



LITTLE GADDESSEN *parish council*

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL on
28th January, 2018

PLEASE NOTE THAT MINUTES ARE ALSO PUBLISHED ON THE VILLAGE WEB SITE
<http://www.littlegaddesden.org.uk>

The meeting commenced at 8.00pm.

Present: Cllrs. Archer, Hyde, Irving, Kelly, Magson and Saner; Alastair Greene (Clerk), County and Borough (C&B) Councillor Terry Douris, PCSO Lee Clements and seven members of the public.
Apologies: Cllr. Heaphy

1. FORMALITIES

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

David Brattle for the Village Hall Management Committee (VHMC) advised that 1000 litres of oil had been stolen from the tank at the rear of the village hall. He advised that to increase the level of security the access bar to the rear car park would be kept locked shut. The combination number would be shared with essential users.

Cllr. Douris said that there had been some discussion regarding the installation of a hearing loop in the village hall and he offered to give information/costings as required.

3. REPORTS AND MATTERS ARISING

(a) To receive a report from Hertfordshire Constabulary

PCSO Lee Clements advised that they were now able to interrogate the new crime database and produce reports, so monthly reports should recommence soon. Lee advised that there had been one case of criminal damage reported.

He also said that there had been a death in Northchurch that had been widely reported. Finally, there had been reports of suspicious vehicles, one a Ford Ranger with a canvas back and the other a Suburu. Residents were asked to report any unusual activity through the usual channels.

(b) Progress against the Parish Council's objectives

Village Hall facilities. David Brattle advised that he was still hoping to get designs/costings for the toilets, this was very much work in progress.

Conservation Area Character Appraisal (CACA). Cllr. Irving advised that a meeting had been held prior to the Parish Meeting that evening for volunteers to feedback progress and discuss issues on

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

the survey work. A further meeting date had been set for the 18th February by which time it was hoped that the survey s would be completed.

Develop a Parish Council web site. The Clerk advised that Town and Country web sites had commenced work on the web site with the intention of having a first draft by end of February. By a stroke of good fortune, the commissioning of the web site was the 100th designed by Town and Country, who advised the Parish Council that it was therefore the lucky recipient of a prize of zero fees for the production of the web site, saving the Council c. £600.

Upgrading of play equipment at Cromer Close Play Area. Cllr. Hyde advised that to accommodate the new swings the end of the earth mound had been removed and the goal provided with a deer friendly, chain link fence net. The new swing installation was planned to commence Wednesday 30th January, subject to satisfactory weather.

Cllr. Hyde confirmed that the earth from the mound had been reused to form a low bund to contain the loose bark under the wooden play equipment, allowing the rotting wooden surrounding to be removed. The bark would be topped up in the spring. The damaged dowel/bar had been replaced and the equipment had been painted with a preservative, making the equipment fully useable again.

Cllr. Hyde said that Dacorum Borough Council had agreed to repaint the old swing frame and the old slide frame. It was agreed that standard paint would be acceptable and that Cllr. Hyde could confirm to DBC to proceed as soon as the weather permitted.

Teenagers' project to develop fitness equipment on the playing field. Cllr. Magson advised that the installation would commence shortly but that the final position of the basketball stand needed to be settled. It was agreed that it would be placed facing the play area. Cllr. Kelly advised he was getting estimates for a 10 metre by 10 metre concrete court in front of the stand.

Jim Townsend asked whether the stand needed to be concrete. It was agreed to look at alternative surfacing and overall size for discussion at the next meeting.

Traffic monitoring capability.

Cllr. Archer advised that they were still waiting for final approvals to the paperwork.

(c) Safe Route to School along Hudnall Lane

Cllr. Douris advised that HCC would make minor amendments to the scheme that he had showed the Councillors the previous month. As a third party landowner was involved, there would be a need to discuss the scheme with that party before being able to commit to a starting date.

The Clerk advised that the Parish Council had made an application under the Police and Crime Commissioner's Safety Fund for additional work to re-establish the Hudnall Lane road boundary, rebuild a damaged area of the road opposite Field End and make the buried highway signs visible again. He was waiting to hear whether the application had been successful. In the meantime it had been noted that some of the hedging along Hudnall lane had been cut back. Nobody was sure who had done the work.

Paulette Reed thanked Councillor Douris for arranging the cutting back by DBC of some of the overhanging vegetation in Chapel Close. She said, that had they had notice, they would have been able to make the parking area more accessible to DBC.

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

(d) Parking at Cromer Close

Cllr. Terry Douris advised that he was still discussing 'verge hardening' with officers at Dacorum Borough Council as a way of providing additional off road parking at Cromer Close. He also advised that he had asked DBC to carry out repairs on the access to the rear parking/garages area.

(e) Flooding on Nettleden Road

Cllr. Douris said that he had asked the HCC Engineer to visit and provide advice.

(f) Hudnall Common Field Centre – Boundary posts

Cllr. Irving, on behalf of Hudnall Common residents, expressed his thanks to Cllr Douris for helping to soften the look of the boundary posts along the Field Centre boundary in Hudnall Common.

(g) Grounds Maintenance Tender

The Clerk confirmed that the Grounds Maintenance contract expired at the end of March and that the Council was obliged to go out to tender on a new contract. It was agreed that the Clerk should proceed. Cllr. Kelly asked who would be on the tender list and the Clerk promised to forward the details to him.

(h) Litter Volunteers for Hudnall Lane –2019

The Clerk advised that he had received many offers of help to continue with the volunteer litter picking scheme in 2019, and needed just a few more folks to complete the schedule to cover every month. Volunteers are issued with sticks and reflective jackets and do one pick in their agreed month, so that the road gets cleared 12 times a year. Anyone keen to help would be very much appreciated. Please contact the Clerk.

The Clerk advised that he had reported fly-tipping on the verge on Hudnall Lane.

The Clerk advised that he had received complaints about the litter problem on Nettleden Hill and wondered how best to respond. It was agreed that this was a dangerous section of road and needed special attention, possibly road closure in order to litter pick. Cllr. Douris said that he would speak to DBC to see whether they could assist.

(i) Widening of the footpath at the rear of Bede Court

The Clerk explained at the December meeting that he had received an e-mail from Clayton Rae, the Footpaths Officer from HCC, advising that he had received the landowner's permission to remove the hedge and fence and widen the path, providing a new fence and hedge as part of the project. Councillors thought that might be a good improvement but asked if a site meeting could be set up so that the detail could be discussed, including the surfacing of the widened path. The site meeting had been held in January, where it was left that Clayton Rae would provide full details of what was proposed and it was noted that any work would need to be done fairly soon to avoid the nesting season.

At the Parish Meeting it was decided that since full details were not yet available, Parish Council footpath funds should be focused on other footpaths such as the Cromer Close path to the play area. When full information was available this could be discussed again.

(j) Documents to be approved

The Clerk advised that he would be circulating three documents for review at the next meeting:-

1. The Annual Risk Assessment
2. The Training and Development Policy

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

3. The Code of Conduct

Most of the Parish Council's documents are reviewed and updated every two years to ensure they stay current and relevant.

Items brought forward from previous meetings.

None

4. ADMINISTRATION

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

The Clerk advised that in response to a question from Jim Townsend, the illustrative picture of the Green Party poster on the front of the Parish Council's Advertising Policy had been replaced by a non-political one.

The Clerk advised that he had received a complaint from the Football Club about the school's use of the Church Road Playing fields in poor weather, resulting in a muddy unplayable pitch. Since the same complaint has been raised for the last four years in succession it was agreed that Cllr. Heaphy as portfolio holder for school liaison would be asked to meet with the head to resolve the problem. The Clerk offered to join that meeting.

The Clerk had received a complaint from Bill Burrell regarding the National Trust's response to a litter problem along Princes Ride. Cllr. Heaphy as NT liaison Councillor was asked to take the matter up with the NT.

Cllr Hyde confirmed that she had attended a presentation on the NT's Woodland Plan, the introduction to the plan is set out below.

The Ashridge Estate includes the largest area of broad leafed woodland cared for in-hand, anywhere in the National Trust. Across 2,000 acres of woodland there are over 1,000 individually recorded ancient and veteran trees as well as coniferous and broad leafed plantations, 5 registered commons, remnant wood pasture and large areas of primarily self-set secondary birch woodland. Most of our woodland is designated as a Special Area of Conservation for lowland beech woods and as a Site of Special Scientific Interest, an area is also part of a Grade 2* registered park. This year, our monitoring work confirmed that we are now of international importance as a habitat for deadwood invertebrates. We manage our woodland primarily for nature conservation and access. Timber production is only a very small part of our work here, and mostly a by-product of our nature conservation work. We've been working with independent consultants, Lockhart Garratt, to produce a draft 20 year Woodland Management Plan. This plan conforms with the requirements set out by the Forestry Commission and once approved, will give us felling licences for the next 10 years work and will enable us to apply for grant funding for works identified within the plan.

Finance

a. The Council approved the following payments:-

Clerk & Village Hall Manager – Salary & PAYE for Jan

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

MWAgri – £465 ex vat (Jan invoice) plus £180 ex vat bund and £135 ex vat goal mesh

Petty Cash Clerk – 6 x 160 litre Storage boxes for Village Hall, (Gad Soc paying) Telephone, Ink £250.75 inc vat, (Jan)

Village Hall hire £135 no vat, Barton Petroleum £499.50 ex vat

Eon electricity £35.46 inc vat

b. Cheques/payments received

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

LGVH Management Committee - Village Hall Managers salary
 Donation from Osbornes contractors for temporary use of the car park £350
 Donation from New Year's Eve fund raiser for Gym equipment, £100
 Donation from Dacorum Borough Council Contribution towards the Christmas Tree
 £187.50
 Donation from Louise Archer for Oak deer screens £100

c. Precept and Budget for 2019-2020

Cllr. Irving advised that the Councillors had discussed the Council's finances. He said that the current year's expenditure was the highest it had ever been though was in accordance with the Parish Council's approved plans to reduce the reserve funds and support worthy projects such as improvements to the village hall kitchen and installation of new play and gym equipment.

It was clear that in reviewing the level of the precept, Little Gaddesden Parish Council was still seeking each year, less than the average precept for villages in the Dacorum area. It was felt appropriate, in order to deliver valued projects, that the Council would seek a small increase of £3,000 for the coming year. The impact of this increase would be to increase the cost of the 2019-2020 Council Tax by £5 per annum for a Band D household. The proposed increase and the draft budget were approved and the Clerk was asked to submit the precept forms to DBC.

d. A salary Increase for the Clerk in accordance with the NALC recommended scale was approved. A salary increase for the Village Hall Manageress in accordance with statutory requirements was approved.

PLANNING SCHEDULE - CURRENT APPLICATIONS (status at 28th January, 2019)
 (Red text show changes since previous meeting)

BLUEFRIARS HOUSE, GOLF CLUB ROAD. NEW OUTBUILDING. 4/01841/18/FHA.
 Supported by LGPC, **Refused by DBC**

BEGGARS ROOST, ALDERTON DRIVE, DEMOLITION OF EXISTING HOUSE AND CONSTRUCTION OF TWO STOREY DETACHED DWELLING. 4/02392/18/FUL.
 No objection from LGPC, **Granted by DBC**

VALLEY VIEW. Temporary permission granted at appeal to a permanent use.
 CB/18/03451/VOC Objection by LGPC, Central Bedfordshire decision awaited.

FARTHINGS, NETTLEDEN ROAD NORTH. WORK TO TREES. 4/02764/18/TPO
 No objection from LGPC, **Granted by DBC**

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.

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

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.

For these reasons 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.

HITHER COPPICE, COPPICE CLOSE, TWO STOREY PORCH EXTENSION, SINGLE STOREY REAR EXTENSION AND REPLACEMENT WINDOWS. 4/03013/18/FHA

Supported by LGPC

HITHER COPPICE, COPPICE CLOSE. PROPOSED REPLACEMENT OUTBUILDING. 4/03015/18/FHA

Supported by LGPC

Applications received since the last meeting.

2 BROWNLOW GATE, WORK TO TREES. 4/03240/18/TCA

Supported by LGPC

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

Supported by LGPC

KENT HOUSE, HUDNALL LANE, TWO STOREY AND SINGLE STOREY REAR EXTENSIONS, NEW ROOF-LIGHTS AND ASSOCIATED ALTERATIONS. 4/03241/18/FHA

Supported by LGPC

Information to share / Items for the next meeting

Cllr. Irving thanked Jim Townsend and George Godar for their hedge cutting work which was most appreciated and David Brattle for his excellent work in breathing new life into the wooden benches around the village.

Cllr. Hyde asked why a little green utility box had suddenly appeared on the Green near one of the driveways. The Clerk advised that he was in conversation with Affinity Water to see if it could be relocated to somewhere more convenient for the grass cutters and less visually obtrusive.

The Clerk confirmed that the new Post box, the replacement for the one that had been knocked over and stolen from Hudnall lane, had now been installed on the Green, near to the yew arch to the Manor House.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm.

The next meeting is on Monday 18th February, 2019.

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