LITTLE MUNDEN PARISH COUNCIL
Annual Parish Meeting 28TH April 2022

MINUTES of the Annual Parish Council meeting held on 28th April 2022 at Dane End Memorial Hall.

Present: Tracey Harding (TH); Paul Armstrong (PA); David Hart (DH); Claire Monk (CM); Billy Summerson (BS); Julie Hursey (JH); - Councillors; Geraldine Ward (GW) – Clerk.

IN ATTENDANCE: Andrew Huggins (AH); Ken Crofton (KC); Brian Jackson (BJ); Chris Jones (CJ); Derek Wheeler (DW)

Apologies for absence:

1. WELCOME
Copies of the Agenda and End of Year Accounts were circulated. TH welcomed everyone to the Meeting and thanked all for attending.

2. TO APPROVE MINUTES OF THE APM OF 20th May 2021
The Minutes of the previous Annual Parish Council meeting held on 20th May 2021 were confirmed as a true record of that meeting. The minutes were proposed by JH and seconded by CM as a true and correct account of the meeting.

3. TO DEAL WITH MATTERS ARISING FROM THOSE MINUTES
None

4. TO RECEIVE THE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR THE YEARS 21/22
TH agreed to continue as Chairman for another year and presented the Chair's Report as follows:

"What a strange time we have been living through once again with Covid. We now seem to be seeing the roots of normality forming once again. We do however have to bear in mind some people within our community are still struggling mentally with what they have lived through over the last 3 years. But I know we have a fantastic community and we will keep supporting people whenever there is a need.

Development of Home Farm Farmyard

We have been notified that Home Farm Development has now been sold. We are still awaiting information on the developer and once we have this we will commence

talks re the pedestrian access through the village with the resin footpath and other traffic calming issues.

Unauthorised development at Wheelwrights Farm

This is still ongoing but the Parish Council are in close contact with the residents of Rowney Lane and will continue to offer support.

Horses' Meadow Play Equipment

We are still planning to apply for grants for the redevelopment of HM with the proposal for play equipment for smaller children near the bottom end of the meadow and also relocating/replacing the bigger older equipment at the top of the field.

Drug Issues

We continue to shut the outer gate at night to try and to discourage youngsters' cars from going into the car park. This has been effective and we will continue to monitor this going into the summer months. We have also purchased a night vision camera and if the drug dealing commences once again we will put up in HM and information will be passed to the police. We have recently met with the Rural Police Team and discussed residents' concerns over the continuing problems, the discussion was very informative and we have hope moving forward that by working together we can improve the situation. We do urge anyone who witnesses anything linked to this behaviour to report it to the anonymous crime stoppers number or on 101.

Dog poo

Still an ongoing issue, we have bins provided and notices up once again if the cameras do catch people not clearing up after their dogs this information will be passed to the Dog Warden for prosecution.

Traffic Calming

Hertfordshire Highways agreed as part of the redevelopment of Home Farm to move the 30mph speed sign and also install traffic calming. Now the site has finally been sold we will make contact with the developer and discuss how and when these new measures will be put in place. We will also discuss the resin path proposed to go through the village and see what can be done about rejecting that idea on safety grounds.

Church and Parish newsletter

Discussions between the PC, the Church and the editor with a view to considering revisions to the format, including the possibility of paid-for ads to help fund its publication, have been on hold due to Covid but discussions will once again take place with Reverend Chitham and the PC to look at the best way forward.

We have recently planted Queens Wood in the area between Kings Wood and the School. We will soon be arranging for a plaque to be put in place and a bench for residents to sit on and enjoy the view. The front of the wood will be planted with wild flower seed and conversations are taking place between the Farm Manager and PC to get this completed.

Rest & Welcome, Haultwick

Still no change, no new plans have been submitted. Discussions between the owners to take place and the PC will assist them in any way they can to ensure a positive outcome.

Village Signage

The new signs have been bought and the wooden gates are being constructed. The new signs to go up shortly.

Village Planting

We have had another successful year, planting up areas around Church Lane, Windy Rise, in front of the War Memorial and Munden Road. Year on year the flowers are looking fantastic and brings some early joy to the village in Spring.

Jubilee Event

Plans are now in place and a working committee has been formed. We are in contact with FOLM to ensure the children in the surrounding area are also involved in what will be a memorable event. We hope the weather holds and as many residents in the surrounding areas come along to make this a truly memorable event.

Highways/A602

We are in constant talks with Highways about the state of our roads, battling weekly to get the pot holes filled and the roads improved. We recently managed to get Sacombe Hill resurfaced which the local community had been battling for the last 10 years. 1 win but many more battles are still ongoing.

Whempsted Road will not be repaired until the A602 is completed later this year. We are now probably looking at early summer before the A602 is finally finished. This means we have a very short window to get the other road repairs completed before the winter.

Play area/Whitely Close

To apply for a grant we have to speak with the local community to gauge what equipment they would like to see in place. This information then needs to be fed in with the grant application. A suggestion has been put on Spotted in Dane End and local adjacent home owners have been written to for consultation.

Horses Meadow Goal Posts

We have purchased new 7 a side goal posts that have been delivered and we are now in the process of getting the grass cut and lines drawn up on the field to show the new football area. Hopefully it will be enjoyed by many of the children going forward.

Open Cinema

Our first open cinema seemed to go very well, we will be looking to host another one soon.

Drug Dealing

This continues to be a problem in the village, the Parish Council is in talks with the local Police but we do urge anyone who witnesses anything linked to this behaviour to report it to the anonymous crime stoppers number.

Finally

I would like to formally thank Gerry our Clerk for all the extra work she carries out on our behalf. A lot of this goes unnoticed but is much appreciated. I would like to formally thank Ken Crofton for his generous donation to our 'Open Cinema' event and general day to day support provided when l have questions. l would like to thank the other members of the Parish Council for their commitment to making our Parish such a lovely place to live in, we are beginning to see the various projects coming to fruition. Lastly, l would like to thank all the Parishioners who both within our Parish and in the villages of Sacombe and Great Munden & High Cross, we have seen the beginning of shared ideas and support for various things over the last year and would like to see these links grow stronger as a collective we will have a lot more say over our Parishes. Thank you to all involved in making this happen.

Councillor Tracey Harding

Chair

5. TO RECEIVE AND IF FELT FIT TO APPROVE THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR 2021/22

Copies of the Financial Statement had been circulated to the Parish Councillors.
All Parish Councillors attending the Meeting approved the Financial Statement 21/22.
The Financial Statement was approved by all Councillors.

6. TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM ORGANISATIONS WITHIN THE PARISH

6.1 BADMINTON CLUB

The Covid pandemic had less effect on the badminton this year compared with last year. All groups have played every week, except during the December lockdown. Everybody has been very vigilant and self-isolated if they or a member of the household has returned a positive test result. We have followed Government and Badminton England advice and no cases of Covid were ascribed to our activities. All those that played before the pandemic have returned and some new members have been added.

There are twenty two regular junior players and six regular seniors. The juniors play over five sessions on Thursday and Friday evenings. The two Thursday and first two Friday groups are my coaching sessions with the 7.30 Friday group consisting of the most able players. The standard of play is rather high and play is fast and furious! Several youngsters have recently moved up to this session and are upping their game to meet the standard of the other players.

All the players, young and old, thoroughly enjoy badminton here, despite the limitations of the hall. I am looking for opportunities to take them to courts with a higher roof where we can play some different shots.

Everyone is delighted with the floor; it's non-slip and the lines are straight!

6.2 LITTLE MUNDEN CRICKET CLUB

Chris Jones delivered a report from Little Munden Cricket Club and reported that the Club had had a successful season despite poor results – this meant there was no threat of promotion! He went on to say that they had a great pool of players to pick from who bring also bring their friends to join in and he was also glad to report that the Club was financially viable. Last August Bank Holiday the Club had it's regular game with the Boot. It was most successful and the Boot made a good amount of money for their chosen charity.

He reported that there was an important event coming up to commemorate the Centenary of the Pavilion. To recognise this milestone they were trrying to push to do work on the building in the way of rebuilding and refurbishments. TH asked when this work was likely to take place and whether volunteers were needed to help. Chris suggested he could put something in the Newsletter to publicise the event.

6.3 THE VILLAGE HALL

Derek Wheeler, Treasure of the Memorial Hall, began his report by pointing out that the Hall was subject to about £2.5-3 K fixed costs per year. Mostly comprising of electricity and insurance. He went on to report that Badminton has come back strongly from the Pandemic but there is not much activity otherwise and added that there had been a couple of thousand loss but another Covid grant was received for 3200 and floor cost £2600, so £400 for a brand new floor.

He went on to say downside is the ceiling needs doing which unfortunately is a large job because it needs scaffolding. He hadn't got round to getting quotes and supposed that it wouldn't be cheap as it was a large job. TH suggest whether there were any grants available. AH suggested that there were grants from East Herts available and cited the example of £8000 being obtained to bring the pavilion in Cottered back into use. Community grant opens in May so that is a possibility.

Trying to get back some of the groups who used before and also have the 2 table tennis tables that were acquired before Covid and have never been used. TH suggested contacting Rambler Groups who do a lot of walks here and could stop and use the facilities the Hall could offer. Cycling Groups could also be booked in for teas. Maybe something to consider as. Watton at Stone Ramblers could walk over this way. A problem with the Hall and was pointed out also by the CDA representative was that it wasn't very visible to passer-byes and that it needed "Curb Appeal". TH queried whether there were enough people on the Committee to help out. DW felt that there would be more party bookings now we had come out of Covid.

East Herts Jubilee Grant is available, not final decision yet from Claire Pullen. Continue to work with 3 traveller sites. East Herts like a lot of local Authorities around the country are having a few staff shortages. Will continue to have problems with bin collections and planning matters. He went on to say that if anything gets excessive would need to be flgged with AH so that he can send onto an officer. He went onto say that Ken had been Chairman of East Herts council for the last year.

There was a variation of condition on the Home Farm Planning. TH pointed out that the access to the grain store was the same as the one which was rejected for the Lagoon Planning. However Planning would not get involved with this as there was no planning required for an Agricultural building. Should have signage up there as people coming up the hill will not know there is a junction. Hertford Leisure Centre has been greatly improved and the new swimming pool open. Change of boundaries will make residents numbers

more equal between wards. Initial proposals are now out and Little Munden continues to be linked with Great Munden but joins Westmill/Sacombe and Bengeo Rural so it is quite a rural patch.

6.4 Report from Ken Crofton, County Councillor

Ken apologies for lateness and thanked the Parish Council for asking him.
He went on to deliver a report called: “What does your Council Council do
For you. A copy of this is attached to the Minutes.

AH commented on development issues in East Herts which would consist of limited infill until the big planning issues which will take place 2033, the large one be Gilston and some other large ones in Hertford. KC commented 1.8 million tree were being planted around Hertfordshire by the Council.

TH reiterated her thanks to KC for the donation towards the Open Air Cinema Event in September 2021 and that the funds were most appreciated. She also thanked KC for answering all her queries as they had come up throughout the year.

7. TO DEAL WITH ITEMS OF ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Paul had come across a message via the Website, regarding the graveyards at Sacombe and Dane End from a lady who was now living in New Zealand. The Clerk to try and source this message and answer queries.

8. TO RECEIVE AND NOTE COMMENTS FROM PARISHIONERS
None.

9. The APM was brought to a close at 9.03 pm.

Signed:_____ Date:_____
Chairman