

# CODICOTE PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE held on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2016, 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 and J Warwick

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Lorraine Ellis (Clerk)

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:**  
Councillors S Sanders (illness) and 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 21<sup>st</sup> JANUARY 2016:**  
The minutes of the above meeting were taken as read and duly noted.
4. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:**  
**Update on Codicote Quarry:** The Chair reported that a draft letter to Sharon Threlfall (HCC) had been produced following a meeting with the Clerk, Cllr Gregory and Bob Adams. C.Cllr Thake and the MP, Stephen McPartland have also been involved and the MP is investigating a possible loophole in legislation on our behalf.

Councillor Tinner arrived at this juncture (7:05pm).

Councillor Warwick stated that he has never been made aware that concrete cannot go into the quarry and asked if there is a new permission. The Chair responded that there is a discrepancy between what was said at the recent meeting with HCC Officers and Winters Haulage. This matter is being pursued further as there are a number of unanswered questions.

The Clerk reported that C.Cllr Thake had offered to fund conservation edging to protect further erosion by the quarry of the verges in St Albans Road. The Committee did not believe that this would solve the problem, it would not deter the lorries as they would mount the kerbs, it should remain as a rural lane and it is imperative that focus is maintained on the real problem. The Clerk to decline the offer of financial assistance from C.Cllr Thake and to thank him for his efforts on this matter.

**E002 Highways Streetscape:** The Chair reminded the Committee that C.Cllr Thake had agreed to contact the Police to investigate a 20 mph speed limit in St Albans Road.

It was noted that a resident had indicated that the Police reporting system 'OWL' was offering funding for safety projects and campaigns. It was agreed that the Clerk should request that C.Cllr Thake contact OWL in addition to Gary Henning (HHs) to investigate 20mph in St Albans Road, particularly as it is a school safety zone with a view to the OWL Neighbourhood Watch safety scheme funding speed monitoring as the first steps in the investigation.

The projects for bollards, parking and pavements are on-going with Herts Highways.

**E016 Benches & seats – repair & maintenance programme:** Item deferred to March meeting.

**E047 General tree work:** It was noted that permission was still awaited from NHDC for the works to the cherry trees in the High Street.

The Committee agreed that the work to the walnut tree on The Green should be undertaken in July. It was agreed that the Clerk should issue the tender specification to the three nominated contractors. The quotations will be considered at the March meeting.

It was reported that a number of trees were growing near the wall of the cow shed buildings in the High Street. The Committee agreed that Hertfordshire Highways should be advised that we are concerned that there may be root damage to the wall and request that they investigate as soon as possible.

**E051 Siding back programme:** It was noted that Councillors Grant and Sanders would undertake a review as soon as possible and provide a report for the Committee.

**E058 Clean for the Queen campaign:** The Clerk reported that the WI had contacted her to advise that they were keen to join in with any arrangements already in hand. It was noted that the Committee had previously agreed not to participate in the campaign.

It was agreed that the Clerk should contact the WI to offer our assistance in providing advertising and acquisition of the relevant equipment and suggest that their litter pick should cover the High Street and Bury Lane and also be co-ordinated through the Clerk so that it doesn't overlap with our regular litter picker.

It was also suggested by Councillor Tinner that the WI be invited to join the working party who are organising the picnic event.

**E059 P3 work programme:** The Committee identified a number of footpaths that are in need attention namely:

- FP2 Borough Street to the High Street – wood chippings on slippery footpath
- FP15 with junction of FP16 Heath Lane – cut back hedge
- FP16 Heath Lane – steps need attention
- FP20 Whitwell Road – top up scalplings to maintain the steps
- FP36 from Welwyn Road (B656) to St Albans Road – hedge cutting and step repairs

The work programme to be completed and finalised at the March meeting.

It was noted that a resident had drawn our attention to an area of hedging and trees at Codicote House that are overhanging the boundary wall. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to the owner requesting that they trim back the trees and hedging.

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

**E061** The Chair reported that Councillor Sanders had produced a number of action plans and these had been updated by the Clerk. It was agreed that Councillors would provide the Clerk with any updates and any new faults that they were aware of.

The action plans to be available at all future meetings.

**6. TO REVIEW THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE BUDGET SPEND**

**E062 TO-DATE:**

The Committee reviewed the spend to-date produced by the Clerk and agreed to discuss it further at the March meeting.

**7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:**

**E063** Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2016

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8:44pm

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

**Date..... 2016**