

LITTLE MUNDEN PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of the Parish Council (PC) held on 1 June 2017 at Little Munden Memorial Hall at 7.30 pm.

1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

It was agreed to postpone until the next meeting.

2. ATTENDANCE

Present were: Jonathan Pool (JP) Chairman; Keith Williams (KW); Jenny Macintosh (JM); Darren Jones (DJ); David Hart (DH)

– Councillors

Members of the Public: 7

APOLOGIES: Lizzie Bacon (LB) Vice Chairman;

3. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

None

4. TO APPROVE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 20th April 2017

The minutes were proposed by JM and seconded by DH

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THOSE MINUTES

5.1 Basketball Hoop Base

DJ had sent round a quote which was over £2,000 to resurface the Basketball Base. He explained that he had phoned 6 companies four of which hadn't responded at all and one hadn't turned up. KW pointed out that the school's playing areas had hard rubber/asphalt type material which was probably what we should be looking at rather than tarmac.

The Clerk to chase up Adrian Worthington regarding the painting of the Igloo.

5.2 Defibrillator

Ollie Copsey was trying to arrange a session for the VETS Scheme (Voluntary Emergency Telephone Service). JP suggested this would be better arranged in September when there would be fewer people away on holiday.

5.3 Playground Inspection

JP reported that he had written to Wicksteed about the chain openings on the swings, the basket ball hoop (signage and base) and, under the 15-year timber guarantee, the timber splits and rough edges to the log climber. Wicksteed had requested further photos, which have been sent.

5.4 Common Land

JP and KW were still trying to organise a meeting with Lord Carter

6. PLANNING

6.1 New Applications

3/17/0665/PNHH 8 Wentworth Cottages, Haultwick, Ware

Single storey rear extension: Depth 5.3 metres, maximum height 3.5 metres and eaves height 2.4 metres. 30th May 2017.

6.2 Decisions

3/17/0724/HH Cherrymead, Frogs Hall Lane, Haultwick

Part demolition of existing bungalow and rebuild with alterations to fenestration. Proposed new porch and ground floor rear extension. Proposed extension to raise roof height and create first floor and accommodation in proposed roof space with dormer windows and roof lights.

Application approved subject to conditions.

3/17/0781/FUL Wheelwrights Farm, Rowney Lane, Dane End, Ware

Change of use of land from use for stabling/keeping horses to a mixed use for stabling/keeping horses and as a residential caravan site for one Gypsy family, including stationing of one mobile home, one touring caravan, laying of hardstanding, improvements of existing access and installation of septic tank – Retrospective application.

Application Refused.

6.3 Enforcement Appeal

E/17/0114/ENF: Wheelwrights Farm, Rowney Lane, Dane End

Appeal against EHC's Enforcement Notices put in place to remove the caravans and reverse the development already undertaken.

Gary Abbot representing Friends of Rowney Priory was invited to take the floor and delivered an appraisal of the situation, the main points of which are as follows:

- Friends of Rowney Priory are a group of residents who have got together to oppose the development at Wheelwrights Farm.
- He reported that a Barrister had been appointed and a Planning Consultant would be appointed tomorrow or Monday.
- Although the planning application had been turned down, it was more worrying that an appeal had been put in against the Enforcement Notices directly to the Inspectorate. There is a danger that, if the Enforcement Notices are set aside, the Inspectorate will effectively be giving the gypsies planning permission.
- The Group aims to work with the Planning Consultant and the Barrister alongside the work that East Herts Council is doing to build a case to oppose this.

- The Group is currently quite small consisting of about 15 people. However over the course of the next few weeks more people would be invited to join and a communication portal would be set up as a means to getting information out to people in the area. It had become clear after having spoken to people in the area that there are a lot of people who didn't know about this issue and would like to know more and make comments regarding the Appeal.
- The primary aim of the Group was to get equipped professionally and to raise awareness with local residents and let them know what they can do if they choose to.
- In a week or so there should be a more joined up picture, but in the meantime this was an introduction to the Group, to make the Parish Council aware that it exists.
- Relevant documents have been forwarded to the Clerk for reference purposes. EHC have encouraged interested parties to comment on the Appeal.
- There is also the possibility that the Planning Inspector may ask the applicant if he wishes to appeal against the original Planning Application.
- It could be 18 months to 2 years before a decision is ultimately made.

Mr Abbot went on to say that the Group would be sending out cards to residents to let them know how they can make representations and the form comments can be made. This would hopefully help to try to keep things neutral and balanced.

During the Planning Application Consultation, objections could be made confidentially through the District Councillor, Paul Kenealy; however, this is not the case for representations made to the Planning Inspectorate.

The other real danger, if the Gypsies' appeal is upheld, is that it would set an unwelcome precedent for similar developments in the future.

JP commented that the Parish Council had sent a letter of representation objecting to the original Planning Application. He noted that representations in respect of the Appeal against the Enforcement Notices are due by 28th June and would appreciate some guidance as to what the Group would like the Parish Council do regarding this.

7. FINANCE

	£
Online Current Account Balance BF 22/5/17	19,586.13
Receipts: 3/5/17 Precept	4,715.00
3/5/17 Allotment Payments (4)	48.00
28/4/17 VAT reimbursement	668.74

Deduct Payments from Current Account

Date	Payment to	Cheque No	Amount
20/4/17	Post Office Ltd PAYE	1057	33.38
20/4/17	Herts Display April Newsletter	1058	96.72
20/4/17	Roberts Hicks/keys HM gate	1059	15.00
20/4/17	LMMH April,May,July	1060	90.00
20/4/17	G Ward Clerks Fee April	1061	183.53
20/4/17	Zurich Insurance	1062	465.03
2/5/17	H Coles/Litter picker payment	S/O	43.42
2/5/17	R Barron Website Management	S/O	35.00

Total Payments 962.08

	£
Online balance on Current Account 22/5/17	19586.13
Balance Brought forward 11/4/17	15116.47
Less Payments	962.08
Plus Receipts:-	5431.74
Balance as at 22/5/17	19586.13

8. CORRESPONDENCE

8.1 Correspondence Received

13/5/17 Email from Sue Campbell re Transparency Funding/new application. The next round of the Transparency Funding had been sent in.

8.2 Correspondence Sent Letter from Jonathan Pool (Chairman) to Planning, EHC re Application 3/17/0781/FUL Wheelwrights Farm, Rowney Lane, Dane End, Ware

8.3 Late Post

1/6/17 Email from Richard Barron re the local Website. Concern over lack of contributions. There had been no new postings on it. To give some thought regarding this and the Clerk would liaise with Richard to see what could be done.

9. APPROVE AND SIGN ANNUAL RETURN 2016/17

The Annual Return was duly signed by the Chairman and Clerk to be returned to BDO.

10. ANNUAL REVIEW AND APPROVE - RISK ASSESSMENT DOCUMENT

The document was duly approved by the Parish Council.

11. PARISH COUNCIL VACANCY

The Clerk confirmed that a By-Election had been called which had been confirmed by the Election Office at East Herts District Council for July 13th 2017. This was to fill the one vacant seat and did not involve the existing Parish Councillors standing. There were two candidates standing whose nomination papers were due no later than 16th June.

The Clerk had requested a costing of the Election from EHC but had not yet received this yet.

12. COMMON LAND

KW had yet to get a response from Lord Carter requesting a meeting

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

13.1 Village Hall Notice Board

David Hart on behalf of the Village Hall Committee reported that the notice board outside the Hall needed replacing and requested a contribution from the Parish Council as the Committee had just had a large expense on the replacement ceiling. JP felt that this was not really a Parish Council matter.

13.2 Newsletter

JM reported that the front page of the Newsletter this month would be an A4 Advertisement for the Sacombe Church Village Picnic and had received a cheque for the Parish Council to cover the expense.

13.3 Neighbourhood Plans/Response to article in the June Newsletter

JP reported on his response to Simon Marlow on his article in the June newsletter re. Neighbourhood Plans:-

There is no confusion within the PC about Neighbourhood Plans. The PC has concluded that there is no particular requirement for a Neighbourhood Plan in a Category 2 village such as Dane End unless the village, now or at some time in the future, were positively to identify a need for more housing.

However, the PC thinks that, 6 years on from the last parish appraisal, it is time to carry out an up-to-date appraisal / formulate a parish plan to find out what parishioners want now within their community. The result of such an appraisal may well identify a requirement for a Neighbourhood Plan.

JP called for volunteers at the APM to put together a Committee to propose the way forward for the village. If Simon does this, the PC will give the committee its encouragement and support.

13.4 Home Farm - Processed waste biofertiliser transport in, storage and distribution

JP referred to his email (30 May) to Councillors about parishioners' concerns.

Essentially, we have an absentee landlord farmer who has ignored the reasons for the refusal of planning permission for the lagoon by EHC, the conclusions of the Inspector in dismissing the appeal against the refusal of planning permission and the reasoned arguments put forward by the PC (accept the advantages of the use of biofertiliser – wrong place). But, as KW had pointed out in the January newsletter, the alternative to the then proposed lagoon would involve the use of temporary holding tanks and result in the use of more of the local road network and the greater use of agricultural vehicles and tanker lorries during the spreading period. The present spreading cycle is likely to finish by the end of the week.

JP queried whether we should write to Mr Sapsed requesting that, for the next spreading cycle, the holding tank be sited closer to the A602 trunk road. This was considered impractical.

14. TO CONSIDER MATTERS ARISING FROM PARISHIONERS

14.1 Tanker Movements during spreading times

Six Parishioners attended the meeting to express their concerns over tanker movements entering the village to fill up the holding tank.

Claire Monk expressed her concern over the tankers using the second turning on Whempstead Lane to enter Home Farm land. She felt this was unsafe as the entrance was sited on the brow of a hill and on a bus route. She felt that oncoming traffic was unable to see the tankers entering and exiting the entrance and was a particular hazard to buses coming up the hill from Stevenage direction.

Tracey Harding felt that the previous application and appeal for a storage lagoon had been turned down based on the inappropriate road network to handle such large vehicles. JP pointed out that this was only relevant to the lagoon application; tankers generally are legally permitted to use the whole of the public road network

KW agreed to request that the holding tank be sited further up the hill next time to help to alleviate the bad smells and that the tankers enter the farm yard by the lower entrance in Whempstead Lane, rather than by the 'blind' entrance at the top of the hill opposite the road to Green End.

The damage to Munden Road was also a concern where tankers turned into Whempstead Lane from Munden Road and the road was particularly chewed up on this corner. KW suggested people report this damage on the Highways website.

The meeting was brought to a close at 8.55 pm.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 23rd July 2017 at 8.00 pm.

Signed _____ **Date** _____
Chairman

DRAFT