

## LITTLE MUNDEN PARISH COUNCIL

### MINUTES of the meeting of the Parish Council (PC) held on 20<sup>th</sup> February 2020 at Little Munden Memorial Hall at 8.00 pm.

**1. ATTENDANCE:** Tracey Harding (TH) Chairman; David Hart (DH); Julie Hursey (JH); Billy Summerson (BS) Claire Monk (CM); Paul Armstrong (PA); Colleen Coelho (CC) – Councillors; Geraldine Ward – Clerk.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Andrew Huggins (AH), District Councillor; Mike Hurst and Peter Walters – representing Hertfordshire Stages Rally.

**2. APOLOGIES:** None

### **3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None

### **4. CO-OP NEW COUNCILLORS**

Paul Armstrong (PA) and Collen Coelho (CC) were duly co-opted onto the Parish Council.

### **5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 16<sup>th</sup> January 2020**

The minutes were proposed by DH and seconded by JH.

**5.1 Fence outside old shop** – ongoing and AH was investigating this for the PC. TH to send more photos to him. She thought that the plans of the property had shown a footpath across the front when planning had been put in to convert to a shop.

ACTION: TH

### **5.2 Home Farm Farmyard – proposed development**

TH commented that the February date had now been and gone and the Council were still awaiting a decision. AH commented that he had been called into a meeting with the Head of planning who explained the situation with regards to the development and that Home Farm's proposed development was recommended for refusal. There had been a subsequent meeting with the developer the following day to inform them. It was now up to them to decide what to do and they agreed to accept an extension period undefined but would probably be a couple of months. AH explained that the plans had been recommended for refusal due to the mixed use of the site. EHC also didn't believe it was appropriate to develop 38 houses when the site has 25% agricultural use. He queried whether this would be reflected in total number of houses the development would have to decrease to ie 25%. He went on to say that what is likely to happen is that they will put in an updated proposal and it will come back via the usual planning route. They could also decide to take this refusal to appeal instead of resubmitting.

TH queried whether if they came back with a new plan for less houses then would the whole process start again. AH confirmed that it would with a new Consultation period.

### **5.3 Horses Meadow Play Equipment**

Carried forward for the time being.

### **5.4 Newsletter Advertising Manager**

Carried forward for the time being.

### **5.5 Traffic Calming**

TH commented that she had written to Ken Crofton again to request funds for Sids. Unfortunately there were not funds available at the moment for this expenditure. She had also spoken to the Police Commissioner regarding the incidence of cars racing through the village, and had been assured that this was being addressed. Mark Jenkins the new PCO had reported that some cars are now being now being spot checked late at night to get an understanding why they are there.

TH suggested that we publicise that the Police are active in the area and advertise this in the Newsletter. TH also mentioned that the Neighbourhood Watch should be more made aware of.

**ACTION: DH**

### **5.6 Village Signage**

TH commented that Highways had wanted until January before their report would be ready which had now passed. TH to chase them up.

## **6. PLANNING**

### **6.1 New Applications**

#### **3/20/0172/FUL**

Erection of detached one bedroom bungalow. Land Adjacent to Welgelegen, The Street, Haultwick, Ware, Herts. Comments by 24<sup>th</sup> February 2020.

TH had been asked by property owners for the Parish Council to support the application. However she commented that this would set a precedent and they need to put the planning in first and work with the Planning officer who they have been assigned to. It was not for the Parish Council to act on this.

#### **3/20/0177/FUL**

Change of use of land to a mixed use to use for the stabling/keeping of horses and as a residential caravan site for 4 Gypsy families/mobile homes. Erection of 2 amenity buildings. Wheelwrights Farm, Rowney Lane, Dane End, Ware Herts. Comments by 24<sup>th</sup> February.

TH said that the Parish Council was still offering support to residents of Rowney Priory and had notified Ken Crofton of this application.

TH urged all Parish Councillors to submit objections to this. AH explained that the gypsy family on the land were originally granted planning for one caravan on appeal. However they have continued to expand the hard standing, and had also installed a huge septic tank and the electrics were in place to supply many caravans. He went on to point out that the gypsy family who had put in planning aren't currently living there although there were people staying in the stable. A Temporary stop notice and a breach of conditions had been put on by EHC informing them to put back the site to the original plan for one caravan. However the following day they put in an application for 4 caravans as above. EHC then got an injunction to stop them moving any more caravans on site before a decision is

made on the current application. TH commented that if they leave the hard standing as it is, there is a danger that on appeal the inspector may sway in favour of the application as the hard standing would already be there. AH commented on the fact that the original appeal was granted on the basis that the site would accommodate just one family and they have gone on to increase the numbers. AH commented that the horses were delivered to the site recently to claim that they are established as keeping horses on the site. **ACTION: TH**

### **3/10/0259/LBC**

Minor alterations to outbuilding for conversion into disabled accommodation. To include bedroom, ensuite shower room, 3 roof lights and a new roof. Erection of single storey timber frames link building between main dwelling and converted outbuilding, with ramped access and new levelled access door. Orchard Cottage, Green End, Dane End, Ware, Herts. Comments by 9<sup>th</sup> March 2020.

### **3/20/0342/PNHH**

Demolish conservatory and replacement extension. Depth 5.35 metres. Max height 3.2 metres. Eaves height 2.4 metres.

## **6.2 Decisions**

### **3/19/2584/HH**

Single storey rear, side and front extensions. 18 Easington Road, Dane End, Ware, Herts SG12 0LX. Planning permission refused.

## **7. FINANCE**

### **7.1 Receipts and Payments 10/1/20 – 19/02/20**

	<b>£</b>
Church contribution to Newsletter 2019	602.64
Online current account balance B/F 09/1/20	24633.16

### **Deduct Payments from Current Account**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Payment to</b>	<b>Cheque No</b>	<b>Amount £</b>
14/1/20	M&H Inns Hospitality At the Boot	1226	42.40
14/1/20	Herts Display Dec N/L	1227	185.38
14/1/20	Richard Barron (internet Renewal)	1228	28.78
14/1/20	HMRC Paye	1229	37.38
14/1/20	Paul Zepler/Evertree (Tree Survey)	1230	1650.00
14/1/20	G Ward Clerks Fee	1231	199.32
5/2/20	Kirkham Contracting	1232	2220.00
6/2/20	G Ward (Currys PC World)	1233	659.96

	New computer/Parish Council		
29/1/20	A Warrilow LitterPckr	S/O	23.92
29/1/20	I Oseman LitterPckr	S/O	23.92
29/1/20	S Barron Website	S/O	35.00

<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>5106.06</b>
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<b>Online balance on Current Account 19/02/20</b>	<b>22075.18</b>
Balance Brought forward 9/1/20	24633.16
Less Payments	5106,06
Plus uncleared cheques 1232	2220,00
Less cleared cheques 1216*/1221/1222	274.56
Plus receipts	602.64
 <b>Balance as at 19/2/20</b>	 <b>22075.18</b>

## 8. CORRESPONDENCE

### 8.1 Correspondence Received/Sent

17/1/20 Email from Tracey Harding to Sam Wood re fly tipping on Munden Road. TH commented that she and PA had met her which was an extremely productive meeting. EHC would be able to supply a remote camera for £250 which they would maintain. It would be motion activated, therefore able to catch offenders in the act and enable prosecution. PA had tried to put signs up in Sacombe and is in the process of getting fittings for it. TH commented that the camera could be moved around, wherever there are hot spots. All agreed that this would well be worth the investment. BS suggested that the PC should order two and this was agreed. With regards to the layby in Sacombe it was uncertain who owns it and thought it might belong to Sacombe Park. TH suggested fencing off the wooded area and putting in a camera there. DH commented that there is a system called "Take 3 Words" which emergency services use whereby exact location of tipping can be established and then sent to EHC. CM also commented that Levens Green was bad and the disused barns along Mill Lane. Tipping had also taken place round the corner from the Church. TH to forward contact info for Sam Wood to Councillors.

#### **ACTION: TH**

There had also been some concern from a resident regarding the waste at the back of Home Farm. The enforcement team had had a look and established that there was nothing illegal going on at the moment. However the rubble does seem to be expanding so TH suggested the PC should keep an eye on it.

20/1/20 Email from Tracey Harding to Sara Saunders at East Herts Planning objecting to Home Farm development.

21/1/20 Email from Daniel Solo re Little Munden upgrade to Restricted Byway 7. All concerned by this upgrade had been notified.

29/1/20 Email re Affordable Housing Consultation 2020. Online portal information: consult.eastherts.gov.uk. All to look at this to give feedback to Council.

29/1/20 Email re installation of a remote cctv camera. Letters had gone out to all residents of Whiteley Close regarding the Oak Tree. This stated that EHC were aware of what was happening and if they had any evidence of the wilful damage to the tree residents should submit this to EHC, confidentially. EHC would now be monitoring it. GW pointed out that the perpetrator had now put an axe through the trunk. EH queried whether it may be possible to prosecute the owner of the tree as for not looking after a protected tree and queried whether there was a process for this which may be implemented. AH pointed out that in any event, the TPO Officer will have the power to enforce planting of a replacement tree if they do manage to kill this one so the perpetrators aim will not be achieved in any event.

12/2/20 Letter from CPRE to East Herts Planning objecting to Wheelwrights Farm development.

17/2/20 CPRE Hertfordshire Awards for those caring about their Community and/or the Environment. Nominations by 31/5/20. TH asked all to look through this and come up with any nominations.

Email thread of emails from January – February from Paul Grange to Sir Oliver Heald Re safety concerns Herts Staging Rally

Thread of emails between Mr and Mrs Ironside and Mike Hurst, Events Safety Manager, Herts Staging Rally.

17/2/20 Email to Terence Flynn, Tree Preservation Officer, EHDC in response to his email sent 12/2/20

## **8.2 Late Post**

None

## **9. MIKE HURST, EVENTS SAFETY OFFICER:- to address safety concerns on Herts Staging Rally**

**Mike Hurst Events and Peter Walters** from Herts County Auto and Aero Club attended the meeting to discuss safety concerns regarding the Rally. They pointed out that part of their job was to liaise with PCs regarding this event as well as Highways and HCC. The following points were regarding the Event were communicated by Mike and Peter:-

- All footpaths and bridleways would be manned so that if necessary ambulances etc could get through.

- The event consisted of four stages, each timed accurately, speed for each stage would be defined in advance and would maybe be only 15 mph in places.
- Cars are tracked to make sure they stick to the speeds.
- The event covers a large area so spectators are monitored into organised spectator areas so that they can get safely in and out of the route.
- An event similar to this started in Clacton 2 years ago so experience from this could be drawn from this
- They were committed to work with Parish Councils and schools who could join in with for example competitions for the children for best report of the event and a prize given. This type of involvement would in turn teach them about safety in motor sport.
- Marshalls would be put on each stage, involving about 75 people – and it was hoped to involve young people in this finding out how to use fire extinguishers and safety equipment.
- The route goes past the Christmas tree farm which will be used for car parking/toilet amenities and film camera point.
- Astonbury Farm is likely to be the Headquarters of the event and they have a scaffolding company/traffic management company who go out putting out road closure signs.
- Mike Hurst pointed out that the event at Clacton was in it's third year, liaising with them and taking advice from them as to how to run this for very useful.
- Due to election constraints there hasn't been time to knock on doors talking to people effected. However an organisers permit had been issued in January which means have to satisfy Motorsports UK and work had been done with Highways and HCC to figure out optimum route.
- There will be questions and objections and things can be misinterpreted so contact has been offered via phone, email, personal visits and Facebook.
- The organisers were committed to taking into account local constraints and pointed out that there would be 120 cars with an hour of passing which is worst case scenario. He also pointed out that it's not a race but against the clock. All the cars are tracked and pass one at a time. Once first run has gone through the road would be opened up to traffic for access.
- Within the residents packs which would be provided there would be established protocols for fire, ambulance and police services.
- Paramedics will be on-hand and rescue ambulances will be present which have cutting equipment at every stage start as well as recovery vehicles.
- A Safety Manual for the event has a huge amount of information in it, to make the event as safe as possible as well as engaging with local farmers, horse riders and cyclists.

- Concern was addressed over spectators around Green End Lane as the area was extremely open so people could wander freely around. DH pointed out that there were four-foot banks on either side of the lane.
- Insurance would be in place of £100 million and an amount would be taken off each competitor to go towards insurance. Within insurance there is a requirement to do risk assessments. People will always get closer than comfort such as standing in front gardens. There will be lots of safety signs around the route. Additional consideration should be taken into account if buildings are of an historic nature. Motorsport UK and the Safety Advisory Group had to be satisfied with all safety measures in place.
- A safety car would check course first before competitors start.
- TH asked whether they had spoken to the local school which would be of benefit to make the public more aware of safety concerns.
- They were also engaging with the University of Hertfordshire and the Police Cadets, involving them in training and giving them some kind of qualification to encourage participation.
- TH queried whether they could do something similar to this at the local school for the older children. Teenagers in the village may well be interested in this as well. They are looking at all these options. Could be an opportunity to get rescue units down to exhibit to children.
- Noise levels are reduced, and they had thought of getting straw bales to help with this. The route is not known before the event.
- TH queried when the spectator spots be decided on. Possible spots on the Aston leg would be:- Wilkstock, The Dane End Christmas Tree Farm and possibly Benington Lordship. CM suggested Walkern Hall as well.
- The spectator areas would be publicised but not the route. Hertfordshire Stages Facebook page for residents had been set up. Have had a lot of interest on this and trying to restrict this.
- TH questioned how many spectators may be present: - at Clacton there were 4,000 in the first year and in subsequent years 7,000.
- AH suggested that the PC writes to Highways to get assurances that after the event the road will inspected by Highways and to get assurances that drivers won't come back and use the route after the even.
- the event will be videoed before and after the event, ie if anything needs repairing before the event and to check the road afterwards.
- North Herts and EHC would like meeting with representatives from Parish Councils and organisers to sum up the organisation and safety of the Event. LMPC would be informed of dates in due course.

## **10. PARISH COUNCILLOR RESPONSIBILITIES**

TH had circulated a list of responsibilities for each Councillor and these were duly approved.

## **11. APPOINT VICE CHAIRPERSON/APPOINT NEW CHEQUE SIGNATORY**

David Hart was appointed as Vice Chairman and Claire Monk was appointed as new cheque signatory.

## **12. ALLOTMENTS**

Approve Rules and Regulations, letter to Allotment holders and new fees. All had agreed with the Rules and Regulations.

DH expressed concern not allowing bees on the allotments and TH pointed out that the Allotments were too close to the Childrens' Play Area and also DH pointed out that there had been bees on the other side of the hedge,

JH pointed out that the bees on the allotment would be the PCs responsibility and would be a liability if someone got stung. T

The Clerk confirmed that 23<sup>rd</sup> March work would start to clear brambles and stinging nettles etc. The quote had come in which all approved. This would also include cutting back the hedge and some of the larger trees cut back to allow more light. The landscaping quote hadn't come in yet. The Clerk suggested that the skip be ordered for 9<sup>th</sup> March.

## **13. WEBSITE**

TH felt that the website wasn't very user friendly. TH had asked the web master if the Councillors could have admin rights, but he had said this was not possible. TH thought that the PC needed a Parish Council specific website which would be accessible to add/edit items.

The Parish Councillors voted on this and it was agreed unanimously to seek a new user. AH said that Aston and Cottered were in the process of changing their websites and suggested that the Clerk contact the relevant Clerks to seek information on this.

**ACTION: GW**

## **14. VE DAY**

TH had had several meetings with Amy Barker and reported that the school did not want to get too involved with this as they had worked hard on fund raising last year. It was agreed to go ahead with a Vintage Vehicle Show and could also have food stalls. TH pointed out that local bands all seem to be booked up but suggested that

there could be afternoon tea and music in the village hall which would be lovely for older residents. Invites could be sent out. It was agreed that the event should be held on the Saturday of the Bank Holiday

PA asked if the Vintage Vehicle Show could include cars as well as bikes. PA had a contact who could possibly participate with his band and it was felt that this would be good in the evening.

A Wheelbarrow Race was also suggested which used to be held every year.

GW suggested having a sub committee to meet to discuss this out of meetings.

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

BS enquired what was happening with the Notice Board. PA said he knows someone who would build one as well as one for Sacombe Parish which would only require purchase of the wood to do this.

**ACTION: PA**

CM mentioned that a Parishioner had objected to the possibility of a bench going on the land behind Whiteley Close, the Clerk confirmed that there had been no intention of having one there. TH to speak to the Council about the bench at the top of Windy Rise.

CM reported that this resident also wanted an extra dog bin installed in the village. The Clerk however did mention that there was already an extra one on Horses' Meadow and that to acquire and maintain these was quite an expense and not something the PC should look at now.

Emails – EH asked to please acknowledge that Councillors have read and acknowledged emails.

**16. TO CONSIDER MATTERS ARISING FROM PARISHIONERS**

**17. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: - 19<sup>th</sup> March 2020**

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**CHAIRMAN**

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**DATE**