

LITTLE MUNDEN PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of the Parish Council (PC) held on 19th January 2017 at Little Munden Memorial Hall at 8.00 pm.

1. ATTENDANCE

Present were: Jonathan Pool (JP) Chairman; Lizzie Bacon (LB) Vice Chairman; Darren Jones (DJ); David Hart (DH);– Councillors

In Attendance District Councillor: Ken Crofton, County Councillor for Hertford Rural; Oliver Copsey

Members of the Public: 2

APOLOGIES: Keith Williams; Jenny Macintosh; Hannah Charvill

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

None

3. TO APPROVE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 17th NOVEMBER 2016

The minutes were proposed by LB and seconded by DH

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THOSE MINUTES

4.1 Basketball Hoop Base

DJ to investigate potential resurfacers.

4.2 Appeals AP/16/0091/REFUSE Home Farm, Munden Road, Dane End. Construction of an agricultural lagoon and access road. Appeal lodged with Inspectorate.

Appeal No APP/J1915/W/16/3156149. www.acp.planninginspectorate.gov.uk

JP updated the Councillors that a further letter of representation was sent to Fran Littler on 19th December, receipt of which was acknowledged. He also went on to say that the Parish Council also sent a letter to Frank Sapsed (the appellant) on 7th December requesting that he withdraw his application appeal. JP reported that he had not responded to the request. It was confirmed that the Hearing would be on 9th February 2017 at 10 am at the Council offices on Pegs Lane.

4.3. Footpath Kingsfield Road to Boot overgrown.

LB reported that the bottom of the Baulk had been done and the overhanging bushes on the footpath from the Boot would also get done.

4.4 Playground Inspection

KW and JP to carry out a site inspection of negative items raised in the Playground Inspection Report. Still to complete.

4.5 Neighbourhood Plan

Paul Kenealy had offered (at the last meeting) to look at other villages and how they went about Neighbourhood Plans. The PC has as yet to hear back from him. JP explained that there is only a requirement for a Neighbourhood Plan in a Category 2 village such as Dane End if the village were positively to identify a need for more housing. JP went on to say that this matter was discussed some years ago and, at the time, the PC concluded the only reason one would want more housing would be help boost the numbers in the school. JP now, as then, felt it unlikely that a proposal for more housing would be supported by the community. DH pointed out that efforts to build in years gone by were not popular.

Councillor Ken Crofton explained that generally Category 1 villages opt for a Neighbourhood Plan to be able to maintain a level of control over compulsory development, whilst Category 2 villages are protected from large scale development. If a need for more housing within a Category 2 village is identified, a Neighbourhood Plan is valuable in deciding the type of houses that can be built and areas of suitable land for development. He explained that the plan then becomes part of the planning process and means that development then cannot take place anywhere else. Councillor Crofton went on to point out that the preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan is an expensive and time consuming process and should be done with the PC's support, but not led by the PC. JP pointed out that the time involved was a major issue in getting involvement/commitment of other persons.

JP explained that he had put forward the idea of getting together with other local villages in order to reduce the time involved in the whole thing as he felt that there must be processes that could be duplicated for different villages. However Councillor Crofton pointed out that the whole process had geographic constraints and was determined by individual villages' demographics and that it would be very difficult to get commonality between local villages.

DJ wondered whether the village could be under threat in years down the line by land being sold off for development. Councillor Crofton pointed out that, once the revised East Herts District Plan is approved and adopted in the Autumn, it will protect Category 2 villages from speculative development in years to come.

5. PLANNING

5.1 New Applications

3/16/2408/HH

Creation of access and gates. Fellowsfield, Mill Lane, Dane End, Ware. (16/12/16)

3/16/2805/HH

Regularisation of raised terrace. Green End Park, Green End, Dane End, Ware, Hertfordshire. (12/1/17)

3/16/2803/HH

Demolition existing semi-detached fire damaged garage block and erect two detached garages. 5 and 6 Potters Wood Close, Potters Green, Dane End, Ware, Herts (12/1/17)

3/17/0052/LBC

Single storey rear extension including courtyard area in-filled. Hunts Cottage, Munden Road, Dane End (6/2/17)

3/17/0082/ARPN

Change of use of agricultural store/livestock pens to C3 (three residential dwellings). JP uncertain what this meant exactly as prior approval had already been granted. He had spoken to the Planning Case Officer who had only just been passed the file so he would look at it and get back to JP in the following week. Whitehill Farm, Whitehill, Dane End, Herts

3/17/0096/PNHH

Single storey rear extension: Depth 4.0 m, Maximum height 3.71 metres, eaves height 3.77 metres. 3 Whiteley Close, Dane End, Ware, Herts SG12 0NB.

3/17/0110/LBC

Hazelbury, Munden Road, Dane End SG12 0LH Provision of a porch.

Decisions

3/16/2210/HH

Part demolition of existing bungalow and rebuild with alterations to fenestration. Proposed new porch and ground floor extension. Proposed extension to raise roof height and create first floor. Permission granted.

16/12/16

Two storey side and single storey front extensions. 6 Easington Road, Dane End, Ware, Herts SG12 0LT. Permission granted.

3/16/2466/HH

Two storey and single storey rear extension. Two new first floor side window openings. 18 Kingsfield Road, Dane End, Ware, Herts SG12 0LY. Permission granted.

3/16/2403/FUL

Land adjacent to 7 Pearman Drive, Dane End, Ware, Herts SG12 0LW. Erection of detached dwelling. Permission refused.

3/16/2601/HH

Demolition of existing single storey front extension, construction of replacement single storey front extension and alterations to first floor fenestration. 5 Pearman Drive, Dane End, Ware SG12 0LW. Permission granted.

Appeals

3/15/1080/FUL

Construction of an agricultural lagoon and access road. Home Farm, Munden Road, Dane End, Ware. Appeal reference no AP/16/009/REFUSE. (23/01/17)

6. FINANCE

Online Current Account Balance BF 11/11/16	20211.80
Receipts: Great Munden Parish Council Newsletter	180.00
Total	180.00

Deduct Payments from Current Account

Date	Payment to	Cheque No	Amount
11/11/16	Post Office Ltd	979	33.38
11/11/16	G Ward/Clerk's Fee	980	177.89
11/11/16	Kirkham Contracting	981	2514.00
11/11/16	Herts Display/Oct Newsletter	982	96.72
11/11/16	Memorial Hall/VETS Training	983	45.00
17/11/16	British Legion/ Donation	984	25.00
29/11/16	R P Stanley/Horses' Meadow Fence	985	466.20
30/11/16	L Bartlett/Litter picker payment	S/O	41.92
30/11/16	R Barron Website Management	S/O	35.00
12/11/16	Herts Display/Nov/Dec Newsletter	986	193.44
12/12/16	PAYE Post Office Ltd	987	33.38
12/12/16	G Ward/Clerk's Fee	988	179.78
12/12/16	A Worthington Parish Maintenance	989	60.00
12/12/16	SLCC/Membership	990	55.00
3/1/17	L Bartlett/Litter picker payment	S/O	41.92
3/1/17	R Barron Website Management	S/O	35.00
Total Payments			4033.63

	£
Online balance on Current Account 12/1/17	16413.17
Balance Brought forward 11/11/16	20211.80
Less Payments	4033.63
Plus Receipts:-	180.00
Less outstanding cheque no 990	55.00
Balance as at 12/1/17	16413.17

NB: Councilor Pool explained that one of the reasons we have a higher surplus this year is because the New Homes Bonus was considerably higher this year.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

7.1 Correspondence Received

28/11/16 Email from LB re update on hole in path, The Baulk and overhanging plants on footpath.

21/11/16 Email from Lord Carter to KW and reply re purpose of reclamation of Common Land

22/11/16 Email from KW to Helen Dunton

9/12/16 Letter from Kevin Steptoe, EHC re Planning Appeal Home Farm, Munden Road, Dane End, Ware

22/12/16 Letter from Philip Gregory EHC re Council Tax base for Little Munden Parish

4/1/17 Copy of letter from Carolyn Marlow to EHC Planning re Commercial Waste Recycling at Home Farm, Dane End. The PC agreed that it was up to individuals to complain about this matter.

10/1/17 Letter from Robert Hicks re listing of bridges.

January 2017 Hertfordshire Transport Report re Casualty Facts 2016 and Hertfordshire Transport Facts 2016 including rail.

Visit www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/transtreets/hertscounttravsurv for more information.

7.2 Correspondence Sent

12/1/17 Email to Councillor Crofton/invitation to Parish Council Meeting

8. COMMUNITY DEFIBRILLATOR

Funding of the community defibrillator/Oliver Copsey

Ollie Copsey attended the meeting to discuss finances for the Village Defibrillator. He explained that he would like the PC to pay for the annual subscription fee to replace the pads and batteries when necessary for £126 per year. JP agreed in principal that this was possible.

Ollie also suggested holding another Vets scheme/Awareness Session and asked the Councillors whether they thought this was a good idea. Ollie suggested giving a good two months notice to encourage as many people to come to it as possible. He would also advertise in the Great Munden area to get people from outlying villages to come.

Ollie went on to ask the PC if they thought it was a good idea to set up another defibrillator. After some discussion it was agreed to ask the Chairman of Sacombe Parish Council if there might be interest and if the Sacombe phone box could perhaps be used.

Ollie informed the PC that it cost about £1800 to set up another one and explained that there is funding available to do this and also money left in the kitty. The Council agreed to contact Sacombe and ask them without committing anything at this stage.

Insurance of the defibrillator was also discussed and it was agreed that the Clerk would discuss with the Parish Council's insurers to see if it could be added to the policy.

9. PRECEPT/COUNCIL TAX 2017/18

The forms were duly signed.

10. COMMON LAND: CL161 (The Old Chalk Pit), CL172 (NE corner of The Old Chalk Pit)

KW had advised the Councillors prior to the meeting that the landowner adjacent to the plots, Lord Carter, wants to know what documented evidence the PC have to bring the land back into the parishioners' control. In reply, KW has concluded that it seems that the Parish Council has been wrongly informed regarding ownership of at least some of the common land beneath the Lordship. HCC Rights of Way have copied him some documents that they have on file which show, in respect of both CL161 and CL172, the name and address of the person registered 28 June 1968 as owner as HS Smith, Lordship Farm, which registrations became final on 02 April 1973.

KW has agreed to meet with Lord Carter late March or early April to establish whether title to the two plots was passed to Lord Carter on his purchase of Lordship Farm or whether it remains in the estate of HS Smith. If the former, the way forward may be for the PC to ask if some sort of management agreement regarding the plots CL161 and CL172 could be arranged.

JP asked Councillor Crofton whether he had experience of 'owned' common land. Mr Crofton said there had been problems in Benington as a result of which it seems that the 'owner' has rights over the use of and access to/through 'owned' common land.

JP reiterated David Metcalf's view that HCC have not amended their records correctly to reflect the 16 January 1973 decision of the Chief Commons Commissioner in favour of Albert Springate (who was acting on behalf of the PC). JP will speak again with David Metcalf.

11. LITTER PICKER VACANCY

Review of CVs (6) and appointment. The PC decided to make this appointment by lottery as there were so many suitable candidates. Harvey Coles' name was drawn and was appointed the new litter picker.

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

None

13. TO CONSIDER MATTERS ARISING FROM PARISHIONERS

None

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 16th March 2017

Signed _____ Date _____
Chairman