

**Minutes of the Meeting of Cottered Parish Council held on
Monday 11th January, 2010
7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall**

Present: Bryan Pitman (Chair)
David Charles
Lesley Greensmith
Terry McGrath
Brian Murchie
Derek Newman

The Clerk and 4 members of the public

Action

- 1 **Apologies:** no apologies were received
- 2 The **minutes** of the meeting held on 9th November 2009, having been circulated, were approved as a correct record.
- 3 Updates on previous items
 - (i) **Grass cutting:** Four quotations were received and details circulated with the Agenda. The quotation from Stewart Bullard was accepted for the three years 2010, 2011 and 2012.
 - (ii) It was agreed that the **Telephone box at Brook End** is in need of a clean and a coat of paint. One quotation had been received. It was agreed that the Clerk should obtain further quotations.
 - (iii) The trees around the playing field and across the road have been cut back.

Clerk

4 **Chairman's report**

- (i) Mr Bye of Magpie Farm had contacted the Chairman regarding the work that had been carried out, on what people were perceiving to be a new entrance from the A507. During a discussion with Mr Bye the Chairman had been assured by him that both the Highways and Planning Authorities regarded the work to be in order. Mr Bye was willing to meet to clarify further details if required. The Chairman had checked planning applications for Magpie Farm. Two application are relevant, one in 1995 when outline planning permission was applied for and granted and one in 1996 when full planning had been applied for and granted. Only one plan showed an entrance, that being the large entrance from Throcking Lane. Conditions applied to occupancy, nothing about gateways being blocked or opened. The Chairman and Clerk agreed to make enquiries with Highways and Planning.
- (ii) On November 19th the Clerk and Chairman attended a presentation by the Land Registry where the Land Registry were encouraging Parish Councils to register public land. It was agreed that the process should be started to find out more and report back to the Parish Council before proceeding further. An article in the Parish Magazine, so that people are aware, was suggested.
- (iii) The snow before Christmas closed the A507 and the Chairman thanked those who provided hospitality to stranded motorists and Brian Murchie who cleared the road.
- (iv) The Joint Highways report on Cottered, Agenda Item 10 was to be presented at their meeting on 11th January 2010. This report detailed the work now completed. The Chairman had sent thanks to Jane Pitman and others who had helped to push through the measures that are now in place.

*Chairman
Clerk*

Clerk

5 Finances

- (i) The balance of the current account is £1,980.09 and the balance of the interest account is £5,290.00.
- (ii) The budget report for the first 9 month was accepted.
- (iii) Changes were made to the draft budget for 2010/11 and a precept of £6,000 agreed.
- (iv) The decision was made not to transfer money from Parish Trust to the Parish Council at present.

The following cheques were approved and signed:

559	J Diales	£36.37	Expenses December 09 & January 2010
560	Village Hall	£20.00	hall hire January 2010
561	Cottered Football Club	£50.00	Contribution towards fuel for mowing

6 Planning

Planning applications received:

- (i) **Bowling Green Farm** (revised) replacement of existing softwood casement windows and French doors and internal alterations, the Parish Council raised no objections.
- (ii) **The Old Off Licence**, Baldock Road, Construction of detached double garage and store. The Parish Council objected to this application on the grounds that it is too large and out of keeping with the property.

Decision notice: retrospective application Flanders Green Cottage, Brook End, provision of new horse ménage – **Granted**

7 Clerk's report (for information only attached to the Agenda)

8 Other matters

Maintenance:

- (i) Seat outside the Bull to be unbolted and pressure washed to see whether it can be repaired or needs to be replaced. DN
- (ii) Missing road signs in Throcking to be reported to Highways. Clerk
- (iii) Drain cover at the top of Throcking Lane needs to be replaced. Clerk
- (iv) **Drain** blocked at the bottom of Green Lane/footpath.
- (v) Two **trees** need checking, one near the Well and on the north side of the A507 DN
- (vi) The mower used to cut the playing field is in need of repair. Brian Murchie agreed to look at costs for repairing the mower and what alternatives might be available. BM

B1037 closed on Monday 25th January for BT to replace telegraph pole. Opportunity to clear litter along the grass verges. Chairman

Additional Salt Bin has been requested at the bottom of Brook End. Clerk

Best Kept Village competition: Update from David Boxup that a Committee would be formed after which a meeting would be held after which information will be fed back to the PC.

Dates for future meetings, meetings will normally take place on the 2nd Tuesday of the month as follows:

Tuesday 9th March, 2010	Tuesday 14th September 2010
Tuesday 18th May (starting at 7pm and followed by Annual Parish Meeting)	Tuesday 9th November 2010
Tuesday 13th July 2010	Tuesday 11th January 2011

Clerk

Clerk to ask for publication of these dates in the Parish Magazine.

The meeting closed at 9:30pm.

Dates of next meeting: Tuesday 9th March, 2010