

MINUTES OF COTTERED AND THROCKING PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN COTTERED VILLAGE HALL ON TUESDAY 8th JANUARY 2019 7.30 PM

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

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

APOLOGIES

19.01 Apologies were received from Cllr Bryan Pitman due to personal commitments.

It was resolved to accept Cllr Pitman's apologies.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

19.02 None

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

19.03 Cllr Jones reported that the Pedestrian Crossing report had been submitted to Highways but the preference for a Pelican Crossing was not looking hopeful due to the pedestrian count. Cllrs stated that they had identified children crossing further down the road by the Guide Centre and walking along the grass verge in front of the Cottered Recreation Ground to get to the Village Hall. Cllr Jones said that the preferred option was to cut back the vegetation along the path by the Old Rectory. Cllrs stated this would require the landowner's permission. Cllr Jones added that evidence suggested that unused pedestrian crossings proved more dangerous as road users pre-empt they will not be being used. He suggested that the implementation of a pedestrian crossing could be revisited after the weight restriction is in place and another pedestrian count could be carried out.

Cllr Jones confirmed that the two new speed indicator devices (SID) were due in March. He also reported that the attendees of the Highways Together event found it useful and the next stage of this initiative was training and risk assessment.

Cllr Jones explained that District Councillor Paul Keneally had been suspended due to lack of attendance.

MINUTES OF MEETING

19.04 The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 13th November 2018 were before the meeting and signed as a correct record.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

19.05 (Report tabled by Chairman Bryan Pitman)

On the 30th November 2018 the Chairman attended the East Herts District Council (EHDC) Annual Town and Parish Conference held at Ware. This year the conference was aimed at personal health, social services and safety.

The conference was chaired by EHDC CEO Liz Watts, who introduced a number of speakers representing the organisations related to public services. Every speaker was subjected to a question and answer session, which most councillors found helpful.

The conference concluded by Liz Watts answering questions about long term development planning in East Hertfordshire. The subject of development had not been addressed by any speaker. The CEO confirmed that there was a tentative proposal to look at the possibility of having several new towns in south east Hertfordshire.

It has recently been announced that Liz Watts is stepping down from her CEO post in EHDC.

Chairman Cllr John Bull added that he and Cllr Pitman attended the Highways Together event at the Manor House in Buntingford which, along with other Parish Councillors, prompted interesting debate.

FINANCE

19.06 **Finance report and payments authorised**

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

19.07 **Budget and Precept 2019-2020**

Councillors considered that there should be an increase in the Repairs and Maintenance budget area to address the various projects that had been identified as necessary within the Parish.

Unanimously resolved: The Precept for the financial year commencing 1st April 2019 to be increased to £9,000.

PLANNING**19.08 Planning Report**

The updated planning schedule is an appendix to these minutes.

3/18/2047/HH	Farriers Cottage Baldock Road Cottered Hertfordshire SG9 9PS	Refused
3/18/2277/OUT	Prestwick Ermine Street Buntingford Hertfordshire SG9 9RT	Refused
3/18/2135/FUL	Bluntswood Hall Cottered Road Throcking Hertfordshire SG9	Approved
3/18/2122/HH	2 Clayton Drive Buntingford Hertfordshire SG9 9RX	Refused

19.09 Planning Applications since the Parish Council Meeting 13th November 2018

3/18/2720/LBC	The Hall Barn Throcking Buntingford Hertfordshire SG9 9RU	There was no objection by the Parish Council to this application
3/18/2607/FUL	Land At Warren Lane And Spring Lane Cottered Hertfordshire	The Parish Council objected to this Planning Application
3/18/2562/FUL	Matchfords Brook End Cottered Buntingford Hertfordshire SG9 9QR	The Parish Council submitted comments regarding this Planning Application

19.10 Planning Applications

None

19.11 Community Governance Review of the Buntingford Parish Boundary

The Parish Council made investigations about challenging the recommendation of the Community Governance Review of the Buntingford Parish Boundary to the Local Boundary Commission that the new Redrow housing development should become part of Buntingford. East Herts District Council agreed the final recommendations of the review and having the executive powers to implement such recommendations the Reorganisation Order giving effect to these changes was sealed. The changes to the parish boundary between Buntingford and Cottered will come into effect from 1 April 2019

HIGHWAYS**19.12 The junction of The Crescent and A507**

Councillors felt it appropriate to source and fix a mirror at this junction to assist drivers pulling out from The Crescent onto the A507.

It was resolved that the Clerk would source information and the cost of traffic mirrors and present at the next Parish Council meeting.

19.13 Pedestrian crossing on A507 Baldock Road

An update on this Agenda item was provided by Cllr Jones in Public Participation.

PARISH MATTERS**19.14 The Old Barn and Village Green**

It was ascertained that pipes were put in but not taken out. This matter will continue to be pursued.

19.15 Children's Playground

The Clerk presented a revised quote from Sovereign Playgrounds to replace just the Rocking Horse and Toddler Swings safety surfaces totaling £5,967.09.

The Clerk asked Councillors if they wished to apply for a grant from the Locality Budget Scheme to assist with the cost of the replacement surfaces and for how much would they wish to apply for. Cllr Jones stated he would support an application for monies towards the replacement of these surfaces.

It was resolved that the Clerk would make a grant application to the Locality Budget Scheme of £1,450.

19.16 Cottered Recreation Ground Football Field

Cllr Pitman was pursuing this matter through Allen Chamberlain of Cottered Football Club. Cllrs considered that users of the Football Field should be paying towards the costs involved in the upkeep of the Recreation Ground and felt this was something that should be implemented in the future.

19.17 Replacement Litter Bin and two new liners

The Clerk reported that she was unable to source two new liners of the dimensions required and that the cost of new liners was disproportionate to the cost of a new bin. The cost of a new bin to match the existing bins (that were replaced in 2015) was £144.99 + VAT.

It was resolved to replace all three bins to match those already in use in the village.

CLERK'S REPORT**19.18 Correspondence for noting or not on the Agenda**

The Clerk had received a letter from Citizens Advice East Herts thanking the Parish Council for their donation of £50.00 and a emailed letter from Essex & Herts Air Ambulance thanking the Parish Council for their donation of £50.00.

DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS

All meetings to start at 7.30pm in Cottered Village Hall

12th March 2019

The meeting closed at 8.55pm

Signed _____

Date _____