

CODICOTE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE held on Thursday 18th June 2015, in the Parish Council Offices, 107a High Street, Codicote which commenced at 7:00pm

PRESENT: Acting Chairman, Councillor C Tinner with Councillors D Connold, H Gregory (co-opted) and J Warwick

IN ATTENDANCE: Lorraine Ellis (Clerk)

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:**
Councillors J Grant (holiday), B Knapper (holiday) and S Sanders (training course)
2. **TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COUNCIL'S CODE OF CONDUCT:**
Councillor Warwick declared an interest in Item 4 E017 Farriers Close.
3. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 21st MAY 2015:**
The minutes of the above meeting were taken as read and duly noted.

Councillor Connold reported that it had not yet been possible to discuss the 'unsuitable for motor vehicles' sign in Dark Lane. It was agreed that the item should be deferred to the July meeting.

Councillor Connold agreed to investigate the Sat Nav issues previously raised.

The Clerk confirmed that Hertfordshire Highways had been advised of the removal of a banked area near the Travellers site in St Albans Road.

4. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:**
E017 Farriers Close: The Clerk reported that a resident had written to the Committee asking why he and his neighbours had been consulted on possible plans for Farriers Close and their views had not been taken into account, they have stated that the area needs to be maintenance free.

It was agreed that the Clerk should inform the residents that the Committee are looking at a permanent solution but that this will take time. The Clerk to write to the two companies who had provided quotations following the recent tender process. The Committee have received objections to their plans and they were therefore being altered.

Councillors Connold, Gregory and Warwick to hold an informal site meeting to discuss possible layout designs. Councillor Warwick to obtain sample blocks/bricks and material costings for further consideration by the Committee. It was also agreed that Anne Westover should be approached to provide advice on planting options. The Clerk to arrange for the area to be weed sprayed.

E002 Highways Streetscape: It was reported that members of the Planning Committee had met recently with District Councillor Jane Gray to discuss parking issues in the High Street following the receipt of the 'As You Like It' planning application. Consideration was given to using part of the Streetscape earmarked

reserves to mark out areas in the High Street. A feasibility study would be very costly.

E003 Village Street Cleaner: The Clerk declared an interest in this item but was able to report that the Chairman of the Council would be discussing this matter with Councillor Sanders to agree a resolution to the situation.

Update on Codicote Quarry: The Clerk reported that Sharon Threlfall (HCC Planning Officer) had advised that the new owners have not agreed to a meeting and have not directly responded to correspondence from Officers, other than through the Company Director in the transition of ownership. It was suggested that the Parish Council requested a meeting.

Councillor Connold stated that a number of issues had escalated and it isn't clear what our powers would be. He asked what outcome would the Committee be looking for. Councillor Gregory stated that the Restoration Plan was an important document.

It was agreed that the Clerk should write to County Councillor Richard Thake who had previously indicated that he had a dialogue with the new owners:-

- Increased number of vehicles arriving in convoys
- Un-sheeted vehicles
- Blocking the High Street
- Creating a nuisance

It was agreed that we would not seek a meeting of our own with Codicote Quarry.

E016 Benches & seats – repair & maintenance programme: Councillor Warwick reported that he and Councillor Sanders had reviewed the benches and seats which had all been photographed, these will be available for consideration at the July meeting and a specification agreed.

However, the Committee agreed to remove the seat at The Pump and mount the memorial; the seat at the PMH needs treating with teak oil and the basic framework of the circular seat on The Green is intact but it does need new slats.

5. SEWER PROBLEMS IN THE BIRCHES AND LOWER HIGH STREET:

E026 Councillor Warwick reported that there was an on-going sewer problem in this vicinity. It was noted that Thames Water have ceased to empty the tanks, sewage overflows have occurred, the waste water is going into the wrong system.

The Committee considered the Thames Water response where they have stated that a solution would be to upgrade the sewer but that the estimated cost does not fall within the cost-benefit parameters of business investment. The Committee agreed that the Clerk should contact Stephen McPartland MP and copy the correspondence to County Councillor Richard Thake and District Councillor Jane Gray requesting that they take up the matter with Thames Water in finding a solution to the on-going problems.

6. FLY TIPPING ISSUE UPDATE:

E027 Councillor Gregory reported that there had been an issue of fly tipping in Sally Deards Lane. The NHDC Officer, David Furr had met her on site and between 30 – 40 bags of household rubbish had been found. NHDC do prosecute and the Court does issue hefty fines. It was noted that Mr Furr wants to work closely with Parish Councils as he believes that prevention is better than cure. It was agreed that Mr Furr should be invited to a future Committee meeting

7. UPDATE ON THE 'AS YOU LIKE IT' PREMISES:

E028 Councillor Warwick reported that he was aware of a colony of swifts nesting in the building. A local resident has been liaising with NHDC and the Herts & Middx Wildlife Trust. The NHDC Planners are aware of their duty of protection. The colony is the biggest in Codicote and should not be disturbed between mid-April until at least the end of July after which the birds leave to spend the winter in the Congo. The colony will return and it is suggested that nesting boxes be installed under the roof space during the construction process. It was suggested that we should approach the developer regarding the issue.

The Committee agreed to support the resident in protecting the colony of swifts.

8. HCC TRAFFIC SENSITIVE STREET REVIEW:

E029 The Committee considered the HCC consultation on traffic sensitive streets. HCC have completed a comprehensive review of their traffic sensitive streets network. It was noted that the B656 was listed and it fits within the criteria

9. ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE'S OUTSTANDING ITEMS:

E030 Item deferred to July meeting.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

E031 Thursday 16th July 2015

The Acting Chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8:33pm

Signed..... Acting Chair of Environment

Date..... 2015