



LITTLE GADDES DEN *parish council*

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

21st February, 2022

PLEASE NOTE THAT MINUTES ARE ALSO PUBLISHED ON THE WEB SITE

<https://littlegaddesdenpc.org.uk>

The meeting commenced at 7.30 pm.

PRESENT: Cllrs. Fruish, Kelly, Magson, Saner, Thompson & Townsend. Also in attendance, Alastair Greene (Clerk), County and District Councillor Terry Douris, (from 8.15pm) and fifteen members of the public.

APOLOGIES: Cllr Hyde

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.

Most people had attended to hear the car park discussions and there were no other issues raised at that point.

3. REPORTS AND MATTERS ARISING

(a) Church Road update

Cllr Kelly advised that we were awaiting the Inspectors determination in relation to the enforcement notices.

(b) Report from Hertfordshire Constabulary.

The Clerk advised that there was no Police report and that he would ask for a consolidated report for the next meeting.

(c) Signage and parking restrictions at the Bridgewater Arms.

Cllr Kelly introduced Brandon Martin the Business Development Manager for Chef and Brewer, Greene King, who had accepted an invitation to join the meeting to discuss the recent changes.

Cllr Townsend explained that he and the Clerk had met with Brandon the previous week to explain the concerns of villagers relating to the cameras and signage and that this was an opportunity for villagers to give further feedback.

Brandon advised that he had just taken over the region and was keen to understand the views of residents.

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

It was clear from comments that there was much concern over the wording of the signs, the number of signs, the size of the signs and posts, the times of operation of the cameras and the overall need for any of the signs and equipment. Sign wording suggested that details of restrictions could be checked in the pub, however the pub was not always accessible and hence some questioned the enforceability of the signs. It was acknowledged by villagers that the car park was owned by Greene King and that they needed to manage it to maximise their business but it was also felt that the current solution was a 'sledgehammer to crack a nut' and that it was totally out of keeping with the village look and feel especially as the pub was within a Conservation Area and within the AONB. It was felt that the attractiveness was being eroded by urbanisation of the car park and there was disappointment that the signs had appeared without consultation and without planning permission.

Villagers also wished to make it clear that they wanted the pub to be successful and for it to get back to the quality service, full opening hours and good food that it had historically had such a good reputation for. Many of those at the meeting were regulars and would be pleased to see investment in the pub. Brandon advised that Greene King were consolidating brands within the group but could not say yet whether the Bridgewater Arms was likely to receive investment.

Cllr Magson felt that since no planning application had been made perhaps all the equipment installed should be removed and then an application made, so that in the usual manner a consultation could take place with all parties and the Planning authority could consider all the issues. In any case it was noted that the planning authority had been alerted to this matter and they had begun a planning enforcement enquiry.

Brandon understood the strength of feeling and explained that he shared some of the views of the objectors and had written to the Greene King Estates Team with a number of queries and suggestions to lessen the impact of the works. He also explained that legally a fifteen-minute grace period was allowed and that they had extended that in discussion with Britannia Car Parks to twenty minutes. It was also proposed that to allow school dropping off, the cameras would not operate until after 9am perhaps even 9.30am. However, at this stage there was no wording on the signs to make that clear.

It was agreed that Brandon would follow up with his colleagues asap and revert with their thoughts.

The Chairman thanked Brandon for taking time to attend the meeting and hearing the views of villagers.

Linked to the issue of parking, it had become clear that some walkers wishing to avoid parking in the pub car park were now parking along the street and that had caused difficulties for the free flow of customers and deliveries to the shop. This was discussed in brief, however, it was felt that the subject needed further thought and should be brought forward to the March meeting.

(d) To confirm the status of the PCC Safety Fund application re speeding in the village

Cllr Thompson confirmed the latest correspondence read as follows;_

'Thank you for your interest in the Commissioners Road Safety Fund. As you are aware we are currently reviewing Expressions of Interest in this fund, inviting some applicants to complete a full bid. As you have already completed a full application your bid will be reviewed in full at the next

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

milestone of the process as it does meet the some of the Commissioners strategic priorities’.

(e) To comment on the campaign groups ‘20’s Plenty’ initiative

The Clerk said he had previously circulated correspondence from this campaign group and he was aware from initial responses that this might not be supported by Councillors. However, he said he would attend an online meeting to find out more and advise further at the next meeting.

Cllr Douris advised that the Parish Council were on the list of villages to be considered for a 20mph zone, however, were quite a long way down the list, so the timing of any action/next steps was unknown at this stage.

(f) Status of the Conservation Area Character Appraisal

In the absence of Cllr Hyde, the Clerk advised that there were a few final amendments being made to the document including boundary changes and photos and that the document would then be presented for sign off within DBC.

(g) Luton Airport consultation

Cllr Saner advised that he had attended the Markyate consultation meeting and had reviewed documents relating to the proposals. He said that villagers had been informed of the consultation through the brochure delivered to every household called ‘Future Luton, Making the best use of our existing runway’. The consultation remains open until 4th April and residents were encouraged to review and respond.

It was agreed that the Parish Council should seek representation on any appropriate lobby group regarding airport redevelopment and expansion.

(h) Queens Jubilee celebrations June 2022

The Clerk advised that along with Cllr Thompson he had attended the first meeting of a group of c. 18 representatives of village clubs and societies convened by John Russell. The purpose had been to see if there was interest in setting up events in celebration of the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee and ensure that the events were coordinated. Cllr Hyde was also there representing the Rural Heritage Society.

Broadly it was agreed at that meeting, that Sunday afternoon, 5th June, would feature a number of events, which might include a dog show, horse riding, maypole dancing, WI teas, soap box derby BBQ, etc. It was agreed that a marquee would be really useful to provide shelter from good or bad weather and to be used to house stalls etc. The Clerk had been asked to seek approval for funding from the Parish Council. The Gaddesden Society said that they would also like to contribute to the cost of hiring a marquee.

Having conducted research on hiring costs since that meeting the Clerk advised he could hire a marquee 9m x 18m for £1,200 plus vat (excluding any furniture, lighting, flooring, etc.). The Council approved expenditure of up to £1,500 plus vat but suggested that a larger marquee be hired. Some residents attending the meeting were keen that the events included a party as they felt the village needed to get back to pre-covid activities now.

(i) Tennis Club plans to refurbish the courts at Church Road playing fields.

Jane Tilley and Liz Hamilton presented their proposals for replacing the boundary fencing and resurfacing the playing surface. They planned to use Sports Courts UK Ltd and to carry out the work in late July/early August. Cllr Magson kindly agreed to liaise with the Tennis Club to ensure that the works took place without disruption to others. The Tennis Club advised that they would probably need to provide access for contractor’s vehicles from the car park adjoining the Bowls

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

Club. They confirmed that they would ensure that any damage done to the ground would be reinstated at the end of the works and that the footpaths would remain open and safe for users. A photographic schedule of condition of the ground was suggested, so that there would be no dispute on any ground damage /reinstatement needed. The Parish Council were happy to support the Tennis Club and agreed that the works should go ahead subject to conditions/timing to be confirmed.

4. ADMINISTRATION

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

The Clerk advised he had received a flyer from DBC advertising 'The Big Hoot' an art exhibition of Owl sculptures positioned around Hemel Hempstead. Details will be on the shop notice board.

(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 Church Road and Cromer Close Play Areas on 10th February. There were no new matters for the Clerk to report, except that the replacement pole for the swings was planned for installation on 22nd February.

5. COUNCILLOR UPDATE

The Clerk passed on a message from Cllr Hyde thanking Cllr Townsend and George Godar for carrying out path clearance work, it had been much appreciated by villagers.

FINANCE SCHEDULE

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

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

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

MWAgri – £692 ex vat for **Feb**

Petty Cash payment to Clerk **Feb** £106.98 ex vat phone rental and calls + Dog poo bags and ink

Scottish Power £12.27 inc vat per month direct debit

Hire of Village Hall Sept – Dec 2021 £270

John Saner ink for A3 printer used for printing planning applications £77.97

Sovereign Design Play Systems – Swing pole £100.51 ex vat

T/A Finished Floors, Village Hall Floor sanding and treating £2,700 (VHMC budget)

b. Cheques/payments received

LGVH Management Committee - Village Hall Manager salary

Little Gaddesden Cricket Club £572 reimbursement of grass cutting/collecting

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

PLANNING SCHEDULE - CURRENT APPLICATIONS (status at 21st February 2022)

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.

9 Little Gaddesden House, Nettleden Road, Erection of external porch. 22/00116/LDP
DBC had approved this application prior to hearing comments from LGPC. LGPC were following this up with DBC.

Ashridge House. Conversion of two groups of rooms around the service court (Quadrangle)
 22/00123/LBC & 22/00122/FUL **The Parish Council adopted a neutral stance on this application**

Manor End, Nettleden Road. Reinstate original crenulations to the North facing gable end.
 21/04818/LBC **The Parish Council adopted a neutral stance on this application**

Hudnall Park House, Hudnall Common, Little Gaddesden, HP4 1QN. Solar panel and control box
 PL/0253/22 Herts CC **LGPC had no objection to this proposal**

Mosshall Farm, Nettleden Road. Side and rear extension. 21/04801/FHA
In principle LGPC had no objection to this application but wished to ensure that Permitted Development rights were removed for the future. The consultation response wording needed to be agreed.

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

Christmas House Nettleden Road North, Extension to existing garage. 21/04598/FHA
 Supported by LGPC, **Granted by DBC**

Bailiffs, Nettleden Road. Construction of garden shed. 21/04593/FHA
 Supported by LGPC, **Granted by DBC**

The Granary, Home Farm. Fell and works to trees. 22/00023/TCA
 David Simpson, the owner, advised that his property should be known as Granary Cottage.
 It was agreed that no comment was to be submitted by LGPC on this application **Granted by DBC**

Little Brownlow Farm, Nettleden Road. Works to trees. 22/00040/TCA
 It was agreed that no comment was to be submitted by LGPC on this application. **Granted by DBC**

Ashridge House, Ashridge Park. Conversion of existing Honeysuckle outbuilding at Ashridge House into Beauty Spa/Treatment facilities for those visiting Ashridge. Continuation of external lighting scheme to Honeysuckle and associated wing. 21/04381/FUL & 21/04382/LBC
 LGPC took a neutral stance, **Granted by DBC**

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

Robin Hood Farm, Nettleden Road. Extension to storage building. 21/04433/FUL
Supported by LGPC, **Granted by DBC.**

Waveney Cottage, Hudnall Lane. Single storey rear extension to replace existing conservatory.
21/04560/FHA Supported by LGPC, **Granted by DBC.**

Little Witch Alderton Drive, Replacement dwelling. 21/03784/FUL
LGPC's consultation response was 'Neutral'. **Granted by DBC**

4 Nettleden Road North. Addition of 2nd storey to existing side extension with associated
modification to roof. 21/03846/FHA
LGPC's consultation response was 'Neutral'. **Refused by DBC**

Enforcement actions

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
Reference: APP/A1910/C/21/3278485

The Parish Council opposed the applicants appeal against the Enforcement Notice issued by
Dacorum Borough Council on 9th June 2021. **Inspector's decision, Permission granted EN
dismissed**

Church Road land
Creation of a means of access, erection of fencing and construction of buildings on Plot 5 & 6.
Inspector's decision awaited

Bridgewater Arms Car Park
Case opened by the Enforcement Team at DBC

The meeting closed at **9.30pm.**

The next meeting is on **Monday 21st March, 2022 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.**

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