

# CODICOTE PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE held on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2015, in the Parish Council Offices, 107a High Street, Codicote which commenced at 7:05pm**

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**PRESENT:** Chair, Councillor J Grant with Councillors C Tinner and J Warwick

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Lorraine Ellis (Clerk) and Tom Goldsmith RofW Officer, HCC

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:**

Councillors D Connold (other commitments), B Knapper (other commitments) and S Sanders (other commitments)

**2. TO MEET WITH TOM GOLDSMITH, RIGHTS OF WAY OFFICER, HCC**

The Chair welcomed Tom to the meeting and explained that the Environment Committee was a sub-Committee of the Parish Council.

Tom advised the Committee that he has been liaising with the resident of Codicote House on a number of matters including FP2. Heavy usage of this non-official footpath has taken place for many years and the Council are enabling residents in applying for a Modification Order, they are however not participating in any way. It was noted that it is likely that an application to change the Definitive Map would score highly as there is a safety issue. Tom reported that he has been able to offer the resident an alternative option for them to explore. It was also noted that the Chiltern way route had been signposted through this particular wooded area.

Councillor Warwick explained that he completes the P3 work programme on an annual basis, using three walkers who highlight issues which are then included in the programme. The Committee are consulted before it is submitted to Groundwork who currently manage the scheme. Tom explained that it had been hoped that Groundwork would be able to match fund the scheme but this has not occurred. It was agreed that Tom would meet with the Committee annually to assist in preparing the work programme.

The Chair thanked Tom for meeting with the Committee and he left the meeting at this juncture (7:55pm)

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

None.

**4. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 17<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2015:**

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

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

**E002 Highways Streetscape:** Councillor Grant updated the Committee on the meeting held with County Councillor Richard Thake and representatives from HCC and Ringway to discuss Codicote highway issues and in particular bollards. A further meeting is being arranged to consider parking on/off road and yellow lines. It was noted that HCC do not have location records for drains and gullies. As clearance is only carried out on an 18 month cycle, it is therefore imperative that a map is produced to indicate all locations. Councillor Warwick agreed to provide a map.

**E017 Farriers Close:** It was noted that although three contractors had been approached to quote for the work at Farriers Close only one had responded. It was agreed that all the shrubs should be removed and the work awarded to James Howe Landscapes. The Clerk to prepare and issue a purchase order for the work to be undertaken by the end of November.

It was noted that the work will need to be fully funded by the Parish Council as HCC and NHDC are not able to provide any financial assistance for the project.

**Update on Codicote Quarry:** Nothing to report at this time but this will be an item for discussion when meeting with the MP.

**E016 Benches & seats – repair & maintenance programme:** The Committee discussed the outstanding actions to a number of the benches and seats. It was agreed that:-

- Circular seat at the pump – to be removed immediately and for the work to be overseen by Councillor Warwick. The memorial plaque to be retained and stored at the Parish Council offices until a suitable location can be found
- Circular bench on The Green – work will be undertaken as soon as the tree works have been completed, planning permission from NHDC is awaited
- Seat at the PMH – to be refurbished immediately using sand and oil

**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 with their recommendations. This item to be included on the agenda for the forthcoming meeting with the MP.

**E032 Village tree:** The Clerk reported that an application had been sent to NHDC requesting permission to reduce the walnut tree on The Green as recommended by the Consultant in his recent report.

The Clerk to obtain three quotations for the specified work.

**E040 Hertfordshire Minerals Local Plan response:** It was reported that Councillors Connold and Grant had liaised on the response to the Hertfordshire Minerals Local Plan. The Clerk to forward the agreed response to HCC by the set deadline.

It was noted that the response emphasised mainly on the Codicote quarry restoration plan, this will be discussed with Stephen McPartland MP at a forthcoming meeting.

**6. TO CONSIDER THE 2016/17 DRAFT ENVIRONMENT BUDGET:**

**E045** The Committee considered the draft budget and agreed that it should not be increased. It will now be considered by the Policy & Resources Committee in November.

**7. TO REVIEW THE ALLOTMENT RENTS:**

**E046** The Committee unanimously agreed that the allotment plots should be increased from April 2016, in line with previous years by the same amount to a yearly figure of £13 per half plot and £26 per whole plot respectively.

**8. GENERAL TREE WORK:**

**E047** It was noted that the Tree Wardens would be meeting shortly and a report prepared for discussion at the November meeting.

**TO DISCUSS THE LUTON AIRPORT FLIGHT PATH CHANGES:**

**E048** The Committee considered the correspondence received from a resident who has reported that there is a change in the flight path, bringing increased noise and flyovers in the last three months over Codicote. It was noted that the Council have supported LADACAN in the past, as required, and that individuals can lodge complaints with Luton Airport and Luton Borough Council. It was agreed that this matter should be referred to County Councillor Thake.

**9. ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE'S OUTSTANDING ITEMS:**

**E049** Nothing to report at this time.

**10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:**

**E050** Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2015

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 9:50pm

**Signed..... Chair of Environment**

**Date..... 2015**