

LITTLE MUNDEN PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of the Parish Council (PC) held on 18th July 2019 at Little Munden Memorial Hall at 8.00 pm.

1. ATTENDANCE: Tracey Harding (TH) Chairman; David Hart (DH); Claire Monk (CM); Julie Hursey (JH); Billy Summerson (BS) – Councillors; Geraldine Ward (GM) – Clerk.
IN ATTENDANCE: Ken Crofton (KC) Vice Chairman to the County Council; Andrew Huggins (AH), Mundens and Cottered, District Councillor; Mr and Mrs Dewhurst

2. APOLOGIES: Jenny Macintosh (JM) Lizzie Bacon (LB) Vice Chairman;

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 16TH MAY 2019

The minutes were proposed by DH and seconded by LB

4.1 Home Farm Farmyard – proposed development

The Planning Dept is still going through the details for the above development. TH reported that development plans for the barns at front of road were withdrawn. It was felt that there were a lot of areas where the plans would have been refused so the developer preempted this and withdrew the planning. **ACTION: TH**

4.2 Horses Meadow Play Equipment

Carried forward for the time being.

4.3 Newsletter Advertising Manager

TH commented that she has met the new vicar and hopefully sometime over the holiday she will be able to discuss with him the new format of the Newsletter and see if we can get an electronic version in addition to a paper one and some advertising to help with costs.

ACTION: TH

4.4 Traffic Calming

TH reported on her meeting with Ken Crofton and Highways - the PC is still waiting feedback from them.

DH had reported that he had found information on the Police Forces' Community Drive Safe Campaign, if enough volunteers are found the Parish can run its own speed checks. At least 10 volunteers are needed and 3 have come forward already.- The findings of this will then be reported back to the police. TH suggested putting something in the Newsletter about this to seek volunteers. DH said that he would put something on Spotted additionally as there had recently been some posts on there regarding speeding cars driving through the village.

ACTION DH

Ken Crofton reported on the recent traffic survey which he said will take at least a year to commit officers to do the report. The study will be carried out as soon as officers are available who will then go back to the PC for decisions to be made. He said that meanwhile the PC could still carry on with Speed Checks and investigations into the installation of a SID.

4.5 Repair of tarmac footpath at the back of Founceley Avenue and concrete path up to Gladstone Road

The Clerk reported that a Clarion representative had now been appointed to look into this matter and she would contact him on her return from holiday. **ACTION GW**

4.6 Website

The Mundens.net new email addresses were discussed and the general consensus was that the system was not very good with a number of problems being encountered. It was agreed that this should be discussed with Richard Barron with a view to changing to Outlook or Gmail.

An Email had been sent regarding the website and front page. TH reported that she had sent through a Mission Statement for the Website, This is open for anyone to change or reword and should be put on the front page along with the Parish Council's new Freedom of Information document. This latter document had been tailored specifically to LMPC to allow information on spending, what the PC does, strategies, and what the Parish Council's priorities are. It is also to include how we are doing, the current plan and the three year plan, how we make decisions, and policies as a whole. **ACTION: TH**

4.7 Play Inspection Report

On hold for now.

4.8 Overgrown Trees throughout Dane End

TH reported that a tree at the top of Windy Rise is extremely overgrown and needs cutting back. **ACTION: GW**

Village Signage

TH reported that we are waiting for the report from Highways. CM had suggested cleaning up the existing signs to tidy them up. TH to organise a working party to do this. **ACTION: TH**

5.0 PLANNING

5.1 New Applications

3/19/1088/HH

Conversion of first floor of storage barn and garage to residential annexe at Rowney Priory, Rowney Lane, Dane End, Ware Herts. Comments by 5th July. No Comments.

3/19/1365/HH

Single storey side extension at Green End Farmhouse, Green End, Herts SG12 0NX
Comments by 29th July 2019. No comments.

5.2 Decisions

3/19/0736/FUL

Reconstruction of stable block and hay store. North Lodge, Rowney Priory, Rowney Lane, Dane End, Ware. Permission granted.

3/19/0992/ARPN

Conversion of two-storey agricultural barn (Building E) to residential use (class C3) for 4 proposed dwellings. At Unit E, Home farm, land at Mundens road and Whempstead Road, Dane End, Ware Herts SG12 0LL.

Application withdrawn by Applicant/Agent.

5.3 Appeals

3/18/2722/FUL

Land adjacent to 7 Pearman Drive, Dane End, Ware, Hertfordshire. LPA Ref 19/00104/Refuse.

5.4 Wheelwrights Farm see Correspondence

6. FINANCE

6.1 Receipts and Payments 5/5/19 to 8/7/19

	£
Online Current Account Balance BF 4/5/19	22321.91
Receipt 26/6/19 VAT Refund	588.66
Receipt 11/6/19 HM Key cutting (bus)	5.00
Receipt 6/6/19 Allotment payment x 4	48.00
Receipt 6/6/19 Allotment payment x 5	60.00

Deduct Payments from Current Account

Date	Payment to	Cheque No	Amount
			£
31/5/19	H Coles Litterpicker	S/O	43.42
31/5/19	Richard Barron Website	S/O	35.00
16/5/19	HMRC	1180	37.38
16/5/19	Herts Display/April/May	1181	251.10
16/5/19	Adrian Worthington	1182	38.00
16/5/19	K&B Contractors/Tree wrk	1183	300.00
16/5/19	G Ward/Clerks Fee	1184	189.68
27/5/19	J Morris/Annual fee	1185	420.00
27/5/19	LMMH/Hall Bking	1186	90.00
27/5/19	HAPTC Annual Subscriptn	1187	503.55
30/6/19	HMRC	1188	37.38
3/6/19	Horses' Meadow/Rent	S/O	0.50
6/6/19	Clerks Fee/June	1189	189.68
1/7/19	Litter Picker payment	S/O	43.42
1/7/19	Richard Barron Website	S/O	35.00
Total Payments			2214.11

Online balance on Current Account 8/7/19 **21350.39**

Balance Brought forward 4/5/19 22321.91

Less Payments		2214.11
Plus cheques not yet processed	1187/1188	540.93
Plus receipts		701.66
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Balance as at 8/7/19		21350.39

8. CORRESPONDENCE

8.1 Correspondence Received/Sent

25/5/19 Letter from Terence Flyn and TPO documentation re Oak Tree, Whiteley Close

20/5/19-15/6/19 Circular emails re Football at Whiteley Close, TH commented that this matter was now back in the hands of Trundells and the local police and it's up to the neighbours to resolve the dispute.

25/6/19 Email from Ken Crofton re Councillors' Good Causes Funds

26/6/19 Emails from Tracey Harding to Oliver Heald MP/Sara Saunders, Head of Planning EHC

26/6/19 Email from TH re Highways Meeting

8/7/19 Enquiry Form to EHC regarding Oak Tree, Whiteley Close

17/6/19 Email from Lois Dewhurst regarding unauthorised development at Wheelwrights Farm.

TH explained that she had sent a letter to Sara to give feelings on the matter and had also contacted Oliver Heald who has raised the matter in Parliament with regards to the **whole** situation and not just Wheelwrights. She thought it would be a hard one to win as it was several sites and not just this one that are now causing concerns. Lois then commented that they had now accepted that the Appeal had been lost and that the Cash family were now residents on the land. However they stated that they will fight and fight for the planning conditions to be upheld. They went on to say that there was now about 400 tonnes of additional hardstanding which had been put down since the decision. A vast septic tank had also been installed.

They reported that more importantly the East Herts Planning Inspector had found that there was an unmet need in East Herts for traveller sites which sets the precedent that every spare piece of ground is now vulnerable and EHDC decided not to challenge that decision. A second opinion was obtained from a barrister who said that they did have the right to challenge it. They reported that the Planning Conditions stated that Mr Cash had to put in a layout plan of the site stating what he wanted to do. However he started work on the 8th June (bringing in extra hardcore) and he didn't put in the planning application until 28th June so by then he had already done three weeks worth of work. They also went on to state that the plan was nothing like the works he has carried out on site.

The Dewhursts felt that his plan needs approval as soon as possible to prove that he is in clear breach of the planning controls. The biggest worry is the statement regarding the "unmet

need for gypsy sites" so they will think that they have a strong case. Ken Crofton queried why East Herts could do this when the District Plan had been approved. The Dewhursts commented that The National Inspectorate had completely disregarded the District Plan, and they felt that as the Cashes' had purchased the land it can't be described as an illegal gypsy encampment.

Andrew Huggins sent apologies on behalf of Sarah Saunders and David Snell to say they were unable to attend the meeting.

TH queried whether there is anything we can do to query why EHC had not challenged the Statement of there not being enough Traveller Sites in East Herts. Meanwhile they are asking for Mr Cash and the Agent to amend the plan to a scaled drawing which would allow EHC to approve it and set precedent as to whether he is in breach or not.

As to the other issues such as the trenches, these are a matter for building control.

Regarding condition in Planning of no vehicles over 3.5 tonnes, the Dewhurst's commented that in the correspondence from Sarah Saunder it was deemed appropriate and that they were allowed to bring some on. Andrew Huggins reported that a key date was the 20th August when the plan could be refused if they haven't reamended it. Mr Dewhurst also reported that one of the conditions of the decision was removal of some of the touring caravans that have been on site since the start, one of which had been dumped on the A10 in one of the laybys and the area of hardstanding had doubled in size since they had purchased the land.

The Dewhursts thanked the PC for their support in this matter.

8. NEW INITIATIVES

TH reported that the PC intended to publish 1-3 year plan in the Newsletter. This will inform Parishioners who can then come to meetings to give their views on any aspect of the Plan. They may well need something for the village that has been overlooked.

The following topics have already been discussed:

• PLANTING:

Year 1: Daffodils

CM had done research on the daffodil bulbs that might be planted ie naturalising ones work out at £38.00 for 500 and another 2 varieties at £34.00 for 500 giving a total for all 3 varieties of £106.00.

Year 2 Autumn Crocuses

Year 3: Snowdrops

It was agreed to put a notice in the Parish Newsletter and was estimated that if 50 volunteers could plant 30 bulbs each that would give a decent display of flowers. CM thought it would be good to plant some on the verges outside Horses Meadow and also the Village Hall.

CM also remarked that she had wild flower seeds which could perhaps be planted in Millenium Walk, Horses' Meadow. TH pointed out that the village was known now for the poppies and that these improvements would further enhance the village so it will be recognised in a positive way in the future. CM pointed out that this planting would also help traffic calming.

ACTION: CM

• COMMON LAND

CM explained that this is likely to be a three year process and that firstly she was going to speak to Lord Carter. She explained that she had identified the 3 areas as: i) The long strip of land by the side of the field which would be where the apple and pear trees could be planted and where three bee hives could possibly be added. The trees are not particularly expensive and the bee hives may be something that can be built ourselves. DH commented that the farmers had put in a number of trees in the area and wondered whether or not it would be worth trying to get them at a cheap price through them.

ii) The triangle opposite the telephone exchange would be suitable for wild flowers and CM had already had a donation of wild flower seeds for that.

iii) The Chalk Pit: CM commented that this would be an excellent area for planting oak trees.

ACTION: CM

TH felt that providing new benches was something that could be done quickly and give an immediate effect, for example replacement of the bench at the top of Windy Rise. Other areas could also be looked at. The general consensus was to also replace the bus stop benches and TH commented that the grass triangle at Whempstead Lane would be a good place for a bench and would be good for passing cyclists.

The bench by the pond at Green End was also mention and it was commented that the area was extremely overgrown and could do with a tidy up. First it would be beneficial to find out who owned the site.

KC pointed out that it was also usual for Parish Councils to use these benches to commerate people who had benefited the community, not necessarily in death but in something they have done.

KC also added that Andrew Burton had recently taken over from Tom Goldsmith and would be a suitable contact for advice in this regard.

The Pill Box on Whempstead Lane:- TH was keen to tidy it up and make it a Heritage feature. She reported that she would contact Heritage at EHC and see what steps the PC needed to take to preservice/restore it. Once it became a feature it would tie in nicely with the bench on the grass triangle opposite. She also commented that historical monuments can be looked after and preserved even if they are not owned. CM commented that the landowner may well take a positive approach to this as it would fit in with his development plans of Home Farm Farmyard.

Christmas Market:- A Christmas market would be benefial to residents where local produce could be sold and would also bring people into the village.

ACTION: TH

The Millenium Walk:- following a meeting at Horses Meadow the PC had agreed to lift the canopy of trees to make it easier to walk under and enjoy.

The Clerk suggested asking Adrian Worthington who already strims the path if he would like to quote for this.

ACTION: GW

Maps for walkers:- The maps in the Noticeboards are extremely faded. The Clerk to try and establish who has original artwork. It was also suggested that the original maps could perhaps be scanned and printed on a different material to prevent fading.

ACTION: GW**9. ALLOTMENTS**

Following up on a PC visit to the allotments in June, there were a number of issues which were flagged up as concerns which included: fencing, paths, overgrown areas and rubbish. TH commented that there are bits of metal sticking out of fencing which are a danger to people walking up the sides of the plots. It was agreed that it needs an overhaul and an increase in rent for each allotment would help fund this. KC suggested that a contractor should be employed to go in and cover all the cutting back, tree surgery etc. Frank Coopers at Aston was suggested who do grounds maintenance. A plan could be formed which could be completed over a time schedule and quotes should be obtained whilst the plots are in such an overgrown state. It was also suggested that once cleared up, new allotments could be found. One allotment owner was struggling to maintain his allotment and it was suggested that a community group could help to sort it out. TH commented that it was a shame if it was just a matter of ill health and age that prevented enjoying an allotment.

ACTION: GW/TH**10. CHEQUE SIGNATORIES**

The Clerk to fill out forms, obtain relevent signatures and send back to Santander.

ACTION: GW**11. LITTER PICKER**

It was agreed that it was time to offer the opportunity to another young person and it was agreed to replace him with two litter pickers. This would hopefully make the task safer. The Clerk agreed to send the current litter picker a letter of notice and would place an ad for the two new positions in the Newsletter.

ACTION: GW**12. RECEIVE NOTICE OF ANY OTHER BUSINESS FROM PARISH COUNCILLORS AND TO DEAL WITH THOSE MATTERS IF APPROPRIATE**

- TH suggested that the Parish Council meetings should be monthly especially as there was a lot of Agenda items to get through now. The PC voted to have 10 meetings a year leaving December and August free
- CM reported that the Children in Need Walk is usually at the beginning of October. She suggested that Mr Spackman might be interested in hosting this and said she will

ask him once the BBC has released the date. CM stated that it was a charity event which may appeal to a number of Parishioners.

- ACTION: CM
- BS reported on his visit to Charringtons hosted by Clarion. He had obtained a useful contact list and reported that Clarion do grants for the community.

He explained that one of the reasons he went was because of some of the run down conditions of some of the houses. AH commented that he has access to key liaison officers within Clarion so they would be useful contact in trying to get the offending gardens/areas cleared up and improved.

- Cinema Event:- TH explained that she was looking at improving the general image of the PC which had had rather negative feedback over the last 2 years.

A free cinema event was one way of showing that the PC was engaged in helping the community. TH suggested that the shop could offer hampers, the pub could do a bar, and it would be nice to do this as a yearly event which could tie in with events such as Dane End in Bloom, and perhaps a competition. The PC could fund a significant amount to start with and then in future years perhaps sell tickets or fund raise for it. CM suggested that the Group of children going to South America could perhaps use the event to fund raise ie sell popcorn to help raise funds. Perhaps also bring in people from Dane End House/Green End House for support. A date in September was proposed. KC also suggested getting the school involved. TH to find a suitable company who could offer this.

KC commented that he was also happy to help financially through HCC.

ACTION: TH, CM, JH

- Andrew Huggins congratulated the Parish Council in turning discussion on the Agenda from discussing negative problems to positive outcomes and improvements. To that end he suggested that the PC look at the National Association of Local Council Award Schemes and due to the positive work that the PC was doing LMPC should qualify for these. NALC had sent out a Newsletter this week asking for local councils to sign the Tree Charter, which he would forward to the PC. He explained that this was about trees and their importance. They were also pushing for a national Tree Day later in September and will be offering free trees to be planted in September/October. He explained that the PC needed to sign up for the Newsletter and get onto link for tree changer.

AH had also sent out Herts Coach Awards - Award scheme for nominations including a long list of categories. He would also forward this to the PC. The local Badminton Club was positively mentioned with regards to this.

ACTION: GW

AH also reported that there had also been a couple of meetings recently with the Rural Police Force about Rural Priority Settings, and AH had spoken to Duncan Wallace about one of the big problems within the area of fly tipping. There had also been a Traffic Stop Event in Buntingford to spot check people for MOT, Tax and Insurance. He reported that this had been a great success and a lot of people had been stopped on the day. AH asked the PC that if they had any more rural police matters he could pass them onto the police. Several Councillors commented on the problem of flytipping identifying common sites for this locally. AH said that peak sites for fly tipping could be identified and the police are able to install Badger Cams to identify offenders.

TH commented that at the top of Green End Lane there are people parked up there at night using drugs. AH commented that he had reported this to Duncan Wallace after the last meeting but didn't know lane/address. Liz Parkins reported that there had been local teenagers speeding along the lane who seemed to have disappeared for now. Liz reaffirmed how dangerous this was for pedestrians as the lane is banked. TH had spoken to the PCSO about this and there were a number of comments reaffirming how dangerous drug driving was.

Lastly he offered an invitation to the Chair and one other to a networking event, the Aspenden Ball. This would be a chance to network with other Parish Councillors, sharing ideas and a chance to meet County Councillors.

13. TO CONSIDER MATTERS ARISING FROM PARISHIONERS

None

16. The meeting was called to an end at 9.25 pm and it was confirmed that the date of the next meeting will be 19th September 2019

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CHAIRMAN

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DATE