

LITTLE MUNDEN PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of the Parish Council (PC) held on 18th January 2018 at Little Munden Memorial Hall at 8.00 pm.

1. ATTENDANCE

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

Members of the Public: 7

APOLOGIES: Jenny Macintosh

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

None

3. TO APPROVE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 17th November 2017

The minutes were proposed by JM and LB seconded.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THOSE MINUTES

4.1 Basketball Hoop Base

DJ reported that despite chasing up W&S Strongbase Driveways they had still not come forward with a quote. TH reported that she had been investigating grants to possibly fund the work. The Stanstead Community Grant was up to a possible £1500 in available funds. Sport England Community Grant was another possibility but required more definitive plans as to what an application was for.

DJ expressed a concern about the cost effectiveness of tarmac over such a small area and KW queried whether the area would actually get used. JP commented that when the PC was initially embarking on repairing the area they hadn't realised the type of expense involved..

Discussion followed as to a more suitable use of potential grant money and TH pointed out that there is little play equipment for very young children and that the grant money could also be used to improve access to the top of the field for disable users. KW suggested asking the School to see what ideas they might have.

ACTION: TH to investigate suitable grants and apply

4.2 Playground Inspection

The Playground Inspection had been completed. There was still a finger entrapment on the Igloo, however there was nothing in the report requiring serious action. JP to read the report through in more depth and report back.

ACTION: JP

4.3 Newsletter Advertising Manager

TH felt that the payment for the Newsletter should possibly include management of advertising. She felt that a dedicated advertising manager would cost too much and agreed to discuss with the Editor pointing out that the PC was looking to self fund the Newsletter in some way.

ACTION: TH

4.4 Signs for Horses Meadow

Slight amendments to be made to one sign and then ready to be printed.

ACTION: GW

4.5 Oak Tree in Whiteley Close

The Clerk had researched quotes for reduction of the oak tree. The cheapest quote was from the tree surgeon that the residents had found, Robin Juniper.

JP questioned whether it was the Parish Council's liability, although the Clerk had contacted EHC who disclaimed any responsibility for the tree. HCC had not even replied to the query, sent twice.

From the floor the Parishioner living most closely to the tree explained how the tree was having such a detrimental effect on the quiet enjoyment of his property. He explained there were dangers from falling branches and slip risk from bird excrement and would be happy if the tree was taken down completely. KW recommended a good cut back would be more suitable as complete removal could lead to even more problems.

DJ felt it was essential to determine who owned the tree and therefore who would accept liability. KW felt the PC could pay for the tree surgeon to reduce the tree WITHOUT PREJUDICE (i.e. not admitting liability) as it was agreed that something must be done and pursue the owner of the land for reimbursement of the cost after the event.

ACTION: GW

4.6 Mole Hills on Horses' Meadow

KW to ask his local pest control contact to look into.

ACTION: KW

4.7 Allotments

Clerk to meet with John Grisbrooke the following day to look at possible ways to tidy up in general.

ACTION: GW

4.8 Path on the Baulk

LB reported that nothing had been done further due to ill health, but would see that the work was done as soon as viable.

ACTION: LB

4.9 Traffic Calming

DH, who is investigating traffic calming on Munden Road, has managed to contact Highways who want photographs of the area and a point by point written testament on what is required. He has made a start on this.

JP queried whether it would be possible to get flashing speed limit signs in place. DH said that normally these were not sited in one position, but mobile and shared between villages on a temporary basis, but he will look into these as well.

ACTION: DH

4.10 Bench Windy Rise

JP had tried to get help from HCC or EHC but had had no luck. He had now got photos which he would send to see if he could get some action on fixing the broken bench which had screws pointing up from the seat..

ACTION: JP

4.11 Repair of tarmac footpath at the back of Fouceley Avenue and concrete path up to Gladstone Road

The Clerk reported that she had tried contacting Circle Housing. From the floor a Parishioner advised that Clarion had taken over from Circle and she would send the Clerk contact details.

ACTION: GW

4.12 Dog Litter Signage

TH had spoken to the Dog Warden and EHC re signs for trying to get people to pick up dog waste. The signs would be put up at various location throughout the Parish. So far no one had got back.

ACTION: TH

4.13 Website

TH had been talking to the webmaster regarding this, trying to get more frequent updates on the website. She had found out that a lot of PCs get their Websites through a company associated with HAPTC. There is an initial set up charge and then a yearly fee. Information from HAPTC also goes straight onto these Parish Council websites. The various local Parish Councils can also be linked in together. Another benefit would be that the Clerk would be able to have a dedicated email address and be able to update the website as necessary.

The Clerk to find out how much it would be to rejoin HAPTC.

TH to have further discussions with the webmaster re improving the website and to see what he thought about this route to improve things.

ACTION: TH

5. PLANNING

5.1 New Applications

APPLICATION: 3/17/2578/HH

PROPOSAL: The relocation of the entrance from the West side of the site to the East side.

AT: Fellowsfield Mill Lane Dane End Ware Hertfordshire. Comments 25th December 2017

APPLICATION: 3/17/2774/HH

PROPOSAL: Two storey rear extension and single storey rear extension. Render to existing building over insulation. One enlarged first floor side window and new ground floor door and window openings.

AT: 7 Pearman Drive Dane End Ware Hertfordshire SG12 0LW. FOR: Ms Hannah Smale
Comments 26th December

APPLICATION: 3/17/2854/HH

PROPOSAL: Demolition of existing unauthorised two storey side extension. Retention of rear two storey infill Gable extension.

AT: The Cottage Green End Dane End Ware Hertfordshire. Comments 26th January 2018

APPLICATION: 3/17/2855/HH

PROPOSAL: Retention of existing rear 2 storey gable and construction of single storey rear extension

AT: The Cottage Green End Dane End Ware Hertfordshire

FOR: Mr & Mrs Stevens. Comments 26th January 2018

APPLICATION: 3/17/2960/HH

PROPOSAL: Single-storey link extension to garage, conversion of garage to habitable accommodation and alterations to fenestration.

AT: Woodcroft Frogs Hall Lane Haultwick Ware Hertfordshire. Comments 29th January 2018

Councillors had considered the first two applications above prior to the meeting and expressed no particular concerns. Similarly, no particular concerns were expressed at this meeting on the next three applications.

Decision

APPLICATION: 3/17/2223/HH

PROPOSAL: Two storey side extension, single storey front extensions to link to garage, extension to garage, front dormer windows, front and rear roof lights. Creation of decking and landscaping works.

AT: Woodcroft Frogs Hall Lane Haultwick Ware Hertfordshire SG11 1JH

Permission refused.

6. FINANCE

6.1

B/F Current Account Balance BF 8/11/17

£
24,334.75

Receipts:

Nil

Deduct: Payments from Current Account

Date	Payment to	Cheque No	Amount
			£
30/11/17	Litter Picker payment	S/O	43.42
30/11/17	Richard Barron Website	S/O	35.00
16/11/17	G Ward Clerks Fee	1090	181.20
16/11/17	Poppy Appeal x2 Wreaths	1091	34.00
16/11/17	Kirkhams Contracting	1092	2124.00
16/11/17	Post Office PAYE	1093	33.38
16/11/17	Herts Display	1094	96.72
11/12/17	Post Office Ltd PAYE	1095	33.38
11/12/17	G Ward Clerks Fee	1096	172.95
11/12/17	Herts Display	1097	96.72
11/12/17	R Barron Domain Renewal	1098	28.78
2/1/18	Litter Picker payment	S/O	43.42
2/1/18	Richard Barron Website	S/O	35.00

Total Payments

2957.97

Online balance on current Account 12/1/18

21,376 78

6.2. Budget 2018/19

JP circulated copies of the accounts to 12 January 2018, including a budget for 2018/19 (income £11,900 (including proposed unchanged precept amount of £9,430), expenditure £11,900) and asked the Parish Council to note the following:-

- The New Homes Bonus is projected to be £2,350, but this may be a conservative estimate.
- Sundry Income: - The Allotments are currently £12.00 per annum rental for each. In the light of the recent Affinity Water Bill, it may be justifiable to increase the annual rental.
- No costs of production of a Neighbourhood Plan have been incorporated within the budget.
- The cost of the By-Election would be accounted for as an overspend in this year's accounts.
- It was unlikely that income generated from this year's New Homes Bonus would be spent in this financial year. It will be carried forward towards the funding of specific local projects, such as the annexation of common land, Neighbourhood Plan, play equipment for smaller children, etc.
- There is a projected increase in Newsletter expenditure due to the increase in the payment to the editor.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

7.1 Correspondence Received

15/01/18 Email from Will Mcallister re use of Horses' Meadow Football pitch.

Enquiry for the possible use on Sundays and one day-a-week of Horses' Meadow for a Buntingford United / Dane End Youth football team. After some discussion, it was agreed that a Buntingford-based youth football team would not be of interest to the Parish Council without further information and that Dane End youth football was already being run at the School on Saturday mornings.

20/11/17 Letter from SAAA (Smaller Authorities' Audit Appointments Limited)

Notification of external auditor appointments for the 2017/18 financial year

1/12/17 Consultation on the Draft Minerals Local Plan

7/12/17 Lucy Leeson Electoral Services Manager EHC re notice of impending invoice for by-election.

6/1/18 K&B Tree Contractors Quote for tree work

7.2 Correspondence Sent

Email to Digital Monkey/ Artwork for Dog Signs, Horses' Meadow and reply

8. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

JP opened the discussion asking the meeting not to lose sight of the basics. As a Group 2 village, Dane End is protected from development, other than infill, through the East Herts District Plan; a Neighbourhood Plan, if approved by the community, will put in place planning policies for the future development and growth of the neighbourhood with the intention of revitalising the village and helping to ensure the continued existence and success of local services.

JP was disappointed there had been only two responses from those who showed initial interest at the meeting in November to the draft, emailed 27 November, of a suggestion for the initial communication to Little Munden parishioners and the copy of the update of the neighbourhood planning paper produced in November 2016. Accordingly, there have been few comments / suggestions / amendments on/to the draft of the initial communication or on the information paper.

JP explained that our present position is that we should go ahead and find out if Parishioners want a Neighbourhood Plan. At the last meeting it was agreed to distribute an initial communication by way of a leaflet inviting people to a public meeting to gauge interest within the Parish; Jimmy Theo (parishioner) had suggested edits to the proposed leaflet wording. KW suggested getting an expert from outside the Parish to come to the meeting further to explain the process and purpose of a Neighbourhood Plan.

To get people's attention, it was agreed that is not only important to get the right wording in the leaflet, but the design needs to present the message in a way that strikes home. TH volunteered to look into getting someone more professional to look at the draft leaflet and come up with a form of 'to the point' wording and an eye-catching design; the resultant redraft/redesigned leaflet to be circulated to Councillors.

ACTION: TH

9. PRECEPT AND COUNCIL TAX 2018/19 – TO SET PRECEPT AMOUNT

Based on the budget presented at 6.2 above, the Parish Council agreed unanimously that the Precept should remain at £9,430.

10. SANTANDER BANKING - CHANGE TO INTERNET BANKING

The Parish Council agreed not to go ahead with Online Banking due to the security risk involved.

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

- **APM:** It was agreed to reschedule the date for the next Annual Parish Meeting which would now be on April 26th 2018.
- **Other trees:** The Clerk mentioned there are ash trees in Kingsfield Road which need attention and it was agreed that K & B Trees be appointed to undertake appropriate action.
JP also mentioned that a large branch had come down between Founceley Avenue and Whiteley Close. The Clerk to investigate.
- **Bus access:** There had been a complaint by phone from a resident regarding bus access between Founceley Close and Kingsfield Road as people were parking on the corner and making it difficult to turn into Kingsfield Road. However it was agreed that it was difficult to tell people not to park where there were no restrictions.

12. TO CONSIDER MATTERS ARISING FROM PARISHIONERS

12.1 Friends of Rowney Lane (FORL) / unauthorised gypsy development - Update:-

Garry Abbot reported that the Inspectorate had elevated this to an Enquiry to take place 15th - 17th May. This was probably due to East Herts Council's views being rather thin (EHC had chosen to contest the development on a single issue) and was also in the light of the fact that new developments had come to light i.e. an Enforcement Notice had been put on the site in 1997, which EHC had missed. There were also other enforcement notices on adjoining land and 500 representations from local people. FORL can now participate in the Enquiry on equal terms to the Local Authority, their Barrister can question people under oath and there is every chance that all of the issues which could have been addressed earlier will be presented.

Gary Abbott then went on to put forward two requests to the Parish Council as follows:-

1. Given that parishioners have on over 500 occasions made representations to both EHDC and PINS, FORL asked LMPC to consider making a statement at the Inquiry to be held at EHDC on 15 - 17 May. LMPC's statement will not be cross examined at the hearing, but may simply be read out. FORL will supply any information that LMPC requests, should this be needed. A key area of focus might be that the unauthorised development is an opportunistic effort to gain a windfall site that falls outside of the local plan and emerging local plan, potentially setting an unwanted precedent. The statement might also revisit the points raised in LMPC's previous representations.

A number of other local Parish Councils, who previously made representations, have been approached to make statements or write to the Inspector hearing the Inquiry regarding their concerns.

2. FORL's involvement in this action only came about as EHDC's efforts have fallen far short of satisfactory.

Initial fundraising has yielded £36k. The original one day Hearing has now been elevated to a 3 day Inquiry, in which FORL has gained Rule 6 status and will participate on equal terms with the Appellant and EHC.

Rule 6 status is a major achievement and will allow FORL to mount a meaningful case in opposing this unauthorised gypsy development, covering criteria which EHC has chosen to ignore. This of course will prove more costly. FORL estimate that a further £25k needs to be raised. FORL are busy asking those who can, to provide more funding. FORL are under pressure to raise funds quickly as our professional representatives require payment on account for work undertaken.

Accordingly, FORL are requesting that LMPC consider a donation to the fighting fund as they believe they represent not only local Rowney Lane residents, but also the wider Parish, whose concerns have been expressed through the 500+ individual representations. Should LMPC wish to examine FORL's bank statement and estimate of costs, these will be provided.

12.2 THE FORGE, MUNDEN ROAD, DANE END

From the floor a resident was concerned at the position of the pumps at the Forge which had been put back, but not in the same place. TH had spoken to a Conservation Officer at EHC who is happy to investigate further. There is also concern about the state of the pumps, which are rusting badly. The Clerk to follow-up.

ACTION: GW

The meeting was brought to a close at 10.02 pm

Next Meeting:- 15th March 2018

Signed _____ Date _____
Chairman