

MINUTES OF COTTERED AND THROCKING PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN COTTERED VILLAGE HALL ON TUESDAY 9th MAY 2017 AT 7.30 PM

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

Officer attending: Denise Anderson (Clerk) 3 members of the public

APOLOGIES

17.50 John Bull
District Councillor Paul Kenealy

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

17.51 None

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

17.52 Standing Orders were suspended to allow Public Participation.

An objection was voiced regarding having the Public Participation at the beginning of the meeting. The Parish Council considered this to be fairer giving the public the opportunity to express their views on agenda items prior to resolutions being passed by the Council. Councillors considered that some amendment was required to the current wording in Standing Orders to make it less specific.

There were questions about the Community Governance Review of the Buntingford Parish Boundary. The Clerk reiterated the process and the current position. An update from the Acting Head of Legal and Democratic Services had been sought but not received.

The Chairman outlined arrangements for a leaflet drop to canvas the opinions of residents in Parkside in preparation for compiling a formal response to the Review when the opportunity in the process arose.

Standing Orders were resumed.

MINUTES OF MEETING

17.53 The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 14th March 2017 were before the meeting and signed as a correct record.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

17.54 Chairman's Report

Cheques have been received from BT and the electricity supplier in respect of the new BT connection boxes on the Green and electricity cables laid in the Greens. These cheques have been paid into the Greens Trust account.

As a consequence of the new BT boxes being installed the Cottered telephone exchange now has a superfast broadband capability. This fast speed is expected to benefit all the homes within a 1.6 km radius from the exchange, albeit that BT requires addition monthly charges for accessing this service.

(It was suggested that this information be disseminated through the Parish Magazine and Parish Council website)

As a result of the poll on the 23rd March the Neighbourhood Plan is now a legal planning document. Thanks must be conveyed to Roger Gomm and Neville Chuck for their valuable contributions to this document.

The 'no parking' sign in Brook End Lane has been renewed. There are two other signs which can be used.

Thanks to the perseverance of Denise and Barry, Thames Water, after 11 months, have filled in their hole on Cross Green.

FINANCE

17.55 **Finance report and payments authorised**

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

17.56 **Bank Mandate**

The Clerk explained the process required to change details to the Bank Mandate and the Councillors present agreed to provide the necessary details for those changes to be made.

17.57 **Annual Return**

The Annual Return which had been Internally Audited was before the meeting and agreed. The Chairman signed the Annual Governance Statement 2016-2017 and the Accounting Statements 2016-2017.

PLANNING**17.58 Planning Report**

The updated planning schedule is an appendix to these minutes.

17.59 Planning Applications since the Parish Council Meeting 14th March 2017

3/17/0387/OUT AMENDMENT	Land Adj To The Old Rectory Baldock Road Cottered Buntingford Hertfordshire SG9 9QP	No further comments	
3/17/0727/HH	The Farm House Lordship Farm Cottered Buntingford Hertfordshire SG9 9QL	No Objection	
3/16/1253/FUL	Land North Of Park Farm Industrial Estate Ermine Street Buntingford Hertfordshire	No objection	
3/16/2285/HH LPA Appeal Reference: 17/00020/REFUSE	Ye Olde Off Licence Baldock Road Cottered Buntingford Hertfordshire SG9 9PU	No objection to original application	
3/17/0578/HH	1 Middle Farm Cottages Cottered Road Throcking Buntingford Hertfordshire SG9 9RN	No objection	Approved

17.60 Planning Applications

None

17.61 Buntingford Community Area Neighbourhood Plan (BCANP)

As a result of the Referendum held on 23rd March 2017 the BCANP is now an official planning document to be used by East Herts Council when deciding planning applications.

17.62 The District Plan

No further update.

17.63 Community Governance Review of the Buntingford Parish Boundary

The Clerk had contacted the Acting Head of Legal and Democratic Services twice requesting an update but none had been received.

Councillors discussed the proposed draft leaflet for circulation to the Parkside residents and agreed on the revised wording by Cllr Bayles. The Clerk would place the text in the Parish letterheaded document in preparation for printing.

17.64 Cottered Conservation Area Appraisal

The Clerk had received an email from John Bosworth of the EHDC Conservation Team stating that he was currently recovering from an illness and would update on the planned Cottered Conservation Area Appraisal meeting as soon as possible.

HIGHWAYS**17.65 The junction of The Crescent and A507**

The Clerk had received permission from Circle Housing for the Parish Council, in agreement with the resident at 4 The Crescent, to remove the hedge and replace with a picket fence. It was agreed that a picket fence would not help improve the visibility and that a meeting with the Circle Housing surveyor at the site might be the way forward in explaining the problem and seeking his guidance on what might be a more suitable solution.

It was resolved that the Clerk would contact Circle Housing again requesting a meeting with their surveyor.

PARISH MATTERS**17.66 The Old Barn and Village Green**

Cllr Pitman to seek update from solicitor.

17.67 Annual Playground Inspection Report

It was reported that the Children's Playground had been repainted and an excellent job had been done. The Clerk reminded Councillors that a sign was still a requirement of the Inspection Report.

It was resolved that the Clerk would contact Wicksteed Playgrounds to seek their advice on the signs available for such purposes.

It was also noted that a mattress had been dumped in the area of the Playground. Cllr Charles said he would investigate removal of the item.

17.68 Subsided hole in Peascroft

It was confirmed through the persistence of Cllr Dean and the Clerk Thames Water has now filled the hole that appeared as a result of their replacement sewerage works on the Village Green at the end of Peascroft.

17.69 Brook End Lane

It was reported that a 'No Parking' sign had been placed on the Village Green adjacent to Brook End Lane and there were 2 more available for placement. Cllr Charles said he would speak to Andy Pettitt re his quote for topsoil and seed to repair the Village Green either side of Brook End Lane.

17.70 Clerks Salary

The public had left the meeting by this point so there was no requirement to close the meeting.

The Clerk stated that the 2017/18 NJC Pay Scales specified a salary increase from 1st April 2017.

It was unanimously resolved to agree the salary increase and for it to be implemented and back dated to 1st April 2017.

CLERK'S REPORT**17.71 Clerks Report**

The Clerk reported that further funding from the Transparency Fund was available to pay the Clerk to continue the maintenance of the website for a further year and with the Council's approval she would be applying for that funding.

It was resolved that the Clerk should proceed with an application.

The Clerk also reported that all the Parish organisations had been invited to the Annual Parish Meeting and that they would be sent a reminder along with the Minutes of the previous meeting in a timely manner before the 23rd May 2017.

DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS

All meetings to start at 7.30 pm in Cottered Village Hall

11th July 2017

12th September 2017

14th November 2017

9th January 2018

13th March 2018

The meeting closed at 9.30pm

Signed _____

Date _____