



LITTLE GADDES DEN *parish council*

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL on

19th August, 2019

PLEASE NOTE THAT MINUTES ARE ALSO PUBLISHED ON THE VILLAGE WEB SITE

<http://www.littlegaddesden.org.uk>

The meeting commenced at 8.00 pm.

PRESENT: Cllrs. Hyde, Kelly, Magson, Pritchard, Saner, Townsend. Also in attendance, Alastair Greene (Clerk), and four members of the public.

APOLOGIES: Cllr. Lawson and County and District Councillor Douris

1. FORMALITIES

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting

The attendance register was signed. There were no declarations of interest.

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as a correct record of the meeting and were signed at the end of the meeting.

2. OPEN SESSION FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Cllr. Kelly asked if anyone wished to raise any matters not already covered in the Agenda.

Paulette Reed said that she felt the Green was looking a little bit unkempt this month with different areas being cut to different heights even in the same part of the Green. Cllr. Hyde advised that it was being cut in accordance with the Grounds Maintenance Contract

Janet Stinton advised that the drains in Beacon Road were all blocked with vegetation and soil and were totally ineffective in the last heavy rain. She felt also that the work that the National Trust had carried out, especially the soakaway, was so limited it could not significantly reduce the volume of water running off the Ling car park. Cllr Townsend confirmed this was the case and that the National Trust had advised him that they were not planning to do any more works. Cllr. Townsend advised that he was in contact with Cllr. Douris to escalate this matter again. Cllr. Douris was away but had advised through correspondence with the Parish Council that there was in the County Engineer's works programme, a proposed fourth quarter, Phase 2 works (which the Parish Council assumes is the connection of the drainage system to the old drain and through to the pond at the rear of Deer Leap Manor. Cllr. Townsend offered to follow up with Cllr. Douris and to obtain as built drawings of the current network, a clear statement about the planned frequency of the clearance of the gullies in Beacon Road and details of the design of Phase 2.

3. REPORTS AND MATTERS ARISING

(a) To receive a report from Hertfordshire Constabulary.

The report advised that in Little Gaddesden in July 2019 there had been:-

Theft from motor vehicle x 1

Damage to property x 1

Cllr Hyde advised that Lee Clements had been contacted regarding pills/tablets found in the Bowls

Signed by the Chairman.....Dated.....

Club car park.

(b) To discuss the possible purchase of land from the Mead Trust

Cllr Kelly asked whether the Council supported the principle of purchasing a small parcel of land from within the 33 acres that were being marketed by Brown and Co on behalf of the Meads Trust. It was agreed that owning some expansion land, approximately 0.4 acres (0.17 hectares) adjacent to the Children's Play Area would be a good idea. It was further agreed that Cllr. Pritchard would speak to her Meads Trust contact and depending on the outcome of that discussion, Cllr Kelly would amend the written offer to the agent to include a contribution towards legal fees.

(c) To discuss fund raising for the Village Hall improvements

Cllr Kelly asked whether Councillors thought that a fund-raising activity in October, perhaps jointly with the Friends of the School, might be a good way of raising funds for the Village Hall project. It was agreed that the lead time was crucial to the success of an event and that perhaps thought should be given to something later in the year and also that rather than sharing the income and sharing the organisational effort, the Parish Council should proceed independently.

(d) To review progress on the basketball hard standing

The Clerk advised that the contractor had been delayed due to the unsuitable weather but hoped to do the surface painting that week. It was agreed that there should be an official launching event for the Gym equipment and Basketball area at the Sports Day and that Cllr. Douris should be asked to 'cut the ribbon'. Cllr Magson offered to speak to Terry and the clubs who had donated and Cllr Kelly offered to speak to the Lawton Trust who were also donors.

(e) Roundabout quotes

The Clerk advised that the material that had been suggested as a possible less expensive solution was not ideal for the wear and tear that the roundabout would receive. It was agreed that the existing matting should be replaced with something similar and the Clerk and Cllr. Kelly agreed to review it on site.

(f) To agree Councillor portfolio responsibilities.

The table of responsibilities was amended slightly, giving Cllr Townsend responsibility for being the first point of contact in relation to both Ashridge Hult and the National Trust.

(g) ROSPA reports

Cllr's Kelly and Hyde and the Clerk agreed to meet on site to review the necessary actions.

It was suggested that there may be residents or contractors in the village who may be able to do some of the Parish Council's maintenance works on things such as the play areas and the Clerk agreed to check. In the meantime, Cllr Hyde would seek a quote for the play area repainting work from Robert Cassidy at Dacorum Borough Council.

(h) To consider a request from the Friends of the School to use the Playing field for a firework display

Cllr. Kelly advised that there was a proposal to hold a village firework display on 3rd November on the Church Road playing fields. The event had previously been held for a number of years at the kind invitation of the Hargreaves family. It was not proposed to have a bonfire, just fireworks. The Clerk advised that he had been forwarded a risk assessment for the event that had been prepared by Pains Fireworks and Cllr Magson asked for that to be circulated. It was agreed that in principle the Council had no objection to the event but that they would want to understand the detailed

Signed by the Chairman.....Dated.....

arrangements before permitting the event to go ahead and that a representative of the organisation should attend the next Parish meeting to present the proposal.

(i) To note road closure notification.

The Clerk advised that he had received a general road closure advance notice in relation to Hudnall Lane. It did not state the purpose of the closure nor detailed timings but it is assumed to be for the purpose of amending the signage for the 'Safe Route to School' project. Residents are advised to keep an eye out for the yellow notice boards that will give the details on the closure dates.

(j) To note the recommendations in the Tree Report

Cllr Hyde advised the following main actions were proposed:-

Church Road Playing Fields

Two Horse Chestnuts to be removed within 24 months

One Ash to be removed within 12 months

Bowls Club Oak, consider providing mulch surround (or uncut meadow surround) to avoid the need to cut close to trunk.

Other minor works to several trees within 24 months

Village hall

Minor works to trees

The Green

Three Common Limes – reduce in height and spread in the next 12 months and consider providing mulch surround (or uncut meadow surround) to avoid the need to cut close to trunk.

Tomogram Image required (Tree health scan) on one of the Limes in the next 12 months

War Memorial Oak – Minor works required

It was agreed to seek further advice on one Ash on the Green (Adj Cory Wright) and one Beech on the playing fields near Sports Pavilion and, depending on what the National Trust say, to ask the arboriculturalist to look at the oaks adjacent to the Lady Marion Alford Memorial

Once these have been inspected a programme will be put together and quotes obtained to get the work done

(k) New Parish Council Web site

The Clerk advised that the new web site was available for viewing by Councillors ahead of an official launch in September and that feedback would be welcomed.

(l) DriveSafe report

Cllr Hyde advised as follows:-

5 June 2019

0730 – 0900

Location Code: 41 D2 005 Vine Cottage, Nettleden Road (coming into the Village)

Total vehicles passed = 192

Total recorded at 35mph or above = 46

Percentage = 24%

Signed by the Chairman.....Dated.....

Average speed of those recorded at 35mph or above = 39.5mph

Range = 35mph – 50mph

Total recorded at or above 50mph = 1

Total recorded at or above 40mph = 19

Percentage recorded at or above 40mph = 41%

5 June 2019

1530 - 1715

Location Code: 41 D2 006 Hudnall Lane (heading out of the Village towards Hudnall Common)

Total vehicles passed = 128

Total recorded at 35mph or above = 41

Percentage = 32%

Average speed of those recorded at 35mph or above = 38.6mph

Range = 35mph – 57mph

Total recorded at or above 50mph = 1

Total recorded at or above 40mph = 11

Percentage recorded at or above 40mph = 27%

11 July 2019

Location The Spinney Nettleden Road (heading into the Village from Ringshall)

7.30 – 10.00

Total vehicles passed 261

Total recorded at 35 mph + = 67

Percentage 26%

Total recorded at 50+ = 4

8 August 2019

Location Code: 41 D2 005 Vine Cottage, Nettleden Road (heading into the Village)

7.30 – 9.15

The total number of vehicles passed was 173, of which 60 (35% - up from 26% on 11/7/19) were recorded at 35mph or above.

The average speed of those recorded vehicles was 39mph (41mph on 11/7/19), and the median 38mph. The range was from 35mph – 50mph.

It was suggested that a summary of the results should be sent to Ashridge for inclusion in their staff newsletters as many of the staff there are regular drivers through the village.

Items brought forward from previous meetings

None

4. ADMINISTRATION

(i) Correspondence not already covered above and that requires action by the Council

The Clerk advised that he had received and circulated a formal complaint about the condition of the Green between Keepers Cottage and John O'Gaddesdens House.

The National Trust had advised that they were planning to enforce a Traffic Regulation Order allowing them to close the Monument Drive road at night. Cllr. Townsend advised that the NT had encountered issues on this matter that needed to be resolved before this enforcement action could proceed.

Signed by the Chairman.....Dated.....

The Football Club had asked if they could put up a Junior Football Club recruitment banner on the fence opposite the Village Hall. This was approved by the Clerk on the usual terms.

The Clerk had received useful guidance from DBC about how Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funds could be spent. It was noted that the car park improvements might qualify for such funds.

Barry Deadman expected the Picnic bench that he was donating to be available for installation towards the end of September.

Jane Tilley asked whether her guests could be permitted to park on the Green outside Marion Lodge area and the Clerk had given consent subject to the usual terms.

Virginia Westmacott asked if the Parish Council can alert organisers of cycling events to the need to provide a steward at the Hudnall Lane/Nettleden Road junction as there had been a near accident recently with cyclists not appreciating the narrowness of the road at that point.

(ii) Finance

The schedule of payments was approved together with the report on expenditure for the previous month.

Finance Schedule

a. The Council approved the following payments:-

Clerk & Village Hall Manager – Salary & PAYE for July & Aug

SRT Trading Limited – £220 plus vat x 2 – Warden Services (July & Aug invoice)

MWAgri – £692 ex vat x 2 (July & Aug invoice)

Petty Cash payment £139.88 inc vat to Clerk. Covers July and Aug stationery/tel calls

Sports Courts UK Ltd £4,627.25 ex vat second payment for Basketball area

Parish Council websites £450 no vat for set up plus annual maintenance

Sarah Gall £125 plus vat for Bridgewater Arms defibrillator replacement pads

E-on – Electricity payment for the cabinet on the Green. £24.23 inc vat

Rospa Play Safety – Operational Playground Inspection course £435 plus vat

Little Gaddesden Village Hall – Hall hire for meetings £135 no vat

HAPTC Training for Councillors - £40 no vat

JC Arboricultural Co Ltd £745 plus vat for Tree report on Parish Council land

G.H. Electrical £1,926 ex vat LED replacement lighting to Village hall

David Brattle £93.17 for refurbishment works to bench

b. Cheques/payments received

LGVH Management Committee - Village Hall Manager salary

(iii) Health and Safety

The Clerk confirmed that the Safety inspections of the play areas had taken place on 15th August, 2019.

Signed by the Chairman.....Dated.....

PLANNING SCHEDULE - CURRENT APPLICATIONS (status at 19th August, 2019)

(Red text show changes since previous meeting)

THE SUMMER HOUSE, NETTLEDEN ROAD NORTH, DEMOLITION OF EXISTING DWELLING AND CAR PORT. CONSTRUCTION OF REPLACEMENT DETACHED DWELLING AND CAR PORT. 4/02963/18/FUL
No objection from LGPC, **Granted by DBC**

KILBRACKEN, HUDNALL COMMON, PROPOSED CAR PORT. 4/03077/18/FHA

Little Gaddesden Parish Council objects to this application on the grounds that it is contrary to Policy CS7 of the Dacorum Core Strategy for the following reasons:-

- 1 The proposal significantly increases the built development between the house and the property boundary.
- 2 The proposed building is (at above 4m) too high for a building within 2m of the property boundary.
- 3 The roof line at the sides and rear of the building comes down to 0.9m from the ground and has a significant visual impact.

The Parish Council believes that the development has a significant impact on the openness and rural appearance of the countryside in breach of Policy CS7. **Granted by DBC**

FOURWAYS GARAGE, HUDNALL CORNER. DEMOLITION AND REMOVAL OF EXISTING BUILDINGS. CONSTRUCTION OF 8 DWELLINGS WITH DETACHED CARPORT, GARAGES, CAR PARKING AND ALTERED VEHICULAR ACCESSES 4/00266/19/MOA.

The Parish council lifted their objection prior to the Development Management Committee meeting, having reviewed the amended documents.

Dacorum Borough Council approved the development with the additional access to the side track closed off and additional parking spaces created within the site.

ASHRIDGE HOUSE, RECONSTRUCTION OF GATE PIER AND HONEY SUCKLE WALL. 4/00573/19/LBC
No objection from LGPC, Awaiting DBC decision

KENT HOUSE, HUDNALL LANE. TWO STOREY AND SINGLE STOREY EXTENSIONS, NEW ROOFLIGHTS AND ASSOCIATED ALTERATIONS (AMENDED SCHEME) 4/01111/19/FHA
Supported by LGPC, **Granted by DBC**

43 NETTLEDEN ROAD NORTH. WORK TO TREES. 4/01193/19/TCA_
Supported by LGPC, **DBC decision Raise no objection**

Applications received since the last meeting.

After the public attending this meeting had had an opportunity to comment on the applications below, the Planning Working Group made the following recommendations to the full Parish Council.

THE RED HOUSE, NETTLEDEN ROAD NORTH, WORKS TO 2x YEW TREES. 4/01513/19/TCA
Supported by LGPC, DBC decision awaited

Signed by the Chairman.....Dated.....

THE BRIDGEWATER ARMS, REFURBISH THE INTERIOR & EXTERIOR OF THE PUBLIC HOUSE. OPEN UP THE DIMENSIONS TO THE EXISTING WC TO CONFORM TO REGULATIONS & CONSTRUCTION OF NEW EXTERNAL CLOSE BOARDED FENCING TO REAR. 4/01520/19/FUL and 4/01521/19/LBC **Supported by LGPC, Granted by DBC**

CROMER COTTAGE, NETTLEDEN ROAD, WORKS TO ASH TREES. 4/01569/19/TCA
Supported by LGPC, DBC decision awaited

1 CHURCH ROAD, SINGLE STOREY REAR EXTENSION TO REAR WITH ROOF LANTERN & MODIFY GROUND FLOOR LAYOUT. 4/01654/19/FHA
Supported by LGPC, DBC decision awaited

LAUREL BANK, NETTLEDEN ROAD, WORKS TO TREES. 4/01750/19/TCA
Supported by LGPC, DBC decision awaited

MEADOW FARM, THE GROVELLS, ALTERATIONS TO BARN. 4/01754/19/FHA
DBC advise that this application is likely to be withdrawn and replaced with a change of use application

5 LITTLE GADDESSEN HOUSE REAR SINGLE STOREY EXTENSION, 4/01810/19/FHA and 4/01811/19/LBC – **Cllr Hyde to seek further information before making any recommendations**

49 NETTLEDEN ROAD REPLACEMENT WINDOWS. 4/01706/19/LBC
Supported by LGPC, DBC decision awaited

Information to share / Items for the next meeting

The Parish Council would like to minute the great work that David Brattle is doing in connection with the refurbishment of wooden benches in the Village.

Cllr. Hyde advised that there would be a working meeting of the Conservation Area Character Appraisal Team with James Moir from DBC in the Village Hall at 4pm on 11th September.

Cllr. Pritchard confirmed that she had made contact with Little Gaddesden Charities and would be the Parish representative.

The Clerk confirmed that Parish Paths Partnership grant of £1,000 was available from Herts CC and it was agreed that the Cromer Close footpath to the play area and the lower end of the footpath between the pub and Ringshall Drive both needed improvements and should be the focus of the grant.

It was noted that the fence/gate between the Sports Pavilion car park and the playing field was in poor condition and the Clerk advised he would get quotes for its repair / replacement.

Cllr. Magson asked if the verge in Beacon Road could be cleared of unwanted debris, the Clerk agreed to contact DBC and failing any action to ask a contractor to clear it.

The meeting closed at **10.30pm.** The next meeting is on **Monday 16th September, 2019.**

Signed by the Chairman.....Dated.....