



LITTLE GADDES DEN *parish council*

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD BY VIDEO CONFERENCE ON
15th March, 2021

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. Fruish, Hyde, Kelly, Magson, Saner, Townsend & Thompson. Also in attendance, Alastair Greene (Clerk), County and District Councillor Terry Douris and twenty eight 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 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.

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 points were raised.

3. REPORTS AND MATTERS ARISING

(a) Report from Hertfordshire Constabulary.

PCSO Lee Clements had advised the Clerk that the main issue recently was damage caused by vehicles. This he said was by small, 4-wheel drive vehicles breaking down gates and damaging verges.

(b) Discussion on the pre-application consultation for a radio mast at Holly Tree Farm

Cllr Thompson explained that a pre-application consultation proposal had been received from a site provider called Cornerstone who were working with Telefonica/O2 to install a mast in the area.

The details received from Cornerstone had been loaded on to the Parish Council web sites 'Latest News' page and 'posted' to web site subscribers. Others had been alerted by use of the noticeboard adjacent to the shop and the Gaddesden Society email contact list.

The Clerk had asked Cornerstone a number of questions which were also uploaded to the web site.

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

A significant majority of people had responded to the consultation against the proposal, the numbers being 41 against and 4 for. Those against were mostly neighbouring the proposed location in Hudnall Lane or from The Lye.

The landowner himself had written to the Parish Council advising he was against the proposal, however, it was both the owner's and the Parish Council's understanding that telecommunications companies had authority to insist on proceeding, if the installation was of significant benefit to the population.

It was established that a mast of this height, 25 metres, in the AONB, would require a full planning application to Dacorum Borough Council, a lower mast would probably fall under the Prior Approval procedure, where DBC would have slightly less control on the matter.

Residents volunteered themselves for any role that might assist in the Parish Council's response to the consultation.

Cllr Thompson said she would form a working party and they would meet online to discuss next steps.

(c) Village Hall refurbishment

Cllr Kelly confirmed that the work had been completed. The Clerk said that during the course of the Village Hall refurbishment works we referred ourselves to the Internal Auditor regarding the purchase of equipment.

For the expediency of the project Paul Kelly purchased some of the equipment. His company, Ashridge Developments Limited, were used for that purpose and the Parish Council reimbursed him for that receipted expenditure.

It was subsequently agreed that the appointed builders should have been responsible for making those purchases. The Internal Auditor agreed and said that we should for transparency minute this matter at the conclusion of the project, hence this note.

(d) Confirmation of the planned Ringshall works

Cllr Douris confirmed that works were planned to commence on April 6th.

(e) Hudnall Lane Flooding

The Clerk was pleased to report that with Cllr Douris keeping HCC's and the Service Provider's attention on the matter, the gulleys either side of the road and the chamber on the south side of the road were completely pumped out allowing capacity for future runoff to collect and soakaway next time there is heavy rain. In future it will be necessary to have a more regular maintenance regime.

(f) Traffic speeding and the proposed 20mph limit

Discussion took place on the idea of the introduction of a 20mph speed zone within the village. Cllr Douris suggested that if it would be of assistance, he would ask one of the HCC's Officers to meet with the Parish Council to review potential 20mph zones, though he recommended May/June would be appropriate in terms of timing.

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

(j) To confirm action taken in relation to adverse possession of the land adjacent to the Lady Marian Alford Memorial

Cllr. Townsend had circulated a report prior to the meeting, giving the background to the small parcel of land bounded by Nettleden Road, the Ashridge Estate entrance road and the National Trust fence. The land is traversed by a public footpath and includes the area occupied by the Memorial. Since nobody was effectively owning it and the Parish Council had been maintaining it, the report recommended that the area be professionally mapped by surveyors at a cost of £575 ex vat with a view to a future claim of ownership by adverse possession. The Council approved the action and expenditure.

(k) Footpath issues

The Clerk confirmed that the steps on the footpath between the Bridgewater Arms and the Ringshall Drive had been repaired by M. W. Agri. Cllr Hyde advised that this work had been appreciated by residents, as too had the work done by the 'Blizzard Boys' as she called them, the volunteers who had bridged the floods with hardcore at the kissing gates during a snowstorm.

4. ADMINISTRATION

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

The Clerk confirmed he had received an email from a resident complaining about the lack of notice of the closure of Hudnall Lane for the repair work. The Clerk confirmed that the usual contractor's signs had only been erected on the day of the works. He also advised that there was a web site called One.Network which gave advance warning of roadworks and closures and it was hoped that if sufficient people subscribed to the Parish Council web site then the Parish Council would use that conduit regularly for alerting residents to planned closures.

First Responder Wendy Molloy had noted that the battery for the defibrillator at the pub needed replacing and asked the Parish Council whether they could assist. Councillors unanimously agreed to fund a replacement and that was ordered and installed.

(ii) Finance

The schedule of payments was approved together with the report on expenditure for the previous month. The Clerk advised that all payments and receipts should be minuted throughout the year and prior to the Internal Audit he had identified payments that whilst approved, had not been recorded, and are now minuted below.

Overpayment of Petty cash £1.29 repaid on 14th May 2020

Internal Auditor Fee £250 paid 16th June 2020

Final payment of electricity for the cabinet on The Green by standing order to E-on £24.51, 10th August 2020 after which monthly standing order of £12.27 to Scottish Power

Receipt of £520 from Sports Club 1st Sept 2020 contribution towards playing field maintenance

External Audit £360 22nd September 2020

Receipt from Cricket Club for grass cutting reimbursement 13th October 2020

Donation to Church £1000 2nd November 2020

Grant of £10k forwarded to Parish Council May 2020 from Village Hall Management Committee returned to VPMC so that they could carry out Electrical installation replacement project, £5k Aug & £5k Nov.

Wreath from British Legion £25 11th December 2020

Soap dispensers for Village Hall refurbishment of toilets £206.04

(iii) Health and Safety

The Clerk confirmed that the monthly H&S inspection had been carried out on 4th March. No new issues were noted. The roundabout at Church Road remained the outstanding item.

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

5. COUNCILLOR UPDATE

Cllr Hyde advised that she had met with Cllrs. Townsend and Kelly plus Mick Thompson at the Lady Marian Memorial to look at the deer ravaged conifers. It was agreed that one conifer would be removed several staked and that an enclosing 'Estate' style fence would be erected subject to costs. Cllr Thompson volunteered to assist with the tree staking. The Clerk was asked to get a fencing quote.

Cllr Hyde confirmed that the CACA was in draft and heading for a summer consultation. Cllr Hyde advised she was following up the request for a location for a commemorative tree request from John Rogers re Mrs Margaret (Betty) Rogers and Mr John William Rogers.

Cllr. Magson asked if the ownership of the verge land opposite the Beacon Road junction at Ringshall could be established so that action could be taken to smarten it up and provide an appropriate standing area for the bus stop. Cllr Douris said he would try and establish the highway boundary there.

Cllr Magson wondered whether the Parish Council could take advantage of the buy a Red BT Phone box for £1 offer. It was agreed that further thought should be given to the matter.

Cllr. Fruish said that she and Cllr Thompson were taking soundings from other societies and village event organisers about a possible village event later in 2021 and noted concerns about covid-19.

Finance Schedule

a. Cheques approved.

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

SRT Trading Limited – £220 ex vat– Warden Services for **March**

MWAgri – £692 ex vat for **March**

Petty Cash payment to Clerk for **March** £249.35 inc vat (Defib battery, Dog waste bags and telephone)

b. Cheques/payments received. LGVH Management Committee - Village Hall Manager salary

PLANNING SCHEDULE - CURRENT APPLICATIONS (status at 15th March, 2021)

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.

Witches Hollow, Ringshall Drive. Single storey side extension to replace link and alterations.

21/00613/LBC & 21/00613/FHA **Supported by LGPC**

54 Nettleden Road. Replacement of 9 existing windows, installation of 1 Velux window and paint front picket fence. 21/00623/LBC & 21/00622/FHA **Supported by LGPC**

1 Little Gaddesden House. Extension to stables building. 21/00745/FUL **No objection from LGPC**

26 Cromer Close. Two storey side extension. 21/00746/FHA **Supported by LGPC**

19 Ringshall Road. Works to Trees. 21/00802/TCA **DBC Decision Raise no objection**

The Brown House, Nettleden Road North. Change of use from paddock to equestrian manege and construction of manege. 21/00829/FUL **Supported by LGPC**

Denison House, Nettleden Road North. Fell cypress trees. 21/00927/TCA **Supported by LGPC**

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

2 Ashridge Cottages, Nettleden Road. To replace the current front door. 21/00966/LBC
Supported by LGPC

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

Mascalls Coppice Close, First floor rear extension and alterations. 21/00204/FHA
Supported by LGPC, **Granted by DBC**

3 Little Gaddesden House Nettleden Road. Construction of a Victorian style glasshouse house with dwarf wall. 21/00379/FHA Supported by LGPC, **DBC decision awaited**

Peacocks Wood Nettleden Road. Replacement detached house and integral garages.
21/00486/FUL

LGPC supports the application with this proviso. It is noted that whilst gates appear on the application, no design is shown. In line with LGPC responses to 19/02546/FHA & 20/02145/FHA Torwood which is next door but one, for their gates the Chiltern Design Guide states: In rural areas the entrances and boundaries should be simple and permeable; preferably with an open entrance or a 5 bar wooden gates with hedgerow boundary. Brick pillars and solid gates are not characteristic, give a suburban feel and should be avoided.

22 Ringshall Road Ringshall, To insert dormers to existing roof. 20/03961/FHA
Supported by LGPC, **Awaiting DBC decision**

Paddock to the east of The Red House. Demolition of existing garage and replacement with a new 3 bay oak framed garage. 20/04032/FUL Supported by LGPC, **Awaiting DBC decision**.

1 Brownlow Gate Little Gaddesden. Replacement of rear single storey projection to detached dwelling with slightly larger single storey addition. 21/00063/FHA
Supported by LGPC, **Granted by DBC**.

Meadow Farm, The Grovells, Hudnall Common. Relocation of existing 5 bar gate on Hudnall Lane to create wider vehicle entrance bay. 20/03249/FUL
Little Gaddesden Parish Council supports the principle of the relocation of the gate, however would like to request that a restriction is imposed to allow only agricultural and/or equestrian access. LGPC are concerned an application for improved access may in the future allow for access for the purpose of housing. **Awaiting DBC decision**.

Woodlands, Hudnall Common. Replacement of vehicular gates. 20/03651/FHA
LGPC strongly objects to this application to replace the existing traditional farm style five bar gates with a solid 1.8 m high wooden design that is out of keeping with the rural nature of the property within the AONB. The Council feel the gates are inappropriate to a rural setting and against the Chiltern Design Guide recommendations. **Awaiting DBC decision**.

Robin Hood Farm Nettleden Road North. Demolition of existing building. Construction of new agricultural office building. 20/03316/FUL Supported by LGPC, **Decision awaited from DBC**.

The meeting closed at **10.00pm**.

The next meeting is on **Monday 19th April, 2021**.

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