



## LITTLE GADDES DEN *parish council*

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

21<sup>st</sup> March, 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, Hyde, Kelly, Magson, Saner & Thompson. Also in attendance, Alastair Greene (Clerk), County and Borough Councillor Terry Douris, (from 8.15pm) David Willmin Director of Hospitality and Events (Ashridge Hult) and thirteen members of the public.

**APOLOGIES:** Cllr.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.

Cllr Hyde declared an interest in her application for works to trees. There were no other 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 Ashridge Hult update and there were no other issues raised at that point other than a resident who asked whether it was appropriate for a large lorry to be parked at Mosshall Farm.

#### 3. REPORTS AND MATTERS ARISING

##### (a) Ashridge Hult update

Cllr Kelly welcomed David Willmin to the meeting. The purpose of the session was to provide an update on matters of interest to parishioners. David mentioned that the pandemic had had a big impact on the business but was pleased to note the first overseas visitors (from Germany) attended a course recently. He hoped that they would be the first of many but that it would possibly take a couple of years to be back to the same level of attendance as pre-covid.

David advised that the new Bakehouse in the Courtyard was running successfully and that they intended to open a 50-seater restaurant in the coming weeks called Acres. They would be launching that soon with Sunday lunches before extending to Friday, Saturday and Sunday dinners.

There was a catch-up process with weddings such that the usual 60-70 had grown this year to 90 although only seventeen of those were requesting fireworks. The Clerk asked whether the timing of the fireworks could be more restricted in future bookings and David undertook to discuss that

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

with his team. It was agreed that the Parish Council would help with communications by use of the Parish Council web site.

David said that weddings and catering and events were helpful at keeping the college ticking over but the overwhelming drive and focus remained Education.

David said that Ashridge were considering charging for use of the car park in front of the house, with the intention of using that income for the repair of the access road.

There was some discussion about whether it was worth reinstating the toll booth and giving a special price for locals. Those at the meeting were supportive of the principle. David confirmed that he had asked suppliers to note the weight restrictions for HGVs and had encouraged them all to deliver from the Berkhamsted direction.

Finally, David confirmed that they would be marking the Platinum Jubilee on 5<sup>th</sup> June with a classic car show, timing to be advised.

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

The Clerk advised that there were two crimes recorded for the last period, Criminal damage to a car at Hudnall Common and a dangerous dog in Ringshall.

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

The Clerk provided an update from Cllr Townsend, (who was unable to attend) advising that there had been correspondence between Brandon Martin of Greene King and Cllr Townsend explaining that a Heritage expert would be appointed by Britannia Car Parks and that they would liaise with Dacorum Borough Council and submit an application, which in turn the Parish Council would be able to comment on.

**(d) To confirm the latest Drivesafe statistics**

Cllr Hyde advised as follows:-

**February session:-**

Rothwell's field entrance 1st Feb opposite 'The Spinney' on the road between Little Gaddesden and Ringshall – 213 passing in 2 hours; 49 speeding; 23% speeding, 42 letters sent.

**March session:-**

Location Home Farm, Nettleden Road. 177 cars passing, 56 speeding means 32%. were speeding.

**(e) Church Road Enforcement appeal**

Cllr Kelly confirmed that all were awaiting the outcome of the Planning Inspector's determination which had been chased recently by Mike Penning.

In the meantime, Cllr Kelly suggested that he set up a meeting with Officers at Dacorum to consider next steps on other outstanding enforcement actions on Church Road.

**(f) Status of the Conservation Area Character Appraisal (CACA)**

County and District Cllr Terry Douris was able to confirm that Dacorum Borough Council had approved the CACA and Cllr Hyde was praised for her dedication and hard work and so also were her team of volunteers for getting the CACA over the line. The CACA will be an invaluable document to be considered when planning applications in the Conservation Area are reviewed.

**(g) Green Open Space application**

Cllr Saner had re-circulated the final report and it was agreed that the Clerk should now submit it to Dacorum Borough for review and incorporation into the draft Borough Local Plan.

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

**(h) Queens Jubilee celebrations June 2022**

The Clerk confirmed that the Marquee had been hired as requested and would be available for use as the organising committee decide.

Broadly it was agreed at the last Organising Committee meeting, that Sunday afternoon, 5<sup>th</sup> June, would feature a number of events, which might include a dog show, horse riding, maypole dancing, WI teas, soap box derby, BBQ, market stalls etc.

Sarah Gall addressed the meeting about the idea of purchasing bespoke Little Gaddesden styled Commemorative mugs for selling before, during and after the event. The Parish Council agreed to the principle of acting as the underwriter for the purchase but would like to see the detailed proposal before committing any funds.

County and Borough Councillor Terry Douris said that he would make available £1,000 towards the purchase from his locality Budget, an offer which was very much appreciated.

**(i) Maintenance Contract renewal with MWAgri. Ltd.**

The Clerk advised that the initial term of the Maintenance Contract would expire on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022 but that if both parties agreed, and subject to a CPI increase in the contract price, it could be extended for a further two years expiring on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024.

The Clerk said that he and the Chairman Cllr Kelly had met with the main users of the Sports Ground (the Footballers and the Cricketers) to check if there were any variations to the contract needed. It was agreed that the contract, as drawn, covered the current needs satisfactorily, however, there were some longer-term improvements to levelling the playing field area and to re-seeding of the worn areas that should be dealt with separately.

The Clerk advised that the CPI change was a 7% increase which the contractor had agreed to. The Clerk asked for and was given approval to extend the contract.

**(j) Link arrangements between Gadd Soc web site and the Parish Council web site**

Cllr. Fruish advised that The Gaddesden Society had created a new web site and that it acted as a central point for linking to all the clubs, societies and organisations, including the Parish Council.

**(k) Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) update.**

Cllr Fruish advised that the PSPO was currently being reviewed by Dacorum Borough Council. It related to the use of Public Spaces by dogs and their owners and aimed to ensure that public spaces can be enjoyed free from anti-social behaviour.

The feedback from the consultation will help to shape the PSPO. Closing date for feedback was Sunday 27 March, 2022.

**(l) Latest Government thinking on telecommunications masts.**

Cllr Thomson advised that the regulations had changed to give greater flexibility to enabling companies to install taller networks of masts and to install more equipment on existing masts. Whilst there remained some protections in AONB's the village remained vulnerable to applications, though the pre-application discussion re the mast on Hudnall Lane had so far gone no further.

**4. ADMINISTRATION**

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

The Clerk advised he had received correspondence from a resident who was upset by the restriction of light to one of her rooms by the parking of a large vehicle in the neighbour's

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

driveway and asked if there was anything that could be done to reduce the impact. It was agreed that the issue would need offline review and inspection.

**(ii) Finance**

- (a) The schedule of payments was approved together with the report on expenditure for the previous month.
- (b) It was agreed that the Clerks Salary should be increased by 1.75% backdated to 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021 in accordance with the NALC Local Government settlement.
- (c) The Clerk confirmed that in accordance with previous discussions he had made an application to Unity Trust Bank for a dual authorisation account. The meeting noted and approved the action.

**(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 4<sup>th</sup> March. Councillors thanked David Brattle for replacing the rotting swing stanchion pole.

**5. COUNCILLOR UPDATE**

County and Borough Cllr Terry Douris advised that Natural England had written to Planning Authorities in connection with the Chilterns Beechwood Special Area of Conservation (SAC) which included the Ashridge Estate and Tring Woodlands. He explained that the overuse of these leisure areas had caused so much destruction that Natural England wanted to ensure that sufficient mitigations were in place before any consents could be given for development that would further impact on these special areas. He said that there would be more detail to follow.

There was some discussion about the number of car parks in the Ashridge Estate and whether the National Trust had a plan showing those that could be made available to visitors to reduce the impact in highly used areas of the Estate.

**FINANCE SCHEDULE**

a. Cheques for approval. The Council will consider whether to approve the following:-

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

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

MWAgri – £692 ex vat for **Mar**

Collison Tree Care Ltd £350 ex vat Work on Bede Court Yew Trees

Petty Cash payment to Clerk **Mar** £81.39 ex vat phone rental/calls and ink and post

Scottish Power £12.27 inc vat per month direct debit

UK Marquee Hire - £800 ex vat (Represents 50% of the cost of Marquee for the Platinum Jubilee)

David Brattle £241.46 no vat Materials and digger hire for Swing Stanchion replacement

Land Registry £6 no vat for Property Search

Second Land Registry Search £6

CPRE Subscription £36 no vat

Unity Bank set up deposit for Parish Council Account £500 (cheque)

b. Cheques/payments received

LGVH Management Committee - Village Hall Manager salary

Contribution to Queens Platinum Jubilee HCC £350

Cricket Club £572. Reimbursement of grass collection

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

**PLANNING SCHEDULE - CURRENT APPLICATIONS (status at 21st March 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.**

Church Farm House, Church Road. Construction of a detached store building. 22/00507/FHA  
**Supported by LGPC**

22 - 23 Nettleden Road North, Works to trees. 22/00700/TCA **Supported by LGPC**

4 Ringshall Road, Ringshall. Fell 2 trees. 22/00899/TCA **Supported by LGPC**

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

9 Little Gaddesden House, Nettleden Road, Erection of external porch. 22/00116/LDP  
**DBC approved prior to hearing comments from LGPC. This was because that particular element of the building (the Porch) was not listed.**

Ashridge House. Conversion of two groups of rooms around the service court (Quadrangle)  
22/00123/LBC & 22/00122/FUL **LGPC took a Neutral stance, Granted by DBC**

Manor End, Nettleden Road. Reinstate original crenulations to the North facing gable end.  
21/04818/LBC **LGPC took a Neutral stance, Granted by DBC**

Hudnall Park House, Hudnall Common, Little Gaddesden, HP4 1QN. Solar panel and control box  
PL/0253/22 Herts CC **Supported by LGPC, Granted by DBC**

Mosshall Farm, Nettleden Road. Side and rear extension. 21/04801/FHA  
**Consultation response from LGPC reads:- 'Little Gaddesden Parish Council (LGPC) have adopted a neutral position on this application. LGPC understands from a discussion with the Planning Officer that the Permitted Development rights for this property were removed in 2015 and further understand that those permitted rights cannot be reinstated, it would be helpful if that could be mentioned in the Officers report/decision letter'.  
Decision awaited from DBC**

**Enforcement actions**

Church Road land  
Creation of a means of access, erection of fencing and construction of buildings on Plot 5 & 6.  
APP/A1910/C/21/3282333 **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 11<sup>th</sup> April, 2022 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.**

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