



## LITTLE GADDES DEN *parish council*

### MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL ON

2<sup>nd</sup> August, 2021

PLEASE NOTE THAT MINUTES ARE ALSO PUBLISHED ON THE WEB SITE

<https://littlegaddesdenpc.org.uk>

The meeting commenced at 8.00 pm.

**PRESENT:** Cllrs. Fruish, Hyde, Kelly, & Thompson. Also in attendance, Alastair Greene (Clerk), County and District Councillor Terry Douris and twenty six members of the public.

**APOLOGIES:** Cllrs. Magson, Saner, Townsend.

#### 1. FORMALITIES

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained how the meeting would be run.

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.

The main item of interest was the current activity at Church Road so the Chairman moved straight to that item.

#### 3. REPORTS AND MATTERS ARISING

##### (a) Church Road update

Cllr Kelly confirmed that a gate had been erected on Plot 5/6 in Church Road, at the point where the wire had been cut and where entry had been made by vehicles. He also advised that a fence had been partially erected between the road and the rear hedge. As a result of those activities the Enforcement Team at DBC had visited the site and served a Temporary Stop Notice on the occupier. That Stop Notice had the effect of preventing further fence work and gave the Enforcement Authority 28 days to formalise its enforcement response, which was likely to be a formal enforcement notice against non-permitted actions.

Cllr Kelly advised that these actions by the occupier enabled the enforcement authority to take action and bring the matter to a conclusion, albeit, with the application and appeal steps that follow an enforcement action, it might be a good few months before that conclusion was reached.

Andrew Jackson kindly offered to help with a newsletter to keep residents informed about activities on Church Road and to boost the number of subscribers to the Parish Council web site.

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

**(b) Report from Hertfordshire Constabulary.**

PCSO Lee Clements had hoped to attend but other duties prevailed and so it was agreed that the crime report will be presented at the next meeting.

**(c) To consider maintenance options for the footpath running between Hudnall Common and Home Farm**

It was agreed that this footpath had deteriorated badly over the last few years and could do with some new granite chip surfacing. Cllr Kelly suggested that a small working party should have a look at it prior to the next meeting and make a recommendation about how to proceed.

**(d) Request to allow parking of the school bus in the car park adjacent to the Bowls Club**

It was agreed that Cllr Kelly would inform the requestor that permission had been given.

**(e) To consider the consultation response on Luton Airport.**

It was agreed that the draft response from the HAPTC rep on the London Luton Airport Consultative Committee should be endorsed.

**(f) Drivesafe statistics**

Cllr Hyde presented the latest statistics:-

July - Home Farm 7.30 – 10.30am

140 cars passed into the village from Cromer Close direction, 39 were exceeding 35 mph = 28%  
Letters were sent to those speeding. A total of 131 letters had been sent this year April, May & July sessions (June rained off)

**(g) To note the survey by HCC regarding the possible 20mph zone in the village)**

County Cllr Terry Douris confirmed that the speed and volume surveys in connection with the 20mph zoning would be carried out by HCC over the coming months. At this stage no input was necessary from the Parish Council.

It was noted that some residents had parked cars along the Ringshall Road creating a chicane which had the effect of slowing the traffic.

It was suggested that another base for a Speed Indicator Device could perhaps be installed along Church Road to warn drivers of their speed.

**(h) Hudnall Lane hedges**

County Cllr Terry Douris confirmed that he was seeking a definitive answer to the width of the highway.

Paulette Reed asked that if attention was to be given to the trees in the vicinity of Hudnall Lane could attention also be given to the trees overhanging Chapel Close. It was noted that Church Hose Studios was on the market and that it might be a useful tactic to write to the owner/agent explaining that there was a dispute in place regarding the maintenance of the trees.

**(I) Telecommunications Mast update**

It was noted that there had been no formal application made yet.

**(j) Ragwort**

Cllr Lyn Hyde explained that there was a plant (sample brought into the meeting) called Ragwort which at one time was notifiable plant due to its toxic effect on grazing animals particularly horses. Residents were asked to note it and safely remove it (hand protection necessary) if they

saw it. It was agreed that the National Trust should be asked what its policy was in relation to Ragwort.

#### 4. ADMINISTRATION

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

Fiona Masters had written asking whether the Parish Council would consider helping the occupier of 5 Cromer Close with the cutting back of her hedge, it was spilling over the pavement between the two Cromer Closes and was impacting on the Hertfordshire Way. It was agreed that Clerk would approach Sunnyside about the work.

Sarah Gall as a First Responder for the village asked if the issue of road closure without notice by Affinity Water could be raised. Such incidents were not uncommon and meant that the response time to incidents in the village can be severely impacted. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to Affinity Water regarding the matter.

Katie Margetts asked about the speed of traffic on Church Road and whether there was any improvement that could be made to the signage on Church Road ahead of the study that was to take place on 20mph zoning. County Cllr Terry Douris said he would enquire about road markings, particularly the zig zag outside the school.

A number of residents had written in complaining about the unkempt nature of the Green. It was noted that the contractor had been instructed but that he was waiting for a dry period of a few days to be able to cut, dry and bale. It was agreed that there would be a consultation about the management of the Green ahead of the new season.

A number of residents had written in regarding the activities on Church Road plots and those were aired during the Church Road discussions at the start of the meeting.

##### (ii) Finance

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

##### (iii) Health and Safety

The Clerk confirmed that the monthly H&S inspection had been carried out on the Play Areas on 9<sup>th</sup> July. No new items had been noted but he confirmed that the ROSPA Play Safety inspection had identified the swing stanchion at Church Road Play Area to be a priority for replacement. The Clerk advised that he and David Brattle had made enquiries about a replacement but it appeared that there was a shortage of the right timber for the job. Further suppliers to be approached.

#### 5. COUNCILLOR UPDATE

There were no further comments from Councillors.

#### FINANCE SCHEDULE

a. Cheques for approval. The Council approved the following:-

Clerk & Village Hall Manager – Salary & PAYE for **July/Aug**

SRT Trading Limited – £220 ex vat– Warden Services for **July/Aug**

MWAgri – £692 ex vat for **July/Aug**.

Petty Cash payment to Clerk for **July** £115.90 ex vat Tel rental and calls, computer service, ink

Scottish Power £12.27 inc vat per month direct debit

Andrew Farrow Internal Audit £275 no vat

Paul Kelly £8.95 inc vat USB/HDMI adapter for use in Parish Meetings

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

Signs of the Times. Lady Marian land sign £47.92 ex vat  
 Sports Pavilion Hire £45 no vat  
 ROSPA PlaySafety Play area equipment safety inspection £165 ex vat

b. Cheques/payments received  
 Vat reclaim received in full, £8,195.27  
 LGVH Management Committee - Village Hall Manager salary

**PLANNING SCHEDULE - CURRENT APPLICATIONS (status at 21<sup>st</sup> June, 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.**

County Cllr Terry Douris declared an interest in the Planning matters due to his role on the Development Management Committee at DBC

April Cottage. 16 Ringshall Road Ringshall. Demolition of existing detached car port and construction of replacement detached car port. 21/02480/FHA **Supported by LGPC**

Woodridge Nettleden Road. Extension of first floor rear roof including rear gable and dormer. New dormer to the front of house and new windows to rear. 21/02494/FHA **Supported by LGPC**

SILVER BIRCHES, NETTLEDEN ROAD NORTH. Appeal against enforcement notice, that they should cease use of a particular property as a residential unit 21/00043/ENFORC **It was agreed that a response would need to be drafted and submitted to the Planning Inspector before 2<sup>nd</sup> September**

Ashridge House, Ashridge Park, Conversion of existing laundry at Ashridge House into visitor cafe with associated stripping out of existing laundry plant and equipment. Re-opening existing door to north facade to allow public access to "Scroops" and "Broughton" dining rooms. 21/02731/FUL & LBC **No objection from LGPC**

44 Nettleden Road North. Removal of existing glazed roof to garden room and replacement with slated pitched roof and roof lantern. Construction of new internal partition with doorway to create study within existing front room. 21/02930/LBC **No objection from LGPC**

Little Brownlow Farm, Nettleden Road Construction of orangery extension. 21/02918/FHA  
**A site visit was deemed necessary**

6-7, Nettleden Road. Retention of a post & rail fence (measuring 42.150 metres), including 2X3 and 2X6 field gates. 21/02446/FUL **It was agreed that LGPC should object to the application**

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

42 Nettleden Road North. To strip off existing roof tiling, provide breathable membrane batten and retile with Redland plain clay tiles 21/01874/FHA & 21/01875/LBC Supported by LGPC,  
**Withdrawn by the applicant**

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

Little Gaddesden House. Nettleden Road. Works to trees. 21/02098/TCA Supported by LGPC, **Granted by DBC**

1 Hudnall Lane. Non material amendment to plans already approved (Omission of 2 roof lights & large feature window in gable wall. Instead, new side window, smaller gable window and larger en-suite window are proposed). 21/02126/NMA Supported by LGPC, **Granted by DBC**

5 Church Road. New Porch, Dormer Window on Rear Elevation at Second Floor Level and internal reconfigurations. 21/02352/FHA **Supported by LGPC**

5 Church Road, Demolition of existing garage and single storey rear extension. 21/01496/FHA Little Gaddesden Parish Council originally objected to the proposed single storey extension on grounds of depth and height.

**Revised drawings have been considered by LGPC who have commented as follows:**

**We have had long discussions with Gamme Love regarding 5 Church Road and have reached an understanding. LGPC will not object to the latest proposal for the extension - Drawing number P/02 dated 1/4/21, subject to the following.**

- 1. The extension does not extend more than 5.0 meters from the original house**
- 2. The eve/facial height of the extension is the same as number 6.**
- 3. The pitch of the roof of the extension matches that of number 6, albeit off-set. We appreciate that these items are shown to scale on the drawing, but we have listed them for clarity as there are some discrepancies in the drawings.**

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 **9.40pm.**

The next meeting is on **Monday 20<sup>th</sup> September, 2021 at 8pm in person at the Village Hall.**

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