LITTLE MUNDEN PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Meeting held on
24th June 2021/8.00 pm
AT LITTLE MUNDEN VILLAGE HALL

1. **PRESENT: Tracey Harding (TH); Claire Monk (CM); Paul Armstrong (PA); David Hart (DH); Billy Summerson (BS)**
   Apologies: Colleen Coelco (CC); Julie Hursey (JH); Andrew Huggins (AH)
   In Attendance: Richard Tinner; Liz Gregg Smith
2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
   None

3. **TO APPROVE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 20th May 2021**
   The minutes were proposed by DH and seconded by BS

4. PLANNING
4.1 New Applications

3/21/1271/LBC: Removal of existing rear projection and erection of replacement single storey boot room rear extension. AT: Sunnyside, Green End, Dane End, Herts SG12 0NX. Comments by 15/6/21

3/21/1333/HH: Single storey rear extension, alterations to fenestration and installation of two roof lights. AT: 15 Whiteley Close, Dane End, Herts SG12 0NB. Comments by 16/6/21

3/21/1370/VAR: Variation of condition 2 (approved plans) of planning application permission: 3/17/0724/HH – Grey/black pvc windowns and doors and two patio doors in the south-west elevation in place of the 2 approved windows. AT: Cherrymead, Frogs Hall Lane, Haultwick

4.2 Decisions

3/21/0800/HH: Proposed outbuilding to provide swim spa/gym and games room. AT: Doulton House, 1 Potters Wood Close, Potters Green, Dane End, Herts. Permission granted subject to conditions.

4.3 Withdrawn
3/21/1001/FUL
Demolition of the existing outbuildings and removal of a caravan. Creation of 3 bedroomed Net-Zero house (self build). Creation of new access and reduced parking for three vehicles with landscape and ecological enhancements AT: Fellowsfield, Mill Lane, Dane End, Ware, Herts. Comments by 17th May 2021.

5. FINANCE

Receipts and Payments 15/4/21		**£**
7/6/21	Book payment	4.00
17/05/21	Allotment Payment	20.00
17/05/21	Allotment Payment	20.00
Online current account balance B/F 4/5/21		21549.72

Deduct Payments from Current Account

Date	**Payment to**	**Cheque No**	**Amount £**
06/4/21`	Herts Display/April N/L	BACS	111.60
13/5/21	G Ward Clerks Fee	BACS	280.39
13/5/21	Herts Display MayN/L	BACS	111.60
19/5/21	HMRC April/May PAYE	1261	110.00
24/5/21	G Ward/Stationery	BACS	61.49
26/5/21	HAPTC Annual Subscrptn	BACS	508.06
01/6/21	Annual Ground Rent	S/O	0.50
01/6/21	L Agland/Litter Picker	S/O	48.55
09/6/21	G Ward Clerks Fee	BACS	270.39
11/6/21	EHC Dog Bin Empty	BACS	477.07
11/6/21	Herts Display June N/L	BACS	111.60
11/6/21	Little Munden Memorial H	BACS	84.00
		Total Payments	**2175.25**

Online balance on Current Account 11/6/21	19418.47
Balance Brought forward 4/5/21	21549.72
Less Payments	2175.25
Plus Receipts	44.00
Minus cleared Cheque*	110.00
Balance as at 11/6/21`	**19418.47**

6. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED/SENT

21/5/21 D Hart to PC re info on “20s Plenty” Scheme- DH to look into who was coordinating this to implement in the Parish as soon as possible.

PA reported that he had already dug the hole for the speed signs and would finish installing the signs as soon as he could.

CM felt that the roads were becoming increasingly unsafe; i.e. the brow of the hill near the Christmas Tree Farm, it was impossible to see cyclists coming up/or down the hill and there were no white lines on the junction. This was the same at the junction between Rowney Lane and Whitehills as well as Whempstead Cross. The 65 extra parking spaces at Home Farm would no doubt increase the traffic with extra school runs etc.

27/05/21 Email from Utku Kettas asking permission of a shed of 4x5 ft or 5x5 ft. The PC was against increasing the size of the sheds and would stick to one 4x3 ft in case larger sizes encouraged allotment holders using them as extra storage.

28/05/21 Copy of email to Ken Crofton re Sacombe Green from Highways. The work to repair the poor standard of roads around Sacombe Green, was scheduled for 2022. PA mentioned that the middle of the road at the top of the hill was extremely high and someone damaged their car very badly on it. TH mentioned that she had complained to a Highways officer regarding the extremely bad service they had given us. She felt they only ever respond to Councillors. She pointed out that Mentley Lane had recently been resurfaced which wasn't actually that bad. TH to meet with KC to address this and other problems.

7/6/21 Email from Ken Crofton re Installation of a SID.

11/6/21 HAPTC Newsletter sent from Clerk to PC/information on Courses: TH enquired whether anyone was interested in doing a course, if it would benefit their work on the Parish Council and to inform Clerk.

11/6/21 Email sent from Clerk to Ken Crofton/TH re leakage of water at Whitehills. GW had found out that the leakage was coming from one of the pony fields. CM speak to the land owner. GW also mentioned that she had emailed Castle Water about the huge Water Bill. GW to action.

11/6/21 Email sent from Clerk to Debra Pettit/Mrs Treble regarding the play area between Kingsfield Road and Whiteley Close. See 7. below.

7. PLAY AREA WHITELEY CLOSE

TH reported that she had been in communication with Mr Trundle who owns this piece of land who informed her that Trundles would be selling up the remaining parcels of land they own around Dane End. He said that the PC could possibly buy the lease for this area although the PC would be liable for Solicitor costs. He had informed TH that the area did have to be left as a designated play area as set out in the original plans for the Estate by order of the Planning Department. TH has been trying to get hold of someone at the Council to see if this was still a designated play area. If yes, then the easiest answer would be to put in for a grant to purchase some play equipment which would deter the football playing. **ACTION:** Clerk

DH said that the layby in front of his house on Easington Road and land to the side was also Trundles which could be sold to a developer so it was agreed to confirm that this was the case. The Clerk felt that the lease option on Whiteley Close land maybe a good idea as at least then the play area would be protected. It was agreed that all these areas still owned by Trundles should be investigated. The Clerk was to look at maps on Land Registry sites to identify which areas were still owned by Trundles.

8. PARISH COUNCIL PROJECTS (Benches, Basketball area etc)

All agreed that the East Herts benches are quite expensive although the East Herts School benches were a reasonable price and were recyclable. It was agreed that

one was definitely needed at the top of Windy Rise, and the donated money could be used for such a project as originally planned. PA to get Mark Leigh who supplied the PC Notice Board to get a price for the Windy Rise one. TH said she would also chase up the quote for the basketball area.

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

- BS mentioned that all the roadsides/banks were very overgrown. A lot of areas had been planted with wildflowers although this did mean that vision at junctions was extremely bad. TH went on to say that the PC could take these contracts on and get the hedgerows cut and bill back to the Council. This however would only cover our Parish.

- CM remarked that there was a new spot where drug dealers were frequenting, i.e. the lane/bridleway from Whitehills to Levens Green. LGS commented that police presence seems to have been ramped up in the area and she would also have a word with Martin Spackman to make him aware of the recent activity on the track at Whitehills.

- Queens Wood. TH and CM had a meeting with Lord and Lady Carter ostensibly about the Common Land, however they came back with an offer of the land behind the school, bordering the wood. CM thought it would be a good idea to create a wood in honour of the Platinum Jubilee – the Woodland Trust are giving away trees such as fruit trees etc. This would enable residents to pick the fruit in season. Clare went onto say that following a recent visit from a Wildlife Trust in Hitchin she picked up tips to create appropriate habitats for hedgehogs. They also release hedgehogs which have been injured into appropriate sites so that once the wood was more established this could be a possibility. CM was thinking of doing this in September to get a start on the trees. There would be a block of blossom in the Spring and in winter there would be fruit. CM to apply for the pack and order it. She said she needs to measure the area and see how many trees could be accommodated. PA said that a beehive may also be a possibility.

- The Carters had also offered Kings Wood to the Parish Council to take over on behalf of the Community. TH had already been in discussion with a woodland expert at EHC who would be visiting the area shortly to carry out an inspection. Lord Carter suggested that it could be gifted as a charity donation.

  TH went onto say that they needed to also consider the fact that there are trees along the road and there would be a cost to manage these. DH also mentioned that there was an ice-house in the woods too. TH pointed out that with cycle ramps and tracks in there there was also a liability which comes with this. The PC also need to know the extent of the damage to the woodland that this activity had done. TH had also managed to establish that Lord Carter is responsible for the ditch at Mill Lane and asked if he could dig out the ditch as a flooding preventative measure.

- Sunday Bell dedication. The Bishop of St Albans would be attending to bless the bells at All Saints Church following their restoration this Sunday. The school were not interested in being involved so everything would be around the Churchyard. The Service would start at 11 am. There would be a food wagon and ice cream van. The Parish Council would be helping with the stalls etc. and providing gazebos and tables. There would also be an Art Gallery in the Church.

- PA asked if anyone had heard anything about the Car Rally which had been programmed for 2019. The Clerk however had not been contacted about this at all. TH to ask Russell Parkins whether he had heard anything. Considering the A602 Roadworks it was unlikely that it would be going ahead this year.

- PA also queried whether TH was still interested in viewing the site at Bayford to help put the Field Farm site into context as it was owned by the same person. He reported that this site was immaculate, and the owner had invited the PC to have a look to show what was planned on Levens Green. TH to check the status of the Planning Application first. It was thought that permission had not been granted yet. LGS noted that there would be a long wait for any decisions coming out of East Herts. She had had sight of a letter that had been sent to the local group regarding Little Hadham/Westland Green Travellers Site that was subject to a Judicial Review, (which was lost, although EHDC are apparently appealing the High Court Decision). The letter, signed by Sara Saunders, Head of EHDC Planning, explained that they were extremely short of staff, all planning applications are backed up, leading to extended waits on decisions. The letter went on to explain that they currently are only prioritising planning matters where there is likely to be cost to the council or reputational damage. In other words, any sense of democracy with regards to EHDC Planning has, essentially, gone out of the window. She went on to say that East Herts Planning were supposed to have updated residents on Wheelwrights and this was now long overdue. A further development of bright lights had now been installed causing further light pollution and are in breach of Conditions and the existing Injunction. Both LGS and TH felt that the Planning Department needs to be investigated as they are not doing their job. LGS felt that if local groups could perhaps join forces and share experiences of EHDC that we might then approach an investigative journalist or programme such as Dispatches or Panorama.

- LGS was also considering getting in contact with a couple in Much Hadham who have recently won a Judicial Review (with costs also awarded to them) regarding EHDC granting permission for IUD/Retrospective application for buildings related to a next door scaffolding business. The couple have since set up a group called Action on Planning and LGS is considering whether it might beneficial to approach them and explore the possibility of them joining forces with the Wheelwrights Group and the Little Hadham Group. LGS also reported that the Wheelwrights case was now going to be a written hearing (thus far) although there was a substantial delay on this due to "Covid". She was hoping that the designated Planning Inspector will dismiss the latest appeal on the grounds of the strict conditions

set out in Planning Inspector Mr Hammond's original upholding of the planning decision of March 2019 (amended May 2019). However, she then reminded everyone of the Little Hadham decision and (original) Wheelwrights Decision and pointed out that ultimately, we will be at the mercy of the assigned Planning Inspector and as we have seen with regard to Wheelwrights and Little Hadham cases, individual Planning Inspectors' opinions and interpretation of planning policy / LDP can differ vastly. She also went on to say that if permission was granted, it was probable that attempts would be made to further expand the site and that it would eventually be sold for a vast sum of money with no control or knowledge of who might end up living there.

- TH felt that Sir Oliver Heald should step up and do something about this. She felt that being in a safe seat meant he had little incentive to act. It was agreed that as the Planning Department in East Herts were such a pushover more and more traveller sites would spring up here. This had followed strict action being implemented by Harlow Council in conjunction with Essex County Council regarding named Travellers and IUD (Intentional Unauthorised Development) in Essex making East Hertfordshire look like a "pushover".

  CM also reported that land opposite Boxwood at Walkern was set to be a new Gypsy Site. This would massively effect people at Chells Manor.

- TH reported that a questionnaire had been put together by RT on Neighbourhood planning and future development of the Parish. RT explained that the Referendum pm this issue which was held in 2018 had not produced a positive result so the question is why people would want one now. He went onto say that the PC can't administer the process but can support and oversee it. He felt that the views of the village needed to be flushed out and the PC needed to understand the views around the Parish and establish whether anyone is concerned about the threat to the woods and fields around the Parish as well as the extensive development projects throughout East Hertfordshire. The questionnaire was hoping to gage the overall feeling of the Parish to potential development and detriment to the Countryside. No doubt they would criticise the PC if developments were to take place so it was important to get people on board at the start. All agreed that there was a huge danger of development if Planning Rules are eased by the Government.

- TH went on to say that the Questionnaires would be dropped through to everyone's houses in an envelope, separate from the Newsletter. CM suggested putting it on colourful paper. All agreed that this should be done. TH also suggested putting posters up around the village to advertise that and envelope would be coming through their door soon. The answers to the Questionnaire could then be dropped off in the shop.

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: - Thursday 16th September 2021