

CODICOTE PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE held on
Thursday 19th November 2015, in the Parish Council Offices,
107a High Street, Codicote which commenced at 7:00pm**

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Lorraine Ellis (Clerk)

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:**
Councillor B Knapper (other commitments)
2. **TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ACCORDANCE WITH
THE COUNCIL'S CODE OF CONDUCT:**
None.
3. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 15th OCTOBER 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 recent meeting with Hertfordshire Highways (HH). The issues regarding the High Street bollards was discussed with a proposed resolution in the next financial year.

A feasibility study was also discussed to formulise parking in the High Street. It would be possible to have designated spaces and on/off road parking. HH's will liaise with County Councillor Thake on funding from his 2016/17 budget for the study.

Consideration was also given to double yellow lines on three junctions leading off the High Street (Bury Lane, north exit from Newtown and Valley Road South).

HHs have promised to provide the Clerk with a map within the 30mph zone of Codicote to enable the Council to highlight the location of the drains and gullies. Councillors Connold and Warwick agreed to liaise on the project and provide a report for the January meeting.

E017 Farriers Close: It was reported that the work at Farriers Close had been completed and positive feedback from residents had been received on an excellent piece of work.

Update on Codicote Quarry: Councillor Grant reported on the meeting held with Stephen McPartland, MP who agreed to support the Council where possible on any breaches identified by the quarry owners, this would need to be evidenced.

It was noted that there has been a massive increase in the number of vehicles to and from the quarry, they have permission for 75,000 tonnes per annum to be transported but unfortunately nothing can be done about the number of vehicles. The Council have recently received numerous complaints from residents about the volume of lorries and mud on the road, it was agreed that the Clerk should advise residents that the Council are not the enforcing authority and they should be re-directed to HCC.

There are limitations on how much chalk can be removed, this is identified in the Minerals Local Plan. The dates in the Plan for the restoration are misleading and HCC have been very remiss in pursuing the owners. This has also been reported to the MP.

E016 Benches & seats – repair & maintenance programme: The Committee agreed that Councillors Sanders and Warwick should prepare a schedule for the February meeting of the proposed work needed for the remainder of the benches and seats.

E026 Sewer problems in The Birches and Lower High Street: The Clerk advised the Committee that the MP had reported that Thames Water were still considering a proposal to install pumps into the holding tanks in order to return flows to the sewer network during quiet periods. The proposal is currently with Thames Water's Asset Management team who are preparing a paper to secure the funding.

E032 Village tree: The Clerk reported that NHDC had granted planning permission for the reduction work to the walnut tree on The Green. The Clerk to obtain three quotations for the work to be undertaken in the spring/summer of 2016.

E041 Rights of Way issues: The Committee considered the correspondence received regarding a ROW permissive path beside the road. It was agreed that the Clerk should contact Tom Goldsmith, the HCC Rights of Way Officer to inform him that the Council are concerned with the safety aspect of the current situation and to ensure that he is liaising with all interested parties. Mr Goldsmith to be requested to ensure that the Council be included in all exchanges of correspondence.

E047 General tree work: Councillor Warwick reported that a meeting will shortly be held with Councillor Gregory, he also stated that he had, in the first instance, looking at the trees in the Conservation Area and will provide a report at the January meeting.

5. TO CONSIDER A PROGRAMME OF SIDING BACK:

E051 The Chairman asked the Committee to consider funding the siding back of the footway from Cowards Lane to Danesbury Park Road.

It was agreed that Councillors Grant and Sanders should:-

- identify specific areas
- request that Hertfordshire Highways undertake the work
- if request rejected – employ a contractor to carry-out the work

6. VILLAGE SIGNAGE:

E052 The Committee considered village signage in general. It was agreed that Councillors Grant, Sanders and Warwick will liaise to produce a programme of refurbishment works for the village and CEG noticeboards.

Councillor Connold agreed to clean the signage at the west end of St Albans Road and Councillor Sanders agreed to clean the signage in the High Street at the north and south entrances to the village.

7. ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE'S OUTSTANDING ITEMS:

E053 It was reported that Councillors Grant and Sanders were still liaising with Ringway and will provide an update at the January meeting.

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:
E054 Thursday 17th December 2015

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8:30pm

Signed..... Chair of Environment

Date..... 2015