



LITTLE GADDES DEN *parish council*

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

18th October, 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. Hyde, Kelly, Saner, Thompson & Townsend. Also in attendance, Alastair Greene (Clerk), County and District Councillor Terry Douris, and twenty-two members of the public.

APOLOGIES: Cllrs. Magson & Fruish.

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.

There were no declarations of interest on the main agenda items.

2. OPEN SESSION FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Cllr. Kelly asked if anyone wished to raise any matters not already covered in the agenda.

David Brattle asked why large vehicles associated with the filming were coming through the village when HGV's of >7.5tonnes were prohibited, he felt that they should be coming only from the Berkhamsted direction. Cllr Kelly undertook to investigate.

3. REPORTS AND MATTERS ARISING

(a) Church Road update

Cllr Kelly confirmed that a meeting had been sought with the Dacorum Borough Council Enforcement Team because whereas good work had been done in serving Enforcement Notices etc. it appeared to residents and the Parish Council that the occupiers of the land were continuing with their building activity and occupation of the caravan overnight and other activities incompatible with the current designation of the land and in contravention of planning. A resident advised that animals were being transported in inappropriate vehicles and there was concern expressed about dog waste being intentionally left on the footpath and human waste being incorrectly disposed of.

It was agreed that the Parish Council would shortly prepare a response to the Enforcement Notice to be sent to the Planning Inspector and that that would be shared with residents via the web site so that residents could make their own responses if they wished to do so.

(b) Report from Hertfordshire Constabulary.

The Clerk read out the Crime Report from Lee Clements covering the period from 1st Sept to date and noted:-

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

- 1 x Theft from a motor vehicle
- 1 x Damage to a motor vehicle
- 1 x Livestock worrying
- 3 x Public Order offences

The last two items were related to Church Road. It was agreed that further information would be sought on those items.

(c) Speeding through the village

Cllr. Thompson had prepared an interim report and summarised it at the meeting in order to generate discussion on the subject. It was acknowledged that there was a real problem in speeding in the village and that had been confirmed over very many DriveSafe sessions. In particular the stretch of road running from Ringshall to the Village pub shop was a problem, however, nowhere in the village was free of speeding traffic. It was also acknowledged that parking of cars to slow traffic on the road was not illegal provided they are parked in the direction of travel.

It was agreed that the full interim report should be made available on the website under 'Latest News'. However, a very short summary is set out below:-

'Concerns have been raised with the Parish Council about traffic exceeding existing speed limits in the village and residents have also asked about seeking 20mph speed limits around the village school.

The enforcement of existing speed limits is a matter for the Police, and responsibility for the public highways including changes to speed limits and traffic calming measures rests with Herts County Council (HCC).

The consideration of 20mph speed limits on roads is part of a County wide assessment currently underway and will be considered by the HCC Highways Panel.

With regard to traffic calming measures, an investigation is underway based on the Department of Transport guidance. All options are being considered from physical engineering options to average speed cameras, all of which have pros and cons. These are being explored by Cllr Douris with HCC and the Parish Council will report back once these have been clarified. There will be a village wide consultation in due course before any final decision is made.

Comments from those present at the meeting included the following:-

'Our community is cut off from each other by dominance of vehicular traffic'

'What would there need to be in terms of additional signs were we to introduce new traffic calming measures'

'There are no warning signs about horses in the village and recently there was almost an accident on the Beaney corner'

'The pavement in places is level with the road and pedestrians feel threatened by cars'

'The Police and Crime Commissioner have speed checking vehicles that could be utilised.

County Cllr Terry Douris offered to investigate average speed camera costs as he felt they offered the best though expensive solution he also undertook to look at the cost of raising the kerb/path levels.

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

(d) Conservation Area Character Appraisal Consultation in the Village Hall

Cllr Hyde reminded everyone that the consultation dates were Friday November 19th, 4pm-7pm and Saturday 20th November, 10am - 12am.

(e) Queens canopy, Platinum Jubilee

Cllr Hyde confirmed that a Liquidambar Tree would be planted on the Green on October 29th to celebrate next year's Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Cllr Hyde also suggested it might be nice, when people are present for the Remembrance Day commemoration, to walk over to the newly planted tree for a dedication ceremony.

(f) CPRE Membership

The Clerk confirmed that the Parish Council were now corporate members of the CPRE.

(g) DriveSafe Statistics for September

Cllr Hyde presented the statistics.

Of the 153 vehicles recorded during the session, 51 (i.e. one third) were travelling at 36mph plus in a 30mph speed zone. Letters were being sent to drivers accordingly

(h) Christmas Tree on the Green

It was agreed that the Parish Council would fund a Christmas Tree again this year to be positioned on the Green and lit from the beginning of December.

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

The Clerk advised he had received the following correspondence:-

- (a) Hertfordshire Independent Living Service (HILS) asked the Parish Council if it were aware of people who may benefit from their services to put them in touch.
- (b) From John Rogers confirming the commemorative tree would be planted in the playing field hedgeline on 29th October.
- (c) David Wilmin from Ashridge/Holt had advised that they would be doing filming on the North Lawn of the College over a period of a couple of weeks.

The Clerk confirmed that he had written to Sue Chapman in connection with the falling Ash Tree branches onto the Nettleden Road from her pony paddock land.

(ii) Finance

The schedule of payments was approved together with the report on expenditure for the previous month. At the half year stage, against an expected spend for the whole year of c. £60k, the Council had spent less than £20k. Although there was known expenditure to come in future months the Projects budget was underspent to the tune of c. £10k. and the Village Hall funding was underspent, though David Brattle advised during the meeting he would need funding for several Village Hall projects.

(iii) Health and Safety

The Clerk confirmed that the monthly H&S inspection had been carried out on the Play Areas on 13th October.

5. COUNCILLOR UPDATE

Councillors raised no closing matters.

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

FINANCE SCHEDULE

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

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

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

MWAgri – £692 ex vat for **Oct**

Petty Cash payment to Clerk for phone **Oct** £21.92 **ex vat**

Scottish Power £12.27 inc vat per month direct debit

HAPTC Freedom of Information Training £30 no vat

Behr and Son Ltd Hay cutting and removal from the Green £1,000 ex vat

Howson Fabrications Limited Metal fencing to Lady Marian Memorial £950 ex vat

Church Grant of £1,000

Majestic Trees – Commemorative Tree for Queen’s Platinum Jubilee, c £392.25 ex vat

b. Cheques/payments received

LGVH Management Committee - Village Hall Manager salary

PLANNING SCHEDULE - CURRENT APPLICATIONS (status at 18th October, 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)

Serenity Gatesdene Close, Relocation of principal entrance. Covered entrance canopy extension. Single storey front extension. Single storey rear extension. Garage and log-store conversion. Replacement of ground floor rear door with window. Installation of first floor and loft floor side elevation windows. Installation of front facing roof lights. 21/03584/FHA **Supported by LGPC**

42 Nettleden Road North. Alterations and extension to car port to form porch 21/03598/LBC & 21/03597/FHA **Supported by LGPC**

9 Nettleden Road North. Construction of a timber-framed outbuilding. 21/03648/LDP **Granted by DBC**

54 Nettleden Road. Works to Tree's. 21/03704/TCA **Supported by LGPC**

27 Nettleden Road North. Proposed installation of automated gates to existing driveway to service numbers 26 and 27 Nettleden Road North. 21/03189/LBC & 21/03188/FUL Objection as follows:- **The Parish Council objects to this application. Whilst it supports the principle of securing the drive with a gate, this property lies in the centre of the Conservation Area. Within the Little Gaddesden Conservation Area, on Nettleden Road from Ringshall to Ashridge Cottages there are approximately 80 entrances; 40 are open access, 28 five bar wooden gates, 7 field access gates, 4 metal gates and just one solid wooden gate. The design of the proposed gates ignores the Chiltern Design guidance for the rural area, and the Parish Council considers that the proposed gates would add to the suburbanisation of the Conservation Area. The Parish Council would reconsider should the design of the gates be modified to a five-bar gate more suited to the rural area.**

43 Nettleden Road North. Retrospective application: Repair works to kitchen roof 21/03619/LBC **Supported by LGPC**

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

Little Witch Alderton Drive. Replacement dwelling. 21/03784/FUL **Objection from LGPC, precise wording to be agreed.**

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

2 Ashridge Cottages Nettleden Road. Replacement timber sash windows. 21/03063/LBC
Councillors agreed to amend their recommendations from support to neutral. **Subsequently refused by DBC**

Thunderdell, Ringshall Road. Demolition of existing house and seven outbuildings. Construction of new part two storey, part 1 1/2 storey, part single storey new dwelling and one new outbuilding. 21/03124/FUL Supported by LGPC, **Granted by DBC**

42 Nettleden Road North. To strip off existing roof tiling, provide breathable membrane batten and retile with Sahtas handmade plain clay tiles (amended scheme). 21/03139/FHA & 21/03140/LBC Supported by LGPC, **awaiting DBC decision**

The Bungalow, Ringshall Road. Works to Oak tree. 21/03350/TCA Supported by LGPC, **Granted by DBC**

16 Cromer Close. Proposed 1 & 2 storey rear extensions, 1st floor side extension and loft conversion with new rooflights and internal alterations and new air source heat pump. 21/03503/FHA Supported by LGPC, **awaiting DBC decision**

Witches Hollow, Ringshall Drive. Single storey side extension to replace link and alterations. 21/00612/FHA & LBC. Planning Appeal. APP/A1910/Y/21/3272860 **LGPC agreed not to submit further comments to the Inspector**

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
The Parish Council opposes the applicants appeal against the Enforcement Notice issued by Dacorum Borough Council on 9th June 2021 on the following grounds

1 Silver Birches is situated in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and Dacorum Borough Council's Core Strategy in relation to an AONB (CS7) is, inter alia, to consider the reuse of permanent substantial buildings provided such reuse (i). has no significant impact on the character and appearance of the countryside; and (ii) it supports the rural economy and maintenance of the wider countryside. It is questionable that the building is substantial within the meaning of the policy. The quality of the conversion of the building is not of an appropriate standard for an AONB and it cannot be said to support the rural economy.

If an application for planning permission had been made in advance of the conversion of this building, it would have been refused because it is in contravention of DBC's policy CS7. It would be inconsistent with DBC's policy to allow retrospective consent.

2 We believe the conversion to a residential dwelling will lead to pressure to impinge on the integrity of the adjacent Atlas Cedar tree which is the subject of a TPO. It is irrelevant that the converted barn, pre-conversion, has co-existed with the tree for 70 years. A non-residential building would not be affected by the proximity of the tree in the same way as a residential building, leading to the possible future perceived need of occupiers for greater light. The Atlas

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

Cedar is at one with all other trees in the adjacent grade II listed parkland, which have been protected for about 100 years and forms such an important feature of the character of Little Gaddesden. Damage to or reduction of the Atlas Cedar would cause a significant harm to the character of the area.

On behalf of Little Gaddesden Parish Council, I would urge you to reject the appeal and uphold Dacorum Borough Council's Enforcement Notice.

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, **Granted by DBC**

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, **Granted by DBC**

Little Brownlow Farm, Nettleden Road Construction of orangery extension. 21/02918/FHA LGPC objects to this application on the following grounds:-

This property is within the Little Gaddesden Conservation Area. The style and design do not integrate well with the simple low slung former agricultural building. It contains large glazed areas and prominent lantern roof at odds with the rest of the conversion. The arrangement does not align well with the simple courtyard style of the original farm buildings, sticking out as it does on one end. It is highly visible within the landscape on the exposed hillside overlooking the valley, footpath & bridleway from Home Farm to Hudnall Common. **Application withdrawn**

6-7, Nettleden Road. Retention of a post & rail fence (measuring 42.150 metres), including 2X3 and 2X6 field gates. 21/02446/FUL Little Gaddesden Parish Council objected as follow:- The erection of fencing allows no practical agricultural use of this partitioned off area of land, allowing it effectively to become incorporated into the garden of 6/7. Nettleden Road North. It should be noted that the field being divided contains a field shelter which has an agricultural condition on it (see 4/02234/16/FUL) and the Parish Council consider that the complete field should remain in agricultural use. **A further letter of information was submitted by the applicant and the Planning Officer awaited LGPC further comments. The Parish Council felt that if all the land had an agricultural condition imposed on the use of the land, it would be acceptable to allow the fence to be retained.**

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

The meeting closed at **9.40pm**.

The next meeting is on **Monday 15th November, 2021 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall**.

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