

MINUTES OF COTTERED AND THROCKING PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN COTTERED VILLAGE HALL ON TUESDAY 13th NOVEMBER 2018 7.30 PM

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

Officer attending: Denise Anderson (Clerk) County Councillor Jeff Jones
8 members of the public

APOLOGIES

18.106 County Councillor Jeff Jones had emailed the Clerk to inform Councillors he would be attending the meeting but would arrive late as he was attending another Parish Council meeting in the ward.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

18.107 None

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

18.108 Nigel Bentley reported that a new bin was required at the top of The Crescent and the two on the Cottered Recreation Ground required new inners. Cllr Bull offered to measure the inners and pass the information to the Clerk.

It was resolved the Clerk would investigate the cost of a new bin and two new inners and present this information at the next Parish Council meeting.

MINUTES OF MEETING

18.109 The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 11th September 2018 were before the meeting and signed as a correct record.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

18.110 On the 14th September the Chairman join other residents of Cottered observing the meeting of the HCC Highways Panel that were discussing the feasibility of introducing a 7.5 tons weight limit on sections of the A507. The Panel appeared to accept the statement that the police would not be intending to enforce such a limit. No decision regarding the proposal was made and the Council Officers were instructed to continue the feasibility study.

Two Cottered mothers have carried out a survey on behalf of the Parish Council seeking the views of parish residents as to the need and possible location of a pedestrian crossing. The result of the survey has been forwarded to HCC Councillor Jeff Jones.

Cllr Bayles and Cllr Bull attended a Rural Planning Enforcement Briefing on 25th October 2018 hosted by Mark Prisk MP. This was a briefing for the rural parishes in East Herts to consider issues of planning enforcement. The aim of the session was to provide an update to Parish Councillors and Clerks on when and how enforcement can be carried out, considering particularly the types of evidence that would help the council in preparing an enforcement case.

Various residents of Brook End Lane have expressed concern about the number of vehicles parking near the start of the lane.

FINANCE**18.111 Finance report and payments authorised**

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

It was resolved to increase the monies paid to Nigel Bentley for cutting the grass on the Cottered Recreation Ground each season from £100 to £120.

It was resolved the Clerk would make the necessary arrangements to increase the monthly Standing Order for Nigel Bentley to reflect the increase in the Litter Picking Grant.

18.112 Budget 2019-2020

The Clerk presented a draft Budget Proposal for discussion. It was noted that the Parish Council's income was depleted in 2019-2020 due to: No New Homes Bonus and no contribution from the Parish Trust towards grass cutting due to an increase in legal costs over Trust land. Councillors may consider raising the Precept to provide monies if they want to make the safety surfaces a project for 2019-2020.

PLANNING**18.113 Planning Report**

The updated planning schedule is an appendix to these minutes.

3/18/1864/LBC	Farriers Cottage Baldock Road Cottered Hertfordshire SG9 9PS	Application Withdrawn by Applicant/ Agent
3/18/1702/FUL 3/18/1703/LBC	Broadfield Hall Broadfield Throcking Buntingford Hertfordshire SG9 9RD	Approved
3/18/1562/FUL	Matchfords Brook End Cottered Buntingford Hertfordshire SG9 9QR	Refused

18.114 Planning Applications since the Parish Council Meeting 11th September 2018

LPA Appeal Reference: 18/00129/REFUSE	Land Adjacent To 2 Middle Farm Cottages Cottered Road Throcking	The Parish Council wished to make no further comment on this application
3/18/2277/OUT	Prestwick Ermine Street Buntingford Hertfordshire SG9 9RT	Uphold reasons in Inspector's Report (APP/1915/W/16/16/3147451 in August 2016)
3/18/2135/FUL	Bluntwood Hall Cottered Road Throcking Hertfordshire SG9	There was no objection by the Parish Council to this application
3/18/2122/HH	2 Clayton Drive Buntingford Hertfordshire SG9 9RX	There was no objection by the Parish Council to this application

18.115 Planning Applications

3/18/2047/HH	Farriers Cottage Baldock Road Cottered Hertfordshire SG9 9PS	There was no objection by the Parish Council to this application
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18.116 Community Governance Review of the Buntingford Parish Boundary

It was confirmed that the Community Governance Review of the Buntingford Parish Boundary had recommended to the Local Boundary Commission that the new Redrow housing development will become part of Buntingford and that Parkside will remain within the Parish of Cottered and Throcking. The Chairman allowed member of the public, John Harwood Bee, to speak and he stated this was yet to be ratified by the Boundary Commission and requested that Cottered and Throcking Parish Council challenge or appeal the decision. Councillors stated they would investigate the current stage in relation to the overall implementation of the boundary change to ascertain if a challenge or appeal was appropriate.

HIGHWAYS

The Chairman proposed that this item be moved down the Agenda to await the arrival of County Councillor Jeff Jones who would be able to address the two Agenda items under Highways. This was unanimously agreed by Councillors.

PARISH MATTERS**18.117 The Old Barn and Village Green**

Affinity Water had been pursued for crossing registered Village Green and other issues. These issues had now been resolved and compensation paid.

It was unanimously resolved by Councillors that the matter of The Old Barn should be pursued in the same vein.

18.118 Children's Playground

Cllr Bull presented a report on the current state of the Children's Playground safety surfaces. He identified that the main issue was with the wooden surrounds that secure the tiles; these were decaying and allowing the rubber tiles to move. The worst areas were the Rocking Horse and Toddler Swings safety surfaces but it was noted that all surfaces were very slippery.

It was resolved that the Clerk would obtain a further quote from Sovereign Playgrounds to replace just the Rocking Horse and Toddler Swings safety surfaces.

Councillors discussed their concerns over the slippery surfaces.

It was resolved to close the Children's Playground to the public for the immediate future to prevent any potential accidents.

It was agreed the area would be taped off and signs alerting the public to the potential danger would be placed on the site. It was also suggested that the Clerk put a notice in the Cottered and Throcking News explaining the action.

County Councillor Jeff Jones joined the meeting and the Chairman invited him to speak and informed him that the Highways Agenda item had been held until his arrival.

Cllr Jeff Jones introduced Andrew Huggins who would be standing as the Conservative Councillor for the District Council in the next elections. Cllr Paul Keneally will not be standing again due to work commitments.

HIGHWAYS

18.119 The junction of The Crescent and A507

Cllr Jones confirmed that HCC will not supply or endorse the use of mirrors. Should the Parish Council wish to make local arrangements that would be a matter for them.

18.120 Pedestrian crossing on A507 Baldock Road

Cllr Jones reported that he had submitted the survey from Cottered in the report to Highways. Cllr Jones will put this before the panel and look at a work plan and costings.

18.121 A507 Weight Limit

Cllr Jones said that he had recently met with the A Safer A507 group. He said it had been stated that enforcement would be an issue and members had proposed to cabinet that the following sections would have weight restrictions: Radwell Services to the Baldock Lights, the whole of Cottered out to Cumberlow Green and Buntingford High Street to the A507 Baldock Road. He said this matter would be coming back to cabinet in February 2019.

18.122 30mph Sign

Cllr Jones confirmed that he had funded two new speed indicator devices (SID) and that the current SIDs were now obsolete. The new ones would be placed one at the east of the village and one to the west meeting the specific requirements for placement. He added that the A Safer A507 group had applied for a further two.

18.123 Highways Together

Cllr Jones explained that this was volunteer groups working together with Town and Parish Councils to get small things, that in Highways terms, are a low priority done. Funding comes from HCC Highways with respect to equipment and materials. County Councillors are promoting this further and Cllr Jones will be running a workshop in the near future for Councillors to attend.

18.124 Throcking Road

Cllr Jones said he had tried to get the resurfacing of the Throcking Road done under his Locality Budget at a cost of £30/40K. It was noted that a lot of unclassified roads were being neglected and extra funding had been given to this area and the Throcking Road had been accepted from A507 through to Buntingford

PARISH MATTERS (Agenda item resumed)

18.125 Cottered Recreation Ground Football Field

There were assurances that the teams using the Football Field were connected to Cottered but there was disquiet that permission hadn't been sought. Chairman Bryan Pitman said he would pursue enquiries through Allen Chamberlain of Cottered Football Club.

CLERK'S REPORT

18.126 Correspondence for noting or not on the Agenda

Information from the Royal Mail about SCAM MAIL. The Clerk will put this information on the Noticeboard.

A DVD sent from HAPTC 'A County at War, Life on the Home Front in Hertfordshire' was passed to Councillors to watch and pass on.

DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS

All meetings to start at 7.30pm in Cottered Village Hall

8th January 2019

12th March 2019

The meeting closed at 9.20pm

Signed _____

Date _____