

# Little Gaddesden Parish Council

## MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ELECTORATE HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL on MONDAY 16th MAY 2022 commencing at 7.30pm

**PRESENT:** Cllrs Fruish, Hyde, Kelly, Magson, Saner, and Townsend. Also in attendance, Alastair Greene (Clerk), County and Borough Cllr. Douris and five members of the public

**APOLOGIES:** Cllr.Thompson

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 17<sup>th</sup> May 2021 were approved as drafted.

3. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PARISH COUNCIL for the year 2021-2022

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

Good evening and welcome to the Annual Meeting of the Electorate. This report covers the activities of your Parish Council for the year ending 31st March 2022. I propose that I read the report and ask for questions at the end.

The most exciting thing to happen this year after decades of effort by Lyn Hyde has been the ratification of the Conservation Area Character Appraisal (CACA) by Dacorum. Lyn started working on this when she was a pupil Little Gaddesden Junior School and has doggedly pursued the issue through 10 Prime Ministers, two wars (including the Falkland's) and 172 landlords at the Bridgewater Arms!

What has been achieved...?

We have defined the character of the buildings in Little Gaddesdens Conservation Area.

We have also extended the Conservation Area to cover Church Farm

So, what does ratification mean...?

- The house owners in the new areas will be written to.
- The Secretary of State & Historic England will be informed.
- It will be published in the local newspapers and London gazette

In practice, what does this mean...?

The CACA of Little Gaddesden will be used as the main reference document for planning consent design, together with the Chiltern Design Guide. It will be used as a template for further documents in Dacorum. A big thank you to Lyn and her CACA support team.

Further, we have formally requested that parts of the land around the Church be designated as Local Green Space. This is a special designation protecting land that is of value to the community from development. This is a long-term process and we are hoping that this land designation will appear in the next draft of the Local Plan from Dacorum in a couple of years' time.

We also applied for the Community Right to Buy on the Bridgewater Arms Pub. This would have given the village first refusal if the pub were being put up for sale. However, we were refused permission on the grounds that it was not enough of a community asset. We did not understand the decision and we cannot re-apply for another 5 years.

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

A lot of effort has been expended on the Bridgewater Arms Car Park fiasco, mainly by Jim. The application is in for planning. In a broader context of the pub, we are not sure that Greene King quite know what to do with the pub, but there does not seem to be any funding coming forward for the Chef and Brewer rumour.

We have had no news on the 25m mast in Hudnall Lane, so we think the issue has gone away.

The most time-consuming issue has been Church Road. The saga continues. There are two key issues:

The first is the planning appeal and the current state of play is that the planning inspectorate has indicated that they will visit the site in July... this year. The decision will take some time after that. Locally, we do not know if the injunctions preventing further building on Church Road have been extended. Dacorum have decided (sadly by inaction) not to enforce many infringements until after the inspectorate's decision, namely (1) living on site (2) adding to additional building and (3) lorries on site. We are very disappointed.

The second key issue is anti-social behaviour of the people living on the field, which the Parish Council has been working on vigorously. Particularly, aggressive behaviour to walkers, inappropriate use of the dog and dog barking. The people in charge of anti-social behaviour at Dacorum has been very disappointing in carrying out their jobs and to date after much pushing have only enforced on minor infringements. We are disappointed and are reviewing our approach.

Finally. The VPA now has a new roof with a little help from the Parish Council. No more dripping water on cold heads this winter.

Thank you.

Chairman Paul Kelly

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

Cllr Kathryn Magson, in her role of Parish Council representative to the Charity, read the report:-

##### **Report for 2021**

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

Ms Kathryn Magson as representative of the Parish Council (from 17<sup>th</sup> May 2021)

Mrs Pat Catchpole

Mr David Wilmin nominated by Ashridge College (from 17<sup>th</sup> May 2021)

(Mrs Pat Catchpole acted as Secretary and Treasurer)

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

The Accounts were examined by Hillier Hopkins, Chartered Accountants of Watford. The expenditure for the year was £565

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 7.50pm.

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