LITTLE MUNDEN PARISH COUNCIL – Annual Parish Meeting 21st April 2026
CHAIRMWOMAN'S REPORT

Chairman

I need to ask if anyone else would like to stand a Chair for the year 2026/2027?

General Statement

As chair of the Parish Council for a few terms now it makes me appreciate what a great parish we live in and what an important role we have as custodians for our parish.
At the beginning there was a bit of a learning curb, making the necessary connections with people in the District Council & County Council, other parish councils and many more business areas, developing the parish council into the team we are today. It has made me sit back and reflect on just how far we have come and what great changes we have seen in the Parish. I believe we are one of the most forward-thinking Parish Councils achieving a lot, but none of this would have been possible without the individual parishioners who come out and support us time after time.
We have once again been kept very busy with Planning and Enforcement issues, Highways and Clarion Housing Association issues to name but a few. Many hours have been given behind the scenes at meetings, corresponding with various agencies and parishioners trying to ensure all concerns/queries raised are dealt with to the best of our abilities within our limited powers.
We also work hard trying to resolve parishioners concerns requests for help with problems they are facing, we don't always get the results wanted but at least get an answer to their questions.
The last year has had some truly memorable moments with the Seniors Christmas Lunch at Green End, the Summer Fete with the Cowboys descending on our village, Remembrance Day Service, Village Litter Picks and we cannot forget the Panto, what fun and laughter we have had.

Development of Home Farm Farmyard

The Industrial Units are nearly completed there has been no movement on the Residential Housing Development this land still remains with the receivers. We are closely monitoring the situation and if we are notified of any changes we will of course update you.

Litter Picking

We are once again putting out a please for the community to adopt their road and keep it clear of litter this is a great initiative to keep our village tidy. The Parish Council have also organised a wider litter pick to covering Munden Road, Whempstead Road & Horses Meadow.

Highways

This I fear will never come off of the agenda there will always be roads needing to be fixed. We have several key areas around the village that have been highlighted to Cllr Ken Crofton and a representative from the Highways Department who are looking to work out a resolution that will be financially viable and improve parking and vehicular access.

The Future
This year we are holding a 40's – 50's dance at the Christmas Tree Farm Barn in June this will be a great event and be in place of the annual fete. We do hope as many parishioners can come along and support this venture bringing us all together once again. We are looking to hold a family camping night during the summer and an Open Cinema event details will follow soon.

Community Allotment
Well, this is the second growing season and things have started well, we have a great team down there week in week out sowing, weeding, developing making it a great success. We are still looking for more of the Parish to pop down for a chat and maybe join in I can assure you, you won't be disappointed.

Clarion
Cllr Aubrey Holt and I have been working tirelessly regarding 1 Gladstone Road, finally it has been let. We are now ensuring they complete Padget Cottage as soon as possible and hopefully let it to a family within our Parish. Other issues remain regarding overgrown trees/gardens with some of their tenants in the village and we are working to ensure Clarion assist in getting these gardens under control for the benefit of the residents and their neighbours.

Horses Meadow
We completed the purchase of Horses Meadow on the 19th of March 2026; this is a great asset for our community ensuring it is protected from development for future generations. We will now commence works to move the War Memorial into Horses Meadow to make it a more enjoyable space for those wishing to remember their loves once not only on Remembrance Day but throughout the year. We are looking forward to seeing the newly designed memorial garden at the front of Horses Meadow. Other repairs and other works will also be completed over the coming months.

Queens Wood
Our new phase of sapling planting at Queens Wood was completed in March 2026, thank you to all involved helping to plant the 600 saplings. The wildflowers have also been purchased and will now be sown in the autumn. The Parish Council will be looking to purchase a bench where people will be able to sit and enjoy the view across the valley.

With Thanks
Thanks to the people who have once again supported us and our ventures financially without those donations many of our community events simply would not take place, they are an important part in the lasting legacy of our Parish Council.

Thanks also to Russell and Liz Parkins at Dane End Christmas Tree Farm for continuing to support the Parish Council with a gift of a Christmas Trees and the generous loan of the Toilets and Barn for our Summer Fair and other events and to farmer Martin Spackman for his continued supply of hay bales when needed.

I would also like to thank our two Councillors Ken Crofton and Aubrey Holt who give up a great deal of their time supporting both the Parish Council and Parishioners on matters we really appreciate it.

Thanks to Jonathan Pool for completing our year end accounts on our behalf.

Now to my fellow councillors, this year we have welcomed Vicky, our newest member onto our Parish Council, who has whole heartedly jumped in with both feet getting involved and helping whenever she can.
The rest of this wonderful bunch who have volunteered tirelessly over the last 12 months in many different ways, what can l say, there are simply no words that can put what we all do into a simple statement. You are a great bunch, and you all do to make our Parish Council one of the strongest, most forward thinking, funny, supportive approachable councils. So well done!

I would like to personally thank Gerry our Clerk for all the work she carries out on our behalf. Without her valued input and dedication l would not be as sain as l am.

Whatever we face, we do it with the best intentions, often there is a lot of hard work behind the scenes to achieve the results with Horses Meadow secure, Queens Wood complete a strong community base and volunteers running the Community Allotment we are now seeing the side shoots of our Community branching out reaching those who may not have joined in with events previously, long may this continue and to those in our community who have not attended one of our events l urge you to do so as you won't be disappointed and may make some new friends, see some old friends but most importantly become a stronger link within our community.

Our Pensioners Christmas Lunch now runs like a well-oiled machine; the Panto is improving year on year.

So, thank you for supporting me with my ideas, for making me laugh, thank you for being a fantastic, funny, practical and capable bunch without you all giving your time and energy things simply wouldn't get done. We don't do quiet; we don't do same and boring we look to see what new things we can bring to our community and how we can improve the little things to make life better for everyone… l look forward to another year of working with you fantastic lot!

Councillor Tracey Harding
Chair