

LITTLE MUNDEN PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of the Parish Council (PC) held on 19th September 2019 at Little Munden Memorial Hall at 8.00 pm.

1. ATTENDANCE: Tracey Harding (TH) Chairman; David Hart (DH); Lizzie Bacon (Vice Chairman); Jenny Macintosh (JM); Claire Monk (CM); Julie Hursey (JH); Billy Summerson (BS) – Councillors; Geraldine Ward – Clerk.

IN ATTENDANCE: King & Co; Andrew Huggins (AH); Richard Barron

2. APOLOGIES: Ken Crofton (KC)

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 19TH JULY 2019

The minutes were proposed by JH and seconded by CM

4.1 Home Farm Farmyard – proposed development

Planning regarding the barns to the front of the road had been withdrawn, and Oliver King explained that they had been trying to develop this building from agricultural to residential use. On submission of the planning they were told that the building had had consent for commercial use from 1996 so they couldn't proceed with this particular application.

4.2 Horses Meadow Play Equipment

Carried forward for the time being.

4.3 Newsletter Advertising Manager

TH had spoken to the Vicar about this and reported that he was in agreement with regards to revamping the Newsletter and was quite keen on the A5 size suggestion. He also liked the idea of replacing the Church service information on the front and relocating it to the back of the Newsletter. This would enable something new and eye catching to be put on the front cover every month. CM suggested having a photographic competition and display the winning piece on the front of the publication. TH suggested consulting with the Editor of the High Cross magazine as the content of their publication is similar to that of Mundens and Sacombe. LB to make contact with her in order to seek advice although she did comment that the system High Cross and Thundridge use is very different from ours and there is a charge that they pass onto readers. TH suggested advertising could help to pay for such an initiative. She suggested asking parishioners whether they would like the facility to advertise.

ACTION: TH

4.4 Traffic Calming

TH reported that this issue was with Highways but could take a minimum of 6 months to look at and decide what they can do. She went on to say that they still need to come back and look at the signage. Hopefully by the New Year there should be news on this.

TH commented that we are not sure how much progress DH had made on volunteers for the traffic survey and would chase up. BS commented that he possibly had three volunteers who could help with the survey.

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

The Clerk reported that she had spoken to Donal Flattery who had assured her that a surveyor would be going round to have a look. A meeting to be set up which the Clerk and Chairman would attend.

4.6 Website

TH reported that Richard was going to turn up later on to help resolve issues and problems with the mundens.net email that individual Parish Councillors were having.

4.7 Play Inspection Report

The annual report had been received. The Clerk pointed out that there were a number of points that kept coming up and that it should perhaps be looked at in more detail.

4.8 Overgrown Trees throughout Dane End

TH reported that she would contact HCC about the tree on the bend of Fouceley Avenue to get it cut back. With regards the trees that border the Dane End Tributary, with the help of Councillor Crofton, the Parish Council now know who are responsible for these - the Environment Agency is responsible for the Tributary but the residents of Dane End House are responsible for the trees on their side of the bank. The Clerk agreed to write a letter to the residents and contact the Environment Agency about the ditch. **ACTION: GW**

4.9 Village Signage

TH reported that Highways are combining this issue with moving the speed signs at either end of the village. From the floor, Andrew Springhett commented that the **SLOW** sign on the road is extremely faded although Highways would not acknowledge this as a fault. Their attitude is that without physical harm to a person or an accident Highways don't see traffic calming as necessary.

PLANNING

5.1 New Applications

APPLICATION: 3/19/1875/HH

PROPOSAL: Partial demolition and reconstruction of outbuilding (including provision of 2 roof lights) and conversion to provide additional residential accommodation (to include bedroom, ensuite shower room) Erection of single storey rear link extension from main dwelling to converted outbuilding with ramped access and new levelled access door

AT: Orchard Cottage Green End Dane End Ware Hertfordshire

Comments by 17th October 2019

APPLICATION: 3/19/1852/HH

PROPOSAL: Single storey front extension

AT: 7 Whiteley Close Dane End Ware Hertfordshire SG12 0NB

Comments 3/10/19

5.2 Decisions

APPLICATION: 3/19/1365/HH PROPOSAL: Single storey side extension. AT: Green End Farmhouse Green End Dane End Hertfordshire SG12 0NX FOR: Mr & Mrs Scrope

APPLICATION: 3/19/1365/HH PROPOSAL: Single storey side extension. AT: Green End Farmhouse Green End Dane End Hertfordshire SG12 0NX FOR: Mr & Mrs Scrope

Permission granted.

6. FINANCE

6.1 Receipts and Payments 5/5/19 to 4/9/1

£

Online Current Account Balance BF 8/7/19 21350.39

Receipts

29/7/19 EHC New Homes Bonus 2902.00

Deduct Payments from Current Account

Date	Payment to	Cheque No	Amount £
	VOID	1190	Nil
18/7/19	R Barron for Heart Internet	1191	50.26
18/7/19	Derrick Bridges & Co/Land Reg	1192	69.80
18/7/19	HMR&C PAYE July	1193	37.38
18/7/19	HMR&C PAYE August	1194	37.38
18/7/19	G WARD Clerks Fee Jul/Au	1195	395.68
18/7/19	Herts Display/June N/Ltrr	1196	100.44
22/7/19	East Herts Council	1197	607.64
31/7/19	H Coles Litterpicker	S/O	43.42
31/7/19	Richard Barron Website	S/O	35.00
02/9/19	Litter Picker payment	S/O	43.42
02/9/19	Richard Barron Website	S/O	35.00
	Total Payments		1455.42

Online balance on Current Account 4/9/19 22256.04

Balance Brought forward 8/7/19 21350.39

Less Payments 1455.42

Less uncleared cheques/July nos 1187/1188 540.93

Plus receipts 2902.00

Balance as at 4/9/19 21350.39

7. CORRESPONDENCE

7.1 Correspondence Received/Sent

23/7/19 Email to Ken Crofton from GW Re Dane End Tributary and overgrown trees and reply

30/7/19 Highways re Fault Notification Trees opposite Boot/Dane End Tributary

30/7/19 EHC The Play Inspection Company Annual Report on Horses' Meadow/see Agenda Item no 8.

7.2 Late Post

None.

8. PLAYGROUND INSPECTION REPORT

TH thought this was a hard one as we are looking at revamping playground equipment so there isn't much point at doing anything at the moment. On the matter of the Wickstead equipment it was agreed that it may be worth finding out if there is still a guarantee on it. TH and GW to inspect the equipment at the beginning of next year.

9. MUNDENS.NET PROBLEMS / IT

RB arrived towards the end of the meeting and helped Councillors resolve their IT problems.

10. APPOINTMENT OF LITTER PICKERS.

TH felt that the Candidates were all pretty much the same, in age and experience. It was agreed to rotate the position on an annual basis to allow more people to gain this experience.

After some discussion it was agreed to appoint Travis Williams and Isabel Oseman.

11. NEW INITIATIVES UPDATE

TH commented that she would publish the New Initiatives in the Newsletter and ask parishioners if they have any additions they would like to make.

11.1 BULB PLANTING

It was agreed to do the bulb planting over two days on 2nd and 3rd November.

11.2 BENCHES

TH commented that the Windy Rise bench still needs to be repaired. LB felt that the style of benches need improving. It was also mentioned that a plaque could be put on new benches.

JM mentioned that the Village Lunch books do have money for the good of the village and this might be a good cause they could contribute to. The bench at the pond at Green End was also mentioned as it is quite overgrown around it. LB to contact Keith Williams to determine ownership.

It was suggested to put a bench at the top of Whempstead Road which would be good for cyclists and CM commented that it would provide a lovely place to admire the view of the valley beyond.

11.3 FARMERS MARKET

TH said that she hoped to organise this before Christmas and had spoken to Russell Parkins about getting a couple of Christmas trees to decorate the village; one to put by the Balfour play area and perhaps one at the front of the village hall. TH thought it would be nice to tie this all in with the Farmer's Market.

TH asked whether anyone had any information on suppliers and commented that the PC needed to ask for support from the village to see who would like to run stalls or supply garden produce, plants, cakes, gifts etc. LB said she knew a cheese supplier and would contact them to see if they could help. TH suggested that they need to check that nothing clashes with the school diary.

The Clerk to book the Village Hall. **ACTION: GW**

11.4 COMMON LAND

TH affirmed that contact needs to be made with the Carters as soon as possible.

ACTION: CM

11.5 DANE END IN BLOOM

TH commented that it would be interesting to look at the Britain in Bloom scheme. She explained that to take part doesn't necessarily involve doing the whole village but can be just a small area. She went on to say that it would be good to do a mini Dane End in Bloom which may encourage the village to make the most of their gardens.

11. 6 OUTDOOR CINEMA

TH reported that it had been impossible to organise this within the time frame but would be deferred until next year. This could also tie in with a Community Day with perhaps a giant vegetable competition, and could also involve the children at the school. Other ideas include a soap box challenge and could possibly tie in with local businesses. This day would hopefully be in June or July next year and the open air cinema could take place in the evening. TH to talk to the Head Teacher, Secretary and the PTA at the school to check that this wouldn't clash with School fundraisers such as the summer fete. It was agreed that the school could take an active part in the day and use it as an additional fund raising opportunity.

TH pointed out that there were some people in the village who have made special efforts to improve public areas such as an area on the corner of Whiteley Close and it would be nice to reward them with perhaps a voucher for a garden centre to show the Parish Councils' appreciation for such an effort..

TH asked people to think about any other areas in the village where this had happened and could be rewarded accordingly.

12. ALLOTMENTS

Following a visit by members of the PC it had been agreed that the area needs cutting back and paths and fences restored. TH suggested raising the annual charge for the allotments as this extra income would then help to pay for this work and for maintaining the site in the future.

TH was waiting for Mr Spackman to get in touch to have a look at what needs to be done. The Clerk to contact Gareth Smith also for a quote.

GW reported that Adrian Worthington would be working on the trees on the Millenium Walk to raise the canopy and give it more structure and visibility. He had also suggested doing the hedge that borders Horses' Meadow and the Allotments. It was suggested that it would also be nice to get a couple of benches at the allotments to encourage people to spend more time there. Picnic benches on Horses' Meadow would also be beneficial.

13. RESOLUTION TO CHANGE CHEQUE SIGNATORIES

It was resolved to remove Jonathan Pool as cheque signatory as he had now resigned from the Parish Council and to appoint Tracey Harding as a new cheque signatory. The Resolution was passed unanimously.

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Geraldine Ward
Clerk

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Elisabeth Bacon
Vice Chairman

14. RECEIVE NOTICE OF ANY OTHER BUSINESS FROM PARISH COUNCILLORS AND TO DEAL WITH THOSE MATTERS IF APPROPRIATE

- CM reported that she was organising a Countryside Ramble in aid of Children in Need which was a nationwide event. It would be taking place on 6th October and JM suggested it could be tied in with the Churchs' Harvest Festival Service.
- BS reported that a Parishioner had complained about the trees along Munden Road which hang over and cause people to walk in the road.
ACTION: GW
- JM reported that a bungalow on Windy Rise, where the occupant had recently died has, a lot of hydrochloric acid outside the house. It was agreed that this should be mentioned to Clarion who should clear out anything there. AH suggested that he may be able to help with this by finding the appropriate contact within Clarion.

15. HOME FARM DEVELOPMENT

King & Co were invited to make representation to the Parish Council

Oliver King from King & Co addressed the meeting and explained that they had come for a residents consultation in May in the Village Hall and reported that they had had a very good response from the considerable number of people who had attended. Since then they had made changes to the scheme based on some of the many comments made at the Consultation. He reported that they are now not very far off from submitting the application and wanted to report to the Parish Council on progress they have made. Oliver passed around some handouts on recent plans they were considering. Various technical work had been carried out recently, such as work on the sustainability of the buildings.

He circulated some pages from the Design and Access Statement based on various comments that had come back from the consultation. A lot of these were based around Highways. He explained that Whempstead Lane was a difficult access point because it was difficult to get sight lines up that road from the entrance to the site. He commented that people drive at such a speed down the road, making it difficult to see people coming down and quite often the curb there has damaged peoples' cars.

The intention is to take away the curb and introduce a chicane with priority for people coming down the lane with a give way sign at the bottom of the road. This could be driven over and on the corner would be white lines. He explained that this is important because it is opposite the bus stop. The junction would also be gravelled to make people think when going over a different surface and slow down.

He reported that King & Co have spoken to Highways Transport Planning who confirmed that the road was too narrow to put in a kerb so the white lines was a way of making it a pedestrianised space without the addition of a kerb. He also showed an illustration of the

layout suggesting priority signage to alert people to the fact that there is a road layout around the corner. TH commented that the Parish Council were looking at getting SIDs on both village entrances and suggested that it may be possible to put one at the top of the hill on Whempstead Road as well. From the floor the possibility of making the road wider was suggested. Oliver thought this was a good idea and possible as HCC own the land and only a small amount would be needed to make a difference.

He went on to explain that a similar method would be used by the old cow shed on Munden Road. The road gets narrower here so this would allow for pedestrians to walk safely along the road. He went onto explain that plans allowed for priority to traffic going out of the village which would also help with slowing down the traffic. He explained that King & Co had thought about demolishing the wall but they are hitch bricks so conservationists would rather they were maintained.

He went onto say that as paving stones were out of the question along Munden Road, they were considering putting a white line on the right hand side of the road from the Memorial Hall to the bus stop opposite Home Farm. The PC was not sure how this would work as people park along the road.

Oliver King went on to address the concerns regarding the parking on site. He explained that councils often try to reduce the number of car parking spaces on developments but he said that they had maxed out the car parking space to 2.5 car parking spaces per dwelling to prevent a spill over of parking onto surrounding roads. He also explained that they had changed some of the commercial units usage to allow for public services, dentists doctors etc, to allow a broader commercial/community usage.

CM asked whether the percentage of social housing had remained the same and Oliver King said it had at 40% which was statutory. TH commented that across the country developers were looking at schemes where Parish Councils could get involved to encourage social housing being made available to local people and not people from Islington etc which is happening in other local villages. Oliver King affirmed that King & Co are happy to look into achieving this.

He also stated that the private sales hopefully will also meet a need in that they are smaller affordable properties and confirmed that this was one of their priorities. They confirmed that they have reduced the number of houses to 38 because more commercial space had been added to the plans. He reiterated that the specification is for 26 dwellings per hectare which is very low as existing buildings are being utilised. Oliver King reaffirmed that the conversions are not in addition to the 38 dwellings but are part of the total. King & Co thanked the PC for their time and congratulated them on the positive initiatives that had been discussed at the meeting.

16. NEWS FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR ANDREW HUGGINS

The Ball at Aspenden which TH and CM attended provoked good conversation with Cottered, discussing shared issues and was a good opportunity to network.

AH reported that he had been badgering Ken Crofton to impose 20 mph zones in villages such as Dane End, and said he could also think of a number of others within his Ward that would qualify. Munden Road would really benefit as there are no pavements, street lights or

any possibility of road widening. AH reported that he would continue to pressurise him although HCC's response is always that they will only pay for this type of traffic calming if safety makes it necessary and this is a retrospective approach rather than a proactive one and not preventative. AH went on to comment that London, Wales and Scotland have all adopted 20 mph zones so he felt that we are going that way potentially but it was a bit of a catch 22 situation. HCCs view is that car damage is not worth reporting although physical injury is!

In terms of council business EHC has been looking at Climate Change and Waste. He reported that the incinerator had not got permission and local landfill behind Westmill, nr Ware is also closing down at the end of the year so there are major concerns regarding Waste Management within East Herts. The Council would also be looking at Council Tax/Precept over the next few months.

Regarding the Clarion properties, AH reported that one of the properties is privately owned so could be considered off this list. One of the properties if privately owned so could be considered off this list. One of the properties has been improved and the case closed, so two are still being worked on.

With regards to Wheelwrights Farm, AH reported that this is still an ongoing matter and EHC are still waiting for the applicant to submit scales drawings. He commented that Enforcement can't get involved until there are approved plans.

AH asked if TH had had a copy of the District Plan. She reported that she had been scrutinising it online and was interested how as a Class 2 village, such a large development could be considered. She was also researching the Localism Act and how it applied to local businesses.

17. TO CONSIDER MATTERS ARISING FROM PARISHIONERS

None

17. The meeting was called to an end at 9.45 pm and it was confirmed that the date of the next meeting will be 21st November 2019

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CHAIRMAN

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DATE