

LITTLE MUNDEN PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of the Parish Council (PC) held on 16th November 2017 at Little Munden Memorial Hall at 8.00 pm.

1. ATTENDANCE

Present were: Jonathan Pool (JP) Chairman; Lizzie Bacon (LB) Vice Chairman; Jenny Macintosh (JM); Tracey Harding (TH) Keith Williams (KW); Darren Jones (DJ) –
Councillors

Geraldine Ward (GW) Clerk

In attendance: Ken Crofton (County Councillor); Russell Parkins (Chairman Thundridge Parish Council)

Members of the Public: 7

APOLOGIES: David Hart

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

None

3. TO APPROVE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 21st September 2017

The minutes were proposed by JM and LB seconded.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THOSE MINUTES

4.1 Basketball Hoop Base

DJ reported that he had met with a contractor from W&S Strongbase Driveways who was keen to give a quote but nothing had come through yet. LB reported that David White had produced a quote which she had forwarded in an email. The Councillors agreed that his suggestion of block paving was not suitable.

TH had had a look on the EHC website and reported that there were a number of grants available, she agreed to investigate further.

JM pointed out that next year was a Health and Fitness year and EHC was keen to give grants to underprivileged areas such as Dane End to improve Health and Fitness in the area. She reported that the 23rd December was the deadline for the next round of grants.

ACTION: DJ Quote for Base; TH to investigate suitable grants

4.2 Playground Inspection

The Clerk had investigated the lack of Playground Inspection this year. The company had agreed to carry out an inspection in the next couple of months for £100. The Clerk agreed to organize as soon as possible.

ACTION: GW

4.3 Newsletter Editor

JP reported that he had written to Jackie Morris confirming agreement that the annual payment to the editor is brought in line with that paid to the website administrator for the year 2017/18 and that payment of £240 to make up the shortfall has accordingly been made.

JP asked for someone to advertise for a Newsletter advertising manager. TH agreed to do so.

ACTION: TH

4.4 Sign for Horses Meadow

The Clerk was awaiting quotes from Digital Monkey for No Parking sign for internal gate Horses' Meadow.

ACTION: GW

4.5 Oak Tree in Whiteley Close

A number of quotes had been received, all of which had seemed to be very expensive. The Clerk was to continue to seek a reasonable quote. The tree overhanging the house in Fonceley Avenue was also discussed which was to cut back a few branches

ACTION: GW

4.6 Remembrance Sunday

JP forwarded thanks to John Grisbrooke for officiating at the War Memorial Ceremony.

4.7 Village Hall Noticeboard

The Clerk confirmed that she had sent a letter to Bob Kirkby to explain why the Parish Council were not going to constitute to paying for a new board for now. KW asked why this was and GW responded that the explanation was that the board was still functional and that the PC didn't feel that payment by the PC for a replacement was justified.

4.8 Mole Hills on Horses' Meadow

JM had said that she had a contact who could deal with moles and would contact him.

ACTION: JM

4.9 Allotments

Clerk to meet with John Grisbrooke to decide on an action plan to tidy up the allotments.

ACTION: GW

4.10 Path on the Baulk

LB has spoken to Tom Goldsmith who had agreed that something needs to be done more permanently. She reported that he was considering putting in a ramp and would liaise with Kip Smith to organize any machinery which needed to be brought into the field.

ACTION: LB

4.11 Waste on Horses' Meadow

JP had reported that the Litterpicker had been picking up on Horses' Meadow now.

The Councillors all agreed that a new dog bin should be installed at the bottom of Horses' Meadow. GW to action. JP suggested that when the dog bin was in place the green bin at the top of Horses' Meadow should be removed.

ACTION: GW

4.12 Traffic Calming

TH had spoken to HCC to get existing speed limit signs renewed. She also asked them about traffic calming signs and would also ask for accident statistics to add weight to the case of reducing the speed limit.

JP asked Ken Crofton about the types of traffic calming methods that may be available to use along Munden Road. KC pointed out that in reality SIDs lose their effectiveness over a period of time. It has to be proved that regular excessive speeds of more than 30 mph take place and the number of accidents are also taken into account.

KC felt that the most effective form of traffic measure would be restricted to implementing speed awareness groups to record speeding vehicle registration numbers which would then be sent to the police who would then prosecute offenders. KC said the Highways officer could come out and meet with representatives from the Parish Council to investigate further and implement speed monitors. KC said could get Highway office to bring in speed monitors. DJ commented that speed camera signs may have more of an impact.

JP asked Councillor Crofton whether it would be possible to extend the 30 mph signs so they were further out of the village. He responded by saying that this would involve getting a team out to do a survey and said that there was no money in the budget this year for such a scheme.

He went on to say that, though this was again something that the Highways Officer could look into, he was pessimistic about an outcome such as Dane End may want.

ACTION: DH (to report back independently on his researches into the possibilities of Lemsford-like speed humps, Watton-like 'smiley faces', 20 mph speed limit along Munden Road and/or the estate roads, etc.)

4.13 Bench Windy Rise

JP had investigated the broken bench and found that one of the Planks had rotted away. He doubted whether it was worthy of an insurance claim and that it was up to the PC to repair.

ACTION: JP

4.14 Repair of tarmac footpath at the back of Fouceley Avenue and Concrete path up to Gladstone Road

GW commented that the PC needed to establish who owned these "rights of way" and would investigate further to establish who was liable for repair.

ACTION: GW

4.15 No Dogs Sign – Horses Meadow

JP had emailed Councillors (25 October) stating that, on reflection, he agreed with KW that the ‘no dogs’ on Horses’ Meadow rule would be next to impossible to enforce and that, rather than a ban on dogs, signage should put up at the top and bottom of Horses’ Meadow pointing out that Horses’ Meadow is a children’s play area and requesting that dogs should be kept on a lead and mess cleared up.

ACTION: JP/GW

Dogs’ mess is a continuing problem, not just on Horses’ Meadow, but also on local footpaths. It was also felt that it would be worthwhile to look into what poster/signs re dog mess were available through EHC.

ACTION: TH

5. PLANNING

5.1 New Applications

APPLICATION: 3/17/2223/HH PROPOSAL: Raising roof to create first floor- 2 storey side extension, single storey front extensions to link to garage, extension to garage. Creation of decking and landscaping works. AT: Woodcroft Frogs Hall Lane Haultwick Ware Hertfordshire

APPLICATION: 3/17/2222/HH/LBC PROPOSAL: Conversion of store of annex to habitable room. New windows and door openings. AT: Roughground House Beggamans Lane Old Hall Green Ware Hertfordshire

5.2 Decisions

3/17/2206/HH/LB

PROPOSAL: Conversion of store of annex to habitable room. New windows and door openings. AT: Roughground House Beggarmans Lane Old Hall Green Ware Hertfordshire SG11 1HB. Permission granted

APPLICATION: 3/17/1807/LBC PROPOSAL: Single storey rear extension incorporating a glazed link and garage conversion AT: Red Lion Green End Dane End Ware Hertfordshire SG12 0PA. Permission refused.

APPLICATION: 3/17/1786/HH PROPOSAL: Two storey rear extension and single storey rear extension. New first floor side window opening, one enlarged first floor side window and new ground floor door and window openings. AT: 7 Pearman Drive Dane End Ware Hertfordshire SG12 0LW. Permission refused.

5.3 Appeals

Planning Appeal: Wheelwrights Farm Rowney Lane Dane End Ware. An Inspector appointed by the Secretary of State will hold an Informal Hearing in The Council Chamber, East Herts Council Offices on 4th January 2018 starting at 10:00 am. JM reported that neighbours had been notified that 4th January date was being replaced with a three day hearing – date to be confirmed.

6. FINANCE

Online Current Account Balance BF 12/9/17	20505.58	£
Receipts: 18/10/17 LMPCC Newsletter Contribution	386.78	
4/10/17 Allotment payment	12.00	
4/10/17 Precept	5253.98	

Deduct Payments from Current Account

Date	Payment to	Cheque No	Amount
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			£
31/8/17	Litter Picker payment	S/O	43.42
31/8/17	Richard Barron Website	S/O	35.00
21/9/17	Post Office Ltd Clerks PAYE Sept	1077	33.38
21/9/17	Community Heartbeat Trust	1078	100.00
21/9/17	Richard Barron/Website Domain	1079	38.26
21/9/17	Little Munden Memorial Hall	1080	90.00
21/9/17	Affinity Water Ltd	1081	188.67
21/9/17	Adrian Worthington/painting work	1082	80.00
21/9/17	G Ward/Clerks Fee	1083	172.95
11/10/17	BDO Auditor Fee	1084	120.00
11/10/17	Post Office Ltd/Clerk's PAYE Oct	1085	33.38
11/10/17	Herts Display Aug/Sept Newsletter	1086	193.44
11/10/17	Jackie Morris/Newsletter Editing	1087	240.00
11/10/17	G Ward Clerks Fee	1088	179.95
31/10/17	Litter Picker payment	S/O	43.42
31/10/17	Richard Barron Website	S/O	35.00
Total Payments			1626.87

		£
Online balance on Current Account 8/11/17		24334.75
Balance Brought forward 12/9/17		20505.58
Less Payments		1626.87
Plus Receipts:-		5652.76
Less Receipt outstanding cheques 1074/1073		196.72
Balance as at 8/11/17		24334.75

7. CORRESPONDENCE

7.1 Correspondence Received

- 1/11/17 The Play Inspection Company – playground inspection quote
- 1/11/17 Email from Sarah Henderson re oak tree quote for complete removal
- 1/11/17 Quote from Adam Penn for oak tree reduction
- 29/10/17 Email to Treelovers asking for tree quote.
- 26/10/17 Email from Alison Poulton EHC re new dog bin installation
- Sept 17 Email from Amy O'Connor re overhanging tree Fouceley Avenue/Kingsfield Road
- 10/10/17 Email from Dave White to Lizzie Bacon re resurfacing basket ball hoop area

7.2 Correspondence Sent

- 29/9/17 Email to Road Signs Direct re No Parking sign HM – no response.
- 29/9/17 Letter to Bob Kirkby re Village Hall Noticeboard
- 8/11/17 Email to Digital Monkey re supply of No Parking sign HM.

8. VILLAGE APPRAISAL AND VILLAGE PLAN

JP reported that there had been extensive discussions at the last meeting which had culminated in Russell Parkins agreeing to supply the PC with a copy of the leaflet Thundridge PC had sent round inviting Parishioners to take part in an open meeting to discuss forming a Neighbourhood Planning Committee. JP had amended the leaflet for Dane End purposes and had asked for comments from Councillors.

The proposal is for the invitation to be sent out to each household either with the Newsletter or as a separate letter. The leaflet explains briefly what is Neighbourhood Planning, what Neighbourhood Planning has to do with Little Munden residents and how local people can get involved. It will also include an invitation to an open Meeting to be held at the Memorial Hall to encourage parishioners to come forward and register their interest in joining a forum of like-minded local people tasked to formulate a Neighbourhood Plan.

TH reported that she had spoken to Standon Parish Council who had a Neighbourhood Plan in place and had copies of a survey that they had sent out to the Parish to establish interest. She commented that they had a comprehensive team with representatives from the Parish covering the Legal and Planning aspects of the Committee.. It was agreed that it would be a good idea to try and find suitably skilled Parishioners to join the Little Munden Committee. It was also agreed that the amount of work in creating a Neighbourhood Plan was huge, but nevertheless the Parish Council should take the first steps to see if there is the will in the community to proceed.

A number of Parishioners present at the meeting were there to find out more about the Plan and JP requested that they leave their email addresses so that he could forward them a copy of the draft invitation leaflet, together with a paper that he had circulated to Councillors in November 2016 concerning outlining the typical process for producing a Neighbourhood Plan.

JP felt that once the format of the invitation letter had been agreed, a Public Meeting should be organised and go ahead.

Funding was also discussed and TH commented that the grants had been substantially reduced (to about £7,000?), which meant that the Parish Council would be required to fund a substantial shortfall – a preliminary estimate of the total cost of a Neighbourhood Plan is around £20,000, assuming we can muster a level of 'free' expertise within the parish and the District Council.

JP has already written to Paul Kenealy advising him that the Parish Council has, in principle, accepted the arguments put forward by him and certain parishioners and asking whether, from his experience, an estimate of total costs of £20k - £25k is realistic and, if so, what grants are and will be available from local and/or national government towards the costs?

Discussion then took place as to how the invitation could be distributed and suggestions included sending it on a different colour paper with the Newsletter

From the floor: a Parishioner asked whether the idea behind the initial meeting was to elect a Committee. JP responded that the purpose of the public meeting will be further to explain what is a Neighbourhood Plan and its relevance to Little Munden and the desired outcome from the meeting is a record those present and, of those present, who have said that they would be prepared to be actively involved. There was also a suggestion that people could register their areas of expertise at the meeting to establish the size of a possible talent pool available within the Parish.

It was agreed that professional advice would not be sought at present and that it was important to firm up on an overall estimate of the costs of preparing a Neighbourhood Plan and the availability of grants.

ACTION: JP

9. COMMUNICATION IDEAS WITH PARISHIONERS:- SOCIAL MEDIA ETC

It was agreed that TH would continue to look into improvements to the website.

ACTION: TH

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

DJ had had an update on the Rest of Welcome. A new architect had been appointed and the Bat Survey had come back – no rare bats had been reported so progress was continuing.

11. TO CONSIDER MATTERS ARISING FROM PARISHIONERS

A Parishioner commented on how EHC deal with nuisance trees from personal experience. He explained that if the tree is actually touching the roof of the house, EHC would come and cut it back rather than just leaving it if not causing an obvious nuisance.

The meeting was brought to a close at 9.30 pm.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 18th January 2017 at 8.00 pm.

Signed _____ Date _____
Chairman