

## MINUTES of the Cottered and Throcking Parish Council meeting held REMOTELY VIA ZOOM on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2021 at 7.00pm

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

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

Officer attending              Denise Anderson (Clerk)

### **APOLOGIES**

21.22    None

### **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

21.23    None.

### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

21.24    Agenda item 11.5 was moved to Public Participation to enable Joana Greenshaw from the HCC Greening Campaign to give a short presentation on the initiative and answer questions. Cllr Lawton will explore this initiative on behalf of the Parish Council.

### **REPORT - COUNTY COUNCILLOR JEFF JONES**

#### **Elections May 2021**

Cllr Jones confirmed that he had been selected to re-stand as a Conservative candidate in the forthcoming elections on the 6<sup>th</sup> May 2021. He said these elections will be different due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the restrictions in place.

#### **A507**

The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) commissioned for the A507 at Cottered had been circulated to Councillors by Cllr Jones and would be coming up for discussion at HCC.

#### **Flooding**

Works on the collapsed drainage chamber (outside the Old Forge) were due to take place in April and that he was pushing for the works at Victoria Cottages and Home Close.

### **REPORT - DISTRICT COUNCILLOR ANDREW HUGGINS**

#### **EHDC Budget**

Cllr Huggins reported that the Final budget had been approved albeit with some hard decision making as budgets had been affected by the Covid-19 pandemic.

#### **Brown Bin charges**

Highlighted this change to Brown Bins and asked the Parish Council to ensure the message got to residents.

#### **Planning**

Confirmed that the application for Shipwrights had finally been recommended for approval.

#### **Unitary Council**

This matter was being discussed again and Parish Councils would be informed as the process progressed.

#### **East Herts Boundary Review**

Councillors and the areas they cover were under review. This is a long process and would probably result in the reduction of Councillors in rural parts of East Herts.

### **MINUTES OF MEETING**

21.25    The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2021, 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**

21.26 Councillors to report on the activities they had undertaken on behalf of the Council within the Parish.

**Councillor John Wiblin's Report**

- A resident of Home Close had reported the flooding of clean water on the green outside the properties. This had been reported to Affinity Water and the engineer that attended to site was confident it was not a mains water leak but could possibly a leak from the supply to the property but more likely a storm water problem.
- The hedges being planted around Buttermilk Hall Farm land had caused concern as to the visibility when exiting the Throcking Road onto the A507. The Vice Chairman had agreed to talk to the landowner.
- The resident at Glebe House had reported the BT lines were being affected by the trees. Cllr Wiblin stated that the Council had addressed all the issues with trees identified on the recent tree survey and that it was a BT issue. The Vice Chairman had spoken to BT, made them aware that this could cause damage to the cables and that they would send Openreach out to investigate.

**Councillor Jeff Lawton's Report**

- Reported he would be working on the chains around the Cottered Recreation Ground.
- The bin in the layby (Baldock end) was overflowing and there was rubbish on the verges. Cllr Harwood Bee said that EHDC empty the bin and unfortunately due to the current restrictions a local letter pick was unable to take place but when restrictions lift the Cottered Appreciation Society could address the litter problems.

**Councillor John Harwood Bee's Report**

- Reported that the green outside Home Close had been driven over by a vehicle delivering logs and had left ruts in the sodden grass.

**COTTERED AND THROCKING PARISH COUNCIL DOCUMENTATION**

21.27 None at this meeting

**FINANCE****21.28 Finance report and payments authorised**

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

**PLANNING****21.29 Planning Report**

The updated planning schedule is an appendix to these minutes.

3/20/2445/HH	Hill View Throcking Buntingford Hertfordshire SG9 9RP	Approved
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**21.30 Planning Applications since the Parish Council Meeting 12<sup>th</sup> January 2020.**

3/21/0177/FUL	Prestwick Ermine Street Buntingford Hertfordshire SG9 9RT	There was no comment by the Parish Council to this Planning Application	
3/20/2615/FUL	Rockleigh Throcking Road Cottered Buntingford Hertfordshire SG9 9RA	There was no objection by the Parish Council to this Planning Application	Refused

**21.31 Planning Applications**

3/21/0431/FUL	Land Adjacent To Cheynes House Cottered Buntingford Hertfordshire SG9 9QB	There was no objection by the Parish Council to this Planning Application but a resident had raised an issue of occasional leaks of foul water from a septic tank on this site. The Parish Council agreed to add these comments in their response to Planning
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3/21/0452/HH	The Elms Cottered Hertfordshire SG9 9PX	There was no objection by the Parish Council to this Planning Application
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## HIGHWAYS

### 21.32 White Lining Road Markings

As a result of discussions at the previous meeting about the junction of B1037 and A507 Cllr Robinson had offered to walk around the village and photograph the white lining so Councillors could ascertain the neediest areas for refreshment. Cllr Robinson had circulated photographs for discussion.

Cllr Robinson was, at this point, not in attendance at the meeting as she was having problems with her WiFi connection. The Chairman suggested this Agenda item was returned to when Cllr Robinson was back in attendance.

### 21.33 Ditches on the Throcking Road

Cllr Jones said he had looked at the area and couldn't find any issues. Cllr Murchie stated he had sent photographs to Cllr Jones and identified photograph 2 as the one showing the issue. It was agreed that after Covid-19 restrictions were lifted Cllr Murchie would meet with Cllr Jones (if re-elected) on site to identify and discuss the problems.

## PARISH ASSETS COMMITTEE

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

As Cllr Robinson was having continued problems with her WiFi connection rather than disrupt the meeting any further, she left the meeting permanently at this point.

## PARISH MATTERS

### 21.35 Cricket Pavilion

Cllr Harwood Bee stated that group access to the Pavilion was prevented due to Covid-19 restrictions but he thought it necessary to change the locks as circumstances suggested that it had been accessed by someone other than the current key holders. He added that once restrictions were lifted the scoreboard would be removed; Cllr Murchie had offered to help remove and dispose of it and the Parish Council could get on with the restoration of the premises.

Cllr Harwood Bee explained the Clerk had been sent a bill by British Gas but he needed to speak with them as it had been estimated and they had stated the meter was not working. He confirmed the Post Office had accepted the new, correct address for the Pavilion.

### 21.36 Church Lane

Cllr Harwood Bee reported that this was progressing and that he had commitment from 6 out of 7 properties to share the cost and that he had contacted the last property, although their agreement was not required. He had spoken to EHC and that had confirmed that the legal costs were the responsibility of the Parish Council with the balance being that of the residents. He reiterated that the process will 'take months'.

### 21.37 Changes to Brook End Lane

The Clerk had circulated some information on the legalities of parking on Village Greens.

As Cllr Robinson had been investigating this matter it was decided to hold this over to the next meeting.

### 21.38 Flooding in Cottered

This was covered in Cllr Jones's Report in Public Participation

### 21.39 Greening Campaign

Following Joana Greenshaw's presentation Cllr Lawton reported that the Garden House would like to plant flowering cherry trees on the common land adjacent to the property. Cllr Wiblin asked if the Parish Council can give permission and suggested this be looked into prior to any permissions given.

Cllr Lawton reiterated that Cllr Murchie had offered land to plant trees.

**21.40 Signage on Village Greens**

This matter was awaiting a policy for discussion.

**21.41 Access track to the Cricket Pavilion**

The access track has become hazardous due to the depth of the potholes to the limited number of vehicles that are permitted to use it. Cllr Lawton reported he had been breaking up the higher areas with a pick axe to try and address the problem. It was agreed that a sign would be put up to warn of the hazards.

Cllr Lawton added that a lot of traffic uses the track; playground users, dog walkers, football players as well as some unwanted visitors. Cllr Lawton had had damage done to his car by youngsters congregating in the area. Cllr Harwood Bee suggested putting the gate back with an access code lock and that consultation with those given permission to use the track would be required.

**Resolved to approve £400.00 for a sign and a suitable lock.**

**21.42 Playground I. Signage**

The Clerk had circulated a report and proposal for playground signage for discussion.

**Resolved to approved the proposed signage with the amendments of:**

- **This play area is intended for use by children up to ~~16~~ 12 years only**
- **All younger children must be supervised by an adult at all times.**

The following Agenda items were requested by Cllr Robinson and as she had to leave the meeting due to problems with her WiFi the Chairman suggested these along with Agenda item 21.32 **White Lining Road Markings** and 21.37 **Changes to Brook End Lane** were held over until the next meeting.

21.43 **Playground II. Replacement parts** – report from Cllr Robinson

21.44 **Street name signage replacement** – update

21.46 **Damage to verge in Peasecroft**

21.47 **Cutting of hedges at The Crescent**

21.48 **Contribution to tree works carried out on land under the jurisdiction of the Parish Trust**

**21.45 Poor state of pavement alongside Lower Farm Cottored due to flooding**

Cllr Harwood Bee said he had received 2 reports from individuals about the state of the footpath and a member of the public added that they had seen two people fall on the footpath. Cllr Harwood Bee and Cllr Chamberlain volunteered to scrape the mud off the path and Cllr Murchie offered the use of his JCB and big bucket to take it away.

**RECREATION GROUND TRUST (PARISH TRUST)**

21.49

Cllr Harwood Bee stated there was some confusion over the land held by the Parish Trust as the land registry identifies it to the Parish Council. Cllr Harwood Bee and Cllr Robinson will submit a report to the Parish Council on what trees are on Trust land

**CLERK'S REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE**

21.50

The Clerk confirmed she had ordered 2 x New Bins with Locality Fund Grant and thanked Cllr Jones for approving the application

The Clerk has put information about the new Brown Bin charges on the Parish noticeboards, the Parish Council website and Cottored Facebook.

**Correspondence****Email - Electoral Review of East Hertfordshire District Council**

Meeting via zoom with the Local Government Boundary Commission for England on Wednesday 24th March at 7pm. Clerk attending for Aspenden Parish Council so will attend for Cottored & Throcking Parish Council too and report at the next meeting.

**Email - HAPTC Transition to Unitary Council**

The Clerk will circulate to Councillors for their information. The Clerk confirmed she has completed the questionnaire as requested on the email.

**Telephone Call - Ordnance Survey** followed up by an email detailing their services, some of which could be of help to the Parish in mapping and recording information. The Clerk will forward the email to Councillors.

#### **DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS**

The Parish Council will await Government Guidance as to the nature of these meetings.

Information will be put on the Parish Council website [www.cotteredpc.org.uk](http://www.cotteredpc.org.uk) and the village noticeboards.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Meeting</b>
<b>11<sup>th</sup> May 2021</b>	Annual Meeting of the Parish Council 7.00pm (Annual Parish Meeting TBA re. Covid-19 restrictions)
<b>13<sup>th</sup> July 2021</b>	Parish Council Meeting 7.00pm
<b>7<sup>th</sup> September 2021</b>	Parish Council Meeting 7.00pm
<b>9<sup>th</sup> November 2021</b>	Parish Council Meeting 7.00pm
<b>11<sup>th</sup> January 2022</b>	Parish Council Meeting 7.00pm
<b>8<sup>th</sup> March 2022</b>	Parish Council Meeting 7.00pm

The meeting closed at 8.45pm

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_