



LITTLE GADDES DEN *parish council*

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD BY VIDEO CONFERENCE ON
16th November, 2020

PLEASE NOTE THAT MINUTES ARE ALSO PUBLISHED ON THE VILLAGE WEB SITE
<https://littlegaddesdenpc.org.uk>

The meeting commenced at 8.00 pm.

PRESENT: Cllrs. Hyde, Kelly, Magson, Pritchard, Saner & Townsend. Also in attendance, Alastair Greene (Clerk), County and District Councillor Terry Douris (from 9pm), and seven members of the public.

APOLOGIES: None.

1. FORMALITIES

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained how the meeting would be run with an open microphone for Councillors and muted microphones for members of the public until the public open question session.

The Clerk noted the attendance and recorded it in the register.

The first item on the agenda was to note the resignation of Cllr. Sarah Lawson. Chairman Paul Kelly thanked Sarah for all her hard work and the professionalism she had brought to the post.

The Clerk advised that the usual steps would be taken in relation to filling the post. In the meantime, if anyone wished to stand as Councillor or find out more about the role, they should contact either the Chairman or the Clerk.

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

Cllrs. Hyde, Kelly and Townsend declared an interest in the CACA item due to their ownership of property within the Conservation Area and were granted dispensation to speak on that item.

2. OPEN SESSION FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Cllr. Kelly asked if anyone wished to raise any matters not already covered in the agenda. No issues were raised.

3. REPORTS AND MATTERS ARISING

(a) Community Support Activity in relation to Coronavirus

Cllr Magson advised that the vaccine may soon be available but that the logistics for immunisation nationwide would be complex and that in 2021 we would not be back to a normal year. It was important that we continue to operate within the Government's covid guidelines.

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

(b) Report from Hertfordshire Constabulary.

The Clerk advised that the latest report listed the following crimes:-

Theft of a pedal cycle (1/10/20)

Criminal damage (3/10/20)

Theft of a motor vehicle (5/10/20)

(c) Land for sale in Church Road

Cllr Kelly confirmed that a further auction had taken place and some sales may have taken place, however, since sometimes the same plots come back a second time to the auction for sale and because no sales have yet been registered it was difficult to tell if they were real. Cllr Townsend undertook to contact the original agents Brown and Co, Banbury to see if the land had been sold to the developer or if the Mead Trust still had any form of control of the land.

(d) Village Hall toilet refurbishment

Cllr Kelly confirmed that the work should be completed in the next couple of weeks. Approval was given to the payment of the final invoice from the plumber.

(e) London Luton Airport consultation

Cllr Pritchard advised as follows:-

From 7th October to 11th November 2020 London Luton Airport were conducting a Pre-consultation on proposals to increase passenger capacity from 18 million passengers per annum (mppa) to 19 mppa.

In the months before the COVID-19 pandemic, the airport was operating close to its permitted capacity of 18 mppa and they wish to increase the airport's capacity from 18 to 19mppa. This they state is a key element of their strategy for recovery and future growth and will help to support the local, regional and national economy. They have stated that their proposals to increase passenger capacity to 19mppa will not require any physical changes to the airport infrastructure, but will seek to vary conditions of the airport's existing planning permission so that it is permitted to handle 19 million passengers a year in the future.

The aim of this pre consultation was for them to ask the following;

1. What comments do you have on our plans for increasing the airport's capacity from 18 to 19 million passengers per annum (mppa)?
2. Do you have any comments on how we should manage the effects of our proposals on the environment and local communities?
3. What opportunities are there to enhance the local area through our proposals for 19 mppa?
4. Do you agree that the proposals will help to support regional prosperity and economic growth?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
5. Do you have any comments on any of the documents provided as part of this consultation?

The Parish council made a response on the 5 questions and these were based on guidance supplied by Leading the fight against Luton Airport noise and aviation's environmental impacts. If further details of the response are required by parishioners, please speak to Cllr Pritchard direct.

(f) Memorial for Patsy Blackmore/Enid Foxall

Cllr Hyde and David Brattle confirmed that the families had agreed to fund two small benches that would be positioned either side of the village hall entrance doors. Final details to be agreed.

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

(g) Projects to be funded

Cllr Kelly asked that if anyone had projects that they felt should be supported by the Parish Council to bring those forward for future consideration.

(h) DriveSafe

There was no November session but December was likely (subject of course to covid rules at the time), however, Cllr Hyde was pleased to report two new volunteers had stepped forward.

(i) Community Asset status of the Bridgewater Arms

Although there was no known threat to the Bridgewater Arms, Cllr Townsend suggested it could be worth looking at Community Asset status for the pub. Such status gave no right to buy in the event of a planned closure but did give a moratorium against sale for 6 months, allowing time for interested parties to discuss the matter. Cllr Townsend advised that the complexity of ownership of the property might add to the difficulty of an acquisition by any interested party. The Clerk noted that 'Community Asset' status had been granted for a pub in Potten End and a community group had been formed to try to purchase the Plough pub.

(j) Conservation Area Character Appraisal (CACA)

Cllr Hyde confirmed that the draft CACA Management Proposals should be available for discussion at the next Parish Council meeting.

(k) Confirmation of the timing of the Ringshall works

Cllr Magson referred to the proposed timing of the Ringshall flood prevention works and was concerned that although this had originally been scheduled for Jan-March 2020 it was now at the earliest going to be April 2021. Cllr Magson said that it was not only flooding to properties that was a concern but also the risk of vehicle collisions at the junction of Beacon Road, as cars avoiding the flood water were directly in the path of vehicles turning, unsighted, into Beacon Road.

Cllr Douris advised that it was very much in the minds of HCC to proceed as early as possible in the financial year 2021-22 with the Ringshall flood works, however there would be a need for an advance agreement with a third-party property owner.

Cllr Kelly asked how we could be certain that all preliminary work would be completed in plenty of time for an April start.

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

The Clerk advised that he had received an email from Robert Clark, one of the volunteer litter pickers, saying that in completing his litter picking on Hudnall Lane he had come across an abandoned car in the woods in the lower part of Hudnall Lane. The car had police aware stickers on it. Robert advised that he had also come across a dead deer on the verge. A debate ensued on who was now responsible for managing deer injured by motorists. Cllr Townsend undertook to establish the rules if a motorist had a deer collision, i.e. who to contact now that there was no official role as Deer Warden?

The Clerk had received an email from a resident about the possible future installation of a telecommunications mast on their land by a specialist telecoms company. Councillors were invited to attend a meeting with the resident and installation company to find out what was proposed.

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

Finally, the Clerk had received a complaint about shredded plastic being spread over fields in Little Gaddesden as part of a top-dressing fertilizer, in the cropped fields between the Church and Hudnall Lane. The Clerk confirmed that he had reported the matter to the Environment Agency.

(ii) Finance

- (a) The schedule of payments was approved together with the report on expenditure for the previous month.
- (b) The Clerk asked Councillors if a Finance meeting could be arranged for early in the new year to discuss the budget and precept. It was agreed that a meeting would be held on Monday 11th Jan at 8pm, one week ahead of the Parish Meeting on 18th Jan.

(iii) Health and Safety

The Clerk confirmed that the monthly H&S inspection had been carried out on Friday 13th November. The Clerk advised that he had received a quote for replacements of the ramps on the climbing frames at Church Road play area from the original manufacturer, either for supply and installation (£1,305 ex vat) or just supply (£735 ex vat). It was agreed that rather than pursue that quote, Cllr Kelly and David Brattle would meet at the play area to see if it was possible to carry out a repair.

Finance Schedule

a. The Council approved the following payments:-

Clerk & Village Hall Manager – Salary & PAYE for **Nov**
 SRT Trading Limited – £220 ex vat– Warden Services for **Nov**
 MWAgri – £692 ex vat for **Nov**
 Petty Cash payment to Clerk for **Nov** £25.20 Tel rental/calls
 R. Behr & Son £1,000 ex vat for hay cutting and removal
 Ashridge Developments – Sanitary ware for Village Hall toilets - £3,952.19 ex vat
 Ashridge Developments – Cubicles and vanity unit for Village Hall toilets - £4,714.00 ex vat
 Gates Plumbing and Heating Village Hall - £500 ex vat

b. Cheques/payments received

LGVH Management Committee - Village Hall Manager salary
 Dacorum Borough Council Community Grant for Village Hall Toilets £3,000

PLANNING SCHEDULE - CURRENT APPLICATIONS (status at 16th November, 2020)

Applications received since the last meeting.

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

2 Church Road, Replacement of existing conservatory with single storey rear extension, new front porch and internal alterations. 20/03214/FHA **Supported by LGPC, decision awaited from DBC**

Bridgewater Mews Cottage Nettleden Road. Front garden planting, repairs and access improvements. 20/03139/FHA

LGPC responded to the consultation as follows:-

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

Little Gaddesden Parish Council is concerned that there is no drawing of the proposed 1.8 m high gates. LGPC have spoken to the applicant and the applicant would be amenable to gates similar in design to those currently in situ albeit higher, but permeable/see through at the top. On that proviso, the Parish Council supports the application.

Laurel Bank Nettleden Road. Single storey front extension and replacement porch canopy. 20/03313/FHA Little Gaddesden Parish Council objects to this application. The demolition of the wall fronting the road is strongly opposed.

LGPC objects as follows:- Laurel Bank, No.1 Home Farm Cottages is in the Little Gaddesden Conservation Area and part of the original Home Farm Complex. The wall is well over a hundred and fifty years old, its demolition will detract from the distinctive character, appearance and historic environment of Little Gaddesden.

Mosshall Farm, Nettleden Road North. Construction of stables for personal use. 20/00453/FUL. Objection by LGPC as follows:- Little Gaddesden Parish Council (LGPC) objects to the application, but is prepared to withdraw the objection if the applicant will confirm that the track shown on the location map is not part of the development for which permission is sought. Further LGPC asks that 'Permitted Development Rights' be withdrawn on this property owing to the development that has taken place there from the original 4/02699/15/ful and following 4/00614/17/roc applications.

We would also like to draw your attention to the high bank (approx. 2 metres) that has appeared for the entire length on the inside of the roadside hedge of the property since work started in 2017 – is this perhaps a matter for Enforcement? LGPC would request that as soon as is possible under the current circumstances, a site visit takes place to resolve these matters.

Amended plans now received. Supported by LGPC, decision awaited from DBC

Robin Hood Farm Nettleden Road North. Demolition of existing building. Construction of new agricultural office building. 20/03316/FUL Site visit required

18-19 Nettleden Road North. Works to trees. 20/03443/TCA
Supported by LGPC, decision awaited from DBC

For applications below LGPC has already submitted its consultation response.
(Red text show changes since previous meeting)

2 Little Gaddesden House, Nettleden Road. Works to trees. 20/02872/TCA
Supported by LGPC, granted by DBC

1 Little Gaddesden House, Nettleden Road. Works to Sycamore tree. 20/02873/TCA
Supported by LGPC, granted by DBC

1 Hudnall Lane, Little Gaddesden. Two-storey rear extension. 20/03023/FHA
Supported by LGPC, awaiting DBC decision

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

35 Ringshall Road, Ringshall. Two-storey and single-storey rear extension. 20/02164/FHA
Supported by LGPC, DBC decision awaited.

3 Little Gaddesden House, Nettleden Road. Construction of a single storey oak cart shed style car port with log store. 20/02272/FHA Supported by LGPC, DBC decision awaited.

3 The Lye Little Gaddesden. Works to trees. 20/02603/TPO
Supported by LGPC. **granted by DBC.**

10 Ringshall Road Ringshall. Construction of Wooden Summer House in Rear Garden.
20/01404/FHA Supported by LGPC, DBC decision awaited

Information to share / Items for the next meeting

Cllr Hyde thanked Cllr. Townsend, George Godar and Wendy Molloy for their community spirited work clearing leaves along the pavement from Church Road to the shop.

Cllr Hyde asked County and District Cllr Terry Douris if it would be possible for Dacorum BC to clear the leaves on the pavement between Hudnall Lane and Cromer Close. Cllr Douris advised that this is not a service that DBC specifically undertook but that he would ask if it could be done on this occasion. He said that often the Village Warden would undertake such work.

Penny Holland thanked County and District Cllr Terry Douris for the work on the additional car parking spaces that were being created at Cromer Close.

Residents expressed concern that the soakaway on the dip near Kilclooney Farm in Hudnall Lane was not coping with the rain and the gullies were quickly flooding out across the road. It was suggested that the soakaway might have to be dug out. In the short term it was agreed that the Clerk would ask for the date that the soakaway and gullies were last maintained.

Cllr Hyde asked whether the Adelaide monument should be safety checked and cleaned. It was agreed in principle.

Cllr Hyde advised that the recorded Remembrance Service had gone very well and that the soldier silhouettes would be in place until 12th night. She thanked David Brattle and Paul Woods for their help with the improvements/installation of the silhouettes.

Cllr. Magson expressed concern that the occupier of the building yard in Beacon Road, Ringshall had spread rubble on the recently cleared verge fronting his property. Cllr Kelly undertook to visit the property.

Cllr Pritchard confirmed that the Christmas Tree would be erected on the Green as usual at the beginning of December.

The meeting closed at **10.00pm.**

The next meeting is on **Monday 21st December, 2020.**

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