

MINUTES OF COTTERED AND THROCKING PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN COTTERED VILLAGE HALL ON TUESDAY 12th MARCH 2019 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
Parish Trust Secretary Roger Gomm
2 members of the public

APOLOGIES

19.19 None

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

19.20 Cllr Pitman declared an interest in Agenda item 7.3 Planning Application 3/19/0352/FUL Field South of Shipwrights Baldock Road Cottered Buntingford Hertfordshire SG9 9QN.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

19.21 None

MINUTES OF MEETING

19.22 The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 8th January 2019 were before the meeting and signed as a correct record.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

19.23 At the last meeting on the 8th January 2019 it was agreed that the surface of the safety matting around the children's play area had deteriorated to such a slippery state that the area should be surrounded by barriers and warning notices. This was carried out by John Bull, but the very effective barrier has now been vandalised by persons unknown. A decision now needs to be made regarding future actions for this site.

Reports have been received from around the village, regarding obvious damage to the registered Village Green by horse riding. The offending horse rider has yet to be identified.

It was resolved that Roger Gomm on behalf of both the Parish Trust and the Parish Council would submit some editorial to the Cottered and Throcking News stating that the damage being caused to the Village Greens from horse riding, car parking and cars driving on the greens is a criminal offence and must cease.

FINANCE**19.24 Finance report and payments authorised**

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

19.25 VAT Refund

The Clerk confirmed submission of the VAT refund for 2018 – 2019 of £540.40

19.26 Locality Budget Scheme Grant

The Clerk confirmed receipt of a Locality Budget Scheme Grant of £1,450.00 towards the cost of the replacement of the Children's Playground safety surfaces and three new litter bins. Councillors proposed a vote of thanks to County Councillor Jeff Jones for supporting this grant application.

PLANNING**19.27 Planning Report**

The updated planning schedule is an appendix to these minutes.

3/18/2720/LBC	The Hall Barn Throcking Buntingford Hertfordshire SG9 9RU	Approved
3/18/2607/FUL	Land At Warren Lane And Spring Lane Cottered Hertfordshire	Refused
3/18/2562/FUL	Matchfords Brook End Cottered Buntingford Hertfordshire SG9 9QR	Approved

19.28 Planning Applications since the Parish Council Meeting 8th January 2019

None

19.29 Planning Applications

LPA Appeal Reference: 18/00127/REFUSE	Westcott Potato Lane Cottered Hertfordshire SG9 9PX	The Parish Council objected to the original application
3/19/0401/HH 3/19/0402/LBC	Wayside Cottage Baldock Road Cottered Buntingford Hertfordshire SG9 9QW	There was no objection by the Parish Council to this application
3/19/0352/FUL	Field South Of Shipwrights Baldock Road Cottered Buntingford Hertfordshire SG9 9QN	Cllr Pitman left the room whilst this Planning Application was discussed There was no objection by the Parish Council to this application
3/19/0019/LBC	Threshing Barn Warren Lane Cottered Buntingford Hertfordshire SG9 9QG	There was no objection by the Parish Council to this application

HIGHWAYS

19.30 The junction of The Crescent and A507

The Clerk presented the costs and specifications for two sizes of traffic mirrors.

It was resolved the Clerk would order an 800mm Traffic Mirror for erection at this site.

19.31 Pedestrian crossing on A507 Baldock Road

Cllr Jones reiterated that there might be a further case for a crossing once the weight restriction had been implemented and to carry out a pedestrian count at a more suitable time to gain a more accurate picture. He stated that a Pelican Crossing would require lighting and therefore the cost would probably be prohibitive. There were further discussions about the A507 with the Parish Council requesting a speed survey.

19.32 Throcking Road

Cllr Jones reported that the pre-patching had been done, the drainage would be carried out between 1st-14th April and the resurfacing between 14th – 24th April. He confirmed that the notice to the residents had gone out and that he had received positive resident feedback.

PARISH MATTERS

19.33 The Old Barn and Village Green

Roger Gomm, Secretary to the Cottered Recreation Ground Trust (known as the Green's Trust or Parish Trust) reported that after investigation the Council Parish does not own the green outside the Old Barn (for which there is no registered owner) and it can only offer easements over land it owns. The land is however, registered as village green therefore the Parish Council has a duty to protect the green against damage. No damage to the green can be claimed for the pipe which Affinity admits to, which is under a paved pathway. The other pipe did leave a scar but this is grassing over. Affinity claims that this was installed by the developers. The developers would not have needed an easement, and the Parish Council couldn't have granted them one. The Parish Council could sue for damages but first would have to establish who was responsible for the 'unadopted' pipe, and then show substantial damage to justify litigation.

19.34 Children's Playground

The Clerk presented answers to the questions asked by Councillors with regard to the revised quote from Sovereign Playgrounds to replace the Rocking Horse and Toddler Swings safety surfaces with Wetpour totaling £5,967.09.

The Clerk and Cllr Bull had met with another company, AMG sport-play Ltd. and had asked for quotes for both Wetpour surfacing and Rubber Mulch surfacing for all areas and just Rocking Horse and Toddler Swings safety surfaces. The Clerk had presented a document showing the quotes from Wicksteed Playgrounds, Sovereign Playgrounds and AMG sport-play Ltd to enable Councillors to make a comparison. The quotes from AMG sport-play Ltd. were very competitive and the Rubber Mulch option the most cost effective.

It was resolved to go ahead in principle with the quote from AMG sport-play Ltd. to replace all four safety surfaces with Rubber Mulch surfacing. Councillors had some further questions about the product and the Clerk will seek responses to these questions prior to entering into a contract with AMG sport-play Ltd.

19.35 Cottered Recreation Ground Football Field

It was reported that nobody was currently playing on the football field. It was felt that the Parish Council should decide who has the right to play on and use this facility.

19.36 Replacement Litter Bins

The Clerk presented two quotes for consideration. One quote for bins that match the existing ones in the village bought in 2015 and the other from AMG sport-play Ltd. (as part of their playground quote).

It was resolved to replace the bins to match the existing bins at a cost of £495.00 + VAT

GRASS CUTTING CONTRACT

19.37 The Clerk had obtained three tenders for the Cottered and Throcking Grass Cutting Contract from the 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2022. The three tenders were before the Council.

It was resolved to accept the tender from John O'Connor Grounds Maintenance.

ELECTION 2nd MAY 2019

19.38 The Clerk presented a briefing paper on the procedures for the forthcoming election.

It was resolved that the Clerk would place a poster promoting the forthcoming election on the Parish noticeboards, put a copy of this on the Parish Council website along with links to the Nomination Papers and related election information.

COMMUNICATION BETWEEN PARISH COUNCIL AND RECREATION GROUND TRUST (PARISH TRUST)

19.39 Roger Gomm explained that the Parish Trust came into existence in 1931 when land was gifted to the Parish in trust under the jurisdiction of the Recreation Ground Trust (Parish Trust). He further explained there must be a clear differentiation between the Parish Council and the Parish Trust 'with the right material in the right place' and accountable minuting must be evident. Roger stated he felt there should be a mechanism in place to ensure this happened and suggested that the Parish Council might have Parish Trust as a standing agenda item.

It was resolved that this would be further discussed and agreed after the elections in May, when there would be a new Council who would automatically become trustees of the Parish Trust and it would be their decision as to how to manage this somewhat complex situation.

CLERK'S REPORT

19.40 The Clerk reported that since receiving a Non-Domestic Rate Bill 2018/2019 for the Cricket Club Pavilion and Premises she had received a further Rate Bill for the 2019/2020 period. She stated she was in correspondence with East Herts District Council with regard to this matter and that to the best of her knowledge Cottered and Throcking Parish Council had not previously been requested to pay such a bill.

Correspondence for noting or not on the Agenda

Letter and DVD re Publication of Proposed Submission Minerals Local Plan & Omission Sites Consultation 14th January – 22nd January 2019

Telephone call from a Throcking resident reporting that a wildlife survey was being carried out in Throcking and was informed this was a Letchworth 'Council Initiative'. The Clerk stated that she had been given no information regarding this.

Email from Cottered resident concerned that Church Lane did not seem to be recognised as a road name on current documents and requesting the Parish Council to ensure the name was upheld. Cllr Jones stated that the naming of roads was the responsibility of East Herts District Council.

DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS

All meetings to start at 7.30pm in Cottered Village Hall

14th May 2019

Annual Parish Meeting 21st May 2019

9th July 2019

10th September 2019

12th November 2019

14th January 2020

10th March 2020

The meeting closed at 10.00pm

Signed _____

Date _____