

MINUTES OF COTTERED AND THROCKING PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN COTTERED VILLAGE HALL ON TUESDAY 11th SEPTEMBER 2018 7.30 PM

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

Officer attending: Denise Anderson (Clerk) 0 members of the public

APOLOGIES

18.85 Apologies were received from County Councillor Jeff Jones but he provided an email update on a number of matters to the Clerk to be reported under the appropriate Agenda item.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

18.86 None

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

18.87 No members of the public present

MINUTES OF MEETING

18.88 The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 10th July 2018 were before the meeting and signed as a correct record.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

18.89 On the 16th August the Chairman and Vice Chairman met the Chairman and Clerk of Thorley Parish Council, who like Cottered, is threatened to lose part of its parish to the nearby town, in this case it is the town of Bishop's Stortford. The purpose of this meeting was to share and compare the various experiences of the two Parish Councils and discuss what opposition tactics have or could be used to persuade EHDC to dismiss the boundary change requests.

Thorley appear to have many helpful advantages in their opposition tasks including the following:

1. Parish Council meetings are attended by the local press, hence good publicity is assured.
2. A strong and supportive Residents Association are opposing the proposal.
3. Some Town and District Councillors are supporting the Thorley actions.
4. The Bishop's Stortford Civic Federation are lobbying EHDC on behalf of Thorley Parish Council
5. Thorley Parish Council have been seeking legal advice.

Amongst various suggestions as to the way forward was to have a petition and to consider whether there was a case for accusing EHDC of mal-administration.

Cllr Bull, Vice Chairman, added that Thorley Parish Council benefited from good resources. He also noted that should the Thorley boundary change take place this would significantly reduce the population left in Thorley and reduce the number of Councillors to five.

A number of mothers from Cottered have contacted the Chairman supporting the idea that a pedestrian crossing should be located at the entrance to the Village Hall, between the existing dropped sections of the pavement curb stones. Concerns were expressed regarding the proposal to have an island in the middle of the crossing point as this could present difficulties for wheelchairs and pushchairs.

FINANCE**18.90 Finance report and payments authorised**

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

18.91 New Homes Bonus

The Clerk reported she had received confirmation of the New Homes Bonus Award for 2018/19. Thereafter no payments were due. Any further funding will be decided by central government.

PLANNING**18.92 Planning Report**

The updated planning schedule is an appendix to these minutes.

3/18/1342/HH	2 Clayton Drive Buntingford Hertfordshire SG9 9RX	Refused
3/18/0683/FUL	Westcott Potato Lane Cottered Hertfordshire SG9 9PX	Refused
3/18/1166/FUL	Barn At Warren Lane/Spring Lane Cottered Hertfordshire	Refused
3/18/0656/FUL	1 - 4 Peasecroft Cottered Buntingford Hertfordshire SG9 9QS	Approved

18.93 Planning Applications since the Parish Council Meeting 10th July 2018

3/18/1702/FUL 3/18/1703/LBC	Broadfield Hall Broadfield Throcking Buntingford Hertfordshire SG9 9RD	The Parish Council made no comment with regard to this Planning Application	
3/18/1622/FUL	Land Adjacent To A10 Between Throcking Lane And Baldock Road Buntingford Hertfordshire	The Parish Council objected to this Planning Application	Refused
3/18/1562/FUL	Matchfords Brook End Cottered Buntingford Hertfordshire SG9 9QR	The Parish Council objected to this Planning Application	

18.94 Planning Applications

3/18/1864/LBC	Farriers Cottage Baldock Road Cottered Hertfordshire SG9 9PS	There was no objection by the Parish Council to this application
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18.95 Community Governance Review of the Buntingford Parish Boundary

The Clerk reported the comments sent by County Cllr Jones - The Community Governance Review for Buntingford comes to Executive and Council on Tuesday 11th September which includes the results of the 2nd consultation.

Councillors discussed taking advice regarding making a case for maladministration with regard to the consultation process.

HIGHWAYS**18.96 The junction of The Crescent and A507**

There being no further developments regarding improving the safety at this junction the Clerk was asked to email County Cllr Jones to seek an update on the possible safety measures that could be put into place to address concerns.

18.97 Pedestrian crossing on A507 Baldock Road

The Clerk reported the comments sent by County Cllr Jones - I look forward to receiving a response from council on my request for Cottered & Throcking PC to conduct a consultation with residents on the proposals on my behalf for the A507 crossing proposals in Cottered.

The Chairman reported that a number of the mothers of young children in the village had contacted him stating a preference for a controlled crossing within the vicinity of the Village Hall.

It was resolved to place some editorial in the Cottered and Throcking News stating the preference of those in the village who wanted a crossing and to signpost the full feasibility study on the Cottered Parish Council website to encourage feedback.

18.98 A507 Weight Limit

The Clerk reported the comments sent by County Cllr Jones - The A507 weight limit proposals come before HCC Highways Cabinet Panel on Friday 14th September. The proposal is to provide weight restrictions in a number of areas on the route, as opposed to the whole route, to allow easier enforcement of the weight restriction.

PARISH MATTERS**18.99 The Old Barn and Village Green**

The matter of the water pipes through Village Green is on hold until the other issue with Affinity Water, currently being handled by OFWAT, is finalised.

18.100 The Annual Playground Inspection Report

Having been circulated previously the Annual Playground Inspection Report was before the meeting for discussion. All areas inspected were designated as Very Low or Low Risk with one of the major issues identified being the deterioration and gapping of the safety surface.

18.101 Children's Playground

The Clerk presented a document showing the price comparison between the two quotes received from Wicksteed Playgrounds and Sovereign Playgrounds. Councillors were concerned about the high cost of undertaking the replacement of the all safety surfaces which would amount to between £10,000 - £15,000. A suggestion was made that each area could be replaced on a rolling programme of replacement.

It was resolved to reconsider this at the next meeting when the predicted expenditure for the remainder of the financial year and the draft budget for 2019/20 would be considered.

18.102 **Winter Self Help**

It was resolved that the Clerk should order the maximum 35 x 20kg bags for Winter Self Help from HCC and they should be delivered to Cllr Charles prior to distribution within the parish.

18.103 **Buntingford Community Transport Project (BCAT)**

The Clerk reported the comments sent by County Cllr Jones - The Buntingford Community Transport Project (BCAT) are extending the service to the villages, starting 1st October. There will be a four times a day service on a Monday only. We have produced a flyer to be distributed to households to provide information on the service and I am requesting Parish Councils to distribute these for us.

CLERK'S PAY and HOURS

18.104 The Clerk reminded Councillors that the funding from the Transparency Grant to pay the Clerk for an additional 3 hours per month to ensure compliancy with the Transparency Code would end this month.

It was unanimously resolved to retain the additional 3 hours and to increase the Clerk's pay by two scale points to SCP 27 to reflect the achievement of the CiICA qualification and the annual rise.

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

CLERK'S REPORT

18.105 Clerks Report

The Clerk reported she had received a request to hire the football pitch. It was agreed Councillors would liaise with Allen Chamberlain about pitch usage.

The Clerk requested permission to purchase a new battery for the Parish Council laptop and an external hard drive to store Parish Council documentation.

It was resolved to approve this expenditure.

Correspondence for noting or not on the Agenda

Letter from CAEH (Citizens Advice East Herts) requesting a donation from Cottered and Throcking Parish Council towards their work to support the community.

Letter from Essex and Herts Air Ambulance requesting a donation from Cottered and Throcking Parish Council towards their lifesaving work.

Resolved that the Council in accordance with its powers under section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 should incur the following expenditure - £50.00 donation to each of the charities.

DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS

All meetings to start at 7.30pm in Cottered Village Hall

13th November 2018

8th January 2019

12th March 2019

The meeting closed at 9.45pm

Signed _____

Date _____