

Cottered & Throcking



Minutes of the COTTERED & THROCKING ANNUAL COMMUNITY (PARISH) MEETING held on Monday 11 MAY 2026 at 7.30pm in Sports Pavilion, Cottered

Present Cllr Allen Chamberlain Cllr Jeff Lawton Cllr Brian Murchie
Cllr Andrea Smith Cllr John Wiblin (chairman)

In attendance Sarah Kubica (clerk), District Cllr Sue Nicholls
14 members of the public

26/1 APOLOGIES

To receive and accept apologies for absence

Apologies received from Cllr Grant Lethby and East Herts Rural Police

26/2 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

To approve the Minutes of the Cottered and Throcking Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 12 May 2025 as an accurate record of proceedings

The Minutes were signed as a true and accurate record of proceedings

26/3 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

To receive the Cottered & Throcking annual report

Who are Parish Councillors?

- We are elected or co-opted volunteers
- We follow a Code of Conduct that promotes transparency and good governance
- We declare any self-interest in any matter that comes to us
- We are unpaid

Really, we have very few powers at all! But on the political ladder we are only 6 steps away from the PM-DC-CC- MP-Cabinet Minister- PM. But I suspect that all of those people also complain that they have very few powers!

What do Parish Councillors do?

- We take part in regular public meetings
- Represent our local community
- Act as a voice for the parish residents on matters of local concern
- Raise issues and liaise with the County Council and the District Council in co-operation with our colleagues, the local County and District Councillors

In the recent past this Council has addressed the Planning Authorities on the subject of the proposed large development near the A10 that would have changed the village of Throcking so fundamentally had it been approved. We review and comment on every planning application made in this parish. Although the planners do not have to follow our decision they are obliged to consider it in reaching their own. We manage this excellent pavilion, look after the children's playground, the waste bins, benches, and other assets in the village, including – in conjunction with the Village Hall Committee, the playing field outside. This Parish Council is also the trustee of the Recreation Ground Trust, a private trust that owns the village greens. In that capacity, we look after those properties that are so important to this village, including the trees on them. We set the precept i.e. the funds that are levied on residents through Council Tax for services in the parish. This last year has been more of the same as we cheerfully carried out the work that we do in the spirit of co-operation that characterises the way that we work. Works ancillary to this pavilion continue to dominate

as the major project: we have applied for planning permission to improve and enlarge the parking area outside, upgrade the track that leads to it, as well provision for a storage container to sit alongside it where we can keep chairs and the like when they are not wanted for use in meetings.

I should like to thank the parish councillors once again for their work this past year. And the parish clerk for her indefatigable efforts to try – via email, then WhatsApp, then telephone call – to get two of us to approve a necessary payment on the online banking system and do the other things that we would otherwise completely forget to do. Thank you Sarah.

I should also like to thank District Councillor Sue Nicholls and County Councillor Terry Smith for attending our meetings and contributing.

Lastly, I should like to thank those residents who attend our meetings regularly, including the members of the press. It is often the contributions that attendees make that help us in our decision-making.

26/4 REPORT FROM EAST HERTS RURAL NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING TEAM

To receive a report and Q&A if Police in attendance

Clerk shared an update: no crimes reported for Throcking, one for Cottered on 1/4/26 harassment without violence - Peasecroft. Cllrs reminded of Police Priorities Setting Forum online meeting 15 May 6.30pm, new priorities likely to include flytipping

26/5 ANNUAL REPORTS

Reports from: Cottered & Throcking News, Bellringers, Cottered Cavaliers Golf Society, Cottered Village Appreciation Society, Ardeley and Cottered WI, Cottered & Throcking Joint Parochial Church Council, Friends of Cottered Church, Cottered Village People and Cottered Book Club were received in the meeting.

Summaries of these or the full written reports from Cottered and Throcking Groups, Clubs or Societies have been published for viewing on the parish council website: cotteredpc.org.uk/annual-parish-meeting

26/6 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Proposed: Monday 10 May 2027

26/7 MEETING CLOSE AND REFRESHMENTS

The chairman thanked everyone for attending. The meeting closed at 8.13pm and attendees invited for refreshments