

# CODICOTE PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2016 in the Peace Memorial Hall which commenced at 7:30pm

### PRESENT:

Chairman: Councillor Mark Ireland  
Councillor David Connold  
Councillor Jacque Grant  
Councillor Helena Gregory  
Councillor Ben Knapper  
Councillor Colin Mackrill  
Councillor Felicity Moody  
Councillor Steve Sanders  
Councillor Caroline Tinner  
Councillor John Warwick

IN ATTENDANCE: Lorraine Ellis (Clerk), County Councillor Richard Thake and District  
Councillor Jane Gray

**2016/011** **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:**

None.

**2016/012** **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

Councillor Warwick requested the opportunity to speak on an urgent matter.

He reported that it has come to his attention that 2 or possibly 3 attempted muggings had taken place in Codicote and he wished to know what the Police were doing about the incidents.

It was also noted that the safe at the Red House newsagents had recently been broken into, also break-ins at the Kebab shop, a residential property in Reynards Road and attempted break-in at a residential property in St Giles Road.

Council agreed that the Clerk should contact PC Keith Harding to ascertain whether or not they are aware and to request an update on these extremely serious issues.

**2016/013** **TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COUNCIL'S CODE OF CONDUCT:**

None.

Councillor Knapper arrived at this juncture (7:42pm)

**2016/014** **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 26<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2016:**

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

**2016/015** **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF 26<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2016:**

**2016/004: Codicote Quarry:** C.Cllr Thake reported that he had offered to fund conservation kerbing near the quarry in St Albans Road but that this had been declined by the Environment Committee. Highway Engineers are concerned that if there is no containment from lack of a hard edging the proposal may have to be re-visited if damage occurs to the drains on the highway.

Council were worried that if kerbing was installed in this rural area the lorries would mount them as has happened elsewhere and that it wouldn't resolve the issue.

Councillor Connold reported that the street cleaning machine is using the area near Willow House as a turning point and is damaging the area and eroding the banks. It

was agreed that the Clerk should contact the quarry manager and request that the machine turns it's brushes off during the turning operation at this location and at Farriers Close.

C.Cllr Thake reported that he had asked his Highways Locality Officer to earmark funds from his 2016/17 budget to undertake speed and volume assessments on the road length from the B656/High Street junction to the end of the 30mph limit adjacent to Dark Lane. It is anticipated that this will be carried out early in the fiscal year but not during a school holiday period.

Cllr Grant thanked C.Cllr Thake for his help and reported that the Council were still raising questions with HCC on a number of issues.

**2016/007: Nominations for the Jane Brown Memorial Bowl:** Item deferred.

**2016/008: Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration:** A working meeting will be held shortly. The WI to be invited to be members of the organising group.

**2016/016**

**NEW DEVELOPMENT STREET NAMING PROPOSAL:**

Council considered the proposed naming of the new development of 8 new properties at land at 69 High Street, Codicote. It was agreed that Taverners Place was acceptable. The Clerk to notify NHDC accordingly.

**2016/017**

**TO NOTE THE CHANGES TO THE SERVICES AVAILABLE AT CODICOTE POST OFFICE:**

It just agreed that the forthcoming changes to the services at Codicote Post Office were good news for the residents especially the new extended opening hours.

**2016/018**

**NHDC LOCAL PLAN – ADDITIONAL SITES:**

Councillor Gregory reported that it had come to the attention of the Council that NHDC had included additional sites for development in Codicote, this would bring to the total to in excess of 800 dwellings when the original number was 180.

C.Cllr Thake stated that HCC would object to any sites being brought forward without any school provision being made. Unless a permanent arrangement is made for the school HCC will object to any planning application.

D.Cllr Gray reported that no formal consultation is planned however the Council could write to NHDC expressing their view. It is imperative that the same criteria is used in testing the validity of the sites as that previously used. C.Cllr Thake stated that he would write to NHDC's Chief Executive expressing his concerns with this process. It was noted that NHDC will forward their Local Plan draft document to the Secretary of State in July 2016. Residents will not be consulted at this time but there will be an opportunity for consultation will take place later in the year.

Council were disappointed that they were not consulted by NHDC and question the democracy of this process. It was noted that NHDC Members were not involved however NHDC Officers did approach the landowners. It would appear that if NHDC do not have a plan in place by 2017 they will lose their planning powers and any New Homes Bonus funding.

It was noted that part of the ancient hedge at the junction of the High Street and Cowards Lane has been removed. Cllr Grant reported that she had contacted NHDC who organised for an Officer to visit the site. Work has been halted and it was noted that the removal of the hedge was illegal and fines could be forthcoming.

**2016/019**

**SOLAR FARM ENQUIRY – REQUEST FOR FUNDING:**

Councillor Tinner reported that the Planning Committee had agreed, with the permission of Council, to be a Rule 6 Party Member against the proposed Solar Farm in Three Houses Lane, Codicote in the Green Belt. Council have now been approached by the lead member of the Rule 6 Party for a funding contribution of

£2.5K. It was noted that Council has already earmarked £1K in the next financial year.

It was noted that the proposed solar farm would be sited in the parish of Knebworth but on Codicote's boundary. Knebworth PC have set aside £5,000 but with conditions attached to the allocation of the funds.

Council agreed to release the £1K with the same conditions as Knebworth PC and to accrue a further £1K at year-end when the accounts have been audited.

**2016/020**      **TO AGREE PAYMENTS IN LINE WITH THE PRESENTATION OF INVOICES FOR PAYMENT:**

The payments for February for £6,224.01 were agreed by Council.

**2016/021**      **REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:**

**Planning Committee Meeting – 4<sup>th</sup> February 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 – 18<sup>th</sup> February 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 Warwick and seconded by Councillor Tinner. The minutes were then duly signed by the Chair of the Environment Committee.

**Recreation Committee Meeting – 10<sup>th</sup> February 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 Connold. The minutes were then duly signed by the Chairman of the Recreation Committee.

County Cllr Thake and District Cllr Gray left the meeting at this juncture (8:38pm)

**EXEMPT BUSINESS**

**Under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and accredited representatives of newspapers be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act by virtue of the paragraph specified against the item.**

**2016/022**      **JANE BROWN MEMORIAL BOWL NOMINATIONS:**

The Clerk updated Council on the 3 nominations received and a vote was held. Councillor Warwick agreed to retrieve the memorial bowl from the current holder, Mr Graham Smith.

**2016/023**      **TO DISCUSS COUNCILLOR ROLES:**

The Chairman reported that he had received feedback from Councillors and residents and reported that no decisions are to be taken outside of meetings, any discussions held should be reported back to the relevant Committee and the Clerk.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending, the meeting then closed at 9:05pm.

Signed..... **Chairman**

Date..... **2016**