LITTLE MUNDEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on 28th October 2021 at 8 pm IN LITTLE MUNDEN MEMORIAL HALL

1. Present: Tracey Harding (TH); David Hart (DH); Billy Summerson (BS); Claire Monk (CM);
In Attendance: Andrew Huggins (AH); Debbie Petit (DP)
Apologies: Colleen Coelco (CC) Julie Hursey (JH); Paul Armstrong (PA);

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
None

3. TO APPROVE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 16th September 2021
The Minutes were proposed by DH and seconded by BS

4. PLANNING
4.1 New Applications
3/21/2105/FUL
Change of use of stables into two dwellings, with roof extensions, external alterations, parking and landscaping. Extension of retained stables and demolition of outbuilding**. Toad Hall, Sacombe Green, Sacombe, Ware, Herts SG12 0JQ**
Awaiting decision.

21/0177/FUL Wheelwrights Farm, Rowney Lane, Dane End, Ware: 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. LPA Appeal Reference/21/00017/REFUSE. By 27th October 21. TH had submitted comments against the Appeal.

5. FINANCE

Receipts and Payments 14/9/21-5/10/21		**£**
28/6/21	EHC Precept 2nd Instalment	4715.00
2/10/21	Collection for EHAA (cheque issued)	87.84
4/10/21	Book payment (Pat Lee)	4.00

Deduct Payments from Current Account

Date	**Payment to**	**Cheque No**	**Amount**
26/09/21	Inflatable Products (Film Screen)	Bacs	350.00
26/09/21	Herts Display Film Tickets/ Flyers	Bacs	24.00
26/9/21	Herts Display Sept21 N/letter	Bacs	116.60
26/9/21	Zurich Insurance/ Premium for Outdoor Event	Bacs	103.97
26/9/21	Little Munden Memorial Hall Sept-Nov Meetings	Bacs	72.00

26/9/21	Tracey Harding Reimbursement/Outdoor Lights & CCTV Camera	Bacs	271.49
29/9/21	Litter Picker Lauren Agland	S/O	48.55
2/10/21	Dane End Christmas Tree Farm/Bulbs/ Toilet Hire	Bacs	203.40
2/10/21	HMRC October PAYE		55.00*
2/10/21	Cheque to Essex & Herts Air Ambulance		87.84*
		TOTAL	**1332.85**

Online balance on Current Account 4/10/21	**18650.81**
Balance Brought forward 13/9/21	15033.98
Less Payments	1332.85
Plus Receipts	4806.84
Plus uncleared Cheques*	142.84
Balance as at 4/10/21	**18650.81**

6.1 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED/SENT

20/9/21 Email from Paul Moore/ Zurich Insurance re Policy Schedule update/Public Liability Insurance and Invoice.
21/09/21 Email from Essex & Herts Air Ambulance confirming fund raising arrangements.
21/9/21 Copy of Letter/Email of Objection to East Herts District Planning and Buillding Control from Liz Gregg-Smith/Re: Toad Hall, Sacombe, Ware, Herts SG12 0JQ/Ref No 3/21/2105/FUL
21/9/21 Email to/from VJ Outdoor Cinema Hire final arrangements
22/9/21 Pat Lees re book request.
22/9/21 Letter from East Herts Planning Dept. Re: Planning Appeal – Wheelwrights Farm, Rowney Lane, Dane End, Ware, LPA Appeal reference: 21/00017/REFUSE.
7/10/21 Email from Lucinda Cope/Clerk GMPC re Defibrillator advice/request regarding installing one.
7/10/21 Email from Derek Hill/Chairman Watton Youth FC – cancelling Youth Football on Horses' Meadow. All agreed how disappointing this was.
11/10/21 Email from Ken Crofton re offer of funding for Defibrillator within his Parish Council areas.
11/10/21 Email to Ollie Copsey re request from Great Munden Parish Council on advice regarding defibrillator installation
12/10/21 Reply from Ollie Copsey re above, forwarded to GMPC and Ken Crofton's letter re funding of Defibrillators
13/10/21 Email from Andrew Huggins to TH re meeting with local Community Police Officer. Email from TH to Andrew Huggins re drug issue

TH said she witnessed drug dealing on Monday afternoon at around 4 pm. The Scorpion Team had been out and spoken to residents saying the problem should perhaps be contained to Horses' Meadow! However TH commented that the residents wanted to be rid of this situation completely – there are cars parked on Easington Road at all times day and night. She went on to say that they are using the back gate to Horses' Meadow. Discussions took place as to whether a back gate should be put on there. This could well be a deterrent and the residents could lock the gate in the evenings. TH felt that this probably wouldn't be a total deterrent but it was agreed to at least consider having a locked gate over the winter which could be locked during hours of darkness.

BS had spoken to one of the police officers patrolling the area who said whatever happens not to approach the perpetrators. TH reiterated that residents are now absolutely fed up with this situation and that something must be done despite the Police being stretched at the moment. She went on to say that the new Community Inspector had put a post on Facebook which TH had responded to and emailed on the address given,but has heard nothing back! TH went on to say that someone from the Rural Team really needs to come and talk to residents to reassure them that something is being done. She also commented that the once a day drive through would not be a deterrent for this type of activity.

AH commented that he does have more information about what they are doing but is not able to say what exactly for security reasons, However he did state that this does include extra patrols. AH went on to say that he had asked the relevant Officers to come and hold a meeting either at a Paris Council meeting or private meeting with just couple of Parish Councillors. He also commented that David Lloyd is keen to throw some extra resources at this type of problem. TH felt that these problems were more likely to get addressed in towns than rural areas and went on to say that if police representatives just came to one meeting to show that action was being taken that people would be reassured. AH also said that the local information would help B to get a channel of communications with the police right so even with a shortage of staff, whatever measures they are taking can be properly directed.
CM commented that even if they shut down this group a new one would move in, that it's a never ending cyclical problem. AH suggested that that's where David Lloyd would like to come in and work on local strategy for a longer term solution. CM suggested we need ideas on how to deter them. TH asked AH to please try and arrange a meeting and suggested that maybe it doesn't have to be a person from the rural team. AH affirmed that he will get David to lean on the Chief Inspector to help sort this problem out and arrange a meeting.

15/10/21 TH to Ken Crofton re Road Closure Permit Application/Flooding, Mill Lane
TH reported that she had met with Gordon, Lord and Lady Carter's builder regarding Mill Lane flooding. All of the ditch was to be cut and debris taken out. He would make sure water would be running into the main sluice gate.

TH also commented that where Highways had taken away the bank to put in a kerb there, Geoff would put sandbags down which when wet turn to cement blocks and then the debris and mud can be put on the top to make it look more natural. He had said to TH that he was going to speak to the Carters soon. This will not require a road closure.

TH reported that the bank opposite the Telephone Exchange is Common Land. This means that the fallen sign is the Parish Council's responsibility. It appears that signs are no longer the responsibility of Highways according to Steve Johnson. However we may still be able to procure the signs directly through Highways which would be cheaper than buying them privately. AH suggested approaching Ken who has a £100k Highways budget. TH to speak to Ken Crofton about this. BS and TH to take the gully down on the bank to sort out the flooding there.

7. LAND BETWEEN KINGSFIELD AND WHITELEY

Several residents had noticed that Trundles had been out measuring the area with a view to putting in for Planning Permission. TH had spoken to Mr Trundle earlier in the year who made it clear at the time that they weren't a development company anymore, and that they maintain property. During a conversation with TH Mr Trundle had said he was thinking of putting a bungalow on the site. However the District Council do have the area designated as a play area. BS commented that the two end houses were added later and not on original plans but added later and that the driveway belongs to the two end houses.

Mrs Treble whose garden backs onto the play area had recently reported that the anti-social behaviour was continuing and was concerned that fruit being catapulted into her garden may become a hazard to dogs. TH felt that until we know the facts there is point in worrying about this at present. The PC will monitor the situation and felt that publicising this would only make things worse.

TH pointed out that next month the budgeting of the grants for play areas would open, so we can start applying for one.

BS went onto discuss the goal posts he had found which could be suitable for Horses' Meadow. He explained that some can be dropped into sockets and can be removed out after playing with. BS had also found a football foundation for grants which would apply for the goal posts. The cost would be £1000-£1500. TH asked where could we put them – at present the area is too big so this could be scaled down and more suitable for younger players. BS also thought it would be a good idea to contact Stevenage Football Club to see if they can help with funding.

10. ACQUISITIONS / QUEEN/KINGS WOOD

TH reported that the Carters had spoken to their Solicitors and had been advised not to donate Kings Wood to the Parish Council. Therefore, this is now off the table.

The Carters have now arranged for the bike tracks to be dug up and infilled. TH reported that she would be contacting Lady Carter shortly to propose doing a joint scheme with them, whereby the Carters maintain ownership but the Parish Council has some say in it. GW queried whether they were going to shut off the woods completely. TH however said that they were happy for people to walk through it but were worried of potential accidents up there. She went on to say however that in previous talks with Lord Carter he had indicated that if planning laws were eased it would be good to put in a new village green on the field and a few five bedroomed houses. This would negate a right of way. Also there is some concern over Horses' Meadow. It was agreed that measures should be taken to protect it.

11. REMEMBERANCE SUNDAY/Sunday 14th November

12. ALLOTMENT MATTERS – possible creation of 2 new ones/fee increase, paths and tidying up.

CM mentioned that Watton-at-Stone had an Allotment Committee, but no one thought this would work at Horses Meadow as there was a general reluctance to keep general areas tidy. TH thought that the way forward would be to get a costing for the maintenance of the paths and hedging a couple of times a year. This could include getting the extra pieces rotavated to produce two new allotments. It was decided that the Parish Council would look to increase the rent accordingly to reflect the fact that the general maintenance of the allotments was taken care of. TH to speak to Gareth Smith and ask if he would like to quote for this work.

13. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING – should we be revisiting this again?

The consensus was that this was not going to work and TH affirmed that the Parish Council should try to look after key areas instead. She went onto say that the majority of the population of the village were not necessarily long-standing residents, there was a large number of short stay residents who weren't very interested in village life and events. However, it was agreed that it would be good to get the Friends of Little Munden to come along to the Parish Council meetings once in a while.

It was agreed that after years of trying to get residents interested in forming a Committee, the proposal had failed.

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

Baxter's Food Truck had contacted TH to ask if we would allow them to come to the village once a week. Everyone agreed that this would be fine and suggested that the Car Park in Horses' Meadow would be the best place. The shop location would be too difficult with all the congestion around it. TH had looked up online and discovered that they do fish and chips. Cullys were also coming back once or twice a week. It was suggested Tuesday was a good day for a trial as it wouldn't affect Friday Night Fish and Chips at the Boot. She reported that they would be sending through the Health and Hygiene information and will have a trial evening one day in November.

TH reported that Russell Parkins had asked if it would be possible to get a path between Horses' Meadow and the Christmas Tree Farm. All Parishioners felt that this was a good idea and would support it.

Seat at Windy Rise, BS commented that PA did have one which was being renovated and would be available soon.

The Clerk felt it would be a good idea to get a small bench for the War Memorial. TH to look again at those available from County. She felt the PC could do this after the Windy Rise bench had been installed and commented that the PC could then look where other areas could benefit from a bench.

TH requested that Councillors present and for those absent to look into projects for the year ahead. The Cinema had been a great success and it would be good to do something for the Jubilee. The Clerk suggested organising a Vintage Car Rally. Organisation for this would have to start fairly quickly. TH suggested having an old fashioned style fete with a Cake Stall etc. CM flagged up a lack of parking may be a problem although TH suggested using the Christmas Trees Parking especially if there was access between the meadow and the Christmas tree farm, they could always do something to tie in with events on the Meadow. TH suggested doing a cinema event again or maybe something different.

TH to ask Jason Bartlett and also need to contact Derek Weedon if they were interested in contributing exhibits.

DH queried whether the Staging Rally would take place next year – general consensus was that it probably wouldn't.

TH mentioned she had pressed Lindsay in charge of A602 works whether there would be any road closures over Christmas and reported that there were no plans to close it over December. TH had also sent photos to Lindsay of the HGV lorry driver who got lost around the village looking for Royston. It had been a severe threat to parked cars and pedestrians. Lindsay reported that there would be clearer signage for future closures.

15. TO CONSIDER PARISH MATTERS FROM PARISHIONERS

16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: - Thursday 20th January 2022

The meeting was brought to a close at 9.15 pm.