

LITTLE MUNDEN PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of the Parish Council (PC), held on 20th November 2014 at Little Munden Memorial Hall at 8.00 pm.

1. ATTENDANCE

Present were: David Metcalf (DM) Chairman; Lizzie Bacon (LB) Vice Chairman; Tony Bartels (TB); Darren Jones (DJ) – Councillors.
Geraldine Ward (Clerk).

Members of the Public: 3

APOLOGIES: Jonathan Pool (JP); Keith Williams (KW); Jenny Macintosh (JM).

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

None.

3. PREVIOUS MINUTES

DM proposed that the minutes of the previous Parish Council Meeting held on 16th September 2014 be taken as read. LB proposed the Minutes and TB seconded them.

4. MATTERS ARISING from the last Parish Council Meeting

4.1 Common Land

DM and LB to check through old files within the next six weeks.

4.3 Little Munden Memorial Hall Trustees

Keith Williams had had a discussion with the Chairman of the Memorial Hall and it would be included on the Agenda of the next Meeting of the Hall Officers to be held on 27th November 2014.

4.4 Noticeboard

DM to attempt to build a new Village Notice Board. TB mentioned that he did have a table which could be used for a top part.

4.5 Youth Club

DM reported that the Youth Club had wound up as no one had come forward to run it. He confirmed that the Parish Council would be able to hold the funds on their behalf.

4.7 Public Access Defibrillator

KW had forwarded an email to the Council from Oliver Copey to report that BT had not had the instruction regarding the adoption of the phone box and were awaiting a letter from the Parish Council to authorise this. The Clerk agreed to action this through Community Heartbeat who would supply the equipment.

4.8 Extra Bin for Horses' Meadow

The Clerk had emailed East Herts to enquire about obtaining a bin and was awaiting a reply.

ACTION: Clerk to chase up EHC to obtain bin.

4.9 Basketball Base

TB to investigate supply of new basket ball base.

5. PLANNING

5.1 New Applications

3/14/1861/LB

LB Consent for removal and blocking up of existing internal doorways plus formation of new openings in existing internal partitions. Green End Park, Green End, Dane End, Ware, Herts SG12 0NU.

5.2 Decisions

3/14/1475/LBMC

LB Consent for demolition of existing 1980's pine staircase. Proposed new staircase and bridge over new Main Hall. Removal of existing gable end window and enlargement of existing opening (between new kitchen and new single storey flat extension under approved application ref.3/11/20063/FP & 3/11/2064/LB). Removal of part of wall between existing sitting room and approved side extension and lowering of sitting room floor. Whempstead Barn, Whempstead Lane, Whempstead, Ware, Herts SG12 0PE. Permission granted.

3/14/1617/FP/MC

Householder Application. Single storey rear extension Ashdown Nurseries, Giffords Lane, Haultwick, Ware, Herts SG11 1JE. Permission granted.

5.3 Late Planning

3/14/2033/FP

Full permission for reconstruction of stable block and hay store. North Lodge, Rowney Priory, Rowney Lane, Dane End, Ware, Herts SG12 0JY. Representations by 10th December 2014. No objections.

3/14/2014/FP

Householder Application for creation of first floor accommodation involving alterations to and raising of the roof. Cherrymead, Frogs Hall Lane, Haultwick, Ware, Herts SG11 1JH. Representations to be made by 9th December 2014.

The Parish Council agreed that this was overdevelopment and would put further pressure on the sewage system and that the infrastructure of the area does not support this type of development. It was agreed that the Chairman would write of letter of objection.

6. FINANCE

6.1 Financial Statement

Current Account Balance BF 14/10/14	6067.92
Receipts on Current Account 20/10/14	4715.00

Deduct Payments from Current Account

Date	Payment to	Cheque No	Amount £
14/10/14	The Mundens PCC	848	200.00
14/10/14	Herts Display Sept/Oct	849	187.20
14/10/14	Post Office Ltd Clerks Fee	850	33.38
14/10/14	G Ward / Clerks Fee	851	205.23
14/10/14	BDO LLP Audit	852	120.00
31/10/14	L Barlett/Litterpicker Payments	S/O	41.92
31/10/14	C Bartels/Website	S/O	30.00

Total Payments **817.73**

£

Online balance on Current Account 10/11/14 **9965.19**

Balance Brought forward 14/10/14 6067.92

Less Payments 817.73

Plus Receipt / Precept Payment 4715.00

Balance as at 10/11/14 **9965.19**

6.2 Other Finance Matters

The Clerk reported that the VAT claim for the Playground equipment would be paid in the next couple of weeks.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

7.1 Correspondence Received

31/10/14 Council Tax 2015/16. The Chairman proposed that the Precept amount for 2015/16 should remain the same and the Parish Council voted unanimously for this.

5/11/14 EHC East Herts Housing Needs Survey / poster to put up promoting Survey.

6/11/14 Peter Mannings EHC re Supplement: Developments Management Committee 12/11/14 re 3/14/1058/FP Change of use of land from agriculture to mixed use for agriculture and use for the generation of renewable energy (solar) at Mill Farm, Great Munden. It was reported that this planning had been rejected.

7.2 Late Post

17/11/14 Email from Claire Pullen/ East Herts regarding Grants available from East Herts Council. In response to this email JP had suggested that as this was a Community Support Grant, perhaps a Christmas Party could be organised for the elderly of the village. JM emailed to say she would support this and would hopefully be able to enlist help from the Church Parishioners. DM suggested that this could be a joint initiative between the Parish Council and the Church.

17/11/14 Email from KW, reporting on progress of Vicar and Charities. He had spoken to Tony Brown who said he was willing to stay on for the time being (twelve months or so). He would like to meet the new Vicar first and would like the Parish Council to write to the Vicar as a way of introduction, and perhaps invite him to a meeting. KW also commented that the path at Paget Cottages was quite overgrown and could also do with a litterpick.

ACTION: The Clerk to organise litterpicker to incorporate Paget Cottages path.

8. COMMUNITY ORCHARDS

To remain on Agenda.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS FROM COUNCILLORS

DJ reported on a complaint from Parishioner regarding construction traffic diverting through Haultwick, to be covered in 10.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS FROM PARISHIONERS

10.1 THE STATE OF THE ROADS

Gary Strivens (GS) was in attendance at the meeting to report on the road conditions, mainly around Haultwick where there had been numerous complaints. Together with Councillor Bacon they had been canvassing Haultwick and Great Munden residents to record the complaints that people had made to HCC about the state of the roads. He explained that the main four sites of complaint were: Games Hill; Keepers Cottage; Munden Road/Telephone Exchange and the bridge at Mill Lane. The Emergency Services have also complained about it and in particular the ambulance route from Stevenage to Haultwick via Keepers Cottage. The main comments were that responses back from Ringway were that action had been taken, or action would be taken. There had been a lot of signs going up and then taken down but no work actually being done. At the moment there were about 40 or 50 complaints from residents but Parishioners wondered whether there was any point in making these as there had been so little response from the Council in the past. The state of the roads had also been made worse by the construction traffic going up to Haultwick. GS said that he was happy to put a letter together with photos and a map for the Parish Council to send, expressing concerns. He pointed out that this issued also needed to be publicised perhaps by the Mercury running an article who had expressed an interest. He felt that even if a result did not come out of this immediately at least if there was a record of these various complaints it could be used if someone wanted to claim against an injury or damage at a later date. He reported that the Council had already paid out £68,000 in compensation for damage caused by the roads because they are not dealing with the pot holes. DM pointed out that he would be happy to sign the letter on behalf of the Parish Council but that Gary Strivens should be named as the contact point. DM reflected that when Herts Highways

were in control they had a pot hole repair vehicle which repaired the pot holes properly. The general consensus was that Ringway were not filling in the holes to last any length of time. LB also had an email from a local farmer who had cleared the gullies around the Keepers Cottage road and scraped off some of the mud off the road. She reported that it had only taken him 5 minutes to clear. LB also pointed out that once the mud had been scraped off the road underneath would be damaged.

The state of the roads also ties in with the complaints about Libury Hall traffic. GS reported that BP Mitchell had been working up there and during the previous week the construction traffic had been diverted up Games Hill, through Haultwick to Giffords Lane causing considerable damage to verges and banks. GS reported that he had found out that there were three planning applications for Libury Hall and that he had contacted the enforcement officer. It was unclear what application was being worked on but if it was for the smaller one then there were no traffic restrictions in place. The enforcement officer had however written to the contractor to say that they could be in breach of planning however he had come back later and said that there weren't any restrictions on that particular application. The enforcement officer did however say that he would write to the construction company and ask them to divert the traffic. DM to email contractors and include Jim Ranger and Rosemary Cheswright on it. The two major planning applications however do have conditions on them. DM thanked Gary Strivens for all his hard work on these matters.

10.2 SCHOOL BUSES

Two Parishioners were present who had children attending Ward Freman College. They reported that the Freman college bus comes to the village everyday but parishioners are unable to put their children on it as it costs £1200 per year per child. These children went through the three tier system and any objection about the cost of the buses had been met with a response from EHC that they do not recognise the three tier system.

The children are not allowed on the bus with a Saver Card either as it is not a public bus. By public transport the journey would take nearly 3 hours to get the children home. They also pointed out that on the same bus the Great Munden and Haultwick children go free. These parents are now doing a rota to school, following the empty bus. This has also exacerbated because the Council no longer uses local transport providers. They have been told that the next nearest school that has spaces is in Stevenage which they would send a taxi for everyday (at great expense).

It was also reported that within this three tier system the children can get free transport for the middle school but this doesn't follow through to the third stage and Freman College. DM commented that he would do as much as he could to help with this and would write a letter on behalf of the Council regarding this.

The meeting was brought to a close at 9.55 pm. The next meeting will be held on **Thursday 15th January 2015 at Little Munden Village Hall, at 8.00 pm.**

Signed _____ **Date** _____
Chairman