

## LITTLE MUNDEN PARISH COUNCIL

### MINUTES of the meeting of the Parish Council (PC), held on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2014 at Little Munden School.

#### 1. ATTENDANCE

**Present were:** David Metcalf (DM) Chairman; Lizzie Bacon (LB) Vice Chairman; Keith Williams (KW); Tony Bartels (TB); Jenny Macintosh (JM); Darren Jones (DJ) – Councillors. Geraldine Ward (Clerk).

**APOLOGIES: Members of the Public: 1**

#### 2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

None.

#### 3. PREVIOUS MINUTES

DM proposed that the minutes of the previous Parish Council Meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> November 2013 be taken as read. DJ proposed the minutes and LB seconded them.

#### 4. MATTERS ARISING from the last Parish Council Meeting

##### 4.1 Common Land

DM reported on the meeting held with Lord and Lady Carter on 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2013. They inspected the Common Land and the Chairman gave them copies of the maps. Keith and LB also attended. Lord Carter was amicable about the handover of Common Land and some discussion took place as to its use. The Chairman reiterated that whatever use the common land would have would be up to the Parishioners. This led to conversation regarding the Kingwood and the damage caused by BMX bikes with ramps and paths through the woods. A permissive footpath across the field was also discussed which could perhaps run along the boundary. DM also pointed out how substantial the land was.

**ACTION:** Council to progress to next stage and discuss use.

##### 4.2 Little Munden Memorial Hall Trustees

No update.

##### 4.3 Horses' Meadow Car Park

DM had tried to get an alternative quote from various contractors who advertise in the Standon and Puckeridge Newsletter for the new gate and fencing, but no one was interested in returning calls. Financially it would now be tied in to what happened with the Play Equipment on Horses' Meadow and the outcome of the Grant Application.

**ACTION**

**DM:** Wait to see on outcome of the Grant Application.

#### 4.4 Noticeboard

DM agreed to have a go at constructing a Noticeboard as JP could supply some wood.

#### 4.5 Playground Equipment

As agreed at the November Meeting, the Parish Council would make up funds for the Grant Application shortfall.

Discussion also took place about some feeling amongst Parishioners about the application for new playground equipment had been misconstrued and DM agreed to put something in the Newsletter in order to clarify matters. JP pointed out that it would probably be some time before the result of the application is known.

### JANUARY AGENDA

#### 5. PLANNING

##### Decisions

3/13/1965/LB/FP/MC

Listed Building Consent and Full Permission: Alteration and extension of an existing outbuilding to create 1no. dwelling and the construction of a 2m high brick wall. Haultwick Hall, The Street, Haultwick, Ware, Hertfordshire SG11 1JQ. Permission granted subject to conditions.

#### 6. FINANCE

##### 6.1 MONTHLY RECONCILIATION

Current Account Balance BF 12/12/13	1491.09
Deposit Account Balance BF 12/12/13	13942.70
<b>Receipts on Current Account</b>	Nil
<b>Receipts on Deposit Account</b>	Nil

##### Deduct Payments from Current Account

<b>Date</b>	<b>Payment to</b>	<b>Cheque No</b>	<b>Amount £</b>
12/12/13	Herts Display	803	110.76*
12/12/13	Post Office Ltd	804	33.38*
12/12/13	G Ward Clerks Fee	805	214.58
12/12/13	A Worthington Parish Maintenance	806	94.17
31/12/13	L Bartlett Litterpicker Payment	S/O	41.92
31/12/13	Carol Bartels Website	S/O	30.00
	<b>Total Payments</b>		<b>524.81</b>

£

<b>Online balance on Current Account 6/1/14</b>	1110.42
Balance Brought forward 12/12/13	1491.09
Plus o/s cheque no 803* and 804*	144.14
Less Payments	524.81
<b>Balance as at 6/1/14</b>	<b>1110.42</b>

<b>Online balance on Deposit Account 6/1/14</b>	<b>13942.70</b>
Balance brought forward 12/12/13	13942.70
<b>Balance as at 6/1/14</b>	<b>13942.70</b>

## **7. CORRESPONDENCE**

### **7.1 Correspondence Received**

18<sup>th</sup> December 2013 Groundwork Hertfordshire. Annual Review. DM commented that there was not really an opportunity here as it was directed at more urban areas.

19<sup>th</sup> December 2013 East Herts Council. Council Tax 2014/15 and official Precept Form.

2<sup>nd</sup> January 2014 Hertfordshire County Council. Travel Plan Guidance for Business and Residential Development. Not appropriate to area of Little Munden.

6<sup>th</sup> January Claire Sime EHC. District Planning Executive Panel (16<sup>th</sup> Jan 2014).

### **7.2 Correspondence Sent**

Circular emails regarding new Play Equipment.

**7<sup>th</sup> January 2014 Letter to Councillor Rosemary Cheswright** following severe flooding in village on Christmas Eve.

DM and Councillor Jones had visited the flooded areas and found a number of dead trees blocking the tributary, however there was a lot of water still flooding across the field. DM thought that if dredging had taken place and banks built up, this would have considerably reduced amount of flood water. He pointed out that the Environment Agency had done nothing to enforce maintenance by the local farmer. He also pointed out the concern that the Council seemed unable to get the HCC road works contractors Ringway to actually come and fix some of the increasing number of pot holes on the rural roads, such as the pothole on the T junction between Whitehills and Munden Road. This had been cordoned off for over 5 months now and no work has been done. He also mentioned that the rode up to Haultwick was in a terrible state and the general consensus of opinion was that in the time that they put out the signs, they could easily have rectified the problem!

KW reported that on speaking to Keith Smith, (who farms the area bordering the Tributary), said that he proposed to clear the dead wood along his stretch of the Tributary when the weather improved and would be speaking to the EA and others regarding dredging.

**13<sup>th</sup> January letter to Oliver Heald Member of Parliament for North East Hertfordshire**  
Has contacted Herts Highways and Environment Agency and will be in touch when response is received.

<b>ACTION: “Flooding” back on Agenda next month – DM to report on progress from Oliver Heald.</b>
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### **7.3 Late Post**

16/1/14 Herts Waste Site document, Independent Valuations of Herts Mineral and Waste Development Framework – consultation document. DM to examine.

13<sup>th</sup> January 2014 Claire Simm/Team Leader Planning Policy Group 1 and Group 2 village Boundaries with maps for draft district plan. Available to view at District Planning Executive Panel meeting.

## **8. APPROVAL OF PRECEPT FORM 2014/15**

The Parish Council agreed to maintain the Precept amount 2013/14 at £9430.00. The forms were duly signed by the Chairman, David Metcalf, Councillor Jenny Macintosh and the Clerk, Geraldine Ward.

<b>ACTION: DM and LB to go through reports.</b>
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## **9. PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT**

DM congratulated Jonathan Pool on what a thorough job he did in getting in all the quotes and applying for the grant for the new playground equipment.

<b>ACTION: Awaiting outcome of Grant Application.</b>
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## **10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS FROM COUNCILLORS**

### **10.1 Newsletter**

In the November newsletter the Council had put in a piece regarding children cycling dangerously along Munden Road with no lights which was merely a warning to parents who may not know they were doing it. It was purely to flag up potential danger for the children on a busy road and out of concern for their welfare. DM thought that some people may have confused the other letter which was an objection from a resident at the way children cycle along a residential footway. A subsequent letter of complaint regarding this letter was then published the following

month. The result of this correspondence had been some emails to the Editor concerned about this type of correspondence in the Newsletter. DM felt that some sort of etiquette should be adopted and there should be no naming of individuals in a negative light. The Councillors agreed that they were not against letters to the Newsletter, in fact a chain or correspondence would be beneficial where certain topics could be discussed. The Editor was worried about this and DM felt that parameters would have to be set out.

**ACTION: DM to put something in the Newsletter to encourage people not to name individuals in a negative light and try to clarify the confusion these letters have generated.**

### 10.2 Potholes

DM reported that a number of potholes have been reported which have done considerable damage to people's tyres. The Councillors went on to discuss how potholes are reported and that HCC are liable to have them repaired within 2 weeks. DM suggested that he would write again to Councillor Cheswright to advise her on some of the problems a rural parish has, i.e. we are still paying our rates and taxes but as a rural community the problems are not improving, they are getting worse: school transport, maintenance on the roads and tree maintenance. He would point out that overall services from HCC and Ringway are diminishing.

**ACTION: DM to write again to Councillor Cheswright**

### 10.3 The departure of David Payne

JM pointed out that Reverend Payne would be leaving the Parish and his last Service would be on the following Sunday. DM suggested that the Parish Council write him a letter of thanks for all he has done for the school and the Parish.

**ACTION: DM to write letter of thanks to Reverend Payne.**

## 11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS FROM PARISHIONERS

It was reported that a large tree branch was protruding into the road along the Levens Green Road. DM to report.

The meeting was brought to a close at 9.20 pm. The next meeting will be held on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2014 at Little Munden School at 8 pm.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman