LITTLE MUNDEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 20th January 2022 at 8pm IN LITTLE MUNDEN VILLAGE HALL

1. Present: Tracey Harding (TH); Claire Monk (CM); Julie Hursey (JH); Billy Summerson (BS);
In Attendance:); Geraldine Ward, Clerk; (GW); Andrew Huggins (AH); Ken Crofton (KC)
Members of the Public: 4

Apologies: Paul Armstrong (PA); Colleen Coelco (CC); David Hart (DH); Debbie Petit (DP); Elizabeth Gregg-Smith (EGS)

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
None

3. TO APPROVE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 18th November 2021
The Minutes were proposed by TH and seconded by JH

4.1 New Applications

3/21/2892/HH One Ash, Frogs Hall Lane, Haultwick
Single storey side link extension. 16/12/21

3/21/3136/VAR Welgelegen, The Street, Haultwick, Ware, Herts SG11 1JQ
Erection of a single dwelling. Removal of condition 2 (Agricultural occupancy restriction). Welgelegen, The Street, Haultwick, Herts SG11 1JQ

4.2 Decisions

3/21/2449/ARPN Welgelegen, The Street, Haultwick, Ware, Herts SG11 1JQ
Change of use of agricultural building to Class C3 for 1 dwelling house. Awaiting decision. Refused

5. FINANCE

Receipts and Payments 14/9/21-5/10/21		**£**
8/12/21	Ken Crofton Grant for Outdoor Cinema Event	928.00
11/12/21	Book payment/Sylvester x 2	8.00

Date	**Payment to**	**Ch No**	**Amount**
19/11/21	M&H Inns (The Boot) Hospitality		130.10
29/11/21	L Agland (Lauren) Litter Picker	S/O	48.55
29/11/21	C Monk Reimburement Saplings Queens Green Canopy initiative		111.92
10/12/21	G Ward Clerks Fees December		255.00
10/12/21	Herts Display Oct/Nov 21 Newsletters		443.60
13/12/21	T Harding re Christmas Lights		89.40

29/12/12	L Agland (Lauren) Litter Picker	S/O	48.55
4/1/22	HMRC Nov/Dec payment	1267	110.00
4/1/22	Castle Water		227.70
7/1/22	G Ward Clerks Fee Jan 22		255.00
		TOTAL	**1719.82**

Online balance on Current Account 14/01/22	14179.42
Balance Brought forward 14/11/21	14963.24
Less Payments	1719.82
Plus Receipts	936.00
Balance as at 14/1/22	**14179.42**

NB: The Chairman thanked Ken Crofton for his support with the Outdoor Cinema Event.

6.1 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED/SENT

5/12/21 Email from TH to Julia Carter confirming planting day at Queens Wood
TH had emailed Julia Carter that week to inform her of that the Planting would be going ahead on the following Sunday and they would be welcome to attend.
7/12/21 Email from Julia Carter with copy of sample licence for Queens Wood
8/12/21 East Herts Council – confirmation of application for registering a Community Asset. The Clerk confirmed that a decision would be made in the first week of February.
29/12/21 Email from Isobel Cooper/Savills with estimated costs for land valuation, Horses' Meadow
5/1/22 Email from TH to all Councillors re 2022 Projects
7/1/22 forwarded copy of Julia Carter's sample Licence for Queens Wood to Stephen Ward and his comments recommendations. The PC agreed that this was not suitable for the woodland and would give little to protect the area for the communities of the future.
8/1/21 Herts Lynx December Report. To go on Website.
10/2/22 Parish Council Websites/email from Lauren Hinton with support website Login details
10/1/22 Email to Stuart Kirkham/Kirkham Contracting regarding request to quote for creation of new allotments.
11/1/22 Re Sacombe Green/Highways:- Email from Martyn Dewhurst to Stephanie Dodds re joining gaps/repair Rowney Lane
13/1/22 Email from Dan Kennoy requesting update on repair to Mill Lane/reply from TH
14/1/22 Email from Jonathan Pool re Jubilee Walk

6.2 LATE POST

7. SET PRECEPT FOR 22/23

Discussion took place regarding whether the Precept should be raised. The Council decided not to raise it due to the poor economic climate. Also there would not be such large expenditure this year, particularly regarding the Allotments and Horses' Meadow. It was agreed that projects could be funded by grants instead. The resolution was passed that the Precept would remain at £9430 for 22/23.

8. NEW PROJECTS 2022

- BS had been investigating new football posts for Horses' Meadow. He reported that he had done some research and had looked at ones that could be locked into the ground.

  TH had been looking at grants to fund this project and had logged onto the Football Foundation site. She found out that a grant application would require a survey of the land in question. BS had also spoken to someone re examples of goals – one on wheels and one that folds down. He reported that he was looking at a 16x7 size appropriate for nine-a-side games. These would be made of aluminium.

  Some concerns were raised as to the safety of the goals with regards to potential theft although BS thought that locking the goal posts into the ground should prevent this.

  TH had also written to Stevenage Football Club regarding this and KC suggested contacting Sport England for possible funding ideas . He added that it was best to get them involved first before before sourcing the money as they may be able to help with this.

- CM suggested Summer flowering bulbs for the Autumn. The telephone plot was suggested by TH to make the plot more of a feature. CM felt it would give it a feel of being a nice welcome area at the start of the village.

10. QUEENS WOOD TERMS OF LEASE OR LICENCE

TH explained that the Parish Council was looking at working with the Carters to get a longer term plan regarding the area. TH had looked at the basic Lease that Lady Carter had forwarded which was just a licence with no protection for the planted wood for future generations. GW suggested that it would be better with a long term lease with a peppercorn rent similar to the one on Horses' Meadow.

From the floor Mr Teare questioned whether there was a planting plan and also pointed out the danger of the trees being destroyed by deer. TH reassured the meeting that there would be a maintenance plan particularly in the first 5 years and that the trees did come with protectors from the Woodland Trust.

CM pointed out that 105 Woodland Trust saplings were to be planted and six apple trees would be at the front/western boundary and that the trees were a year round colour pack including a variety of mixed trees.

Mr Teare also questioned what the plan was with Kingwoods where the bicycle ramps had been as the area was getting so dangerous. TH explained that the Carters had had great concerns over health and safety issues. They are still happy for people to walk through there but wanted to remove this element from there and try to re-establish the woodland as it was. JH pointed out that all the undergrowth

such as the wild garlic had been destroyed. CM pointed out that if the bike riding continued then the area would be closed off.

Mrs Teare questioned whether there was anyone who could be contacted in the event of anti-sociable activity and TH informed him that there was an Estate Office at Lordship Farm.

JT pointed out that he had 15 sapling trees which he would be happy to donate including oak, horse chestnut and silver birch. TH explained that people from the villages would be helping with the planting and their trees would be labelled and plotted on a map to encourage children to look after them and watch them grow in the years ahead. All the trees would be plotted on the Queens Green Canopy Map. KC concurred that something should be drawn up to protect the trees and that maintenance plans should be put in place**.**

11. EVENTS FOR PLATINUM JUBILEE 3-6 JUNE 22

TH explained that the PC had decided to hold the proposed event on Sunday 5th June as people were busy with Clubs on the Saturday. The PC was currently looking at holding a Classic Car Show and had asked for people to pass ideas on. One idea was a vegetable competition. In the evening consideration was being given for an open air cinema or local bands and a barbeque. Liz McGill had expressed and interest in the plans so TH would meet with her shortly.

GW suggested asking the Boot for recommendations of bands. TH was also in contact with the Deputy Leiutenant, Sally Burton at Sacombe who had also expressed an interest in the Jubilee celebrations as well. GW suggested getting Great Munden involved too and TH said she would contact the Church to see if were planning anything.

12. ALLOTMENT MATTERS / FEE INCREASE

The Clerk pointed out that Watton Parish Council charge £30.00 for a large plot and £15.00 for a small one. LMPC were charging a lot less and in view of the fact that there was still work to be done it seemed right to increase the fees

JP had emailed the Clerk and suggested that Jubilee Walk needed a tidy-up. It would also be nice to get it cleared up for the Jubilee Celebrations. TH suggested having a clearup day which other villages do whereby paths could be cleared of debris to make them less slippy. The Clerk said she would get Jubilee walk on the Annual cutting schedule. And was to meet Stuart Kirkham (grass cutting contractor), shortly to look the creation of he new allotments. TH also suggested having a tidy up day in the village which would include washing the road signs.
All resolved to increase the allotment fees to at least £30 for a large plot and £15 for a small one.

13. RECEIVE NOTICE OF ANY OTHER BUSINESS FROM PARISH COUNCILLORS AND TO DEAL WITH THOSE MATTERS IF APPROPRIATE

- **TPO ORDER**
  JH said that further to contacting the TPO Officer to report the continued vandalisation of the oak tree in Whiteley Close, the Council had only responded to say that as the TPO Officer had not been around the enquiry could not be dealt with. He had already been served notice and therefore they should enforce that. JH to forward email for TH to chase up on it.

  The Clerk had already emailed the officer continuously last year and had not got a reply. It would appear that no TPO work appears to be getting done at EHDC. This also has an implication on all the other trees with protection orders on them which could well be endangered due to the increase building and development works throughout the area.
  ACTION: TH

CASTLE WATER

- Complaints about Castle Water were ongoing with over charging and no consistency in what their billing. The Clerk had switched off the water in November for the winter but despite this a huge bill had been presented to the Council. TH to take it up with the Omudsman, she had also requested that an Engineer come out and meet with her.

HIGHWAYS/ROADS

- TH had also been messaging Highways regarding Sacombe Hill. She explained that Highways had come out before Christmas to do patching although residents weren't impressed. A contractor was now due to revisit and resurface it. She pointed out that as they were private contractors it was not in their interest to complete the work.

  CM enquired about the state of the road signs and TH confirmed that Highways no longer replace them so it would be an added expense for the Parish Council to get replacements. TH was however going to order some the metal signs from a company in Widford. BS would frame these signs in wood to make the entrances to the village more inviting.

  TH would chase up PA regarding the bench at the top of Windy Rise to see if it had been completed yet. TH would be looking at Herts Supplies as a possible supplier as their prices are quite reasonable.

  TH had had a response back from Phil Bibby Executive member of Herts Highways and transport following complaints of last weekends A602 closures and traffic issues. .He had apologised that closures hadn't gone to plan last weekend and stated that traffic had been rerouted onto a number of rural roads. He wrote offering sincere apologies for the impact this had caused.

  KC stated that everyone who had put in a complaint about these issues had been responded to and concurred that it was a huge mess up by both the contractors and Highways. The drivers, following their satnavs had used their satnavs for alternative country lane routes. There should have been someone blocking the Tonwell road to stop this from happening. KC commented that there had been lots of discussions following this including his own discussions

with Phil Bibby. KC also pointed out that there would be a couple more closures. TH responded that she wanted clear dates of when this would occur, planned diversion routes including reroutes for HGVs. made it clear to HC that she wanted dates, planned diversion routes including reroutes for HGVs.

With regards to Whempstead Lane, TH also pointed out that just before the barns on Whempstead Lane there was a dip on the bank with nothing supporting it. There was a danger that the whole bank would give way and there was quite a drop below it. This could be particularly dangerous for buses. CM suggested that the lanes should have been made safe before the work had taken place. TH felt that as things are if nothing is done there will be a fatal accident up there. CM also said that other areas of Hertfordshire there are few white give way lines on the road. KC said they are doing thousands of lines everywhere but not with paint, just spray so they don't last. He also pointed out that this work can't be done in the wet but continue to complain to hopefully get done eventually. they will be done but continue to complain.

TH also mentioned that on the double S bend on the Whempstead Road there Is a drain there which should be kept clear and the build up of debris taken away. TH reiterated that there should be constant badgering to make it safer on the road.

Discussion then took place about the raised tree roots along the pavement in Kingsfield Road which had already caused someone to fall. KC suggested that the fault line should be used to report these on. He did say that he would escalate anything that got ignored

TH noted that many areas in Hertford were now 20 mph. She felt this would be a good thing to implement in Dane End. CM queried where it would be – from the shop up through the village. KC commented that these were normally in front of schools and road junctions. He said he was completely opposed to this idea as there were too many applications and it is completely non imposable, people will ignore it and he went on to say that there are 430 applications in for consideration at the moment. He went on to say that that perhaps there would be other routes which could be looked at along Munden Road. TH would have a look at other villages to see what possibilities there are. The possibility of speed bumps were also discussed i.e. could have them at the start of the village. KC suggested that it may be possible for the new people at Highways to come out and take a look to suggest options.

- **HORSES MEADOW**
  TH also informed the meeting that she had put in an offer for the land at Horses' Meadow on behalf of the Parish Council. The offer was based on a rental value of £40 for the 80-year lefts on it. The hope was that he would sign it over to the Parish Council to ensure that no one else could buy the land. As the family also had a long link to the village this could be named Trundles meadow and a plaque put on to signify their gift! If this could be secured that would be marvellous for the village for the future.

- **FLOODING**

  TH suggested that in March/April it would be a good idea to pull landowners together with Highways and the PC. Mill Lane is making good progress and once it's dry they will dig and clear the ditches. The cement bags will be put over where the bank was taken out to stop water breaching into road.

  TH also reported that by the Telephone Exchange 3 drains are blocked and the gully needs digging out. As it's Common Land, the council will have to do this. With Sacombe ditches need to be put in to take water down to the Tributary. Also the Village Hall, had been done a few years ago but hadn't been maintained.

  JH pointed out once these jobs had been done roads would be easier then to maintain.

- **TREE ISSUES**

  From the floor, a parishioner commented that a number of trees on Easington and Kingfield had decreased significantly. A number had been felled over the last few years and queried whether there were any plans to replace these. TH felt this was a good idea if they were the right trees as the existing trees had got very large. It was suggested that they could be replaced by smaller ornamental trees. TH felt this was something to bring up with Parishioners and the Clerk to action a something in the Newsletter about this. Once put in, if maintained the trees would then just have to be maintained.

14. TO CONSIDER PARISH MATTERS FROM PARISHIONERS
None

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: - Thursday 17th March 2022
The Meeting was brought to a close at 9.24 pm.

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CHAIR **DATE**