LITTLE MUNDEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
Held on
19th January 2023
AT LITTLE MUNDEN VILLAGE HALL

1. **PRESENT:** Tracey Harding (TH), Chair; Paul Armstrong (PA) Vice Chairman; Billy Summerson (BS); Claire Monk (CM); Julie Hursey (JH); Colleen Coelco; Jessica Harding (JH)
   In Attendance: Geraldine Ward (GW), Clerk; Jackie Morris JM (Newsletter Ed); Members of the Public 1 (Lois Dewhurst KD)
   APOLOGIES: Andrew Huggins (AH); Ken Crofton (KC)
2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** None
3. **TO APPROVE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 19th NOVEMBER 2022:-** proposed by BS, seconded by JH

4. PLANNING

4/1 New Applications

3/22/2406/FUL Hybrid planning application, comprising a) Outline approval for a residential-led mixed-use development for up to 1800 new market and affordable homes; new retail, business, commercial & community uses; new and expanded primary schools with early years facilities and new secondary school provision etc.

Comments by 27th January 2023

The Chairman commented that this is essentially building another whole town connected to Ware. CM commented that there was lots of new houses in Stevenage too. JH commented that the Waterford Reclamation Yard has also gone to housing. TH commented the overall plan sent out late last year is huge and the countryside will be severely diminished. Everything appears to have been pre-planned and sold before it goes to the public voice. CM wondered where all the people are coming from. TH also said that all the houses would have electric hook ups however CM pointed out that there is a worldwide shortage of batteries and the industry couldn't cope with those required. PA felt strongly that the electric car revolution would not be happening – BMW now has hydrogen car sorted out which is proving to be more promising in the future and that the cost of an electric car is more than petrol cars and also highly unreliable.

4.2 Decisions

3/22/1953/HH Removal of conservatory and replacement with single storey rear extension. Haultwick Hall, The Street, Haultwick SG11 1JQ
Planning Permission granted subject to conditions

5. FINANCE

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS 21/09/22-

Receipts

25/11/22	Panto tickets	BACS	10.00
25/11/22	Panto tickets	BACS	25.00
26/11/22	Panto tickets	BACS	10.00
29/11/22	Panto tickets	BACS	25.00

28/11/22	Panto tickets	BACS	15.00
2/12/22	Panto tickets	BACS	15.00
4/12/22	Panto tickets	BACS	45.00
5/12/22	Panto tickets	BACS	10.00
7/12/22	Panto tickets	BACS	10.00
9/12/22	Panto tickets	BACS	10.00
13/12/22	Panto tickets	BACS	35.00
15/12/22	VAT Refund	BACS	1547.05
24/12/22	Panto takings (less £100 float)	BACS	721.00

Payments:

Date	**For**	**Cheque No**	**£**
15/11/22	T Harding Bulbs for Parish	BACS	60.48
15/11/22	T Harding Panto Costumes	BACS	142.44
15/11/22	Herts Display Oct Newslttr	BACS	234.40
15/11/22	G Ward/Stationery/ Voice Recorder	BACS	29.99
17/11/22	Dane End Memorial Hall	BACS	190.00
18/11/22	HMRC PAYE/Clerk	BACS	55.00
29/11/22	Agland (Litter Picker)	S/O	48.55
14/12/22	Herts Display Nov NL & Panto	BACS	357.60
14/12/22	Clerks Fee	BACS	318.10
28/12/22	Agland (Litter Picker)	S/O	48.55
		Total Payments	**1485.11**

Deduct Payments from Current Account	
Online balance on Current Account 9/01/23	11135.45
Balance Brought forward 15/11/22	10157.51
Less Payments	1485.11
Plus Receipts	2463.05
	11135.45

Balance as at 15/11/22

6. CORRESPONDENCE

18/11/22 Francis Carne Associates/Dog fouling posters: GW to order posters to put up.

21/11/22 Watton At Stone Neighbourhood Plan, no comments.

3/12/22 Email from A Cooke re Great Munden Defibrillator. TH commented that all schools are getting a free defibrillator. JH commented whether they were locked or not. TH was sure that they have to be.

6/12/22 Email from Hazel Benson re No Parking sign on Kingsfield Road. Discussion took place on two houses in Kingsfield Road that had put private “No Parking” signs outside their houses one of which had been noted by a Neighbour. After some discussion it was agreed that this matter should be forwarded to Highways. TH suggested that this should be forwarded to Highways to deal with.

CM said there's a continuing problem with people in Whiteley Close parking in Kingsfield, with vehicles such as big transit vans. JM commented that there was also a problem down by the shop end, Easington Road. A resident had made a driveway up to their house, and the posts had been taken out that the Council had put in years ago to prevent parking..

15/12/22 Free Training Events/Scribe (approved by HAPTC)

28/12/22 Pauline Tunnicliffe/Tax Base see Item 7.

30/12/22 Email from Leon De Bruyn/Policy Community Support re attending PC meetings. All dates and times had been sent to Mr De Bruyn.

6/1/23 Email from Anthony Collier re Pill Box/Home Farm.

9/1/23 Email Invitation to 20's Plenty Zoom Presentation on 23rd January @ 7 pm

9/1/23 Email from TH to Highways re proposed resin path on Munden Road

7. SET 2023/24 PRECEPT APPROVAL AND FORM SIGNING

8. DOG FOULING

It was agreed to get posters up and camera by school path. JH asked if baulk gate could be fixed as it was always open. The spring had broken. PA to fix.

9. PILLAR BOX/HOME FARM

TH recalled that preservation measures for the Pill Box had been suggested before. AC had brought this up as an initiative to preserve the pill box and would be good from an historic point of view.. However no one was sure who owned the piece of land it was on. TH to ask developers whether they now owned the land. CM suggested clearing it and sowing seeds around it. TH emphasised that it would also need securing to stop it being vandalised. TH looking at contacting Herts CC to see if there was any initiative to get protection for such a buildings.

10. NEWSLETTER/ADVERTISING

TH commented we definitely want to keep the Newseltter going but the costs were increasing all the time and advertising was charged direct to those wishing to place an ad. Therefore there was no revenue for the Parish Council or Church. JM had discussed also with the Church who share the cost of the Newsletter and went on to describe how the Newsletter had developed into what it is today. She described how years ago advertising was attempted purely to find enough people to help pay for it, although as Editor she was always anti putting ads as it produced such a lot of work. Peter Watkins the MD of Herts Display also said advertising would also cost a lot more a lot more due to the extra work. However if Advertisements could be done on a separate page, expenditure and work would be less, such as the recent ads from the Hairdresser and Whitehills Golf Club. These had been charged direct at £18.60 and £80.00 respectively. JM phoned Peter who then charged the advertisers direct. JM commented that if the PC had ads in the Newsletter on a more commercial basis it would give Clerk more work.

There is also the matter of the school who had been putting in more and more photos and one month it meant an extra page in the Newsletter so this would be overwhelming matters from the PC and the Church. JM had approached the school about this and said the photos could only go in if there was a space for them. She now felt that if they were minimised, any extra ones, particularly colour ones could go on the Parish Council's Website. Currently the Church were paying half the Annual cost of the Newsletter. This on the face of it was unfair although the Clerk also mentioned that Great Munden had agreed to in and pay a third.

TH suggested that a separate meeting was required nf this to do some brain storming and come up with ideas to generate some income from the Newsletter. It was agreed to have a meeting on February 4th at 11 am in the Boot.

CM suggested sponsorship from individuals who could pay annually for monthly advertising which they could then offset against tax. CM also mentioned that paper charges had shot up. PA said we was happy to be a sponsor.

JM also pointed out that the donation for the churchyard maintenance could potentially be dropped and the £200 offset on printing and then get cost down with advertising again. JM suggested also that Sacombe Parish may contribute to the Newsletter. CM also thought in may be an idea to have a donations box in the shop and pub, using spare change for the Newsletter.

It was agreed to air further ideas at the forthcoming meeting.

11. TO CONSIDER PARISH MATTERS FROM PARISHIONERS

LD commented that she was now extremely worried that all the good work done by the PC at Sacombe Green would be undermined. She commented that there was no salt in the boxes. TH commented that she had reported continuously on Pot Holes using the What 3 Words App. All could use this simple device to pin point where the potholes are. TH also commented that she was currently getting a quote from a private gritter to do Whitehills.

LD questioned whether the salt bins are filled up every year. TH suggested driving around noting all the salt bins on What 3 words. KC had asked for the Whitehills one to be filled up last winter so TH agreed to contact KC again and to enable Ringway to do this.

PA commented that he had a road sweeper coming on Sunday and he would ask him to go as far up the hill as far as possible. PA commented that this was a private arrangement to road sweep Sacombe Pound as it had the potential to flood. He would also speak to his boss about doing Dane End as well but was concerned about cars on road. LD felt that it needs doing on a regular basis, i.e. twice a month. They would be coming back to Paul with a price. It was noted that PA pays for this and has a good discount. LD asked if perhaps there could be a 3-4 mile route? –as if this was done regularly during months when leaves are falling it would considerably reduce the drainage ditches being clogged with leaves. PA mentioned that there was a problem in getting rid of the large amount of leaves although LD said they and could spread them in their woods. LD commented that this would make a big difference as the drains are now completely full again. PA to action.

PA also commented that he would hire a digger next month to sort out ditches.

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

- CM remarked that the Laurel Hedging at the Old Shop had got very tall and is obscuring the sightline of traffic coming down Easington Road, passed Dane End Stores.

- Re 602 – PA mentioned that they were not taking the beams out of the failed bridge but repairing them in situ. He went on to say that although they have got new beams, they're not using them and instead repairing the old ones. He had been told by the Contractors that this should be done by end of March if it works, if not it'll be finished by the end of October. TH to contact Linzy at Highways to get clarification about his. BS commented that the Mercury had reported that it would all be finished in September 23. PA explained that they had to accommodate the footpath. A smaller bridge would have meant that the road would dip. TH commented that she didn't think that the road would be safer as the road is much faster than it was. PA commented that at the Heath Mount junction there were still so many accidents there. CM didn't think they had been gritting on the new road, however PA confirmed that they had been but because the tarmac is so new, it's still slippery.

- BS commented that Little Munden School has a notice stopping people going through the school during the week and commented that it was a public footpath. TH thought this was reasonable as children do go from the main building to the Year 4 building. TH commented that the school is eliminating as much risk as possible. It's not much further than going through the school. BS commented that it was the same type of thing as the no parking signs on homes. TH commented that perhaps the path could be rerouted.

- BS also mentioned the village car park that it's never open. TH suggested that the keys should be given to people when they hire the hall. CM commented that she thought it had a height restriction bar. Should also look at some lighting.

- BS questioned what could be done about untidy gardens throughout Dane End. TH commented that this was a Housing Association matter and would need reporting to Clarion. He also commented that there was illegal dog breeding going on and that restrictions on housing do apply to this. JH noted that she had to contact Council for permission to have a dog in a flat. It was agreed that the illegal dog breeding should be reported to the RPCA. JH to action.

- TH asked for Volunteers required for 20s Plenty required. With the number of children on bikes going down to Hoses' Meadow she felt traffic calming was needed. – GW had sent through an email regarding this – the group actioning this now are now gathering pace. Would look further into this.

- TH wondered if any allotments are free. GW to send out letters in March and resend Allotment Rules. JH to go and strim the paths in the Spring. Meanwhile the Clerk suggested it would be good to have a meeting down there in Spring to see what needed to be done.

- TH sign at the bottom of Church Lane is broken off. General conversation followed regarding broken signs. TH felt get photos of all the broken poles and get a quote on how much it would cost to replace them and send to Highways to advise how much we would be charging them for the work. PA one of the reasons that Highways need to do them is because they have to be done to specification! TH suggested putting a quote together to send to KC.

- Munden Road and trees: PA commented that he was now contacting Martin Oak to survey 52 trees that the previous tree surgeon thought needed actioning. Would get a quote with a view to their tree surgeon doing the work. At the least he would be able to advise them what the problems are with the trees emphasising the problem with light to the neighbours and possible danger to houses along Munden Road. In conclusion the main priority would be to reduce the height, so the houses get some natural light

- New and replacement benches around the village were discussed with a view to replacing the one at the top of Windy Rise. TH had spoken to Herts Supplies and we would be able to set up our own account with them, then they will deliver wherever we want them. A bench would stop people parking on the grass at Windy Rise.

- TH discussed the grass verge/path at the top of Founceley Rise and suggested to putting down hardcore down. Highways had responded saying it's not safe. However, TH suggested consulting residents in the area with a view to digging out the mud and putting in hardcore or black matting that grass grows through. PA agreed to looking at roundabout concrete ones as well as plastic ones.

- The Summer event was coming up and the date of 24th June had been agreed. TH has already spoken to people about funding and has a meeting coming up on Monday night. Decided not to do at the Coronation where everything would cost more. There were already a couple of ideas – re-enactment of the Vikings was one idea. PA also suggested doing It's a Knockout or even doing both. CC suggested doing a New Years Party - All seemed interested in this.

- A resident had also suggested getting a collection of old photos together and had given TH the idea of displaying these in the Church, hosting afternoon tea and making an album that people could then buy. This would then protect the photo record for the future and also raise money for the work required for the Church roof.

- ATH suggested perhaps doing a Murder Mystery in the Summer as a fund raiser, in and around the Church. Another possibility was a Barn Dance at the Christmas Tree Farm. CM noted that a murder mystery was hosted at the

Watton Church - it was £25 per ticket and they used the Churchyard for clues. TH to action.

The meeting was brought to a close at 9.45 pm

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: - Thursday 16TH February 2023

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