



LITTLE GADDES DEN *parish council*

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

17th June, 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, Lawson, Magson, Saner, Townsend. Also in attendance, Alastair Greene (Clerk), and eight members of the public. County and Borough Cllr. Douris joined at 9pm.

APOLOGIES: Cllr. Pritchard

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.

Virginia Westmacott asked whether the old Oak House was going to be demolished soon. Cllr. Kelly advised that the Bat Survey had been carried out as a precursor to demolition but he would check on the status.

George Godar mentioned that HGV's should be approaching Ashridge from the Berkhamsted side rather than through the Village. The Parish Council agreed to contact Ashridge College to discuss it.

David Brattle advised that the expected toll on the Ashridge road had been suspended for now. He had spoken to Ashridge College as he had a right of way along the road, without any obligation to pay charges. It was not clear whether the toll had been intended to be temporary or permanent and Councillors felt that the Parish Council should speak direct to the college to understand their plans. David Brattle agreed to pass his Ashridge contact details to Cllr. Magson.

Richard Baker asked about the status of the Bede Court footpath and Cllr Hyde said she was advised that the work would be undertaken shortly, albeit subject to the weather.

Barry Deadman asked whether it would be possible for a memorial bench to be placed on the Church Road playing fields to mark the passing of his wife, who for many years had been associated with the village through the grazing of her horses on land adjacent to the Bede Court footpath. It was agreed that a memorial of a bench or perhaps a picnic bench was a nice idea and that Cllr Hyde would review the matter and come back to him.

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

Adrian Buesst advised that there was a pressure group called West Herts 21 Century Hospital who were promoting the idea of a new hospital rather than refurbishing of existing facilities. He wanted to let people know about the campaign.

Cllr. Magson advised that she was through her role in the NHS involved in the discussions and presentations to the public on the proposals and that she was happy to explain what those were. The NHS were through a government loan of £350m intending to spend the majority of the loan on refurbishing the Watford Hospital. It was agreed that the Parish Council would provide on the Parish web site links to information to the public consultation information as well as the WH21 information so that residents could review all the available information.

2. REPORTS AND MATTERS ARISING

(a) To receive a report from Hertfordshire Constabulary. There was no police report this month. Cllr. Hyde mentioned that she had met a woman at the National Trust car park opposite the Green who had just had her car broken into and her bag stolen from the boot.

(b) To discuss the unapproved creation of an access to the woods opposite Ringshall Cottages. Cllr Kelly advised that the access way had been reseeded and the log was still in place to prevent a reoccurrence. It was understood that the Police had been contacted by one of the residents about what was being described as criminal damage to the verge area.

(c) To review action required regarding un-notified road closures
Cllr Kelly advised that he had spoken to workmen at the locations of the closures (Dagnall Road – installation of a new supply line) and at Nettleden Road (emergency water leak). Whilst there was some understanding from the contractors about the disruption that closures can cause, Cllr Kelly felt there was an overreliance on Health and Safety as an excuse for any closure. In any case, the Parish Council would like to be contacted in advance of the works so that the Council can in turn notify people so that they can plan their journeys around closures accordingly.

(d) To review progress on the basketball hard standing
The Clerk advised that the contractor had been delayed due to the bad weather but hoped to start in a couple of weeks time.

(e) Roundabout quotes
The Clerk advised that he had received quotes from Wicksteed, Caloo and Abacus for between £3,500 and £5,000 for a Wet Pour Solution on top of a stone base but that Wicksteed had also mentioned an Ecotumble solution that would cost only £1,700. It was agreed that if the material met ROSPA approval that the Council should proceed with it.

(f) To agree Councillor portfolio responsibilities.
The table of responsibilities was presented and adopted subject to further discussion on a couple of lines and will be communicated on the web site on the noticeboard next to the shop and in the next Gaddesden Society Magazine.

(g) Nomination for a Parish Council representative for the Little Gaddesden Charities
Cllr. Pritchard was confirmed as the appointed Councillor

(h) To confirm action regarding the A3 printer currently held by Louise Archer
It was agreed that Cllr. Saner would hold the printer for the Planning Working Group.

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

(i) To review the HAPTC Councillor training courses.

Cllrs. Saner, Pritchard and Lawson all agreed that the course had been well run and beneficial to them in their new role.

(j) ROSPA reports

The Clerk advised that there were several actions arising out of the ROSPA Safety reports. Cllr. Hyde agreed to review those and seek assistance from David Brattle.

Cllr. Hyde noted that there would need to be some re-working on the slide due to the paint bubbling off. It was agreed that the invoice from DBC would be held until satisfactory completion.

(k) To consider the request from the Village Bus organisers

Cllr. Magson explained that the School Bus currently parked in the front of the Village Hall is sometimes difficult to manoeuvre, due to the proximity of other cars and parents dropping children off at school. The school bus organisers asked if they could park in the car park adjacent to the Bowls Club. It was agreed that provided the bus was parked towards the rear of the car park near to the Bowls Club, so that views across the area were not impacted that they could do so. It was suggested they may like to make arrangements regarding the vehicle keys with the Bowls Club.

(l) 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 proposed to have a bonfire but perhaps in an adjacent field. Plans were only tentative at the moment. It was agreed that the Parish Council would in principle like to assist but it would be dependent on seeing the detailed plans and risk assessment for the event.

(m) To consider the quotes for the Tree experts

The Clerk presented quotes from Patrick Stileman (£1,145) and John Cromar (£745), both had a similar methodology and approach and John could start sooner. On that basis it was agreed the Clerk should appoint John Cromar Arboricultural Company Ltd

Items brought forward from previous meetings

Cllr Douris advised that he had spoken to the HCC Engineer who had made contact with the National Trust regarding the Ling drainage and was proposing to meet a representative of the NT to discuss what had been and what could be done to improve the situation.

Cllr Douris also advised that any work to solve the 'Gatesdene Close to the shop' flooding that occasionally occurs would be expensive to fund and he could not see an easy solution.

4. ADMINISTRATION**(i) Correspondence not already covered above and that requires action by the Council**

The Clerk confirmed that he had seen and circulated a proposed highway plan for the improvement of Hudnall Lane's safety signage. Cllr Douris suggested and the Parish Council agreed that in order for the plan to be progressed it was best not to make any further requests for amendment.

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

The Clerk advised he had received a further request from the builders at Red House Farm, to erect safety notices for pedestrians walking along the path at the rear of the Green, warning of builder's vehicles exiting the driveway across the Green. The Parish Council having seen the size of the signs agreed to permit these together with a contractors signboard (containing a warning re overhead cables) provided that the latter sign was moved back off the Green to the residence when building work was not in progress.

(ii) Finance

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

(b) The Clerk confirmed that the Internal Auditor had approved both the system of governance and the accounts for the year 2018-19. His recommendations that:-

- (i) the Chairman signs the bank statements as an acknowledgement of the reconciliation and that,
- (ii) the approval of items in (a) above are minuted monthly and that,
- (iii) the precept/budget setting should be minuted in more detail

were all acknowledged and will be acted upon with immediate effect.

(c) The Parish Council having reviewed the Annual Internal Audit Report for 2018-19 firstly approved the Annual Governance Statement and secondly approved the Accounting Statement and agreed that both should then be signed and sent to the external auditor.

(d) Presentation of approved budget for 2019-20

The Clerk explained that Councillors had met at a Finance Meeting in order to review the budget against all the main and sub budget headings. The spreadsheet containing the proposed budget was handed out to members of the public for comment. The budget was adopted for the rest of the year although it was agreed that changes could be made during the course of the year by tabling amendments at a public meeting.

Finance Schedule

a. The Council approved the following payments:-

Clerk & Village Hall Manager – Salary & PAYE for **June**

SRT Trading Limited – £220 plus vat – Warden Services (**June** invoice)

MWAgri – £692 ex vat (**June** invoice)

Petty Cash payment £77.08 ex vat to Clerk to cover stationery

Sports Courts UK Ltd £2,250.90 inc vat deposit for Basketball area

Insurance policy premium Zurich Municipal £653.66 no vat

Dacorum BC Play area maintenance £738 no vat

HAPTC Training Cllr Saner/Cllr Lawson £140 no vat and Pritchard £70 no vat

Louise Archer – reimbursement of printer ink £88.43 for A3 Planning printer

b. Cheques/payments received

LGVH Management Committee - Village Hall Manager salary

VAT reclaim £8,300.35

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

PLANNING SCHEDULE - CURRENT APPLICATIONS (status at 17th June, 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, DBC decision awaited

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. DBC Decision awaited

MANOR COTTAGE, WORK TO TREES. 4/00023/19/TCA

Supported by LGPC, **DBC decision Raise no objection.**

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.

Josh Matterson, a farmer who owns the land and access track adjacent to the proposed development, attended the meeting and asked to speak on this application. He explained how difficult it was with large vehicles to exit his farm track at the bottom of Hudnall lane to get down to the Hemel/Leighton Buzzard road. He felt that the proposed development lacked sufficient parking spaces and as a result residents and visitors may well park at the bottom of Hudnall Lane making it impossible to exit safely. County Cllr. Terry Douris said he would take this matter up with HCC and in the meantime the Parish Council noting Mr Matterson's concerns have responded to the application consultation as set out below.

LGPC submission below

Little Gaddesden Parish Council **OBJECTS** to planning application 4/00266/19/MOA for the provision of 8 houses at Fourways on the grounds of vehicular access and highway safety. The highways and traffic evaluation of the development has not taken in to account material issues of farm vehicle access, particularly as the traffic survey relied upon took place in November, a month when traffic is unlikely to be at its busiest in a rural community. The Parish Council believes that the development is too concentrated for the site, given the on-site parking facilities available, and the likelihood of off-site parking by dwelling owners on Hudnall Lane, in close proximity to a farmer's access to the public highway and to the junction with the B440, Hemel Hempstead to Leighton Buzzard Road.

It should be noted that the only bus service serving the development site is Red Eagle No 30 which has 2 services per weekday, the 1138 to Berkhamsted and the 1450 to Great Gaddesden. Neither

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

service is likely to be used by commuters, so the majority of dwellings will rely on cars to get to and from work. There are no bus services on Saturday and Sunday.

However, the Parish Council is minded to approve the application if the relevant planning concern is address by the Developer.

The problem

The issue was highlighted by the local farmer Josh Matterson of Beals Farm. Beals Farm owns the track running into Hudnall Lane just west of the development site and is one of the access points into the development. This track is used extensively in the summer for access onto and off Hudnall Lane by large harvesting equipment to enable the farmer to access his fields (off the B440) and then to return to his farm. When exiting the farm track, the equipment only turns right, past the development site and towards the main B440.

There has sometimes been some conflict between the harvesting equipment exiting the track and cars parked on Hudnall Lane between the track and the B440 junction, but these have in the past been relatively simple to resolve immediately because everyone knows each other (the current local residents and the car sales business) and worked together. This is unlikely to continue to be the case if cars owned by the development site dwelling owners and or their visitors are parked on this stretch of Hudnall Lane. Any such parking close to the farm track exit is likely to adversely affect the farmer's harvesting activities.

The Farmer has informed Dacorum Planning directly of the issue on 11th December 2017 (4/02402/17/MOA) and on the 16th April 2018 (4/02402/17/MOA). Also, on the 4th March 2019 (4/00266/19/OUT).

A potential solution

The Parish Council would potentially like to have some parking restriction at the bottom of Hudnall Lane – possibly double yellow line on both sides of the road from the B440 to the track exit, to be provided at the expense of the Developer.

The Parish Council would also like consideration to be given to the provision of two parking spaces by the Developer to the residents of Oak Tree Cottage. Oak Tree Cottage will lose their street parking provision once double yellow lines are down. The Parish Council would be happy to participate in discussions with all parties to seek practical solutions to these issues.

Both of these matters, parking restrictions and additional parking could be made conditions of any planning permission which might be granted, to be fulfilled before any of the new dwellings are occupied.

We are prepared to consider withdrawing our objection if a satisfactory solution to the problem is devised.

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

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

THE RED HOUSE, NETTLEDEN ROAD NORTH, WORK TO TREES. 4/00904/19/TPO
Supported by LGPC, Granted by DBC

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

43 NETTLEDEN ROAD NORTH. WORK TO TREES. 4/01193/19/TCA_
Supported by LGPC, DBC decision awaited

Applications received since the last meeting.

No new applications this month

Information to share / Items for the next meeting

Cllr Townsend gave his thanks to David Brattle for his volunteering work which was much appreciated by all.

The Clerk advised that Dacorum Borough Council had published a Public Space Protection Order which takes effect from 29th July 2019 and which requires dog owners to dispose of their own dog's waste, always have the necessary equipment to do so, keep their dogs away from children's play areas and to keep their dog under control/on a lead when asked to do so by the appropriate authority. This order applies in all parts of Dacorum except for National Trust land.

The meeting closed at **10.00pm.** The next meeting is on **Monday 19th August, 2019.**

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