

## MINUTES of the Cottered and Throcking Parish Council meeting held REMOTELY VIA ZOOM on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2021 at 7.00pm

Present                      Cllr John Wiblin (Chairman)              Cllr John Harwood Bee (Vice Chairman)  
   Cllr Jeff Lawton                              Cllr Brian Murchie  
   Cllr Christine Robinson

County Councillor Jeff Jones  
District Councillor Andrew Huggins  
7 members of the public

Officer attending              Denise Anderson (Clerk)

### APOLOGIES

21.1    Cllr Allen Chamberlain sent his apologies as he had work commitments.  
**It was resolved to approve Cllr Chamberlain's absence.**

### DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

21.2    None.

### PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

21.3    A resident asked about the rebuilding of Shipwrights after severe fire damage. Councillors stated they had no further information with regard to this.

Jenny Thompson, Joint Editor of Cottered & Throcking News, noted the Greening Campaign on the Agenda and said she would give support to any sensible greening policy that the Parish Council might introduce.

Another resident wished to say he supported the Cricket Pavilion project and offered practical help. He, along with two other residents requested that they be invited to speak on specific Agenda items.

### MINUTES OF MEETING

21.4    The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2020, having been circulated previously, were before the meeting and agreed and minuted as a correct record. These will be signed by the Chairman at the earliest opportunity.

### PARISH COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS

21.5    Councillors to report on the activities they had undertaken on behalf of the Council within the Parish. The Chairman noted that some items would be covered as part of the Agenda.

#### Councillor John Wiblin's Report

- Had asked the Clerk to contact Hunters estate agents requesting they remove the Sold sign from Village Green land at the end of Coppers Coppice. The Clerk confirmed they had agreed remove the sign immediately and had apologised.
- As a result of the continued flooding in Cottered he had asked the Clerk to write to Highways about the issue and had a swift response that it was being investigated.
- The tree works had begun in Cottered on those trees identified as high risk.

#### Councillor Brian Murchie

- Had reported to him that there had been a fire behind the Cricket Pavilion. He had spoken to the Police and Sgt Karen Broad had been in touch and they will monitor the situation.

### COTTERED AND THROCKING PARISH COUNCIL DOCUMENTATION

21.6    None at this meeting

**FINANCE****21.7 Finance report and payments authorised**

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

The Clerk reported that a requested change to a Standing Order had not been implemented but this had now been resolved.

The Clerk stated she now had the necessary paperwork to set up online banking for the Parish Council and it was agreed that she should continue with making the arrangements.

**21.8 Precept 2021-2022**

**Resolved to agree the Precept for 2021-2022 unchanged at £15,000.**

The Clerk will get the Precept Form signed by the Chairman and two Councillors at the earliest opportunity.

**PLANNING****21.9 Planning Report**

The updated planning schedule is an appendix to these minutes.

**21.10 Planning Applications since the Parish Council Meeting 10<sup>th</sup> November 2020**

3/20/2445/HH	Hill View Throcking Buntingford Hertfordshire SG9 9RP	There was no objection by the Parish Council to this Planning Application
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**21.11 Planning Applications**

3/21/0045/FUL 3/21/0046/LBC	Nottingham Baldock Road Cottered Buntingford Hertfordshire SG9 9PU	There was no objection by the Parish Council to this Planning Application
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**HIGHWAYS****21.12 The junction of B1037 and A507**

Cllr Jones confirmed he had put this through to Highways and they had agreed to replace the Give Way sign with a Stop sign and that he would fund this out of his Locality Budget. He added they would also refresh the white lining at this junction but as it was expensive just to come out to do one small area he suggested that the Parish Council could identify other areas that could be refreshed at the same time. Cllr Robinson offered to walk around the village and photograph the white lining so Councillors could ascertain the most needy areas and let Cllr Jones have that information.

Cllr Robinson highlighted the problem of the potholes at this junction. Although she had reported it six months previously, she said she would report it again.

Cllr Murchie raised the issue of the ditches on the right-hand side of the Throcking Road from the junction of the A10. The bank had been pushed into the ditch and this was causing the road to flood. Cllr Jones stated that it would be a case of checking the ownership of the land but he would take the problem up with Highways.

Cllr Jones took this opportunity to provide his Report on Hertfordshire County Council issues.

**Cottered Flooding**

He confirmed this was in Ringways works programme and they will deliver this financial year. He added all issues of flooding should be reported through the fault reporting system.

**A507 Weight Limit**

He reported Arup had completed their environmental survey and that he would get an update on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2021 and considered the next consultation phase was imminent.

**Locality Budget**

The Girl Guides had received £1,000 from his Locality Budget to dredge the pond to allow pond dipping activities. He added that he still had a small amount left in his Locality Budget and would consider funding small projects. Cllr Robinson asked if he would be willing to fund all or part of the cost for two additional bins for the Cottered Recreation Ground to which he agreed in principle. The Clerk will make the necessary application.

Cllr Wiblin asked if there was any progress on the Parish Council's request to have white gates and signage approved for the entrance to the village. Cllr Jones said he would chase this up but any funding for such a project would come from a separate budget.

Cllr Jones stated he would only have a Locality Budget if he was re-elected in the County Council elections scheduled for May 2021. He said canvassing was difficult due to the current restrictions and there was pressure to move the elections to September 2021.

#### **PARISH ASSETS COMMITTEE**

21.13 No further meetings so nothing to report at this meeting.

#### **PARISH MATTERS**

##### **21.14 Cricket Pavilion**

Cllr Wiblin suggested discussions start with the current state of the building. Cllr Robinson reported that four Councillors had visited the Pavilion prior to the Tier 4 restrictions being imposed and found the interior of the building in an appalling state with a lot of rubbish to be removed. Some areas they hadn't been able to access such as the shed at the back which was nailed up. She considered a skip would be needed to remove the rubbish, not a significant cost but a lot of effort would be required. Sporting memorabilia that had been left in the building had been removed and stored safely.

A resident offered his time to help with such tasks as he felt the Pavilion was an asset the village and added that he would be willing to make a financial contribution at a later date.

Cllr Wiblin expressed gratitude on behalf of the Parish Council and assured him that they would take up his offer of help as the Parish Council has limited finances.

Another resident put forward his idea to turn the Cricket Pavilion into a luxury holiday let, that would be run by his wife and himself through their Luxury Rural Retreats business in Cottered. He stated he thought there were a lot of buildings for the small amount of sport in the village and felt the Pavilion could be used to create an annual income for the Parish Council through a partnership or leasehold contribution. He added that it could also contribute to employment as they would require 15 hours of cleaning for such a venture.

Cllr Harwood Bee stated if the Parish Council wished to turn the Pavilion into a commercial venture it would have to be put out to tender. He added that he was of the opinion people in the village wanted to see it used as a sporting facility, that the Petanque Club was keen to use it again and a resident present at the meeting was keen to get a Cricket Club up and running again.

Cllr Huggins said he felt it was an interesting idea and that the Parish Council should consider it. He said that there were S106 monies that had not been allocated and should the Pavilion remain as a sporting facility maybe these monies could be accessed adding, that in draft versions of the EHDC budgets sports grants were still available but 'pots' were limited.

Cllr Wiblin said the Parish Council needed to have lengthy discussions about the use of the Pavilion, ascertain the state of the building and the appetite for its use.

Cllr Harwood Bee clarified that he had now got the Royal Mail to give the Pavilion its correct address and British Gas could now allocate the electricity bill to the Parish Council.

##### **21.15 Church Lane**

Cllr Harwood Bee reported that East Herts Council would not accept responsibility for the name change to Coopers Coppice. He now had the total cost to have the name changed back to Church Lane, which was £862.00, adding that it was a lengthy process largely due to the amount of new street names required.

A Coopers Coppice resident said he supported the name change but on Land Registry documents and deeds that he had it specified changing the building name to Coopers Coppice with the road name being Church Lane.

Cllr John Harwood Bee will write to all seven properties asking them to contribute to the cost of the name change.

Cllr Wiblin suggested that the Parish Council make a modest contribution to the cost of the process.

**Resolved to make £250.00 available, upon application, which residents can request if they can't or don't wish to make a contribution to the name change.**

**21.16 Parking on Village Green along Brook End**

It was confirmed that the Parish Council had jurisdiction over the land either side of Brook End Lane. It was agreed that the Clerk should contact HAPTC to see what legal advice they could offer with regard to using a small area of the Village Green to make some extra parking space.

**21.17 Flooding in Cottered**

This was covered in Cllr Jones's Report under Agenda item 21.12 Highways.

**21.18 Greening Campaign**

Cllr Lawton stated that as part of the Environmental Degree he was studying, he and fellow students were thinking about the way we live our lives and the environment. Further to this he had contact with HCC about their Greening Campaign initiative and wanted to introduce this a whole village initiative. He thought that he could reach people through the Cottered & Throcking News and see how many people would be willing 'to get on board'.

Jenny Thompson offered 500 words in the forthcoming Cottered & Throcking News and a resident offered his services as a designer to help with information leaflets etc.

Cllr Lawton added that Cllr Murchie had offered land to plant trees. Cllr Huggins suggested the Parish Council could become a signatory to the Tree Charter.

**21.19 Signage on Village Greens**

Discussions were had as to whether the Parish Council should allow commercial signage on Village Green land for a fee or not to allow signage at all. Cllr Wiblin suggested that he circulate an email documenting the Parish Council's thoughts on the pluses and minuses of this matter to enable debate at another meeting.

**RECREATION GROUND TRUST (PARISH TRUST)****21.20**

Cllr Harwood Bee stated that he had been in communication with the Open Spaces Society (OSS) with regard to the small areas of land they had identified for re-registering in Cottered. He confirmed that it had been determined that it was not part of the land gifted to the Recreation Ground Trust (Parish Trust).

**CLERK'S REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE****21.21**

The Clerk wished to confirm that Councillors had set up their dedicated Councillor email addresses and these could now be used and published on the website.

It had been reported to the Clerk that dog faeces on was still being left on the Cottered Recreation Ground. The Clerk will put a piece in the Cottered & Throcking News reminding people that this is an offence, attracts a fine or prosecution and requesting that people please clean up after their dogs.

Cllr Robinson will contact the EHDC Enforcement Officer about this continuing problem.

The Clerk has asked HAPTC about any guidance re. Playground Signage (Non Covid). They will put a request in the HAPTC Bulletin asking other Parish Councils for any useful information.

**Correspondence**

Thank you letter from Citizens Advice East Herts for £50.00 donation from the Parish Council to their work.

Email re. Hertfordshire Waste Local Plan - Draft Plan Consultation – the Clerk will forward to Councillors.

Email re. Department for Transport (Dft) Consultation re. Taxi Licensing Policies

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Meeting</b>
9 <sup>th</sup> March 2021	Parish Council Meeting

The meeting closed at 9.00pm

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_