

MINUTES OF COTTERED AND THROCKING PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN COTTERED VILLAGE HALL ON TUESDAY 13th MARCH 2018 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

18.22 Apologies were received from County Councillor Jeff Jones but he provided an email update on Highways matters to the Clerk to be reported under that Agenda item.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

18.23 None

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

18.24 No members of the public wished to speak

MINUTES OF MEETING

18.25 The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 9th January 2018 were before the meeting and signed as a correct record.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

18.26 The Chairman received many emails from Cottered residents complaining about Warren Lane which was covered in mud and had damaged verges and banks. These conditions were quickly reported to HCC Highways and also to HCC Councillor Jeff Jones. Jeff Jones confirmed that he had inspected the Lane and HCC Highways were investigating the damage.

Following a Parish Council letter to the EHDC Planning Authority objecting to the construction of a large lagoon at the Buttermilk Hall Farm site, the Chairman contacted EHDC and was informed that the applicant had been asked for more details regarding the construction and the basic requirement for the lagoon.

In order to investigate the lack of an easement for the water pipes installed in the Village Green adjacent to The Old Barn, the Chairman contacted both Affinity Water and Thames Water. Results are awaited.

FINANCE**18.27 Finance report and payments authorised**

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

The Chairman noted the £2,000 donation by Redrow Homes towards the cost of replacement safety surfaces and equipment for the Children's Playground and thanked Cllr Bull for making the approach to Redrow Homes.

The Chairman explained that the Cottered Litter Picker, Nigel Bentley, has had an operation and is currently unable to carry out his duties. Cllr Bull was thanked for taking on the role in the interim.

18.28 VAT Reclaim

The Clerk explained that she had received a letter from HMRC stating that claims made using a VAT126 form would require a new reference number to replace the current existing customer identification number. The Clerk was awaiting this new number prior to making a VAT reclaim for the Council.

PLANNING**18.29 Planning Report**

The updated planning schedule is an appendix to these minutes.

3/17/2780/FUL	Land Adjacent To 10 - 17 Stocking Hill Cottered Buntingford Hertfordshire SG9 9PY	Approved
3/17/2974/FUL	Milling Barn Bluntswood Hall Cottered Road Throcking Buntingford Hertfordshire SG9 9RU	Approved

18.30 Planning Applications since the Parish Council Meeting 9th January 2018

3/18/0048/ARPN	Barn At Warren Lane Cottered Hertfordshire SG9 9QG	There was no objection by the Parish Council to this application but comments were submitted	Prior Approval is Required and Granted Subject to Conditions
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3/18/0158/FUL 3/18/0159/LBC	Broadfield Hall Broadfield Throcking Buntingford Hertfordshire SG9 9RD	There was no objection by the Parish Council to this application
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18.31 Planning Applications

3/18/0454/HH	1 Cottered Road Throcking Hertfordshire SG9 9RR	Response being considered
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18.32 Meeting with East Herts Planning

The Clerk reported that she had not received a response from Cllr Kenealy regarding a meeting for Parish Councillors with Kevin Steptoe Head of Planning and Building Control to enable Councillors' questions to be answered. The Clerk was asked to email Cllr Kenealy again to ask if any progress had been made with regard to a meeting.

18.33 The East Herts District Plan Main Modifications Consultation

The Chairman stated that the document was being circulated between Councillors and that a copy had been placed in the St John The Baptist Church in Cottered for public viewing along with comment forms.

18.34 Community Governance Review of the Buntingford Parish Boundary

Cllr Bayles reported that he had met with the A Safer A507 group and representatives of other village organisations who had produced a document in response to the Community Governance Review. He felt it was important to look at documents prepared by other organisations to prevent duplication.

Cllr Bayles felt the Parish Council should look at the Terms of Reference and deal with them point by point but added he was awaiting some clarification from the Electoral Officer regarding those terms.

It had been clarified by East Herts Council that the views of the whole parish were important but more weight would be given to the views of people living in the area concerned. It was felt to be essential to poll the people living in the area concerned as was required by Government Guidance.

The Electoral Officer had provided information as to which organisations had been consulted and the Clerk had received a small number of leaflets regarding the review. Copies of these had been placed on the Parish noticeboards and the information had been uploaded to the website.

It was suggested that the Cottered and Throcking News was distributed around the new Redrow housing estate.

It was unanimously resolved to distribute the Cottered and Throcking News around the new housing estate and the Parish Council would fund the cost of the additional copies.

Parish Councillors agreed to meet on Tuesday 20th March at 7.30pm in Cottered Village Hall in order to discuss formulating their response to the review.

HIGHWAYS

The Chairman referred to the email provided by Cllr Jones in response to Highways issues on the Agenda:

18.35 The junction of The Crescent and A507

Cllr Jones stated he attended this area with his Highways engineer last month. It was agreed that a jetting crew would attend to clear the blocked gully that is causing flooding. A crew would also attend to clean and cut back the footway. Concern had also been raised with regard delivery vehicles mounting the verge and causing damage. A possible remedy could be to extend the double height kerb further along this stretch. Cllr Jones stated he would welcome the Parish Council's view on this proposal.

The Chairman said there had obviously been some confusion as the report related to the problems further along The Crescent and not the junction. He would contact Cllr Jones regarding this.

18.36 Throcking Road subsidence

Cllr Jones reported he had also visited this area and the whole of Throcking Lane was inspected with the worst areas to the east from the church and a crew would repair the potholes at the farm entrance. Further works to bring the Throcking road up to a satisfactory condition were proposed and to be funded from his Locality Budget. He added that it had been highlighted at council by many members that unclassified roads are not getting the required attention they need, as opposed to A, B and C roads. This area will be scheduled into the works programme for 2018/19.

18.37 Warren Lane

Cllr Jones said he visited this area two weeks ago when the contactors from British Sugar at Warren Farm were just finishing. He reported this to Highways Enforcement to take action to repair the damage caused by the HGVs, also the same issue in Throcking Lane. He stated he had been told that the contractors have made some repairs to the road and that he witnessed a road sweeper in action.

18.38 Pedestrian crossing on A507 Baldock Road

Cllr Jones said he was awaiting the report from the consultants at Arup.

PARISH MATTERS**18.39 The Old Barn and Village Green**

Cllr Pitman reported that he had contacted both Water Authorities and was awaiting their response.

18.40 Children's Playground

The £2,000 donation by Redrow Homes towards the cost of replacement safety surfaces and equipment for the Children's Playground had been noted earlier in the meeting.

Cllr Bull reported that he had just made an application to Tesco for further grant funding for the Children's Playground equipment

The Clerk reported that she had, as requested, investigated grants available to the Parish Council with regard to repair or replacement of Children's Playground equipment. The possible grant sources were: East Herts Council Discretionary Community Grants, National Lottery Awards for All, County Councillor Jeff Jones and the Housing Association. East Herts District Council also have a list of External Funding Sources that could be utilised to seek funding.

It was resolved that Cllr Bull and the Clerk would work together on further grant applications for the repair or replacement of Children's Playground equipment.

18.41 Parking in the Petanque/Cricket Club Car Park

The Chairman reported that meeting scheduled for Tuesday 27th February 2018 to discuss the issue of parking in the Petanque/Cricket Club car park went ahead. A constructive and friendly discussion enabled a resolution to be found that was acceptable to all parties. An agreement for signature by representatives of the Cricket Club, Petanque Club and Parish Council had been drafted along with covering letters.

It was resolved that the Clerk would send a letter to the residents concerned with a copy of the planned agreement. The representatives of the Cricket Club and Petanque Club would also be sent letters along with an agreement for signature. Once completed by all signatories a copy would be sent to the respective clubs and held on file in Parish Council records.

18.42 Salt Bin at the Village Hall

The Clerk confirmed she had an email from HCC confirming they are no longer implementing new salt bins. This was confirmed by Cllr Jones. Councillors discussed purchasing one and the Clerk provided an indication of size and cost. Councillors thought they might be able to source a suitable receptacle from another source.

CLERK'S REPORT**18.43 Clerks Report**

The Clerk will be attending the HATPC New Data Protection Regulations workshop on Wednesday 21st March 2018. This was originally scheduled for 13th December 2017 but was cancelled because of the weather conditions at the time. The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) will take effect in the UK from 25th May 2018. It replaces the existing law on data protection (the Data Protection Act 1998).

Correspondence for noting or not on the Agenda

- The Clerk confirmed that the Cottered Conservation Area Appraisal was considered at the East Herts District Council Executive Committee on 6th February 2018. It was recommended that the the responses to the public consultation be noted and the Officer responses and proposed changes be supported and that the Cottered Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan be adopted.
- Consultation on the Waste Local Plan Initial Consultation running from 5th February 2018 to 30th March 2018.

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

8th May 2018 - Annual Meeting of the Parish Council and Parish Council Meeting

15th May 2018 - Annual Parish Meeting

10th July 2018

11th September 2018

13th November 2018

8th January 2019

13th March 2019

The meeting closed at 9.15pm

Signed _____

Date _____