

# CODICOTE PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE held on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2017 in the Parish Council Offices, 107a High Street, Codicote which commenced at 7:30pm

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**PRESENT:** Chair, Councillor H Gregory with Councillors D Connold, R Green, M Ireland, C Tinner and J Warwick

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

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:**

None.

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

None.

3. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 15<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2017:**

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

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

**Codicote Quarry:** The Committee agreed that the level of lorry movements had not decreased to 32 movements although it was noted that during the school start/finish times lorry movements had ceased.

The Clerk reported that NHDC had referred her to HCC to obtain a response on the mound of earth. The HCC Planning Enforcement Manager has been absent from the office and his work has been referred to the Assistant Director – Strategy & Comms. They will monitor the counts on a twice weekly basis for a few weeks in order to establish whether or not they are in breach of the S106 agreement. Evidence will need to be clear and robust if they are to prepare a case for injunctive action in the High Court for breach of the agreement.

It was agreed that the Clerk should contact HCC again including the Environment Agency.

**Maintenance – bus shelters:** It was noted that Councillors Knapper and Warwick had not met to commence the maintenance work. The Chair reported that she had not received a response from Councillor Knapper and it was therefore agreed that Councillor Warwick should undertake the work as soon as possible.

**The Pound:** The Chair reported that the laurels were re-appearing and the contractor had agreed to return to re-spray the new growth. The contractor to be asked his advice on whether he thought that the holly needed to be removed.

**Proposed development sites:** The Chair reported that a developer had applied to NHDC for outline planning permission for 88 properties at land adjacent to Oaklea and south of Cowards Lane. The Clerk to commence the process on the eight trees that have been identified for Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs). It was agreed that hedgerows are more difficult to protect and advice should therefore be sought from Heather Bardner and then to liaise with the developer.

The Chair reported that Ashill were again consulting with NHDC on their proposal for 213 properties at land south of Heath Lane. It was thought that highways may object to access to the site off Heath Lane. Access via St Albans Road may be an option as it is understood that a resident has agreed to sell their property to facilitate this.

**Village Planters:** The Chair reported that the drought resistant plants she was growing-on were doing well and would be ready to plant in September/October.

Councillor Warwick stated that the sponsorship of the planters was still possible and that work to clear them should continue; the crocus bulbs can be re-planted later in the year.

**Heath Lane footway:** The Committee were concerned that the proposed repairs to sections of the footway had not been carried out in the correct place. The Clerk to contact County Councillor Thake to discuss the matter.

**5. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UPDATE:**

**E025** The Chairman reported that the steering group had just met and the plan was progressing. Following his recent training course, Ian Woods was providing invaluable information however more volunteers are required.

**6. HOUSING NEEDS SURVEY:**

**E026** The Clerk reported that she had contacted CDA for Herts to request them to undertake a HNS but that the Housing Enabler had been on holiday. Information on timescales for the survey should be obtained.

**7. TO CONSIDER REFRESHING YELLOW LINE MARKING IN CODICOTE:**

**E027** The Clerk reported that following a request from a resident District Councillor Jane Gray had met with NHDCs Technical Transport Officer in Codicote to discuss re-lining. The Committee agreed that all lining should be refreshed.

Councillor Tinner reported that white bays for pavement/road parking have been introduced in School Lane, Welwyn. This parking option has been discussed on numerous occasions for the High Street.

**8. CONDITION OF ST ALBANS ROAD:**

**R028** The Committee noted that part of St Albans Road was in a poor condition but that a number of areas have been 'marked up' for resurfacing and the work is likely to be undertaken shortly, Councillor Green reported that some areas of Valley Road have recently been worked on. It was disappointing to note that there has been a degree of damage to the paving in St Albans Road near Farriers Close. It is likely that an HGV had parked on the footway causing the damage.

**9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:**

**E029** Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2017

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8:26pm

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

**Date.....**