LITTLE MUNDEN PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Meeting held on
17th September at 8 pm
By the Zoom App

Tracey Harding (TH); Dave Hart (DH); Julie Hursey (JH); Claire Monk (CM); Paul Armstrong (PA); Billy Summerson (BS) - Councillors: Geraldine Ward – Clerk.
IN ATTENDANCE: Andrew Huggins (AH); Richard Tinner (RT); Liz Gregg-Smith (LGS)
Members of the Public: 5

2. APOLOGIES: Colleen Coelco (CC); Ken Crofton (KC)

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
None

4. TO APPROVE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 27th July 2020
The minutes were proposed by TH and seconded by JH

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
None

6. PLANNING

4.1 New Applications

APPLICATION: 3/20/1119/FUL
PROPOSAL: Construction of menage and access track
AT: Wheelwrights Farm, Rowney Lane, Dane End, Ware, Herts
Comments by 30th July 2020. **Awaiting decision**.
LGS was still awaiting response from EHDC with regard to the complaint that she had lodged with Planning and said she would update the PC as soon as she had had an update.

4.2 Decisions

APPLICATION: 3/19/2211/FUL
PROPOSAL: Part conversion and part demolition of existing buildings. Provision of mixed-use development for B1 Use (business) and retention of existing agricultural buildings. Erection of 26 dwellings, 10 to be affordable housing. Works to include access, landscaping, engineering, and associated works. Provision of car parking spaces and cycle spaces.
AT: Land At Home Farm Munden Road Dane End Ware Hertfordshire
Approved 12/8/20

APPLICATION: 3/20/0172/FUL
Land adjacent to Welgelegin, The Street, Haultwick. LPA Appeal No 20/00066/Refuse. Ref: Erection of one bed detached bungalow**. Refused**.

LATE PLANNING
APPLICATION: 3/20/1767/FUL
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
AT: Field Farm, Levens Green, Old Hall Green.

5. FINANCE
Receipts and Payments 16/7/20-10/9/20

Receipts	**£**
EHDC New Homes Bonus	1206.00
Online current account balance B/F 15/7/20	18793.35

Deduct Payments from Current Account

Date	**Payment to**	**Cheque No**	**Amount £**
19/7/20	G Ward Clerks Fee	Bacs	261.88
19/7/20	Herts Display (July N/lttr)	Bacs	104.16
25/07/20	G Ward Clerk/back pay From April 2020	Bacs	222.00
29/07/20	A Warrilow Litter Picking	S/O	23.92
29/07/20	I Oseman Litter Picking	S/O	23.92
31/7/20	R Barron Website	S/O	35.00
21/8/20	G Ward Clerks Fee August	Bacs	256.00
24/8/20	Herts Display	Bacs	89.90
24/8/20	Jed Griffiths Planning Advice	Bacs	150.00
27/8/20	HAPTC Planning Webinar DH	Bacs	120.00
1/9/20	A Warrilow Litter Picking	S/O	23.92
1/9/20	I Oseman Litter Picking	S/O	23.92
1/9/20	R Barron Website (last Paymnt)	S/O	35.00
3/9/20	Parish Council Websites	Bacs	818.76
6/9/20	G Ward/for Zoom Pro Reg	Bacs	14.39
		Total Payments	**2202.77**

Online balance on Current Account 10/9/20	**17796.58**
Balance Brought forward 15/7/20	18793.35
Less Payments	2202.77
Plus receipts EHDC NHB	1206.00
Balance as at 10/9/20	**17796.58**

6. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED/SENT

11/8/20 Major Reform of National Framework/forwarded
13/8/20 Letter from Jed Griffths/outcome of Planning Committee/Home Farm
14/8/20 HAPTC email to – confirmation of submission of AGAR
14/8/20 Email link from Andrew Huggins/Neighbourhood Plan Funding
19/8/20 Approval for Planning Webinar payment/DH to attend
19/8/20 Letter to Terence Flyn re Yew Trees at Dane End House/requesting TPO info. Clerk to chase up Terence Flyn.
19/8/20 Email from JP re Tennis Club proposal/copy of letter sent to EHDC
28/8/20 Annual Playground Inspection document
1/9/20 Letter from Mr & Mrs Gresswell in response to Clerk's letter to them asking to maintain their side of bank/Dane End Tributary and remove grass clippings. The correspondence was noted and the Clerk had agreed to ask the DoE for more exact information regarding Mr Gresswell's duties to keep his trees cut back on the bank. It was agreed that grass clippings should be placed in the brown bin.
3/9/20 Copy of letter sent by Liz Gregg-Smith, re complaint to EHDC re Wheelwrights Farm
7/9/20 HAPC Invitation to Zoom Presentation re Local Gorvernment Reform
8/9/20 Copy of letters to EHDC from Richard Tinner re Complaint COM884/Agricultural land adjoining Whempstead Lane, Dane End
8/9/20 Correspondence from Richard Tinner to Andrew Huggins, EHDC re decision Home Farm
8/9/20 Message from Martin Oak re Meeting in HM to discuss Allotment work.

7. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING

TH felt that in order to form a Neighbourhood Planning Committee there needs to be a much clearer message and harder facts presented to residents on what an NP can achieve. The possible ways in which this message could get across to residents was discussed and it was agreed that households should be leafleted to explain how **important** this had now become. It was agreed that this could be backed up by a piece in the Newsletter too. It was also questioned whether Sacombe could be included in the Neighbourhood Plan, as well as Sacombe Green, Great Munden etc. which would spread the catchment area out for potential resources.

There was general concern that now the Home Farm Application had been given the green light, the EHDC Local Plan really gave little protection to villages at all and concern was also expressed that the major road works on the A602 would qualify as improvements to infrastructure along the Sacombe/Mundens corridor.

TH felt that the recent approval at Home Farm does change somewhat the status of LMP as a Village 2 and makes it more viable for development as King & Co have

proved that it is a sustainable site. She went on to say that we need to contradict this assumption by proving that the area would not sustain further development.

LGS felt that the development will assimilate with the village, despite being technically outside the boundary which could lead to the “Upgrading” of Dane End from a Grade 2 village Grade 1 village.

RT commented that a Neighbourhood Plan will not defend our Parish against development but will help residents to be able to have a say as to where potential development might go.

TH went on to point out that it would take as long as two years to put a Neighbourhood Plan into place, therefore we need to act now and stop sitting on the back fence waiting to see what happens. AH commented that it was worth bearing in mind that as things stand at the moment, it will be unlikely that EHC will still be around in 2 years times so the associated plan is likely to disappear with a unitary Council sharing a housing supply with Stevenage, Broxbourne, North Herts at the least or it could be a single unitary across the whole country which would then include areas such as St Albans and Watford and they would be keen to pick on rural areas for development to balance out their urban sprawl.

AH still felt the Parish Council should go ahead with the Neighbourhood Plan and said he would be more than happy to help and get answers from EHDC as and when necessary.

TH asked how Councillors feel about the development of a Neighbourhood Plan – all voted in favour. TH comments that she was confident that once residents had been hit by a few hard facts and that there was a genuine threat of development within the local area, then they would be more likely to volunteer. The Clerk pointed out that we already had LGS and RT as volunteers. TH went on to say that hopefully a hard hitting document circulated to the Parish would help generate volunteers amongst the Parish.

TH felt that the leaflet should be published and as quickly as possible with a short turnaround time as a means to recruiting volunteers, names of which to be sent to the Clerk’s new email address to see what response we get.

AH went on to point out that there was a new Planning Application at Field Farm (see Late Planning) for 12 caravans after aggressive clearance of the site in the earlier part of the year. TH questioned that with the number of sites around the vicinity are they likely to get this? AH felt it was too early to tell although he had asked for clarification from planning as the application should be for four extra

caravans and not 6. He had also asked EHDC for clarification as to whether this plan fitted in with “allocation for need”, he felt it didn’t and thirdly he had asked for clarification as to whether the application was a major or minor application. It would appear to be a minor one. TH asked AH how Great Munden Parish Council felt about this. He commented that they obviously oppose it but will also draw down support and expertise from Friends of Rowney Priory.

8. AUTHORISATION OF AUGUST PAYMENT TRANSACTION:
All approved.

9. TENNIS CLUB
TH felt that the location proposed in JP’s plan was not suitable. She felt that by developing a tennis Club in land adjacent to the field, may encourage further residential development.

TH estimated that the cost would be between £25,000-50,000 and therefore they would have to look at supplementary grants. All agreed that a better location would be the top of Horses’ Meadow. The existing play equipment could be removed and new play equipment located nearer the car park at the bottom. As per the most recent Playground Inspection alot of the equipment now needs major repairs so it was felt that it would be a good time to replace all of the equipment. All agreed. It was agreed that the next step was to look at grants – TH asked if anyone was available to help source these – PA and CM volunteered to help to investigate what grants are out there.

10. NEW BENCHES/ NOTICEBOARD/ LITTER BIN (SHOP)
TH and GW had been discussing new benches this week and had located a few possibilities – all made from recycled plastic. TH asked the PC where they would like the new benches sited. There were already plans for one on the top of Windy Rise and a new one at the War memorial. CM queried whether the bench at the pond Green End needs repairing and thought a new one on the Triangle near the Christmas Tree Farm would be good. It was agreed to apply for 3 and CM queried whether planning permission needs to be sought for these.

PA to chase up on the new Noticeboard which was near completion.

As the litter bin at shop was removed at the time of the bench, TH felt it was worth talking to the shop to enquire whether a litter bin could be put in by the old Noticeboard. All felt that the accumulation of the litter outside the shop was unacceptable, TH to go down and have a word with them about keeping the area clear.

11. TRAFFIC CALMING

AH reported that a lot of 20/20 speed groups were popping up around the county. Consultation finished yesterday so there may well be an announcement coming down the tracks whereby there will be more 20 zones around the county. AH felt that a number of rural settings around the county would benefit from this incentive including Little Munden. TH to contact KC to push him on this.

GW raised the point of why the village had not received the Cids yet, especially as now the village was such a bad rat run. TH pointed out that it was now 2years since the meeting initially with Herts Highways. It is unacceptable especially as the developers got all traffic calming measures they had asked for during the planning process. TH to ring up KC and try and prompt some response regarding this issue.

12. REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY/WAR MEMORIAL TIDY UP

The Clerk to ask A Worthington to tidy up brambles around the War Memorial. Date to be set for a tidy up. Remembrance Sunday coming up and GW asked whether anyone has any thoughts about it. However it was generally felt that as things were, a Remembrance Ceremony was not advisable. TH suggested putting something in the Newsletter to make sure people knew that the event was being marked in some way.

13. LITTERPICKERS

It was decided to give notice to the present Litter Pickers and it was agreed that the PC would advertise for either young people or a retired person.

14. PLAYGROUND INSPECTION

TH again commented that the play equipment should be moved and redesigned, with modern equipment and paths put in to make it a safer and more accessible space. TH felt it would be a good idea to start the process of finding grants for renewal of the playground and a sub-committee could be set up to get the ball rolling.

TH commented that the overall condition of the Play Equipment as per the report was that it was in poor condition so the quicker it could be renewed and relocated the better.

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

CM queried what is happening about cameras for flytipping. There was a new person now in charge of this at EHDC who unfortunately was not as proactive as his predecessor, Sam.

TH commented that a lot of parking was taking place on the grass verge outside the playground which was dangerous as cars would not be able to see children running out of the play area. TH suggested putting bollards along the grass kerb. All felt it was something the PC should go ahead with particularly as precedents had been set along Easington Road.

CM also pointed out that we should have a camera up at the playground to monitor anti-social activity – TH reported that Mark Jenkins the local PC is aware of this and is stepping up patrols and monitoring the situation. He had said to TH that any information from people regarding comings and goings and car number plates would help. He had told TH that the only deterrent for this type of anti-social activity is the police.

Discussion also took place as to underage drinking on HM. It was agreed that some PCs would take a walk around and clear up some of the beer cans etc.

With regards the Home Farm Development, CM raised the question of the sewage regarding the new development – TH had also raised this and that it would take between 12-18 months to do upgrade and would be cess pits until that upgrade took place. AH – sewage was left as a condition to be discharged once agreement had been made.

16. TO CONSIDER PARISH MATTERS FROM PARISHIONERS

RT to liaise with LGS and forward to TH/cc: GW, a suggested way forward on the Neighbourhood Plan. He commented that questions will need to be answered from the PC and they would also need to have some sort of Authority from the Parish Council to proceed as a Steering Group in this matter.

RT commented that JP had said in the past that there couldn't be another vote on Neighbourhood Planning but would have to be a forum instead. RT went onto say that he understood that a grant was available and wondered if anything had so far been drawn down from this, GW confirmed it hadn't. The full grant was still available. He noted that a group in Bengeo who are approving theirs now are the most current in process, along with Sele Farm and any information obtained from them would be useful.

Clerk to send RT the Finance information on Neighbourhood Planning, forwarded from AH.

RT commented that Bengeo were just approving their Plan now, this must be the most current along with that of Sele Farm. He commented that any information obtained from either of these would be useful.

RT also went on to comment on the unofficial dumping of waste on Home Farm Land adjacent to the Whempstead Lane – he had now raised an official complaint with the council re illegal use of that land which the council have done nothing about. The council will look at this again and keep AH informed of what is found. RT felt it was inexplicable that the boat, hoist etc were not noted at the time of the investigation. AH had raised this with Environmental Team who were not worried about the rubble or cared about it's source. RT to keep progressing with this matter and would ultimately put in a formal complaint. TH commented that following investigations she had instigated last year, all sorts of vehicles were being dumped up there and no one at Planning seem at all concerned about this.

RT wondered if there was any way that AH/TH could accompany inspections – however this would not be possible due to Covid restrictions! However the PC was determined to make known that it was unacceptable that EHDC couldn't find anything wrong up there.

RT commented that by storing rubbish on this site, another Certificate of Lawful Use may be applied for. TH commented that they have been prosecuted before for unlawful recycling which seemed to have put a stop to burning of materials.

AH commented that he would bring up the matter with Sara Saunders and suggested giving it another week to 10 days and then see where we're at with the next inspection by which time the complaint would have gone in.

LGS commented with regards to Wheelwrights Farm Planning Application that she had formal Stage 1 complaint lodged, submitted on 19th and also a complaint re flawed BCN incorrectly assigned, still awaiting reply after a month so nothing to report at present . However AH noted that Ben Wood had called him and would email Liz tomorrow. The report was apparently in it's final stages so a result would be due shortly.

The meeting was brought to a close at 9.25 pm.

17. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: - Thursday 15th October 2020