LITTLE MUNDEN PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Meeting held on
15th October at 8 pm
By the Zoom App

Tracey Harding (TH); David Hart (DH); Claire Monk (CM); ; Billy Summerson (BS) - Councillors: Geraldine Ward – Clerk.
IN ATTENDANCE: Richard Tinner (RT); Liz Gregg-Smith (LGS); Keith Williams (KW); Andrew Springhett (AS)

2. **APOLOGIES:** Andrew Huggins (AH); Colleen Coelco (CC); Julie Hursey (JH); Paul Armstrong (PA)

3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
None

4. **TO APPROVE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 17th September 2020**
The minutes were proposed by TH and seconded by

5. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
None

6. **PLANNING**

6.1 New Applications

APPLICATION: 3/20/1750/HH PROPOSAL: Change of flat roof to pitched roof on front elevation including velux windows, cladding and new garage door. AT: 33 Kingsfield Road Dane End Ware Hertfordshire SG12 0LZ. Consultation Deadline: 26th October 2020. No objections.

APPLICATION: 3/20/1767/FUL
AT: Field Farm Levens Green Old Hall Green Hertfordshire
Proposal Change of use of land to extend Gypsy and Traveller caravan site to provide a total of 12 pitches (an increase of 6) including construction of access road, laying of hardstanding, demolition of existing barn and erection of 6 no. utility buildings. Consultation deadline: 22nd October 2020
BS reported that it appeared that the ground on the site had been levelled off but the barn was still standing. He could only see one static caravan in there. He reported that it doesn't look as though there is much going on at the moment.

TH felt that they must keep on top of this with EHC as the application is to double the number of caravans on site. She went on to say that Great Munden PC had put a piece about this in the Newsletter and they had also put together a leaflets which GW and DH had copies of. DH didn't know if they had been circulated but said he could circulate leaflets around Levens Green on the assumption that Great Munden would do their own village.

5. FINANCE

Receipts and Payments 16/7/20-10/9/20

Receipts	**£**
EHC Litter Picking Payments	582.63
PRECEPT 2020	4715.00
TOTAL	5297.63
Online current account balance B/F 10/9/20	17796.58

Deduct Payments from Current Account

Date	**Payment to**	**Cheque No**	**Amount £**
16/9/20	HMRC X 2 PAYE @£55.00	1251	110.00
18/09/20	G Ward Clerks Fee August	Bacs	256.00
29/09/20	A Warrilow Litter Picking	S/O	23.92
29/09/20	I Oseman Litter Picking	S/O	23.92
		Total Payments	**413.84**

Online balance on Current Account 8/10/20	**22,680.37**
Balance Brought forward 10/9/20	17,796.58
Less Payments	413.84
Plus receipts EHC	5297.63
Balance as at 8/10/20	**22,680.37**

6. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED/SENT

18/9/20 Copy of correspondence from Ben Wood to Liz Gregg-Smith re formal complaint lodged 19/8/20 in the matter of Wheelwrights Farm and associated correspondence. LGS explained that she had raised a Stage 2 complaint which was being looked at by Deputy CEO, Helen Standon. LGS commented that she didn't agree with Ben Woods' findings and felt that EHC had been complicit in serving an incorrect BCN. She went on to say that Stage 2 had been submitted and Helen Standon is looking at that. She commented that she suspected that they will try and defend themselves and would therefore probably go to the Local Government Ombudsman. LGS advised that she would let everyone know when she gets back to her but pointed out that she would probably take her time.

24/9/20 Richard Tinner/Neighbourhood Planning and recent Government changes to Planning. See Agenda Item No 8

5/10/20 HAPTC Rembrance Sunday Guidance

TH felt that at the moment it would be possible to have a socially distanced gathering, although a review of actually holding a Remembrance Sunday Ceremony would be carried out nearer the time.

DH queried whether a reply had been sent to the person who had offered to tidy up the War Memorial. The Clerk had done so and explained to her that work was already in the pipeline to cut back some of the brambles, trees and bushes there. Bulbs were also going to be planted. TH and CM agreed to carry out planting during half term.
6/10/20 J Miller/on behalf of the Environment Agency re survey for residents/re Property Flood Resilience
8/10/20 Royal British Legion/Remembrance Sunday Wreath ordered
8/10/20 Email to A Worthington re War Memorial Tidy Up

7. TO APPOINT MARTHA JAMES/PLAN RESEARCH AS CONSULTANT RE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

All Councillors present resolved to appoint Martha James as consult on Neighbourhood Plan investigations. The Clerk to confirm this in writing to Martha.

8. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING

TH pointed out that she had been speaking with RT re possible implementation of a Neighbourhood Plan as well as possible Government changes to planning. She pointed out that MPs had lobbied the Government this week with regard to the introduction of the new planning legislation. RT pointed out that until a decision is made on this it was impossible to know what planning legislation we would be operating within with regards to Neighbourhood Planning. However he did think that there were steps that can be taken now, regardless of what the ultimate plan will look like. He went on to say that some groundwork can be done i.e. a number of searches can be carried out regarding for example:- sustainability, heritage aspects, archaeology, wildlife, conservation etc so there is a lot of work that can be set in train immediately.

RT went on to say that no money could be spent until we have clearance from East Herts and have some knowledge of how much a grant might be. He added that before a grant can be applied for there needs to be a budget, and before a budget is put in place there needs to be a decision as what areas we are looking at.

RT explained that he wanted the following result from Councillors from tonight's meeting:-

8.1 Authorisation to explore the possible implementation of a Neighbourhood Plan

All Parish Councillors present at the meeting agreed to authorise the exploration of implementing a Neighbourhood Plan.

8.2 Authorisation to appoint a Steering Committee consisting of RT and LGS to have the authority to go off and ask questions on behalf of the Parish Council and collect pertinent information.

All Councillors present resolved to appoint Richard Tinner and Liz Gregg Smith onto the Steering Committee to explore details of what would be involved in implementing a Neighbourhood Plan.

8.3 Authorise appointment of a Parish Councillor onto the Steering Committee.

RT explained that this was because the Parish Council was the designated body to lead this process and all correspondence would have to come through Parish Council.

TH agreed to investigate the appointment of a Parish Councillor onto the Steering Committee as not all Parish Councillors were present at this meeting.

DH wondered if they should seek authority from the residents to find out whether they want or require a Neighbourhood plan. RT suggested this was not necessary as the Parish Council were not committing any money to do one yet and it was merely an exercise in exploring the possibility. He went on to say that the Parish Council must remember the difference in circumstances between when the PC had the vote in the village two years ago. At that time people felt they could rely on the East Herts local plan. He went on to say that this is plainly not the case as the plan was not upheld as seen with Planning Applications at Wheelwrights and Home Farm.

LGS also pointed out that this was also seen at Little Hadham where there was a decision that was ruled by the High Court for a private development there, regarding a scaffolding business. The Little Hadham Westling Green challenge is also currently going to the High Court. She went on to say that she did feel that a Neighbourhood Plan would give some protection rather than no protection at all. She also commented that with the possibility of new planning legislation, which although may not happen right away, preparations should be in place for when it might, especially in the light of the development at Home Farm.

TH went onto say that she had emailed Josh Carson to set up a meeting with King and Co to start discussions regarding the resin path through the village to see if this can be removed from the plans. She said she would advise all when the meeting would be.

She went on to say that we now need to speak to them and work with them to get the best outcome for the village in the years ahead.

9. AUTHORISATION OF SEPTEMBER 2020 PAYMENT TRANSACTIONS

All Councillors present agreed to authorise the September payment transactions.

10. NEW BENCHES/ NOTICEBOARD/ LITTER BIN (SHOP)

TH agreed to get the benches and new litter bin ordered in the next couple of weeks. TH to speak to the Shop re location of litter bin. **ACTION: TH**

11. TRAFFIC CALMING

TH reported that she had been speaking to a contact at Interserve, the construction company working on the A602. He had already spoken to a number of businesses such as the Christmas Tree Farm and the Golf Club to provide signage confirming that these businesses were still open and how to get there, so they wouldn't miss any business. She had also discussed with him the possibility of getting mobile Sids or signage to try and reduce the speed of some of the cars going through the village. ACTION: TH

12. ALLOTMENT CLEARANCE AND IMPROVEMENT WORKS NOVEMBER
GW to brief allotment holders by email of when the work would be carried out and what would be involved.

13. BOOK/THE PROTECTED VALLEY– POSSIBLE XMAS PUBLICATION?
All Councillors present authorised the publication of the book for Christmas.

14. REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY/WAR MEMORIAL TIDY UP
The Clerk had arranged for this to go ahead before Remembrance Sunday.

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

BS asked whether we have heard any word from Clarion as none of the work proposed after their initial visit had been carried out. **ACTION GW**

TH also commented that Highways had also not been seen at all with regards to Dane End despite trying to chaseup Highways with regards to Traffic Calming and

thought she may go over in person to speak to them about it. BS volunteered to go too.

BS also enquired whether anything had been mentioned about tennis club at the last meeting. TH reported that she was thinking it may be a good idea to set up a Just Giving page as setting up a tennis court and club would probably cost between £25-50,000. She pointed out that grants were available but had been put on hold due to Covid. A Just Giving page would at least start off the funding and be topped up with grants at a later date. With regards to the location, TH commented that siting the court at the school prompted concerns to housing development up there She felt that the obvious place would be Horses Meadow.

RT mentioned that the Youth Club experience on Horses Meadow had been quite bad but TH felt that with the proper high fencing, locked gates and all equipment being locked at night, there shouldn't be much potential for vandalism. It was also suggested that remote security could be used up there if there was a problem. RT felt the school should be involved, TH agreed but it should be opened up for everyone. CM suggested that it may be an idea get information from Watton Tennis in terms of general advice.

PA had reported earlier that he had been down to HM on a number of occasions and hadn't see any anti-social activity going on there recently, TH suggested this was probably due to the police presence down there the week before.

16. TO CONSIDER PARISH MATTERS FROM PARISHIONERS

RT pointed out that the Parish Council had got an email from Andrew Huggins in response to the update on the Home Farm complaint saying that the Enforcement investigation was ongoing.

With Field Farm, LGS felt it would be 4-6 weeks before a decision is made as they will be waiting on the decision of the High Court regarding Westling Green at Little Hadham. The have committed however to a decision at Wheelwrights within the month.

LGS thought that there should be an internal review to see how the department is operating overall as there have been repeated mistakes by the department. She pointed out that if PC was emailing Sara Saunders they should copy in Richard Cassidy and Helen Standon, the Deputy CEOs. LGS to pass email addresses to TH.

TH went on to say that currently at Field Farm they are allowed so many static caravans and don't seem to understand that the planning application is to double the

site. LGS pointed out that the Ware North development plans was signed off as fit for purpose, claiming there was adequate provision for travellers sites already in the area. It was felt that East Herts were not taking this factor into consideration. TH to contact KC to make sure he is aware of this.

RT felt that the map/booklet produced a number of years ago could dove tail nicely with the publication of the book. CM thought we would need to know more about the original artwork from which they were printed from. LGS suggested contacting JM to see if she had any information on it. KW noted that the map was done many years ago and a lot of the new permissive paths should be added and updated to it.

TH felt it might be worth contacting Bob Hicks who could perhaps do new artwork. DH suggested that John Grisbrook had been involved with the production of the map. TH suggested that perhaps the two could work together.

AS commented that the junction between the A602 roadworks and Munden Road seems to be clear and questioned whether it could be opened at night for drivers use. TH to email the company to ask whether this would be possible although she commented that so far the information wass that it will be shut until February.
ACTION: TH

KW commented on the Bench at Green End which had been reported as needing some repair and vegetation cut back surrounding it (as per September Minutes). He said that he will take on the work as soon as time allows and repair any damage to the wood. KW also suggested asking King & Co to improve pedestrian access to the school by means of a path from the development up the side of HM round the back of Easington Road so that children will not have to walk along Munden Road. All agreed that this would be a good idea.

The meeting was drawn to a close at 8.45 pm.

17. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: - Thursday 19th November 2020