LITTLE MUNDEN PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Meeting held on
15th February 2024
AT
8.00 pm in
LITTLE MUNDEN VILLAGE HALL

Present Cllrs: Tracey Harding (TH, Chair); Paul Armstrong (PA, Vice Chairman); Billy Summerson (BS); Jessica Harding (JH); Stephanie Armstrong (SA); Michelle Galvin (MG)
In attendance: Geraldine Ward (GW) Clerk; Aubrey Holt, EHDC (AH)
5 Members of the Public

1, APPROVAL FOR APOLOGIES OF ABSENCE:
Julie Hursey (JH); Ken Crofton (KC);

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS:
a) Declarations of interest from councillors on items on the agenda
None
b) Written requests for dispensations for declarable interests
None
c) Requests for dispensation as appropriate
None

3. MINUTES
To Approve Minutes of the Meeting held on 18th January 2024. The Minutes were approved as a true record, proposed by BS and seconded by SA Unanimously agreed.

4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:
From the floor there was a query on how the Christmas Decoration Competition Prize money was split. TH explained that the PC had agreed to split the money equally between competitors. She went on to say that Parishioners would be informed on how the rest of the money would be spent.

There was also a query regarding the replacement oak tree in Whiteley Close to replace the vandalised oak tree which had had a TPO on it. He thought that there was a 2 years window for the new tree to be planted. AH to follow up with EHDC. TH also commented that the replacement tree needed to be mature in age.

David Tomlin introduced himself as a resident since 1965 and a regular commuter between Dane End and Sacombe. Over the years there had been flooding but now residents have grown increasingly concerned with the recent flooding and with climate change, this will only get worse. Ken had informed him that the Parish Council was very keen to address flooding issues. TH confirmed that she had received DT's flooding photos. He reported that he had gone along to have a look at the situation today and could see that the land on the left handside of the road had been ditched along the highway. However, the ditch is blocked and therefore despite little rain today, water was escaping onto the highway. He went on to say that the ditch appears to be outside the boundary of the house and between the ditch

and the highway you can see where the water has been drained across the road with a small pipe which is blocked. On the other side of the road by the public right of way, the ditch there is blocked with an old tyre. Walking further along up to the Dane End Tributary, there is more debris in it.

DT Also commented that the Herts County Council agreed Budget for next year states that – "80 million will be spent on Highways improvement and transport including with focus of vegetation clearing, sign clearing, drainage and footway patching and that all will pay 5% extra on Council Tax towards paying for this". Felt that we are getting nowhere with this put paying more.

DT also commented on the signpost by the Telecom Exchange – PA explained that he was planning on repairing this and others. A member of the public reported that surely this wasn't up to the Parish Council. TH pointed out that the faults with the highest hits going high up the list, although all were sceptical whether this was true. PA had asked Ringway if they could help and had given them a couple of reconditioned poles.

A resident also enquired about what was happening with the Home Farm development. TH confirmed that the developers had gone into liquidation, so it was now the property of the state, although it is being resold. Discussion ensued as to whether the new buyers would need to apply for new Planning Permission. The permission was given in July 21 so technically it could run out in July this year although whoever purchases the site could argue that building had started. There could also be potentially an issue with the site producing more traffic which could be a hazard with the worsening flooding.

From the floor, it was pointed out that the shop had reported that a resident was using their commercial bin for throwing in their household rubbish/recycling and also using as a dog poo bin.

5. PLANNING:
3/23/2311/FUL: Retrospective Planning Permission: Keepers Cottage, Great Munden. Built on agricultural land without Planning Permission. This had been forwarded by Great Munden Parish Council. All agreed this would set a dangerous precedent if Planning Permission was granted. TH to get more clarification from GMPC

6. FINANCE

RECEIPTS

DATE	**FROM**	**FOR**	**CH NO**	**£**
03/02/24	TP Buildings	12 months N/l Advert	BACS	130.00
16/01/24	Astco Clth Bank	Clothing Recycle	BACS	21.00

PAYMENTS

15/01/24	Carol Collins	Xmas Dec Prize	1294	200.00

15/01/24	Herts Display	Dec Newsletter	BACS	111.60
24/01/24	HMRC	Clerks PAYE	1295	55.00
04/02/24	Herts Display	Jan Newsletter	BACS	173.00
04/02/24	Comm Heartbeat	Defib Annual Support	BACS	151.20
10/02/24	G Ward	Clerks Fee Feb	BACS	270.75
		Total		**961.55**

Deduct Payments from Current Account

Online balance on Current Account 13/02/24	**12627.02**
Balance Brought forward 12/01/24	13437.57
Less Payments	961.55
Plus Receipts	151.00
Balance as at 13/02/24	**12627.02**

All payments were duly authorised and dated by the Chairman.

7. PARISH MATTERS

Hoses' Meadow Portakabin

PA commented that The Portakabin would be moved onto Horses' Meadow next Thursday. To discuss further after meeting.

Highways

The junction on the A602 was discussed and all agreed that this needs to be lit at night to avoid potential collisions. TH said she has raised this and would follow up.

PA also advised that tributary alongside Sacombe end was completely blocked now. TH had been in touch with Environment Agency who had said they clear the Tributary but unfortunately hadn't cleared the whole of it. SA said that a couple of landowners commented that water backing up onto fields were now affecting their crops. TH also commented that there had been a grant last year for ½ million pounds which was for Water Management which landowners could apply for. They can then build their own drainage system as well as a pooling system whereby they can use surplus water during dry periods. This would be included as a suggestion at the meeting. DT went along public path to footbridge which is also in a dangerous state.

From the floor a resident reported that there was parking on the pavements throughout the Estate. TH had reported this before, but the Council didn't want to know. The Council feel that there are more cars now since the estate was first built and aren't interested in improving matters. MG commented, that if parking was

provided it would make the road very narrow and would be difficult for cars to pass each other.

8. TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

None.

9. CORRESPENDENCE

1/2/24 Invitation to East Herts Environmental & Climate Forum
Monday 11th March 2024, 7 – 8:30pm
8/2/24 Email from David Tomlin re Flooding at Sacombe and photos.
9/2/24 forwarded by Ken Crofton re: Annual Meeting of Herts Parish, Town and Community Councils
11/2/24 Email from Vicky Thomson re Road Cleaning/forwarded to Drew Betts and reply
9/2//24 Email from Sara Saunders, re Invitation to Town and Parish Council Forum 13/3/24
12/2/24 Email from Ken Crofton/Invitation to Luke Gibbons to Flooding Meeting on 19/2/24

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

BS wondered who was responsible for clearing the Tributary in the Village and had only seen it cleared out once.

BS thought it was possible that Parking Permits would be introduced so only residents could park outside houses. TH didn't think this could be enforced. BS suggested an officer would have to be employed. Stevenage had such a scheme. BS also wondered whether anything had happened about the wall that had been knocked down. JH had tried to get a copy of someone's Deeds. GW thought it may have been the builders who had knocked it down. It would be good to get a copy of the Deeds. DT thought that the walls probably are on the Deeds of the houses as they would have been sold when the Estate was first built. TH to check with Bevan Trundle to see if he can shed some light on the matter.

BS queried the assumption that property had "the right to light" however TH disagreed and said that rules are only imposed if the trees are touching property.

10. KEY DATES/EVENTS COMING UP:-

The following upcoming events were discussed:
6th June 24: International Tribute Day. TH reported that a fire would be lit on Horses' Meadow at 9.15 pm in line with the Nation.
8th June 24: 40s Dance Night, this would also involve dressing up in 1940s attire.
23rd June 2024: Open Gardens Scheme. TH reported that there was some interest already. It also coincided with the Hall's 100th Anniversary and the School Fete. SA thought time for fete only a couple of hours.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: -

The Meeting was brought to a close at 20:56. The next meeting will be held on 21st March 2024.

Signed…….. Dated……..