LITTLE MUNDEN PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Meeting held on
19th November 2020 at 8 pm
By the Zoom App

Tracey Harding (TH); David Hart (DH); Claire Monk (CM); Billy Summerson (BS); Paul Armstrong (PA); Julie Hursey (JH) - Councillors; Geraldine Ward – Clerk.
IN ATTENDANCE: Helen Standon (HS); Andrew Huggins (AH); Richard Tinner (RT); Liz Gregg-Smith (LGS); Keith Williams (KW); Andrew Springhett (AS)

2. APOLOGIES: Colleen Coelco (CC);

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
None

4. TO APPROVE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 15th October 2020 2020
The minutes were proposed by JH and seconded by DH

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
None

6. PLANNING

6.1 New Applications

4.1 New Applications

3/20/2169/HH
Raising of roof height to create first floor accommodation, addition of dormers and single storey extension to detached garage to provide annexe.
AT: The Old Granary, Green End, Dane End, Herts

4.2 Decisions

APPLICATION: 3/20/0177/FUL
PROPOSAL: 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, with a total of 6 caravans, including no more than 4 static caravans/mobile homes. Erection of 2 amenity buildings.
AT: Wheelwrights Farm Rowney Lane Dane End Ware Hertfordshire SG12 0JY
FOR: Mr J Cash. Application Refused.

APPLICATION: 3/20/1956/LC
3/20/1956/LBC Repair and reinstatement of brick pier and arch
AT: Haultwick Hall, The Street, Haultwick, Ware, Herts SG11 1JQ
Permission granted subject to conditions.

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5. FINANCE

Receipts and Payments 9/10/20-6/11/20

Receipts	**None**
	£
Online current account balance B/F 8/10/20	**22680.37**

Deduct Payments from Current Account

Date	Payment to	Cheque No	Amount
			£
15/10/20	G Ward Clerks Fee August	Bacs	260.39
15/10/20	Herts Display	Bacs	89.90
27/10/20	HMRC/Sept PAYE	1253	55.00
23/10/20	A Warrilow Litter Picking	S/O	23.92
23/10/20	I Oseman Litter Picking	S/O	23.92
30/10/20	Community HeartBt Vets	Bacs	100.00
05/11/20	The Mundens PCC (Clock & Churchyard Maintenance)	Bacs	200.00
		Total Payments	**753.13**

Online balance on Current Account 6/11/20	**21927.24**
Balance Brought forward 8/10/20	22680.37
Less Payments	753.13
Balance as at 6/11/20	**21927.24**

6. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED/SENT

15/10/20 Email from Oliver Copsey re installation of additional defibrillator at Little Munden School
18/10/20 Lauren Agland CV
20/10/20 Email from David Brewer re access to HM Car Park for walking group
22/10/20 Sent from TH Objection letter from LMPC Re Field Farm Planning
22/10/20 Email from Terence Flyn re TPO Officer. Re application for work on TPO trees and mapping system showing constraints Re Dane End House
23/10/20 Email re Meeting with Joel Piacentini/Enforecment & Inspection Officer at AHC
27/10/20 Martha James' response re Planning appraisal, Home Farm, Dane End
27/10/20 Email from Joel Piacentini re costings of bench removal and replacement
29/10/20 Email to Joz Rhodes/Environment Agency re complaint re Mill Lane via Website
30/10/20 Email to Diana Jennings re Book requirements

30/10/20 Email from Anne Rowe with details of Herts Archives for copies of book
2/11/20 Email from Martha James – declining consultation work for LMPC
4/11/20 Circular emails RT & TH re Complaint relating to Home Farm
4/11/20 Email to A Huggins requesting contact details re L/Picker Terms & Conditions
5/11/20 Email to Lauren Agland re L/P appointment/subject to Risk Assessment
6/11/20 Email to Peter Watkins/re photos for book cover
6/11/20 East Herts & South East Growth & Transport Plan Consultation to 31/1/21
9/11/20 Email from Ken Crofton to Parish Council re obtaining SIDS for Munden Road/copy of forwarded letter from KC to Rosemary Chatindo re funding/reply from TH
13/11/20 Email from Liz Gregg-Smith to Sara Saunders et all re: Wheelwrights Farm/Breach of BCN & Injunction/Continued Unauthorised Development.
13/11/20 Email from Karen Oak with Allotment Plan
13/11/20 Email from Josh Carson re meeting with King & Co early December
13/11/20 Email from Paula Tunnicliffe/East Herts/ Precept Forms and Tax Base info for 2020/21
14/11/20 Email from Liz Greg Smith to Sara Saunders et al re Breach of BCN and Injunction – Definitions of Static/Mobile Homes/Tourer Caravans
15/11/20 Email from Dan Kennoy of the Bourne/Whitehill re flooding Mill Lane
16/11/20 Emergency email from Liz Gregg-Smith re Wheelwrights Farm
16/11/20 Email from TH to Sara Saunders re lack of enforcement re Wheelwrights Farm
16/11/20 Letter from Clerk to John Grisbrooke re concerns over allotments
16/11/20 Email to Stuart Kirkham re cutting back large box bush at War Memorial
16/11/20 Email from Lois Dewhurst to Sara Saunders Re: arrival of 2 additional static homes@ Wheelwrights Farm
16/11/20 Liz Gregg Smith arrival of 3rd static caravan Wheelwrights Farm
17/11/20 Email to Stuart Kirkham from Clerk re cutting of large box at War Memorial
17/11/20 Email from Clerk to Zurich Insurance/to check terms of Employers Liability Insurance and reply.
17/11/20 Email from Sara Saunders re parameters for ongoing comments re Wheelwrights Farm.
17-18/11/20 Email from TH to Ken Crofton and reply re unacceptable state of roads from diversion from A602 road works and possible reopening of access through Sacombe Pound
17/11/20 Email to Richard Stacey re Salt Bins/Whitehill and Dane End
18/11/20 WhatsApp message from TH confirming re-opening of Munden Road through Sacombe Pound from beginning of December into New Year

7. WHEELWRIGHTS FARM BREACH OF PLANNING CONDITIONS

LGS reported that she had raised one or two staged complaints and since 27/10 hardcore has been brought on site. She went on to say that there were now three static caravans on the site so two were in in breach of the planning decision. She said they were now waiting to hear from the local ombudsmen following the disappointing lack of action shown by the District Council.

LGS pointed out that on 26th October 2020, the Council refused permission to quadruple the site and whilst there is an enforcement notice on the site she felt they have no doubt now appealed within the 28 days.

LGS went onto to say that following the latest activity on the site, she was fairly sure there would be further caravans on site and 2 amenity buildings possibly over the forthcoming weekend. She felt that the Little Hadham challenge had given Mr Cash the green light via the High Court and that he now feels able to ignore the planning decision. She also went onto say that she was now raising an official complaint against certain members of the council.

LGS pointed out that it had taken 9 months for the Council to make the decision and inappropriately ran it along the Little Hadham challenge which had back fired and had now given Mr Cash the green light to do what he likes. She felt sure that people would be moved onto site this weekend and would result in a similar situation to that of Little Hadham remaining on site until an Appeal is determined at which point will be down to the Planning Inspector to determine.

She went on to complain that no one has done anything to push the enforcement forward which has been live for 10 months and felt that the siting of 6 caravans and 2 amenity buildings would be on site this weekend.

Helen Standon was invited to comment and went on to explain that she was the officer on duty when Cash first came on to the site. She said she appreciated what LSG was saying and defended the Council saying they had constantly taken action on this case. She explained that there was an injunction on site but LGS queried why they weren't acting on it.

HS explained that they had become aware on Friday that another static had been brought on site and officers were sent there straight away to have a look. On the Tuesday they were aware that another static had been brought on site but had been told by Cash during the previous week that the small static would replace the large one while waiting for a new mobile home to be delivered which had been ordered. She went on to say that when they went out to inspect the static on the Tuesday they found that the hardcore was being removed by the digger, an action which was part of the compliance with the building control notice. She also said that the large static which had already been on site was being dismantled when officers were there.

HS explained that their justification for running the planning decision on Wheelwrights with the eventual outcome at Little Hadham was that had it been won, Wheelwrights would have been in a very difference place now. LGS felt very strongly that the two cases should not have been linked and now gives Cash no inclination to comply with the planning decision.

HS went on to point out that had refusal come before Covid, there would have been even more activity on the site as site visits would not have been able to take place. HS also went onto explain that they hadn't realised at the time that the building control notice was incorrect and felt that by reissuing the BCN the mistake had been rectified. She felt that too much weight had been put on the BCN as there was an injunction on the site which carried more weight. She went on to explain that they had been been working with Mr Cash continuously.

RT queried whether the District Council could set out a deadline for Cash to comply to instead of letting him drive a horse and cart through the Planning Laws.

HS explained that EHDC had now hand delivered a letter from the Council's solicitor to his agent setting out timelines and that the Council had acted in accordance with their barristers advice.

TH also queried the fact that Mr Cash had now hard wired in one of the new large static caravans directly into the electricity supply and pointed out that this could be potentially dangerous.

LGS queried why action hadn't been taken sooner to remove the hard standing issued in January and why hadn't the Council acted on either the BCN or the Injunction. She pointed out that the decision had taken far too long i.e. 9 months instead of the normal 10-13 weeks.

TH felt it was only fair to point out the distress this had caused the residents over a long period of time now. She went onto say that they needed to understand the implications this was having on the residents, not knowing what Cash is going to do next and the ongoing concern that this will go to the Inspectorate eventually. The ongoing abuse of their amenities would also be a cause of distress.

There followed discussion as to Mr Cash's ability to stay on the land. HS pointed out that as he does have the first Planning Permision he could not be removed from the land although LGS didn't think this was the case if he is breach of conditions.

LGS thanked Helen Standon for attending the meeting.

8. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING

RT pointed out that there needs to be a representative from the Parish Council to go on the Steering Group. TH asked who would be prepared to go on it and pointed out it would be a liaison role between the Steering Group and the Parish Council – Councillor Armstrong volunteered.

RT had been trying to get a contact within East Herts to discuss Neighbourhood Planning but had not got any response. He asked Helen Standon if she knew of a contact – RT to email Helen request and she would find out.

RT had spoken to CPRE who had informed him that the new planning laws the Government were trying to implement had thrown Neighbourhood Planning up in the air. He did report that the Government seemed to be reversing on the use of the algorithm that they had wanted to implement. He commented that the first step for now would be to talk to East Herts.

RT also went on to say that a more urgent piece should be put in the Parish Newsletter to get more people involved. RT to Action.

9. HCC PLANS FOR UNITARY COUNCIL

AH explained that this had been kicked into "the long grass" for now and that the Government had chosen 3 areas to move forward with possible Unitary Councils and Hertfordshire was not one. Locally there are a few different views as to whether we should form a countrywide unitary or form 2 or 3 to cover the county. He explained that it was ongoing. He also asked Helen Standon to comment on this. She informed the meeting that HCC pretty much went out early without any consultation with Districts and Boroughs. The District and Boroughs have also been working together to see what a third option could be and had carried out a survey of 2000 residents across East Herts to see what residents thought. It was clear from this that there was no appetite whatsoever for going down a Unitary Council route and it was felt that a Unitary could would lose touch with people on a local level. They were now looking at 2/3 or 4 Unitary Councils otherwise it would be a huge organisation and local residents wouldn't get such good local services. AH went on to explain that the only possible advantage of a Unitary Council would be that people would know where to go for services as there is still a lot of confusion between District and County services.

10. AUTHORISATION OF OCTOBER PAYMENT TRANSACTIONS

Duly approved by all Councillors

11. TO AUTHORISE NEW DEFIBRILLATOR AT SCHOOL

Duly approved by all Councillors

12. TO AUTHORISE FINALISATION OF BOOK PUBLICATION

Duly approved by all Councillors

13. TO AUTHORISE LITTERPICKER APPOINTMENT/SUBJECT TO CONDITIONS

Duly approved by all Councillor. Risk Assessment in place and insurance company notified

14. TO AUTHORISE REMOVAL OF BENCH AT WINDY RISE

Get quotes for new bench. PA volunteered to remove the bench**.**

ACTION: PA

15. TRAFFIC CALMING/DANE END

TH explained that the Sacombe Pound Road was due to re-open in December until January. She went on to say that when Whempstead Lane closes in February, Sacombe Pound will reopen and that it would be good to get this information onto the PC Website. She also explainted that she had been speaking to Ken Crofton with regards to traffic calming – his opinion was that as Sacombe Pound will re-open there is no need for traffic calming. TH reported that she had tried to explain to him that there are no streetlights or pavements through the village and at rush hour it is a rat run. However there was little point in doing a traffic survey now which would have to wait until the roads are re-open. She said the PC could look at putting signage up to try and get traffic to reduce speed. TH also said she has asked KC if the PC could have a traffic counter on the Whempstead Road and Munden Road so when Sacombe Pound is closed it will be possible to see traffic density on Munden Road and Whempstead Road respectively.

TH went on to say that KC had explained in an email to her that he didn't believe that the traffic had increased in the village as a result of the works on the A602. TH disputed this and pointed out it is possible to sometimes wait for several mins in a layby waiting for traffic to come up the other way before moving another 200 yards up the road.

CM pointed out that residents are worried about the verges along Whempstead Lane which are all collapsing. JH also pointed out the large potholes that had appeared on the roads.

AH commented that it would be advantageous for the PC to inform Highways about the poor state of the road and that there would be a project manager who could communicate between the construction company and KC. He went on to explain that if this was an official diversion they would have to do an inspection before and after the diversion was put in place and would have to return the road to the condition before diversion was put in place. TH pointed out how dangerous Whempstead Road had now become with the buses often having to reverse around blind bends to let on-coming traffic come through. Ken Crofton's point of view regarding this was that residents would just have to live with this and put up with

these conditions whilst the roadworks were underway. TH felt it was far more important to avoid a serious accident and not become complacent about these issues. She also pointed out that most villages have traffic calming of some description and Dane End has none whatsoever. HCC are loath to invest in any traffic calming measures for the village.

AH explained that there is gaining weight for the 20/20 campaign around the county promoting 20 miles an hour speed restrictions. He felt Dane End would benefit from this and other similar villages of a rural nature. TH pointed out that Sele Farm now has a 20 mph speed limits and they have more in terms of pavements and street lighting.

TH went on to explain that on the diversion itself at the junction of Whempstead Road and Munden Road, traffic is no longer treating this as a junction but a bend in the road. This puts pedestrians at risk.

BS queried possibility of getting the potholes repaired on the diversion as there are so many now it makes it difficult to pull over without damaging cars. BS also pointed out how bad the Sacombe Green Road was. AH suggested that people should be encouraged to report the faults and make sure to describe the depth and width of the holes, i.e. embellish reports which will help. PA reported that the two large pot holes at Home Farm are the farm's responsibility and would be repaired.

JH also pointed out the slippery conditions of the mud by the junction with the A602. There had also been accidents there caused by cars speeding into the junction. TH informed that they would be cutting back the hedge at the entrance to the diversion to improve the sight line.

TH had also reported to Ken Crofton that the Junction at Founceley Avenue where it goes round the bend had no give way signs or road markings. Highways had come back and said that this was a low priority. There had been white lines there but after the road had been resurfaced they had not been replaced. KC promised this would be sorted although had informed her that Highways don't paint white lines in the winter! KW suggested that it would be a good idea to ask Spotted to put a sticker up with contact details to report pot holes and point out how easy this is to do. AS to action.

16. TO DISCUSS PRECEPT AMOUNT FOR 2021/22 IN PREPARATION FOR JANUARY DEADLINE

Deferred to January 2021 Meeting

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

PA reported that he had spoken to people in the shop about getting a charity box for people to donate to in return for advertising on the new Noticeboard. However the Clerk pointed out that this should be exclusively for the use of the Parish Council. TH suggested that the Village Hall noticeboard could perhaps be more of a community board? The Clerk also suggested that information about individual councillors could be placed on the board so people know points of contact for various issues. PA suggested putting a lock on the noticeboard which everyone agreed to.

TH suggested that the village Christmas Tree could possibly be located at HM rather than the shop and was also looking at a smaller one near the Childrens' play area. TH asked for volunteers.

AH reported that East Herts were looking at money saving schemes to make a saving of £1 million for the next financial year. To this end they were looking at charging for green waste collections of £45 per year. LGS pointed out that North Herts have a charge of £40 per year although AH thought North Herts would bring theirs in line with East Herts. AH pointed out that he was not advocating this but wanted to know the views of Parishioners. His main concern was that it would increase fly tipping. KW concurred with this view. The consensus was that people would put green waste into household waste and that rural areas such as Little Munden would suffer badly from increased fly tipping. JH pointed out that she only uses her green bin once a month so it would not be cost effective for her and many others with smallish gardens. TH felt people simply wouldn't pay it as Council tax was already extremely expensive already. LGS also felt that people are already heavily taxed.

AS was concerned that no progress had been made regarding the height of the yew trees. The Clerk commented that she had been sent a mapping link sent from East Herts to show which ones had TPOs on them although it was unclear to make out which ones did. The owners of the property which owns the trees were happy to do the work but it was a matter of following correct procedure.

TH pointed out that work on the allotment was due to start shortly by clearing allotment one and the area behind it. The PC was waiting for quotes for the paths and fencing from Longacre Landscaping. Some new fencing was required alongside the allotment border with Whempstead Lane. Hopefully the clearance work will create some new allotments there and will make it safer for existing allotment holders.

TH also pointed out that when Parish Council emails were sent out to Councillors the Clerk was not getting much response, and asked Parish Councillors to please engage in issues a bit more and comment on contents of emails. She requested that everyone looks at emails at least twice a week so current issues can be dealt with quicker.

RT commented on the complaint he had lodged with EHC about storage on land behind Home Farm Farmyard, Whempstead Lane – He had finally had a response to say that as the waste was the same density as it was 10 years ago there was no need for any action. RT felt that this opened things up for possible development on the land. He said he would do some more digging into this and pointed out that surely if there was a breach in planning it would make no difference whether the density of the waste had changed or not over the last 10 years. He commented that he would take up this matter with Helen Standon.

18. TO CONSIDER PARISH MATTERS FROM PARISHIONERS

19. The meeting was brought to a close at 9.23 pm

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: - Thursday 15th January 2021