

LITTLE MUNDEN PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of the Parish Council (PC), held on 19th November 2015 at Little Munden Memorial Hall at 8.00 pm.

1. ATTENDANCE

Present were: Lizzie Bacon (LB) Chairman; Jonathan Pool (JP) Vice Chairman; Keith Williams (KW); Hannah Charvill (HC); Darren Jones (DJ); (Councillors)

In Attendance: Geraldine Ward (Clerk); Russell Parkins and David Hart

Members of the Public: Mr J Theo

APOLOGIES: Jenny Macintosh (JM)

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

None.

3. TO APPROVE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON SEPTEMBER 2015.

The Parish Council were not happy with the format of the September Minutes and certain points needed to be amended as per redraft proposed in JP email of 14/10/15. Accordingly, the minutes were not approved.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THOSE MINUTES

Little Munden Memorial Hall Trustees

KW commented that an update would be given after the Village Hall Meeting on 26th November 2015. He reported that initially the Solicitor had asked for at least ten members to be on the Management Committee in order to proceed and the Hall would want volunteers to be holding trustees. There was some debate as to whether trustees were still needed as the Charity Commission would be the sole Trustee – KW explained that they just oversee it and as far as he understood the Management Trustees will be those who go through the legal process if anything happens. KW went onto explain that if the Hall was ever sold then the money would stay locally. LB enquired whether the Charity Commission deal with the money in trust. KW reported that the Hall was still owned by the Village. JP had previously understood that the Charity Commission would become the Trustees. KW seemed to think that the Management Committee would still be the holding trustees. KW to clarify at the next meeting.

Noticeboard

JP spoke to DM who assured him that he was still intending to provide a Noticeboard.

Playground Inspection

JP had looked at a copy of the Inspection and sent an email round reporting on this. There was nothing serious. He felt the igloo should be replaced.

Website

The stats were being sent round. HC commented that the figures increased when there was a lot of activity regarding the Lagoon Planning Application.

Newsletter

JP felt that this should still be looked at and was waiting for people to come up with ideas. JP was proposing a new layout and felt that the Council should either decide not to do anything or decide on a change and consult with the Church. He felt that it should be redesigned and would like to put forward ideas from the Council to the Church and, if agreed by both the Council and the Church, to the Editor.

JP felt that the Church Notices should be placed further back and not on the front cover. LB confirmed that the PC should discuss and then any ideas that Councillors come up with be put to the Church. If agreed then the Editor should be consulted. All agreed that this should be put on the Agenda for the next meeting and JP agreed to recirculate his original ideas. He reiterated that there had been a commitment in the Village Appraisal results to make the Newsletter more user friendly. LB asked anyone with ideas to send round on email.

Defibrillator

Now connected. JP questioned when training might be organised. The Clerk to contact Olly to ask when training sessions might be.

Fencing Horses' Meadow

The Clerk had emailed Stuart Kirkham about this and the tree on Whiteley Close. The Clerk agreed to email Stuart and remind him of all outstanding matters and to get a timescale of when these jobs might be done.

Basketball Hoop Base

DJ to look at resurfacing with tarmac.

Event for elderly of the Village

The Clerk reported that the PC had missed grants for a pre-Christmas event but there would be another round in January.

Dog fouling

Clerk to something in Newsletter.

Lovely Day Productions Car Parking

Clerk to chase up by email, outstanding fee for car parking.

AGENDA

5. PLANNING

5.1 New Application

3/15/1818/HH Proposed double and single storey extension incorporating a rear dormer. Lordship Cottage, Green End, Dane End.

3/15/2064/HH Change of flat roof to pitched at front (retrospective). 31 Kingsfield Road, Dane End, Ware, Herts SG12 0LY. Representations by 9th December 15.

5.2 Decisions

3/15/1819/LB Proposed double and single storey extension incorporating a rear dormer. Lordship Cottage, Green End, Dane End. Consent granted subject to conditions.

6. FINANCE

Current Account Balance BF 9/9/15 **12193.76**

Receipts:

14/9/15 Allotment Payment	12.00
15/9/15 Reimbursement (Digital Monkey)	250.00
9/10/15 LMCC Newsletter Contribution	294.84
9/10/15 Precept	4715.00
28/10/15 Allotment Payment	12.00

Deduct Payments from Current Account

Date	Payment to	Cheque No	Amount £
17/9/15	R Barron Website Sept/Oct	904	70.00
17/9/15	HAPTC Membership	905	170.00
17/9/15	EHC Playground	906	49.80
17/9/15	LMCC	907	200.00
17/9/15	BDO Audit Fee	908	120.00
17/9/15	Post Office Ltd	909	33.38
17/9/15	LMMH Hall bookings	910	90.00
17/9/15	G Ward Clerks Fee	911	189.00
30/9/15	L Bartlett/Litterpicker	S/O	41.92
15/10/15	Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal	912	23.00
15/10/15	Post Office Ltd	913	33.38
15/10/15	Herts Display	914	274.04
15/10/15	G Ward Clerks Fee	915	178.52
2/11/15	L Bartlett/Litterpicker	S/O	41.92

Total Payments 1514.96

	£
Online balance on Current Account 12/11/15	15962.64
Balance Brought forward 9/9/15	12193.76
Less Payments	1514.96
Plus Receipts	5283.84

Balance as at 19/10/15 15962.64

7. CORRESPONDENCE

7.1 Correspondence Received

7/10/15 Jeff Hughes/EHC Email re PC Vacancy.

13/10/15 SLADE Report to Lisa Page, EHC.

19/10/15 Email Groundwork re new funding for community green spaces to 27th November. JP looked at it and felt this could be a possible funding means for Common Land but couldn't go for this round. LB commented that PC should bear this in mind when the Council had decided what to do with the Common Land.

23/10/15 Email from JP to Parish Councillors re One-off Precept payment. The SLADE protest group had withdrawn its request for money but this wouldn't preclude them from applying again next year.

28/10/15 Letter from Robert Hicks to LMPC.

9/11/15 Letter from HAPTC re subscriptions from April 2016. JP felt this should be reconsidered as the annual cost was £480 and the Clerk felt it was something the PC should consider.

31/10/15 EHC re Council Tax 2016/17. See Agenda item no 9.

7.2 Correspondence Sent

19/11/15 Reminder to Great Munden PC re Newsletter payments.

18/11/15 Email to Claire Pullen re Community Grants.

8. CO-OPTION OF NEW COUNCILLOR

LB greeted the candidates, David Hart and Russell Parkins. She invited them to give a summary of why they wanted to be on the Parish Council as follows:-

Russell Parkins: he explained that he had always had an interest to join his local PC and has always had an interest in what goes on in the Community. He explained that he has been on the High Cross Parish Council for 20 years so obviously has a lot of experience in what goes on on a daily basis. JP asked Russell whether being Chairman of High Cross was limiting on time he could provide LMPC. Russell agreed that there was a considerable amount of work now being put Parish Councils' way, however he felt that with his experience, contacts and support of Clerks to back up, was not a problem.

David Hart: He explained that he was interested in re-joining the Parish Council and that he was a Councillor a number of years ago but had to drop out due to other commitments. He went on to say that he is now retired so has plenty of time to give to the Parish Council.

LB advised that the Council would make a decision before the next meeting.

9. TO CONSIDER PRECEPT AMOUNT FOR 2016/17

JP explained that the Parish Council was now looking at a normal Precept as SLADE had withdrawn their request. He felt expenditure should not be materially any different. He commented that a small change in expenditure was as a result of using the Hall for meetings, which hadn't yet been budgeted for.

There is also a query on the forthcoming income from the New Homes Bonus (£1100) which he believed was scheduled for the same amount but until the Chancellor makes his Autumn Statement, Councils would not know where they were likely to be cut. At the moment it is a reasonable assumption that we will get it. Therefore JP felt that it was not necessary to change the Precept amount.

He went on to point out that at the moment the budget had scheduled the £1100 for Common Land expenditure, the Newsletter and the Website. Parish Maintenance, the Clerks Salary, the Parish Newsletter and the Insurance premium were the main items of expenditure and there were no significant changes to these amounts.

In summary JP confirmed that for this financial year everything was pretty much on budget and on the basis that this year money had not been spent on the Common Land or reformatting the Newsletter, there should be a surplus £1000. Therefore JP proposed that the Precept for 2016/17 remain the same and LB seconded this.

10. TO DISCUSS SKATEBOARD RAMP/Mr Theo

Mr Theo attended the Meeting to seek approval for a Skateboard Ramp on Horses' Meadow. His points for the installation were as follows:

- A skateboard ramp would give somewhere for younger and older generations of children to go to.
- the village doesn't have anything like that here - the nearest similar facility is in Puckeridge or Ware.
- He felt such a facility could really benefit children and the community.
- He explained that this subject had come up a number of times and his children's friends and friends of friends were all keen.
- Mr Theo felt that a skateboard ramp would be considerably cheaper than the new equipment that had recently be installed on Horses' Meadow.
- He felt that having such a facility in the village was safer than travelling to an outside one as they were closer to home and did not require constant supervision.
- He felt that it would be good to have something in the village which would be part of the community providing an activity that children could do together.
- He felt that through fund raising half the cost could be raised by the community that the Parish Council could then match.

In response JP explained that the previous planning for such a facility had had a private benefactor behind it and it was also subject to a number of restrictions. He personally felt that

this was something that the Parish Council should not be involved with, that there were facilities such as this in nearby villages and that villages of a similar size did not have such a facility.

The Parish Council agreed that this was something that they should definitely look into and that Mr Theo would be supplied with the previous restrictions on the original planning application.

11. RECEIVE NOTICE OF ANY OTHER BUSINESS AND TO DEAL WITH THOSE MATTERS IF APPROPRIATE

JP brought up matter of the letter sent by Mr Haywood regarding old documents pertaining to Mill Farm and Cowley Hall. He commented that there was someone who was interested in old documents who Mr Haywood could send the documents through to. JP to ask Barbara Springate who her contact was and the Clerk to ask for the documents for safe keeping by the Council.

Website

JP asked about whether or not a photo of Councillors could be done for the website. DJ was not comfortable with having his details on a public website due to the nature of his work. JP thought it would be nice to have a group photo, as previous. All agreed.

The Rest and Welcome

DJ reported on a letter received from the owners whose plans unfortunately had not progressed and was at a stalemate with the architects. She was seriously looking at a change of original plans.

12. TO CONSIDER MATTERS ARISING FROM PARISHIONERS

None.

The meeting was brought to a close at 9.20 pm.

The next meeting will be held on

Thursday 21st January 2015 at Little Munden Village Hall, at 8.00 pm.

Signed _____ **Date** _____
Chairman