

## LITTLE MUNDEN PARISH COUNCIL

### MINUTES of the meeting of the Parish Council (PC) held on 20<sup>th</sup> July 2017 at Little Munden Memorial Hall at 8.00 pm.

#### 1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

It was agreed to postpone the appointment of a replacement chairman until the end of the APM 2018. In the meantime, JP will continue.

#### 2. ATTENDANCE

**Present were:** Jonathan Pool (JP) Chairman; Lizzie Bacon (LB); Keith Williams (KW); Jenny Macintosh (JM); Darren Jones (DJ); David Hart (DH); Tracey Harding (TH) – Councillors; Geraldine Ward (GW) Clerk

**Members of the Public: 6**

**APOLOGIES:** None. Welcome to newly elected Councillor Harding

#### 3. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

None

#### 4. TO APPROVE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 1<sup>st</sup> June 2017

The minutes were proposed by KW and JM seconded.

#### 5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THOSE MINUTES

##### 5.1 Basketball Hoop Base

The Clerk had received a quote from Sovereign Playgrounds which was unacceptably high. KW suggested talking to David White who may well have contacts helpful to this project. LB to contact him. JP suggested that Darren Stephens may be interested in quoting. TH also suggested asking at the School where she works if there were any suitable contacts. Adrian Worthington to be asked again if he is prepared to complete igloo painting.

##### 5.2 Playground Inspection

JP still to action.

##### 5.3 Common Land

See Agenda Item

##### 5.4 Transparency Funding

The final round of funding had been received of £360 from HAPTC.

##### 5.5 Website

Richard Barron the website administrator had asked the PC for any ideas as to how to make the site more popular. The Clerk had sent some more photos of Horses' Meadow and the Allotments and would source some pictures of the Dog Training to put on and any other local clubs and organisations.

## **5.6 Neighbourhood Plan**

JP had contacted Simon Marlow to ask him if he would be prepared to put together a Committee with a view to carrying out an updated Village Appraisal which, amongst other things, would gauge how the Parish felt about his proposal to prepare a Neighbourhood Plan.

Simon had replied by email (see Late Post). JP said that he agreed with Simon's preliminary remarks, but that he and all councilors would need more time to read through how he was suggesting the process should proceed. JP asked Councillors individually to think about Simon's suggested approach and how we should proceed and to send their considered views to the Clerk as a centre point.

Simon also said that 'there is a strong feeling in the community that the PC is remote and detached' and proposed ways in which the PC better engage with its parishioners.

JP queried the basis for the 'strong feeling'. KW questioned what more could the Parish Council do as its meetings were open to the public and the minutes of which are published on the website. TH thought that people simply do not understand what the Parish Council do and what goes on. JP queried why more people don't come to the meetings as they are advertised in advance and all are welcome to attend and make their views known.

From the floor people a Parishioner commented that Parishioners don't understand that a Neighbourhood Plan is there to protect people and, although Dane End is under no immediate threat, people should bear in mind the impact of development going on in areas such as High Cross and that similar development could go on in Dane End in future. He went on to explain that people should be aware of the importance of a Neighbourhood plan to protect their community. JP said that the word 'protection' is incorrect - a Neighbourhood Plan should be viewed as a method to enhance and vitalise a community and would bring a certain control of where development could take place and its scope.

Russell Parkins, the Chairman of High Cross Parish Council, described how HCPC managed to generate interest by mailing individual addresses within the Parish. They then had two public meetings explaining what a Neighbourhood Plan was and how to progress it. A Neighbourhood Plan Committee was then set up with a Chairman and Secretary which reports back regularly to the HCPC. The 'neighbourhood area' for the Plan had still not been ratified by EHC as Ware North infiltrates the boundary, so there has been some discussion as to whether it should be included or not.

KW questioned what sort of budget is needed to put such a plan in place which Russell explained was likely to be around £20k, of which £9k may be available in the form of grant.

JP thanked Russell for his contribution.

KW went on to question how the Parish Council would be able to communicate in a more effective way with the community - for example, are relevant emails and phone numbers on

the website? After some discussion it was agreed to keep things as they are with the Parish Clerk being the point of contact with an email address and telephone number. TH suggested having drop in sessions if people felt uncomfortable coming to a Parish Council Meeting.

## **6. PLANNING**

### **6.1 New Applications**

#### **3/17/1116/HH**

4 PEARMAN DRIVE, DANE END, WARE, HERTS SG12 0LW Two storey rear extension. 27<sup>th</sup> June 2017. No comments.

#### **3/171349/FUL**

5/6 POTTERS WOOD CLOSE, DANE END, WARE. Demolish existing semi-detached fire damaged garage block and rebuild to match existing. Comments by 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2017. No comments.

### **6.2 Decisions**

#### **3/17/1006/HH**

8 WENTWORTH COTTAGES, HAULTWICK, WARE, HERTS SG11 1JG  
Permission granted subject to conditions.

### **6.3 Appeals**

#### **3/17/0781/FUL**

WHEELWRIGHTS FARM, ROWNEY LANE, DANE END, WARE. LPA Appeal Reference 17/00078/REFUSE

Gary Abbott, representing Friends of Rowney Priory, addressed the meeting. He reported that the owner of the land had appealed the retrospective planning application refusal. Representations to the Appeals' Inspectorate are due by 2<sup>nd</sup> August, after which date there will be little the local community can do whilst the appeal's process runs its course.

FoRP have made every effort to engage with as many people as possible to get them to understand the issues and ask them to make representation with their views. Lagoon style postcards had been sent out to local residents to allow them to make their objections known and about 700 had been distributed.

FoRP had also spoken to a number of Parish Councils asking them for their support, e.g. Sacombe, Great Munden, Tewin, Benington, Furneaux Pelham. He reported that the responses had been very positive.

A meeting had also recently taken place with Oliver Heald to get him to have a look at what was going on and to clarify the process of the appeal with the Secretary of State. The intention now was to keep the community informed of any developments. One particular area they were looking at was the review of Gypsy Traveller policy that legislation currently delivers. This was due in Sept/Oct time. The Barrister advised that there are likely to be changes in there that could affect the Planning Appeal decision.

He went on to explain that the East Herts District Plan (pre-submission version) had gone for ratification and it was hoped that the approved District Plan will be in place by the time the appeal hearing takes place, possibly not until the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter of next year.

In summing up, there had been a lot of positive responses and a great degree of local concern, so they were continuing to produce a newsheet on WheelwrightsFarm to keep people informed. The Barrister is also producing guidance as to the form of representation local people can make, which will be made available to everyone who wants it.

Finally, Gary thanked the Parish Council for giving FORP a platform to communicate what was going on and also thanked Russell for making them welcome at High Cross Parish Council.

JP asked Gary to ensure that the Parish Council has a basis for further representation to the Inspectorate. Gary confirmed that further information should be available from the Barrister by 24<sup>th</sup> July 2017.

Discussion took place as to how such Planning Hearings come to their decisions, citing a recent application at Throcking as an example. Gary explained that the Inspectorate had reached a decision on narrow grounds (the non-sustainability of the site); it was not argued on a wider platform. This approach had been discussed at the recent meeting with EH planning officers that FoRP and the Chairman of LMPC had recently attended with Paul Kenealy, the District Councillor. Lisa Page, the Planning Officer, had explained that she didn't want a wider argument where other arguments weren't as solid as that regarding sustainability. JP pointed out that this approach was consistent with that for the planning application for the Lagoon, which was refused on just one issue (transport).

## 7. FINANCE

Online Current Account Balance BF 22/5/17 19586.13

<b>Receipts:</b> 21/6/17 Sacombe Church Newsletter Contribution	60.00
31/5/17 Allotment Payments (3)	36.00
14/7/17 HAPTC Transparency Funding	360.00

### Deduct Payments from Current Account

Date	Payment to	Cheque No	Amount £
31/5/17	H Coles/Litter picker payment	S/O	43.42
31/5/17	R Barron Website Management	S/O	35.00
30/6/17	H Coles/Litter picker payment	S/O	43.42
30/6/17	R Barron Website Management	S/O	35.00
1/6/17	H Coles Litter Picker Equipment	1063	11.40
1/6/17	Post Office Ltd PAYE	1064	33.38
1/6/17	J Morris Newsletter Edit	1065	180.00

1/6/17	G Ward Clerks Fee	1066	198.97
1/6/17	Trundles Ltd/Horses' Meadow	S/O	0.50

**Total Payments** 581.09

	<b>£</b>
<b>Online balance on Current Account 16/7/17</b>	<b>19101.04</b>
Balance Brought forward 22/5/17	19586.13
Less Payments	581.09
Plus Receipts:-	456.00
Less Receipt HAPTC not yet credited on a/c	360.00

**Balance as at 16/7/17** 19101.04

## 8. CORRESPONDENCE

13/6/17 Email from Simon Marlow, requesting results of Village Appraisal Questionnaire and Village Appraisal document. Clerk actioned.

29/6/17 Email from Sue at HAPC confirming payment of last round of Transparency Funding

4/7/17 Email from Paul Kenealy re Wheelwrights Farm EHDC Meeting invitation with case officers. JP actioned.

7/7/17 Sovereign Playgrounds:- Quote for work on Basket Ball surface

14/7/17 Email from Lucy Leeson/EHDC Declaration of Result of Poll

28/6/17 Email from Jackie Morris Editor, re remuneration of Editors fee.

### 8.2 Correspondence Sent

30/6/17 Email from JP to Stuart Kirkham re cutting Horses Meadow

12/7/17 Email from GW to Stuart Kirkham re cutting of path up to Church (Church Lane) and under railings (Munden Road).

21/6/17 Letter to BDO and submission of Annual Return documentation

16/7/17 Email from GW to Tracey Harding congratulations on appointment as Parish Councillor

16/7/17 Email from GW to Di Cutmore thanking her for standing as candidate in By Election

### 8.3 Late Post

20/7/17 Email from Simon Marlow re Neighbourhood Plan.

## 9. NEWSLETTER EDITORS' RENUMERATION

JP felt that the Parish has plenty of volunteers, on the Parish Council, the Church, the Village Hall all who do work without pay. He went on to say that the Church should also have a view on this. But that he also didn't want Jackie to feel undervalued.

JP threw this open to discussion as to whether the Editor of the Newsletter should be remunerated. DH felt that the Church should be consulted first and KW commented that if it becomes a paid position then perhaps it should be advertised as such.

JP agreed to write to Jackie asking if she wishes us to reconsider the level of recompense she receives.

#### **10. COMMON LAND**

JP and KW had a meeting with Lord and Lady Carter. The Carters will confirm whether do own the Old Chalk Pit (CL161 and CL172), ownership of which was previously registered in the name of HS Smith in the 1970s, though it is likely that they do. The Carters are happy to consider a joint enterprise with the PC, but don't want any skateboards/dirt bikes, etc. Something such as an orchard or nature reserve would be acceptable. However KW explained that the soil was not of good quality and would need work before anything could grow. Now the PC could move on with this and perhaps ask for peoples' suggestions in the Village Appraisal.

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

JM reported that three payments had been made out of the Consolidated Charities Trust. She reported that two children from the School had benefited from being able to go on a School trip which otherwise was unaffordable for their families.

The Vicar was also made aware of another family where some cash would make matters much better so a total of £550 had gone out of the Charity to help a total of three families. JC also reported that Tony Brown still wanted to carry on as Trustee.

#### **12. TO CONSIDER MATTERS ARISING FROM PARISHIONERS**

Robert Hicks reported that cars were obstructing the inner gate to Horses' Meadow and requested that a sign could be placed on the gate asking cars not to park there. The Parish Council agreed to place a sign there.

**The next meeting** will be held on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2017 at 8.00 pm.

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