LITTLE MUNDEN PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Meeting held on
19th January 2021 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); Colleen Coelco (CC); - Councillors; Geraldine Ward – Clerk.
IN ATTENDANCE: Andrew Huggins (AH); Richard Tinner (RT)

1. APOLOGIES: None

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
None

3. TO APPROVE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 19th November 2020 2020
The minutes were proposed by JH and seconded by DH

4. PLANNING
4.1 UPDATE ON WHEELWRIGHTS FARM

Councillor Huggins was unable to stay for the meeting but gave an update on the ongoing enforcement order as follows:

"Planning are satisfied that Cash has returned the hard standing to what it should be. Obviously, residents are not happy that it hasn't all been removed but only buried but the Council have got photo and video evidence that this is not the case. I had received a request from Martin Dewhurst which I put to the Council and they refused so there won't be anything else going on unless there is reason to with the hardstanding".

RT:- "What's happened then with the second static caravan because that's a breach as well isn't it?".

AH:- "Yes it is and they are continuing to try and get Mr Cash to remove the second caravan. The children's expected birth on the 9th of this month were holding things up somewhat because the Council felt it would be deemed unrealistic for him to be moving them whilst that is going on and over the holiday period so we're still waiting to see whether it'll go".

TH:- "They need to get that 2nd caravan removed to put residents minds at rest and follow what Hammond said in his report".

AH:- "Mr Cash is planning on buying a new larger caravan but is waiting to have it delivered and it'll go in the place where the last one was. He's obviously slow playing the two that are on there until that one is delivered but of course the residents locally suspect that he is not

living there and what is actually happening is that his or her sister is in there helping out with childcare arrangements or being nearer the children whilst these were being born. All of these things have been fed in and have been documented and the Council are looking into them and considering how they affect the over-all case".

TH:- "Is it still the original residents living on site that were documented in Mr Hammonds Paper?"

AH:- "As far as the Council are concerned they believe that it is. They have said that they have conducted both announced and unannounced visits and that it has only been the Cash family on site. Me pestering again to do unannounced visits to see who is in the 2nd caravan hasn't yielded any results".

4.2 New Applications

APPLICATION: 3/20/2189/HH
PROPOSAL: Conversion of garage with replacement of garage door for window and door.
AT: White Lea House, Whitehill, Dane End, Ware, Herts
APPLICATION: 3/20/2625/HH
PROPOSAL: Single storey rear extension with roof lights.
AT: 56 Whiteley Close, Dane End, Ware, Herts SG12 0NB Comments: 20/1/21

4.3 Decisions

APPLICATION: 3/20/1750/HH
PROPOSAL: Change of flat roof to pitched roof on front elevation, including velux window. Addition of cladding and a new garage door.
AT: 33 Kingsfield Road, Dane End. Permission granted subject to conditions.

APPLICATION: 3/20/2169/HH
PROPOSAL: Works to detached garage, including: raising of roof height, to create first floor accommodation, addition of dormers, single storey extension and other external alterations, so to provide an annexe.
AT: The Old Granary Green End Dane End Hertfordshire SG12 0NX. Permission refused.

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5. FINANCE

Receipts and Payments 7/11/20-7/1/20

Receipts:	**Liz McGill Book x 10**	**40.00**
	G Bowtell Book x 2 plus postage	**20.00**
	Total	**£60.00**
		£
Online current account balance B/F 7/11/20		**21927.24**

Deduct Payments from Current Account

Date	**Payment to**	**Cheque No**	**Amount**
			£
14/11/20	Royal British Legion/Wreath	Bacs	19.25
14/11/20	G Ward reimburse Zoom fee	Bacs	14.39
19/11/20	Plan Research/Planning advice	Bacs	150.00
19/10/20	Herts Display – October N/Lttr	Bacs	107.88
19/11/20	G. Ward Clerks Fee Nov	Bacs	256.00
27/11/20	Longacre Tree & Garden	Bacs	750.00
01/12/20	HMRC Oct PAYE	1254	55.00
04/12/20	Mark Lee Carpentry	Bacs	375.00
17/12/20	G Ward Clerks Fee Dec	Bacs	287.99
17/12/20	Herts Display Nov N/Lttr	Bacs	107.88
17/12/20	Herts Display Dec N/Lttr	Bacs	107.88
17/12/20	Herts Display Book publication	Bacs	382.50
30/12/20	Litter Picker Equipment	Bacs	39.98
4/1/21	HMRC Nov/Dec Payments	12155	110.00
	Total Payments		**2763.75**

Online balance on Current Account 7/1/21	**19223,48**
Balance Brought forward 7/11/20	21927.24
Less Payments	2763.75
Plus Receipts	60.00
Balance as at 7/1/21	**19223.48**

6. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED/SENT

23/11/20 Email forwarded by Liz Gregg-Smith, Re: Wheelwrights Farm/Breach of BCN & Injunction – continued unauthorised development. Residents emails forwarded to Sir Oliver Heal, Andrew Huggins et al.

23/11/20 Fault Report from Clerk to Highways re Flooding & Drainage @bottom of Whitehills.

27/11/20 Email from Deryck Dipper of Thundridge Parish Council re Herts Car Rally

3/12/20 Emails from residents of Rowney Lane to Sara Saunders et al, re Planning Enforcement Update for Wheelwrights Farm – Residents' Assistance Requested re Breach of BCN

7/12/20 East Herts Cultural Strategy Consultation

11/12/20 Email sent by TH to Oliver King re sponsorship of traffic calming speed sign.

17/12/20 Letter to Lauren Agland confirming post of Litter Picker with attachments: - Map of LP areas, Risk Assessment, and Health & Safety advice for Community Litter Pickers from EHDC. The Clerk commented that the Litter Picker has now started and is always accompanied by an adult.

21/12/20 Email from Martin Oak re Commencement of tree work at allotments for 2nd-5th Feb 21. See Agenda item 9.

21/12/20 Email from Ken Crofton re Commissioner Plans for Herts largest ever Police Force & Precept Council Tax Release.

22/12/20 Quote from Long Acre Garden Services re allotment paths and fences.

29/12/20 Email from Ken Crofton to James Vine @ Ringway re Mill Lane Flooding. Highways have agreed that this is their responsibility and were going to try blasting out the big concrete drainage tunnels as there is probably debris blocked in them. Also the drainage ditch would be made deeper. TH had also asked KC about the corner Founceley Avenue where all the cars park on the grass verges. She said she had written to Rosemary Chatindo at Highways to suggest lowering the curb. She responded by saying no to the request as it was a health and safety risk. TH had further discussions with her and sent her an example of a lowered curb in Puckeridge, where it had been a success. KC had agreed that funds for this work could come out of the locality budget. TH to meet with Rosemary Chatindo and KC on site with a view to moving this forward. TH pointed out that the grass verge was a safety issue as it was a slip hazard when muddy. KC has also agreed that white lines can be put in between Kingsfield Road and Founceley Avenue. There was some discussion about whether or not the Council were to impose fines for parking on the kerb. TH to ask AH if this was the case.

31/12/20 Email from Jonathan Pool re trees bordering the White House. Clerk to ask ivy clad trees to be added to spring tree work.

7/1/21 Email to Zurich Insurance advising of litter picking appointment with copy of Risk Assessment.

7/1/20 Quote from Martin Oak re tree work on allotments

7/1/20 Email from TH to Ken Crofton re concerns over vehicles parked on pathways.

7. LATE POST

Complaint response had been received by TH and she would circulate to all. RT suggested sending this to other members of the Council to highlight how flawed this approach by the Council is. TH to write a response to send to Helen Standen and Sir Oliver Heald to make them aware that the Council is not following complaint procedure and officers should not be reviewing complaints about their own work.

8. TO DISCUSS PRECEPT AMOUNT FOR 2021/22 IN PREPARATION FOR JANUARY DEADLINE AND BUDGET FOR 21/22

The PC considered whether the Precept amount should be increased in light of the upcoming expenditure on Horses' Meadow and the Allotments.

TH queried whether grass cutting expense could be reviewed which the Clerk agreed should be done. She went on to say that the general rule of thumb is to have at least the Precept amount as a balance. TH went on to say that she was looking at doing a Just Giving Page so the PC can look at bigger projects and would be writing to four individual people to contribute to this.

The Clerk queried how the Section 106 contribution works and whether EHDC should have given the Council advice on this. RT commented that in Snell's report for the Planning Committee on 12th August, they quoted figures they were charging which were for a considerable amount. RT to investigate this further and how the PC could obtain some of this funding.

The Council resolved to leave the Precept amount at £9430 and all agreed.

9. TO DISCUSS ALLOTMENT WORK IN RESPECT OF QUOTES FROM LONGACRE TREE SURGERY

The Clerk queried whether the felling of two oversized pear trees should be removed from the quote as the allotment work was a sizable amount of money. However all agreed that this money would have to be spent over a period of time and it would be beneficial to get it done as soon as possible. TH commented that the trees and paths were the main issue in terms of Health and Safety. PA pointed out that according to the quote, the fencing should last for many years.

10. TRAFFIC CALMING/DANE END/APPROVAL OF SPEED SIGNS

If any money is forth coming from Parishioners' contribution, it was agreed that it could be put towards this.

11. AUTHORISATION OF DECEMBER/JANUARY PAYMENT TRANSACTIONS

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

- TH commented that she had had a request for an additional dog bin up at the school. The Councillors agreed that this was not appropriate as the Parish already has three which cost nearly £400 to maintain. In the past when this was discussed the school were not in favour of this for hygiene reasons.

- PA commented that work had started on the farm. There were people measuring and some of the farm buildings were being emptied.

- CM commented that work on the vacant bungalow on Windy Rise had started by a Housing Association.

- PA commented that there was more fly tipping on Whempstead Lane, all the way up to the A602. TH commented that EHDC had never got back concerning the cameras but went on to say that they were not able to monitor them. PA said that CCTV signs were now on the village signs and all agreed that getting cameras was something the PC could look into in the long term and monitor themselves.

13. TO CONSIDER PARISH MATTERS FROM PARISHIONERS

RT had been put in contact with George Pavey by Helen Standen to discuss the possible implementation of a Neighbourhood Plan. Mr Pavey confirmed that the PC cannot do anything about a Neighbourhood Plan until the Local Plan is finalised but also thought that further development in Little Munden is unlikely. He also said that a Neighbourhood Plan would not have prevented the Home Farm development as this was under a different policy and in windfall.

Mr Povey had said that any policies put forward in a Neighbourhood Plan have to go through the Secretary of State Examiner and has to be legal, dovetailing in with the national and local planning policy. He had said that it won't prevent development but would allow the Parish to have a say about where we would want housing or what the housing would look like.

Mr Povey had asked RT what the Parish Council were hoping to achieve by having a Neighbourhood Plan. RT said from a personal perspective that he didn't want to see the valley of Little Munden concreted over and turned into a large housing estate like Gilston or Harlow North. Mr Povey said this was unlikely but would not be able to prevent such a scenario with a Neighbourhood Plan if that is what comes by nationally.

RT went on to say that he would like to put an article in the Newsletter pointing out that there had been 666 new houses in East Herts with a total of 839 under the adopted Local Plan.

However under the new Government White Paper this could go up to 1122 which is a phenomenal increase. He explained that this would be spread over East Hertfordshire but we need to try and get a robust response as to why it shouldn't happen in Little Munden. He also said that it would be a good idea do get people to write reports on sustainability, heritage etc in Little Munden. This idea hasn't been moved forwarded and RT volunteered to ask LGS to see if she could provide possible people to contact. However if we don't proceed with the Neighbourhood Plan we won't have the money to pay consultants for reports so we need to find some friendly faces to point us in the right direction and maybe write something on our behalf. RT stated that he would investigate low cost options and do some preparatory work on this.

With regard to timings RT explained that consultation on the White Paper had closed. The Government is considering responses and will come forward with new proposals in the Autumn, made into law and then East Herts will have to revise it's Local Plan. There is an 18 month timeline for that so it will be mid 2023 before anything comes back. Therefore work on this is not really urgent but should be as prepared for this as possible.

With all this in mind RT said he had written an article for the local Newsletter. There is already a bit of momentum there with a couple of recent pieces from Great Munden PC and GW's piece in August. It was agreed to put a piece in the Newsletter to give Parishioners a chance to come up with some ideas.

RT also reported that he had spoken to Helen Standen about concerns with rubbish dumped on Whempstead Lane. EHDC were not prepared to do anything about this as it was no worse than 5 years ago. Helen Standen had come back suggesting RT to look at the up dated policy on the website. He felt that this was something to feed into the Snell response letter.

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: - The Meeting was brought to a close at 9.15 pm. The next meeting will be on Thursday 18th February 2021