LITTLE MUNDEN PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
Held on
28th September 2023 at 8.00 pm
AT
LITTLE MUNDEN VILLAGE HALL

1. Apologies for absence and attendance:
In Attendance: Paul Armstrong (PA); Billy Summerson (BS); Julie Hursey (JH); Stephanie Armstrong **(**(SA)**;** Michelle Galvin (MG); Jessica Harding (JH)
Members of the Public: Sue Capon (SC); Karen McGuire; (KM); Jason Dexter(JD);
Liz Gregg-Smith (LGS); Russell Parkins (RP); Helen Barnard (HB);
Drew Betts (DB); Mr and Mrs Penn (BP).
Apologies: Tracey Harding; Ken Crofton; Aubrey Holt; Leon de Bryn

2. Declaration of Interests: None

3. To Approve Minutes of the Meeting held on 28th July 2023 SA approved the Minutes and JH seconded.

4. PLANNING:
4.1 Applications
3/23/1371 FUL Amended Proposed Floor Plans, Elevations/Site Plan and Location. The Cottage, Green End
Comments from Aubrey Holt: Clerk reported that the application had recently been withdrawn.

4.2 Decisions
3/23/1375/HH 3 Pearman Drive, Dane End, Ware, Hertfordshire SG12 0LW. 2 Storey rear extension incorporating Juliet balcony and insertion of 4 rooflights. 3 Pearman Drive, Dane End, Herts SG12 0LW. **Planning Permission granted.**

5. FINANCE

RECEIPTS 4/7/23- 18/09/23

Date	**For**	**Cheque No**	**£**
05/07/23	Festival Cash/Entrance fees etc	BACS	2325.96
08/07/23	J Harding Newsletter Ad	BACS	120.00
14/07/12	P Armstrong/Barbeque Meat	BACS	100.00
17/07/23	P Armstrong/Raffle Ticket sales	BACS	120.00
24/07/23	T Parker/Small Allotment	BACS	15.00
2/08/23	Astco Clothing Bank	BACS	22.50
7/08/23	P Armstrong/Donation from Mint Custom Bikes	BACS	1000.00
01/09/23	Astco Clothing Bank	BACS	30.00
04/09/23	A Spingett Allotment No 1	BACS	30.00
		Total:	**3863.46**

PAYMENT: 4/7/23-18/09/23

Date	**For**	**Cheque No**	**£**
5/07/23	Bridget Bs Ltd (barbeque)	BACS	490.00
05/07/23	J Morris/Newlttr Editor	BACS	420.00
06/07/23	Little Munden Memorial Hallx4	BACS	112.00
07/07/23	Herts Display/June Raffle Tckts	BACS	258.40
08/07/23	G Ward Clerks Fee/July	BACS	313.19
14/07/23	T Harding Festival Expense	BACS	82.81
14/07/23	G Ward Reimburse/Card Reader	BACS	29.99
19/07/23	The Big Generator Co/Festival	BACS	474.78
28/07/23	HMRC/Clerk PAYE	1287	110.00
29/06/23	The Monitors	BACs	400.00
31/07/23	P Armstrong/Festival Receipts	BACS	615.61
02/08/23	Herts Display/July Newsletter	BACS	93.00
02/08/23	LMMH/Planning Mtng/Hall Hire	BACS	24.00
05/08/23	G Ward Clerks Fee	BACS	361.00
07/08/23	HMRC	1288	55.00
25/08/23	Herts Display Aug N/lttr	BACS	111.60
09/09/23	G Ward Clerks Fee/Sept	BACS	296.50
		Total	**3848.87**

Deduct Payments from Current Account

Online balance on Current Account 18/09/23	**9893.01**
Balance Brought forward 3/7/23	9878.42
Less Payments	3848.87
Plus Receipts	3863.46
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Balance as at 18/09/23	**9893.01**

6. CORRESPONDENCE

30/08/23 Email from Aubrey Holt re reply to him from Diane Verona, Case Officer for Field Farm. Re movement of aggregate from Bayford Site to Field Farm. The Clerk reported that activity at the Farm had increased over the summer months. The emails regarding this had been forwarded to all Councillors and GW urged them to read before the next meeting.

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10/08/23 Email from Sally Roberts/Clerk GMPC. Re increased activity at Field Farm. Reply from Aubrey Holt

01/09/23 Email from Helen Knott, HCC Re A602 Walking and Cycling Event on Tuesday 26th September 23. Invitation to all PCs by email. No one was able to attend this event.

09/09/23 Email to and from Oliver Copsey re Defibrillator Awareness – working with Ollie potentially to hold public awareness training in the Village Hall. PC to publicise event. Date to be discussed as per Agenda.

13/09/21 The Cottage, Green End/new date and application amendment, comments from Aubrey Holt/Jackie Morris.

7. DEFIBRILLATOR AWARENESS TRAINING (see correspondence). Date to be set with Standon and Puckeridge First Responders and Ollie Copsey @ Village Hall. PC to organise venue and publicity. All were enthusiastic about this event which could also include Emergency First Aid for strokes and heart attacks. Date to be discussed shortly (October Meeting).

8. TO DISCUSS FUNDS FOR COMMUNITY PROJECTS: To be carried over to October Meeting

9. FORTHCOMING EVENTS AND DATES:

The following were events which needed dates set for: The Pensioners Lunch; Children in Need Walk (17/11/23!); Litter Picking:- SA agreed to get dates for these. Open Gardens for next year, all agreed that Sunday 23rd June 2024 all would be good. GW to advice Church. To be discussed further at the next meeting.

10. FLOODING UPDATE:

MG reported that she, TH and BS met with the Environment Agency in August and took them to all Flooding sites. At Whitehills they thought it was something to do with a well in a property's Garden which was constantly running. Also went to Sacombe/Tributary etc – were going to get in touch with the landowners as it is their responsibility. PA reported that he had spoken to WSP today and showed pictures of trees and metal bars that were stopping water getting through and they said they're not sure whether it is the responsibility of Highways. SA commented that there probably weren't enough houses in Sacombe to warrant doing anything structurally. MG went on to say that she was told that Grants were available but window for these had closed but they would check to see if this would be reopening. The other option would be Parish Council buying flood boards and PA said he had tried to get hold of the Parish Meeting Chairman about this as he had been told by one of the farmers that he was prepared to dig a ditch around the houses on Sacombe Pound to prevent the water going into the houses. SA reported that this had never been so bad as this before. BS saw Environment Agency had been looking at a ditch - PA said this was probably WPS – checking all the ditches. Seems that they were working together.

11 TO CONSIDER PARISH MATTERS FROM PARISHIONERS

LGS pointed out that she was deeply concerned about comments on Social Media over the summer regarding the The Boot and the Biker Nights. The bike nights were held over the summer and those attending had gone by 9 pm. Apparently, they had been told that there is CCTV evidence to show they had gone later than this which she said would like to see. She also read on Social Media that a Parish Councillor had sworn, PA admitted to this but LGS said that in that case it should have been followed through but there had been no complaint followed through. One of the neighbours had blocked the car park with his car, LGS said this was not only a Health and Safety issue but also a public nuisance issue. She went onto say that

you can't block a public car park without causing Health & Safety issues, and went onto to say that if they had an issue with this should come to the Council. LGS wanted to raise concerns about how this site was being run. The event was not only done during the summer holidays and it's purpose was to support the pub. There were several digs regarding the pub so the site does need monitoring. Wanted this to be minuted that Social Media was being used to post abusive posts about the pub and she felt that the site should be monitored by the Parish Council.

SC a resident at Corner Cottage said her partner couldn't park his van anywhere which is why he parked it in the driveway to the pub. He has a disabled badge and health issues.

LGS noted that she had photographic evidence of the van blocking the drive. PA described that things did get a bit heated but he had apologised for his language. but it was in response to things that had been said to him by a resident had not been very nice. PA said he wants to put a stop to all this tonight and went on to say that 9.15 pm had been the latest that people had left on their bikes. One night there was someone there until 10.30 but when he left he went very quietly. He went on to say that the Bike Nights had been very successful and residents had brought their children down and had a good time. SC said that no one had anything against the bikes.

A resident from sacombe reported that the bikes went at a sensible speed through Sacombe and went on to say that during the summer there are cars which come through Sacombe at break neck speed and has now taken to speaking to PCSOs to see how the traffic can be slowed down whereas the bikes were no nuisance at all and also they are supporting the local pub.

Jason had been very affected by the bike nights and reported that the amount of160 bikes in one night on the second Thursday, would break any risk assessment if in place. SA responded by saying the Police had looked at the Event as well as 2 Environmental Licensing Officers who were all happy with the site accommodating that many bikes as long as the bikes were not there after 11 pm. PA - When the police did come out they did not find a noise issue. Jason pointed out that they should have come round to his house and pointed out he lives in a 500 year old cottage with little sound insulation and that Jason the noise starts at 6 pm in the evening followed by 3 hrs of constant movement outside their house for 3 hours, and has be shout to be heard in his own house and no one has bothered to stand in driveway or in house.

SA pointed out that these occasions weren't breaking any laws and nothing had been advertised for 3 weeks now, since the summer holidays had ended. Motorbike riders are free to go there as it's a public house. She felt that some of the reaction was disproportionate and urged them to support this local business instead of making it difficult for them. There had been bullying comments on Facebook against the management of the Boot which were unacceptable. LGS felt that the Facebook page should be moderated possibly by the Parish Council.

From the floor, a resident commented that the new village signs look good. PA commented that the next signs to be done were Sacombe ones. Then will do the

other hamlets, Haultwick and Green End. BS was rewarded for his effort with a round of applause.

Mrs Penn suggested that a dog bin should be installed in Green End., the Clerk pointed out that dog bins are expensive and MG commented that you need to apply to the District Council as it is them who would empty it. From the floor pointed out that you can put dog waste in litter bins which is managed a street cleansing team in East Herts. LGS felt that people should be responsible and take their dog poo home and place in their black bin. Mrs Penn commented that she saw so many abandoned full dog poo bags hanging from trees. The Clerk commented that having one additional bin in Green End would'nt change that. She went on to say that the PC was already paying for 3 bins and described them as one at the bottom of the Baulk, one by Balfour Playground and the most recent one installed at the bottom of Horses' Meadow on Munden Road. She also pointed out that the Litterbins we have are already overflowing, the gentleman from East Herts said he would go and take a look at what we had in the way of Litter bins.

From the floor a resident suggested that the gate at Horses' Meadow be locked at night again. PA explained that some time peoples cars got locked in which is why this was stopped. PA suggested it could be locked at 6-7 pm at night and open again at 7.30 am in the morning.

From the floor, a resident asked if the PC have any clout regarding the state of the roads? Mrs Penn had been in touch with HCC regarding the pot holes on Whempstead Lane to be told that they are too narrow to be filled in. They suggested that she contact the local Councillor so she contacted Aubrey who said it wasn't his area and should contact Ken Crofton which she duly said. KC said to give reference nos and he would look into it. JH recommended that she take picture and location from What 3 Words and report on the Fault line website. PA said you can go online and report following which if there is an incident such as damage to a car by the previously reported pothole, the driver can claim compensation.

BP pointed out that before the A602 was completed Highways had promised to fill in potholes on the Whempstead Road once work had been completed. PA commented that he had spoken to Tilbury Douglas who reported that as soon as they have finished all ongoing work work then WSP will be going round and surveying everything such as Whempstead Lane etc. He went onto say that the Lane was supposed to have been dug up last month because of the drain problem and went on say they are still badly blocked despite PA and Tim Harding trying to dig out the ditches. Whempstead Lane will be surveyed and repaired shortly. Man from Saco said that a man from Ringway he had met said that the drainage ditch on side of his house would be cleared and tributary bridge going over to Bridget Borlaise's land would be done on the Tributary. They are also speaking to Chrispin Vaughan regarding the drainage ditch that goes around his property, which is his responsibility although PA had thought he had filled it in. LGS requested that this be held in abeyance due to her involvement. KM also noted that the flooding was getting bad again outside the Village Hall. SA also agreed with this. PA said that if you see flooding please telephone him and he will have a look. KM responded by saying whilst it was good that you do this, the Local Authority will not think it's necessary to come out. PA said it's better to have safety rather than waiting for the Council. BP

commented that there's also water that comes out from under salt bin manhole – PA explained that it comes out of the little man hole where there's a pipe that goes through to ditch but where the ditch has filled up with silt it's backed up to the pipe so water cannot escape. PA said we are continuing to look into how to stop the flooding and to report any if you see it, to him..

From the floor a resident commented on the cost the PC paid for a printer. The Clerk was happy to share receipts to the complainant who also complained that names of attendees making comments were not listed on the Minutes. The Clerk commented that she did not know everyone's name but would rectify this as much as possible.

SC enquired whether there was any news about the trees. PA Commented as yet nothing has come back, GW said she was not sure whether TH had passed letters onto Mr Duffy. SA seemed to think that she had but the Clerk will check with TH directly

BP asked why the trees planted in Nov 21 weren't looked after? PA commented that we weren't predicting a heat wave! The Clerk commented that the combinaton of a hot summer followed by extreme weather in the winter had been responsible for a number of losses. PA also commented that you can't water trees when they're young as then the roots won't grow down. From the floor it was suggested that the PC order the hedgerow packs from "Your Tree Our Future".

KM suggested listing The Boot as a Public Access. The Clerk acknowledged that this had already been done and the listing was still current. The pub was due to close on 11th November 23 and there was no one due to take it over as yet. LGS commented that there had been a lot of bad press against the Pub from people in the village. She wanted to say a huge good luck to anyone who does take it over and hope that everyone support who ever takes it over.

RP commented that they would be opening the Pumpkin Farm for Weekend of 14th 15th October and then 21st – 31st October 9.30 am – 4.30 pm

LGS wanted to minute a Huge Thank you to Gemma at The Boot for all the work she had put into the Boot and with her luck in what ever she does in the future.

KM suggested monthly activities for the Youth of the Village. To be discussed separately.

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

PA commented that the the oak tree had still not been replaced by a Sapling. The Clerk to check the date that this needed to be done by.

13. The Meeting was brought to a close at 8.55 pm. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: - Thursday 19th October 2023