

CODICOTE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE held on Thursday 17th September 2015, in the Parish Council Offices, 107a High Street, Codicote which commenced at 7:05pm

PRESENT: Chair, Councillor J Grant with Councillors D Connold, B Knapper,
S Sanders, C Tinner and J Warwick

IN ATTENDANCE: Lorraine Ellis (Clerk)

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:**

None received.

2. **TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ACCORDANCE WITH
THE COUNCIL'S CODE OF CONDUCT:**

None.

3. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 16th JULY 2015:**

The minutes of the above meeting were taken as read and duly noted.

4. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:**

E002 Highways Streetscape: Councillor Grant updated the Committee on the Parking Strategy meeting that was held on Tuesday 15th September. HCC and NHDC Officers attended in addition to District Councillors Jane Gray and Julian Cunningham. Smaller tasks for Codicote were considered and it was agreed that these should be referred to County Councillor Richard Thake and his Highways Locality Officer Gary Henning.

It was agreed that the Clerk should contact PC Keith Harding to request Road Traffic Accident data for the last three years.

E017 Farriers Close: It was noted that Farriers Close had been sprayed in readiness for the block paving to be undertaken. The Committee noted that the possible cost would be £1,200 - £1,500. Once completed the area would then be labour saving and maintenance free. It was agreed that the Clerk should contact County Councillor Richard Thake and District Councillor Jane Gray for their assistance in funding for the project.

It was agreed that Councillor Warwick and the Clerk should produce a specification and obtain three quotations to undertake the work.

Update on Codicote Quarry: The Clerk reported that a date following the issue of their letter had not yet been set to meeting with Stephen McPartland MP. It was noted that no comments had been received from the other recipients of the letter namely the Environment Agency and Hertfordshire County Council Officers.

The Committee agreed that PC Keith Harding should be asked for a police view on un-sheeted lorries being used to transport materials to and from the quarry.

E016 Benches & seats – repair & maintenance programme: The Committee discussed the repair and maintenance programme and agreed:-

- Circular seat at the pump – Councillor Sanders advised that the work to remove the bench and re-site the memorial was in hand
- Circular bench on The Green – work will be undertaken as soon as the tree works have been completed
- Seat at the PMH – to be refurbished in the autumn

It was agreed that Councillors Sanders and Warwick would prepare a specification for the refurbishments.

E026 Sewer problems in The Birches and Lower High Street: The Clerk reported that Thames Water had postponed their August Senior Risk Review meeting, they have agreed to update Stephen McPartland MP on whether a solution has been found following their meeting in September.

E027 Fly tipping issues: It was noted that David Furr, the NHDC Enforcement Officer will be attending the next Planning Committee meeting and it is hoped that he will be able to provide an update on this issue.

E032 Village tree: The Committee considered the report carried out by the Chartered Arboriculturist and noted the recommendations to be followed.

Councillor Warwick reported that the court case Berent v Family Mosaic Housing and London Borough of Islington highlights that neither Islington Council nor Family Mosaic who owned the neighbouring property could reasonably be expected to foresee that their trees might pose ‘a real risk’ of causing damage to the property until they had been notified that the property had suffered damaged, and reasonable evidence had been provided.

It was agreed that the Clerk should contact the NHDC Conservation Officer to request permission for the crown of the walnut tree on The Green to be reduced by one metre overall (c20%). The crown of the tree should be raised to give three meters clearance over adjoining ground. A copy of the report should also be sent to the resident in St Albans Road who had requested a review of the tree.

5. VALLEY ROAD FLOODING ISSUES:

E038 The Clerk reported that a number of possible solutions to the problem have been considered by HCC and they have approved works to extend the footpath adjacent to the carriageway and crown lift the tree at this location. The Clerk to request a start date from HCC.

6. HCC TRAFFIC SENSITIVE STREET CONSULTATION:

E039 Councillor Grant reported the B656 had been included in the consultation process. No further action is required at this time.

7. HERTFORDSHIRE MINERALS LOCAL PLAN:

E040 HCC are in the early stages of reviewing the current Minerals Local Plan which contains sites and policies that deliver the aims and objectives for minerals planning in the County. These should be adopted in 2018 and would be a 15 year plan length. The ten-week consultation period started on 3 August and runs until 16th October. The Committee agreed to review the documentation for our area and forward comments to the Clerk. Councillor Connold agreed to produce a response for consideration by the Committee at the October meeting.

8. RIGHTS OF WAY ISSUES:

E041 The Clerk reported that a number of residents had contacted the Council as they were concerned that a fence has been erected by the owner at The Grove. It was noted that this area has been walked in excess of 30 years. It was agreed that the Council should enable residents to take the lead in applying for a Modification Order on the footpath. The Clerk to assist the residents accordingly.

9. ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE'S OUTSTANDING ITEMS:

E042 Councillors Grant and Sanders to meet with the Clerk to progress the database.

10. TO CONSIDER THE 2016/17 DRAFT ENVIRONMENT BUDGET:

E043 The Committee considered the draft budget prepared by the Clerk. It was agreed that the budget will be given further consideration at the October meeting.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

E044 Thursday 15th October 2015

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8:50pm

Signed..... Chair of Environment

Date..... 2015