction of The Crescent and A507**

Cllr Pitman and Cllr Dean visited the property and spoke to the occupant after she had contacted the Parish Council on receipt of a letter from Circle Housing. Cllrs explained that they were trying to address the issue of the hedge but were trying to discuss the position with Circle Anglia as they were the landlords of the property. The occupant had no objection to the hedge being removed but does require a secure fencing around the property as she had young grandchildren at the house.

It was resolved that the Clerk would contact Circle Housing to discuss permission to remove the hedge and replacing it with a suitable fence but not at her expense.

PARISH MATTERS**17.44 The Old Barn and Village Green**

Afinity Water is still being pursued for an easement. Cllr Pitman to investigate the current position.

17.45 Annual Playground Inspection Report

The Clerk presented a quote from Wicksteed for both paint and labour for the repainting of the Children's Playground equipment. The quote totaled £1,170.00.

It was resolved to accepted the quote and the Clerk would contact Wicksteed Playgrounds to initiate the process for carrying out the work.

17.46 Subsided hole in Peascroft

As a result of a letter to Thames Water Complaints Resolution Team the Clerk received a phone call from a Case Manager. He reported that a team had been and checked the sewerage system and there was no evidence of collapse and stated that the hole was probably due to compaction or settlement or the collapse of an old cess pit due to its square shape.

Cllr Dean stated that Thames Water had previously accepted responsibility and that the hole was dug by them to undertake the sewerage works.

It was resolved that the Clerk would contact the Case Manager and put this information to him.

17.47 No Parking signs on Brook End Lane

Cllr Pitman had sourced 3 No Parking signs to replace the old ones that had been damaged, destroyed or removed from the green.

It was resolved Cllr Pitman would contact Andy Pettitt with a view to fixing these signs in place

17.48 Public Participation

Cllr considered the suggestion to bring forward the Public Participation Agenda item nearer the beginning of the Parish Council meeting. Councillors were concerned about keeping to strict time limits to ensure all participants were able to raise their points and to ensure the meeting would not be protracted.

It was resolved to move Public Participation to Agenda item no. 3 and for the Clerk to check Standing Orders for clarification on the period of time designated for public participation.

CLERK'S REPORT**17.49 Clerks Report**

The Clerk had nothing further to report that wasn't covered on the Agenda.

DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS**All meetings to start at 7.30 pm in Cottered Village Hall**

Annual Meeting of the Parish Council 9th May 2017 7.30pm

Parish Council Meeting 9th May 2017 7.45pm

Annual Parish Meeting 23rd May 2017

11th July 2017

12th September 2017

14th November 2017

9th January 2018

13th March 2018

The meeting closed at 9.45pm

Signed _____

Date _____

PUBLIC SESSION

Concerns were raised about the fallen branches on the greens and that O,Connors were due to start their annual grass cutting schedule imminently. Cllr Pitman to approach Andy Pettitt with a view to asking him to quote to clear the greens.

It was reported that garden waste and trimmings were left on the Highways verge in Throcking. Cllr Pitman agreed to speak to environmental services.

Public session closed at 9.50pm