LITTLE MUNDEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
Held on
17th November 2022
AT LITTLE MUNDEN VILLAGE HALL

1. **PRESENT:** Tracey Harding (TH), Chair; Paul Armstrong (PA) Vice Chairman; Billy Summerson (BS); Claire Monk (CM); Jessica Harding (JH)
   In Attendance: Geraldine Ward (GW), Clerk
2. **APOLOGIES**: Julie Hursey (JH); Collen Coelco (CC); Claire Monk (CM):
3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** None
4. **TO APPROVE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 20th October 2022:-** proposed by PA, seconded by TH

4. PLANNING

None.

5. FINANCE

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS 12/10/22-15/10/22

Receipts

None

Payments:

Date	For	Cheque No	£
14/10/22	Little Munden Memorial Hall Panto Rehearsals	BACS	180.00
14/10/22	Herts Display Sept N/L	BACS	111.60
14/10/22	HAPTC Precept Course x 2	BACS	28.00
14/10/22	G F Ward for British Legion	BACS	28.98
21/10/22	HMRC Oct PAYE	1279	55.00
31/10/22	Agland/Litter Picker	S/O	48.55
7/11/22	The Mundens PCC Churchyard	1278	200.00
10/11/22	G Ward Clrks Fee Nov	BACS	286.00
		Total Payments	**938.13**

Deduct Payments from Current Account	
Online balance on Current Account 15/11/22	10157.51
Balance Brought forward 12/10/22	11095.63
Less Payments	938.13
Plus Receipts	0.00
Balance as at 15/11/22	**10157.51**

6. CORRESPONDENCE

19/10/22 Council Tax/Precept documentation from Pauline Tunnicliffe, East Herts District Council

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20/10/22 Letters from Sue Capon and Kevin Mcleod re high trees along Munden Road.

21/10/22 Email from CCW re Castle Water Complaint.

25/10/22 Email from Ken Crofton thanking the Parish Council for hosting the Community meeting regarding the A602, He also detailed requests for site teams to review the temporary junction layout re enhancements to current arrangements. Also requesting to look at further surveys to carry out on local road network.

3/11/22 Email from TH to Linzy Outrim re providing a list of Questions and Answers from the meeting

9/11/22 Email from TH to Linzy Outrim, suggesting red and white solid crash barriers for Heath Mount junction.

10/11/22 Email from Brian Penn re addressing Heath Mount junction and continued u-turning by parents dropping off children and reply by TH. This problem was largely solved now as Highways had put out a line of continuous cones from the junction up to the Whempstead Road turning.

10/11/22 from Andrew Huggins – Land Supply Statement and Land Supply Position Statement, November 2022, EHDC.

2/11/22 Email from Katy David re Recycling Bin/delivery

9/11/22 Email from Linzy Outrim re A602 Roadworks, reopening of Sacombe Pound junction. Linzy Outrim putting together report on the public meeting. BS noted that flooding was still occurring along Sacombe. PA noted that road sweeper would be doing Sacombe and Dane End shortly.

7. LITTER PICKING

Andrew Huggins (District Councillor) had mentioned at a previous meeting that the litter picking grant would probably be stopped and the Clerk had requested further information concerning this. In reply email, AH said it was likely there wouldn't be a further grant in the next financial year and that Parish Councils would have to decide whether this was something they would pay for themselves or not. TH felt that a volunteer scheme could be put into place. PA commented that Sacombe now have 4 sets of litterpicking equipment. CM commented that EHDC offer schemes where roads are adopted and members of the public then look after these selected areas and added that the Council even pick up the rubbish collected. CM felt that if you can get on top of waste and rubbish then people will be less likely to litter. She also went on to suggest that the Parish Council could repeat a group litter pick similar to the one held along Sacombe Road and perhaps put food on in the Pub afterwards. To be discussed further at the next meeting.

The status of the current litter picker was discussed. The Clerk to check the current status of Litter Picking and check the date that the grant money goes up to and when the 2023 Grant would be due.

Clearing green waste was then discussed and it was suggested by TH to have a brown bin on Horses' Meadow Car Park. This would be for green waste generated from clear-ups at the War Memorial and Horses' Meadow. All agreed that this would be a good idea. Clerk to Action.

8. PENSIONERS LUNCH

The list of guests for the lunch was coming together and it was just a matter of confirming some stragglers. TH thought there would be up to 60 people attending. She also reported that all was in place now for the cooking and reheating of dinners and she would be responsible for side dishes ie vegetable, sauces etc. The choir would be coming down from the school. PA to check that the piano was in tune. TH also reported that an actor from the Panto would be dressing up as Santa and doing Bingo. BS volunteered a Bingo Board for this.

TH reported that McMullens had donated prizes for the Bingo and also confirmed that the Parish Council had already been awarded a grant from HCC to help with costs and the Vicar would be giving an extra £400. TH hoped that some small presents could be handed out to guests. She felt that it was important to point out that overall there should be no extra money incurred by the Parish Council from the lunch and the Panto.

On another matter TH commented that the Panto Rehearsals had moved to the Church as this had been offered without any fees.

9. BUDGET 2023/24 DISCUSSION RE RAISING PRECEPT

The Clerk presented a document showing all the Precepts of PCs within EHDC. This was circulated around the Parish Councillors which was interesting to see how Precept amounts differed throughout the District.

General finances were discussed in particular in view of upcoming events in 2023. PA reported that he had possible sponsorship for a car events and TH would be investigating lottery grants from January for further summer events.

The Budget for 23/24 had been presented to all Parish Councillor and all present approved it.

Discussion then took place as to whether or not the Precept should be raised. Matters to consider included the fact that there had been a high utity bill in 22/23 which had considerably curtailed the Parish Council's expenditure. The Parish Councillors also agreed that there was always the possibility of an election expense in 2023/24. TH also felt that a lot had been achieved over the term so far, allotment renovation, cinema event, pandemic support, road signs and speed signs. Christmas Fair, Christmas trees, tree planting, ditch cleaning, new goal posts on Horses Meadow.
The Parish Councillors approved the budget for 23/24 and resolved to increase the Precept from £9430 to £12,000.

11. TO CONSIDER MATTERS FROM PARISH COUNCILLORS AND TO DEAL WITH THOSE MATTERS IF APPROPRIATE.

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PA reported that the residents of Sacombe had agreed to give money for wood for the Sacombe signs and that there would be four in total. Also another 3 signs for Dane End were proposed. Discussion took place regarding placement of Village Names on signs and it was also agreed to possibly put "thank you for driving slowly through our village". PA had compiled pictures of signs which show possible ideas of planting schemes. TH also suggested putting something quirky about the Village. JH would be planting bulbs around the signs shortly.

PA reported that Japanese knotweed had been found in Sacombe, by the bridge.Neighbouring properties are extremely concerned about this particularly if someone decided to cut it back. It was agreed that Environmental Services be contacted at EHDC.

PA also reported that a Roadsweeper would be doing Sacombe Pound on Saturday, as a favour and TH asked if the bus route around Whiteley/Windy Rise could also be done. PA to try and organise this, although would probably need removal of parked cars.

PA also reported that a tree surgeon had inspected the Yew Trees along Munden Road with a view to reducing them. PA reported that they had estimated a price of £4000. The tree surgeon had said that many of the trees on the bank were in danger of falling over as there is nothing supporting them and were a potential hazard therefore these would have to be removed altogether. It was not something this particular tree surgeon was prepared to take on but the PC would continue to hopefully have talks with the landowner with a few to resolving the situation. The Clerk was collecting letters from residents to present to the owners of the land citing how the trees were block any natural light during the day and also blocking TV and Satellite signals. CM commented they are listed, however it was agreed that this doesn't matter as there is now a report saying how dangerous they are. The tree surgeon had reported that 40- 50 trees need trimming back and 8-10 trees are considered dangerous.

It was agreed that the crab apple tree on Windy Rise was becoming quite a hazard and needs general cutting back. TH felt Highways should do it, therefore should be reported on online fault reporting. Clerk to action.

PA concerned about number of people with Chickens who aren't following Bird Flue rules. PA asked for something to be put in the Newsletter and Spotted.

Discussion ensured regarding the Village Hall and the general consensus was that the Hall could be used more. To be discussed further at the next meeting. TH felt that perhaps contact the Trustees to see if they can help.

Allotments: GW suggested there should be an Allotment Meeting in the New Year.

The meeting was brough to a close at 10 pm.

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: - Thursday 19TH January 2023

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