

CODICOTE PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 26th January 2016
in the Peace Memorial Hall which commenced at 7:30pm**

PRESENT:

Chairman: Councillor Helena Gregory
Councillor Jacque Grant
Councillor Ben Knapper
Councillor Colin Mackrill
Councillor Felicity Moody
Councillor Caroline Tinner
Councillor John Warwick

IN ATTENDANCE: Lorraine Ellis (Clerk), County Councillor Richard Thake and 17 members of the public

2016/001 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Councillors David Connold (holiday), Mark Ireland (other commitments) and Steve Sanders (holiday)

2016/002 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

The Chairman welcomed the residents to the meeting and explained that item 8 – the update on Codicote Quarry would be brought forward on the agenda and that on this occasion residents would be afforded the opportunity to ask questions.

The Council were aware that residents were concerned that a rumour was circulating regarding yellow lines being installed at the St Albans Road/High Street junction, the Council, NHDC and Herts Highways are unaware of any plans for this to happen.

2016/003 TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COUNCIL'S CODE OF CONDUCT:

None.

2016/004 UPDATE ON CODICOTE QUARRY

It was reported that a meeting had recently taken place at Hertfordshire County Council (HCC) with Officers, County Councillor Richard Thake, a Codicote resident, 3 representatives from the quarry and 3 representatives from Codicote Parish Council.

Councillor Grant, in her role as Chair of the Environment Committee and a member of the Planning Committee explained that following the meeting an Environment Committee meeting was held later that day and she read extracts from those minutes:-

Sharon Threlfall (HCC Planning Officer) stated that the County were only able to speak from a waste planning perspective but she had spoken to the Environment Agency (EA) and NHDC.

The representatives from the quarry (Winters) were asked about their future plans for the site. Ms Threlfall felt that this was sensitive information. Cllr Thake stated that the Parish Council and residents were not looking to close the business but want to work together. Winters said they were keen to work with CPC to improve relationships and working practices.

Winters stated that they were selling the waste side of the business. This has been for storage for soil sorting and processing and this is winding down and half the skips had been removed. They also stated that the wheel washer was to be moved closer to the entrance when the weather improves. The road is being cleaned more frequently however mud from the banks/verges is a different issue. Cllr Thake agreed to investigate whether it would be possible to fund an amount of kerbing. CPC to advise if this would be acceptable in a rural area. He

also agreed to speak to the local Police Inspector re overloading and the requirement to sheet vehicles and address speeding.

Cllr Grant raised a question regarding vehicles entering the site carrying concrete, there is no licence to take in full loads, the representatives from Winters stated that they log the vehicles and then turn them away. Cllr Grant requested that they again write to all the operators informing them that they should not bring concrete loads to the Codicote site as full concrete loads were not allowed under their licence. Also that they request that operators keep their speed to approximately 15 mph, to sheet all vehicles, and remind them of opening hours. A copy of this letter to be sent to the Council dated and on their letterhead.

Cllr Grant asked Winters to explain the tonnage returns they complete for the EA as there appears to be some inaccuracies. They agreed to investigate the matter. It was noted that they are behind schedule on the restoration plan.

Cllr Grant also asked for confirmation of their understanding of the opening hours. This was confirmed as being 7am-5pm Mon-Fri, 7am-12noon Sat. This was disputed as loaded vehicles have been seen entering the site before the official opening time. If vehicles arrive early and wait in the lane until open thus blocking the lane then the police should be notified.

Cllr Grant explained that this is only a summary but there are still a number of unanswered questions.

The Chairman welcomed questions from Councillors and then residents.

Cllr Moody asked for confirmation on where the 15mph limit would be. It was confirmed as being St Albans Road as part of it is a school safety zone. It is important to note that we are not able to impinge on the quarry's legitimate business.

Cllr Mackrill wished to know what further action could the Council take. Cllr Grant responded that Stephen McPartland, MP was working with the Council and he was asking questions at a higher level.

A question was raised on the winding down of the waste skip business, previously constrained with conditions. It was reported that the Council will continue to pursue this matter as there is a perception of a failure to consult.

Cllr Warwick reported that there was a previous condition on the number of trips to equate to number of tonnes but now there are no limits on the number of lorries. Cllr Grant stated that there are 3 different licences and that they are not allowed to take loads of concrete into the quarry, if this is seen to happen the date, time and vehicle details should be recorded. Cllr Warwick reported that several years ago HCC witnessed lorries carrying concrete in for crushing and it is difficult to comprehend that they are now turning them away. Cllr Gregory stated that in any one year they have permission to store and crush the concrete arisings for a maximum of 28 days, we will continue to pursue this with HCC.

A resident stated that he had developed a relationship with Winters following a near fatal accident involving a skip which was open, fencing in the High Street was damaged.

County Councillor Richard Thake arrived at this juncture.

Following further questions raised by residents County Cllr Thake stated that the meeting at HCC was a productive meeting, Winters had made promises and minutes from that meeting have been produced and agreed as accurate. With an on-going understanding and using common-sense the new operator (Winters) have given us assurances, we need to keep a record and if we have evidence of non-conformity and if they are operating before 7am this should be reported to Sharon Threlfall (HCC), she will provide information on what is permissible or not. A smoother coexistence is hoped for.

County Cllr Thake reported that he is liaising with the Council to install an amount of kerbing to prevent further erosion and verges and the deterioration of the drains and roads. The MP has also asked for this to be investigated.

Cllr Gregory asked residents to report to the relevant authorities any unlicensed activity as they are in a prime location to do so.

Cllr Warwick stated that we were assured that when permission for the crusher was given that it would only be for 28 days however Brian Owen (HCC) had previously stated that they cannot be stopped from bringing in concrete when the crusher is on site.

Cllr Thake reported that was during the time of the previous operator, there is no licence to import concrete but they can deal with arisings for 28 days in any one year. Winters stated at the HCC meeting that they stop concrete laden lorries at the gate, they are refused. The HCC Monitoring Officers will have been looking at what is stored on site.

A resident asked if the EA licence for 75,000 tonnes could be appealed. Cllr Grant responded that this is being pursued via the MP. HCC should have put in constraints/conditions. NHDC should have applied constraints but unfortunately there isn't a mechanism to put in retrospective controls.

Cllr Gregory reported that phase one of the restoration plan should have been undertaken in 2014, the Council is concerned at what the arisings are doing to the chalk valley.

The Chairman thanked residents for attending and for their questions. The 17 residents left the meeting at this juncture.

2016/005

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 24th NOVEMBER 2015:

To take the minutes as read and approve them as a true and accurate record. Proposed by Councillor Mackrill and seconded by Councillor Warwick. The minutes were then duly signed by the Chairman.

2016/006

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF 24th NOVEMBER 2015:

2015/085:Codicote tennis courts: The Chairman reported that thanks had been received from Codicote Tennis Club for the prompt response from the Council and that the repair work to the courts had been completed to their complete satisfaction.

2016/007

TO CONSIDER NOMINATIONS FOR THE JANE BROWN MEMORIAL BOWL:

Cllr Moody asked for clarification on the awarding of the Jane Brown Memorial Bowl. The Chairman explained that the silver bowl was commissioned following the death of Jane Brown who had served as a Councillor for many years and had undertaken many good works within the community. The bowl is awarded annually to a village resident, the current holder is Graham Smith for his contribution to Codicote in Bloom. Councillors then put forward the names of 3 villagers for consideration. Further discussion will take place at a future meeting.

2016/008

THE QUEEN'S 90th BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION:

The Clerk asked Councillors to consider holding an event to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday this year.

It was agreed that an event should be held and Sunday 12th June was suggested as a possible date. A working party to be set-up to include Councillors and villagers to take the project forward. Councillors Gregory, Mackrill and Moody volunteered to be members of the group. Cllr Gregory agreed to arrange a date for the working party to meet.

2016/009

TO AGREE PAYMENTS IN LINE WITH THE PRESENTATION OF INVOICES FOR PAYMENT:

The payments for January for £11,098.27 were agreed by Council.

County Cllr Thake left the meeting at this juncture.

2016/010

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

Planning Committee Meeting – 7th January 2016: To present the minutes to Council and to take them as read and to approve them as a true and accurate record. The minutes were proposed by Councillor Gregory and seconded by Councillor Grant. The minutes were then duly signed by the Chair of the Planning Committee.

Environment Committee Meeting – 21st January 2016: To present the minutes to Council and to take them as read and to approve them as a true and accurate record. The minutes were proposed by Councillor Tinner and seconded by Councillor Knapper. The minutes were then duly signed by the Chair of the Environment Committee.

Recreation Committee Meeting – 19th January 2016: To present the minutes to Council and to take them as read and to approve them as a true and accurate record. The minutes were proposed by Councillor Gregory and seconded by Councillor Warwick. The minutes were then duly signed by the Chairman of the Recreation Committee.

Peace Memorial Hall report:- Councillor Gregory reported that the boiler had been repaired and that the replacement of the flooring in the side room would be undertaken when a 2-3 day window was found when the room was not in use.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending, the meeting then closed at 8:53pm.

Signed..... **Chairman**

Date..... **2016**