

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

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

Officer attending: Denise Anderson (Clerk) County Councillor Jeff Jones
District Councillor Paul Kenealy
3 members of the public

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

APOLOGIES

17.109 None

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

17.110 Cllr Colin Bayles declared an interest in Agenda item 7.2 Planning Application 3/17/2436/FUL and stated he would take no part in the discussions related to this application.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

17.111 Standing Orders were suspended to allow Public Participation. County Councillor Jeff Jones outlined the new Community Bus service that will serve Cottered and the surrounding villages. He hoped the one year pilot service will start on 4th December 2017. A second-hand bus from Sawbridgeworth has been purchased and the required permit is awaited. It is hoped the service will run 2/3 days per week at a cost of £2.00 per trip. Cllr Jones said a flyer publicising the service was being produced and it was hoped it could be delivered with the Cottered and Throcking News. Funding for the service had been raised through various sources including Buntingford Town Council, a local charity, Relief in Need and McCarthy and Stone. Standing Orders were resumed.

MINUTES OF MEETING

17.112 The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 12th September 2017 were before the meeting and signed as a correct record.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

17.113

On the 12th October the Chairman attended the annual EHDC Parish and Town Conference at Ware. The main theme of the conference was Health and Wellbeing in the EHDC area.

EHDC has established a small agency to coordinate social and health related organisations that are not necessarily within the jurisdiction of the local GP medical centres.

EHDC has a budget of £120,000 for grants, but any application must have the support of the local EHDC councillor.

For large development building sites, the target for affordable houses remains at 40%. Affordable rents must be no more than 80% of the market rent.

The bushes obstructing the footpath to the rear of the Peasecroft gardens have been cleared away.

FINANCE

17.114 **Finance report and payments authorised**

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

17.115 **Approval of the Annual return for the year ended 31st March 2017**

The clerk presented the Annual return for the year ended 31st March 2017 including the External auditor certificate and the issues rising report to the Council.

It was unanimously resolved to approve and accept the External auditor certificate and the issues rising report.

17.116 **2018-2019 Budget**

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

PLANNING

17.117 **Planning Report**

The updated planning schedule is an appendix to these minutes.

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

3/17/2281/HH	4 Parkside Buntingford Hertfordshire SG9 9RT	There was no objection by the Parish Council to this application	
3/17/2046/FUL	Land Opp Prestwick Ermine Street (A10) Buntingford Hertfordshire SG9 9RT	There was no comment by the Parish Council to this application	Refused

17.119 Planning Applications

3/17/2524/HH	3 The Crescent Cottered Buntingford Hertfordshire SG9 9QU	There was no objection by the Parish Council to this application
3/17/2436/FUL	Radio Mast Site Adj The Old Rectory Cottered Road Throcking Buntingford Hertfordshire SG9 9RR	There was no objection by the Parish Council but comments were submitted to EHC Planning

17.120 Meeting with East Herts Planning

Councillors felt it would be beneficial to ask East Herts Planning to meet with them to help them gain an understanding as to how planning decisions are made. Cllr Kenealy said he would facilitate a meeting with Kevin Steptoe Head of Planning and Building Control to enable Councillors questions to be answered.

17.121 The District Plan

Cllr Kenealy confirmed this was still in the review process and that process was expected to end in the Spring. Cllr Jones stated that it was in its final stages and the Inspector's comments had been positive.

17.122 Community Governance Review of the Buntingford Parish Boundary

It was reported that the Chief Executive Liz Watts would provide an update by the end of the year and that the District Plan has affected progress. Cllr Bayles stated he would appreciate Cllr Jones and Cllr Kenealy making enquires on behalf of the Parish.

HIGHWAYS**17.123 The junction of The Crescent and A507**

Cllr Pitman confirmed, that at the Parish Council's request the junction of The Crescent and A507 had previously been inspected and deemed to be safe.

It was felt that the hedges at number 4 and 19 The Crescent, although cut back to the boundary line, contributed to the lack of visibility. Three Councillors attended to meet with both the Circle Housing Officer and surveyor to discuss this issue. Unfortunately, the surveyor was called away but had suggested a mirror to address the problem. Cllr Pitman explained that in previous years Highways have stated that they don't install mirrors. Cllr Jones said he would ask Highways to do a site visit.

17.124 Pedestrian crossing on A507 Baldock Road

Cllr Jones reported he had commissioned a feasibility study with Herts Highways for the possibility of a crossing on the A507 in Cottered and stated that the monies for this would come from his Highways Locality budget.

The Clerk had received an email from the Project Engineer asking the views of the Parish Council. Councillors raised concerns about it being placed too near the Village Hall entrance as the road bends in this location and could cause a lack of visibility. It was felt that any pedestrian crossing should be situated between Brook End Lane and the Village Hall. The Clerk would report these comments back to the Project Engineer.

17.125 Throcking Road subsidence

Cllr Bull reported that the road leading to Throcking Church had subsided again causing the centre to heave up. Vehicles using the road were hitting the underside of their cars on the raised road surface and risking severe damage to their vehicles.

It was resolved that the Clerk would report this to Highways.

Cllr Jones asked that the report reference number be sent to him so that he could chase it up.

PARISH MATTERS**17.126 The Old Barn and Village Green**

Cllr Pitman reported that an email had been received from the owner of the Old Barn asking for details of the easements for his property. The Parish Council had advised the owner that there were no easements for the Old Barn. Cllr Bayles stated that he felt the issue of outstanding easements should be addressed.

17.127 Playground Safety Surface

The Clerk presented the costs of the materials required to repair the existing safety surface in the Children's Playground. She had also asked Wicksteed Playgrounds for the cost of labour to carry out the job but had not received a response, despite a follow up email by the time of the meeting. Councillors felt that the costs involved in repair were going to be quite high and it was felt that monies would be better spent by investing in a new surface.

It was resolved that the Clerk would contact Wicksteed Playgrounds with a view to arranging a site visit in order to discuss both type of surface and the costs involved.

17.128 Brook End Lane

It was confirmed that the repair work had been carried out to the sides of the road. Councillors reported that within days of this being done a lorry had parked on part of it and caused it to sink again.

17.129 Unauthorised parking in the Petanque/Cricket Club Car Park

It was confirmed that a letter and an email had been received in response to the Parish Council's letter. After some discussion Cllr Kenealy suggested the Parish Council facilitated a meeting between the Petanque Club and the adjoining residents who park their cars there. It was felt the position of the Parish Council should be made clear prior to any discussions and that there is no right to park there.

It was resolved that the Clerk would write to those who had responded to the first letter and that another letter should be sent outlining the Council's intentions to facilitate a meeting.

17.130 Warren Lane

A letter had been received from a resident about the condition of Warren Lane from the church to A507.

It was resolved that the Clerk would report this to Highways.

CLERK'S REPORT**17.131 Clerks Report**

The Clerk attended an East Herts Council Grants Workshop on 2 October 2017 in Stansted Abbots along with Councillors, Clerks and others working for Community Organisations. Cottered and Munden Ward is identified as being in the top 10 areas of deprivation; an extract from one of the presentations stated: *Mundens 002B*

- *8th most deprived area in the District, most deprivation linked to living environment (which is classified as poor social and private housing, lack of central heating, poor air quality and road traffic accidents involving cyclists or pedestrians) – 2nd highest deprivation linked to living environment in the District)*
- *Village of Great Mundens has no services at all for residents (health / community / social)*
- *The most deprived households can mostly be found in Dane End and Cottered villages according to Mosaic data*

The Clerk can forward copies of the presentations to Councillors.

The focus of the workshop was to consider activities, events and projects that could address the issues outlined and help improve the health and well-being of those living in the identified areas. John Harwood Bee attended on behalf of the Cottered Appreciation Society and suggested funds could be sought to continue the 'Free Tea' event that has grown from the Luncheon Club and is held bi-monthly.

Correspondence for noting or not on the Agenda

- **24th October 2017** Letter from EHDC advising the Parish Council of a Tree Preservation Order (No. 3) 609 2017 P/TPO for Cheynes Lodge Cottered Herts SG9 9QB relating to the Pine Tree in the grounds of the property.
- **1st November 2017** Email from Department for Transport – National Transport Casework Team advising of the MADE ORDER: E/2514 - STOPPING UP OF HIGHWAY AT THROCKING LANE, BUNTINGFORD, HERTS, SG9 9RT. For information only and no requirement to respond.
- Letter from CAEH (Citizens Advice East Herts) thanking Cottered and Throcking Parish Council for the £50.00 donation towards their work to support the community.
- Letter from Essex and Herts Air Ambulance thanking Cottered and Throcking Parish Council for the £50.00 donation towards their lifesaving work.

DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS

All meetings to start at 7.30 pm in Cottered Village Hall

9th January 2018

13th March 2018

The meeting closed at 9.50pm

Signed _____

Date _____