

# Little Gaddesden Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ELECTORATE  
HELD IN THE CHURCH HALL and by video conference for public participation  
on MONDAY 17th MAY 2021 commencing at 8pm

PRESENT: Cllrs Hyde, Kelly, Magson, Saner, Thompson and Townsend. Also in attendance, Alastair Greene (Clerk), County and Borough Cllr. Douris. Cllr. Fruish attended by video link, as did 8 members of the public.

APOLOGIES: None

1. WELCOME - Cllr. Kelly welcomed the public to the meeting and acted as Chair for the meeting.
2. MINUTES - The minutes of the Annual Meeting dated 18<sup>th</sup> May 2020 were approved as drafted.
3. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PARISH COUNCIL for the year 2020-2021

The Chairman of the meeting Paul Kelly read out the report:

Another eventful year.

This year we welcomed two new Parish Councillors - Vicki Fruish and Lesley Thompson replacing Sarah Lawson and Susan Pritchard. I would firstly like to thank Sarah and Susan for all their efforts during the course of the year, it was great fun having them around and working with them. I very much look forward to working more with the whole Parish Council now that we can meet in person again.

Looking at several projects we have been managing this year, I would like to outline a few as follow:

1. Village Hall Loo's. Refurbishments have been completed and the Village Hall is due to open up on the 21st June when restrictions have been removed. Two smart new benches are being installed shortly out on the front.
2. The flooding at Ringshall. Hopefully this is a thing of the past. Large new engineering works have just been completed there, which involved the closing of the road for quite a period. New water and sludge catching facilities have been installed underground, flowing into new bore holes and overflowing across the road to the water table. The large puddle on the main road has also been dealt with. I would like to thank Terry Douris for all his efforts in corralling Herts County Council into funding and delivering the project.
3. The Conservation Area Character Appraisal (CACA). Lyn has again put a huge amount of effort into the CACA helped by many other villagers. The CACA is a very important project in which we have defined the essence of the buildings and areas in the village – with lots of village history outlined. This document will be used as a reference for the style of buildings for planning purposes going forward, rather than the current much broader Chiltern Design Guide. Dacorum B. C. have ultimate responsibility for producing the document and will put it out to consultation to the village shortly.
4. The 25m Mast. A big controversial issue was a pre-application consultation by a telecoms company for a huge 25 metre mast along Hudnall Lane. The response to this from the village was massive and superbly lead by Lesley Thompson. At its peak, it involved more than 30 people and the hiring of a 25 metre cherry picker paid for by Charlie Marriot and the elegant writing of the Landscape & Visual Assessment from the

Signed.....Dated.....

Reynolds-Kettlewells. I appreciate that a few of the village were in favour of the mast, but we formed a collective view that the proposal was disproportionate in terms of scale for the village and the wider area. Hopefully, this issue goes away.

5. The land of Church Road. The biggest issue this year by far, particularly the concerns over the use of the land. We had the largest attended Zoom meeting ever of about 150 people last Tuesday (94 zoom connections). In summary, many of the plots now appear to have been sold and registrations appear to be nearing completion at the Land Registry. The way we deal with the land is moving into a different phase, with many smaller land owners. The issues will not change but our approach will adapt. I expect that we will get various planning applications for fencing and access to Church Road over the coming year and we will deal with them as they arise. We currently have a planning appeal directly opposite the Church in progress.

I would like to thank our very own Bob the Builder, David Brattle as fixer in chief. He does a huge amount of work behind the scenes keeping things working.

It is beginning to feel that we have been under attack this year, but I am very positive as it feels that we are coming to the beginning of the end.

And finally, our friendly, supportive County Councillor, Terry Douris, has been re-elected as our Herts County Councillor for another 4 years. Terry has also just stepped down as Mayor of Dacorum after 2 years. We shall invite him back with the new Mayor of Dacorum for our famous WI cream teas he missed out on last year.

Please don't forget to sign up to the web site to ensure you are kept up to date with important village issues.

Thank you.  
Chairman Paul Kelly

#### **4. REPORT FROM THE TRUSTEES OF THE LITTLE GADDESSEN CHARITIES**

Cllr Magson, who is replacing Cllr Pritchard in the role of Parish Council representative to the Charity, read the report:-

Report for 2020

The aim of the Charity as defined in the Charity Commissioners' "Scheme" which regulates its activities is to:-

"Relieve either generally or individually, persons resident in the Parish of Little Gaddesden who are in need, hardship or distress, by making grants of money or providing or paying for items, services or facilities calculated to redress the need, hardship or distress of such persons"

The Trustees during 2020 were:

The Team Vicar of Little Gaddesden Church - Reverend John Russell, (Chairman)  
Mrs Jane Murray  
Mrs Susan Pritchard as representative of the Parish Council  
Mrs Pat Catchpole

Signed.....Dated.....

Mr Michael Thompson nominated by Ashridge College

(Mrs Pat Catchpole acted as Secretary and Treasurer)

The Accounts were examined by Hillier Hopkins, Chartered Accountants of Watford. The expenditure for the year was £1,230

The strictest confidentiality is observed in the handling of requests for assistance and details about cases are never made public in any form. Any of the Trustees, however will be glad to answer questions of a general nature on how the charity operates.

Pat Catchpole

**5. REPORTS FROM OTHER CLUBS**

None

**6. CONSIDERATION OF WRITTEN RESOLUTIONS OF WHICH NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN**

No notice of any written resolutions had been given.

**7. QUESTIONS/AOB/ELECTORS**

None

There were no other comments or questions and so the business of the Annual Meeting of the Electorate concluded at 8.20 pm.

Signed.....Dated.....