



LITTLE GADDES DEN *parish council*

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

May 16th, 2022

PLEASE NOTE THAT MINUTES ARE ALSO PUBLISHED ON THE WEB SITE

<https://littlegaddesdenpc.org.uk>

The meeting commenced at 7.50 pm.

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

APOLOGIES: Cllr. Thompson

1. FORMALITIES

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained how the meeting would be run. The first item on the agenda was the election of the Chairman. The Clerk asked for nominations and there was one nomination, Paul Kelly, and he was elected unopposed.

The second item was the election of the Vice Chairman.

There was one nomination, Kathryn Magson, and she was elected unopposed.

Both agreed to sign their 'Declaration of Acceptance of Office' and 'The Undertaking to abide by the Code of Conduct' at the end of the meeting.

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.

A resident mentioned disturbance from fireworks. It was noted that whilst there were regular fireworks at Ashridge associated with wedding events, there were also private fireworks parties and those were difficult to anticipate. Cllr. Fruish had carried out some research into fireworks and spoke on that issue. It was agreed that posters produced by the RSPCA and others would be used to campaign for considerate use of fireworks in the village and preferably no use of fireworks at all since they upset pets and wildlife alike. It was agreed that the dates of the Ashridge firework events would be published on the Parish Council web site.

David Brattle advised that Paulette Reed, the Village Hall Manager was planning to retire on June 12th. It had been agreed that a new system of online hall bookings would be implemented soon, called Hallmaster, more details were to follow.

Richard Baker asked for attention to be given to the Bede Court to Bridgwater Arms footpath which was getting overgrown and needed strimming.

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

3. REPORTS AND MATTERS ARISING

(a) Report from Hertfordshire Constabulary.

Lee Clements could not attend but had advised the Clerk that for the month of April there were no reported crimes in Little Gaddesden on his database.

(b) Church Road Enforcement appeal

Cllr Kelly confirmed that everybody was awaiting the outcome of the Planning Inspector's determination but in the meantime the Borough Council had undertaken to renew the injunction against works on Church Road that was due to expire at the end of May.

It was agreed that Paul Kelly would ask Anna Stevenson to park the school minibuses, currently next to the Bowls Club, behind the village hall as they detracted from the rural view that residents were wishing to protect along Church Road.

It was agreed that consideration should be given to preventing overnight parking in that car park.

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

At the previous meeting Cllr Townsend had explained that two planning applications had been submitted to Dacorum and that he had reviewed them and provided a brief synopsis for Councillors. It was agreed at that last meeting that the Parish Council would object to the application but would review the objection if certain measures were put in place.

The application remained under consideration and Cllr Townsend had suggested to the planners a site meeting to explain the Parish Council's concerns, though that meeting had not yet taken place.

Cllr Douris offered to assist in progressing the matter.

It was noted that the parking restrictions at the Bridgewater Arms was having a negative effect on the free flow of traffic past the village shop, to the extent that there had been incidents of impatience by drivers. It was agreed that the Bridgewater Arms should be free to manage their own car park for their customers but the impact on the village was unexpected and unwelcome. It was suggested that visitors to Ashridge and the village should be encouraged not to park 'long term' in front of the shop and that perhaps a map of available car parks should be made available to stop walkers from parking there for the day.

(d) April/May Drivesafe statistics

Cllr Hyde advised as follows:-

Location – Ringshall Road, opposite 'Spinneys' – 222 vehicles passing into the village over the observation period; 74 were exceeding 35mph = 33% speeding. 5 vehicles were observed traveling faster than 50mph.

It was noted that a police speed check van had been operating on Ringshall Road recently.

(e) Platinum Jubilee celebrations

Cllr. Fruish reminded people about the planned celebrations. Preparations were proceeding well. The Clerk asked for financial approval to a package of items in support of the celebrations including the provision of bins from DBC, electrics and hire of pa equipment, hire of tables and

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

chairs and creation of a banner, bringing the total commitment to £2,000 ex vat. He advised that with a contribution from Gaddesden Society of £500 these items plus the marquee would be covered. The expenditure was approved.

(f) Jubilee Commemorative mugs

Sarah Gall confirmed that the mugs had been ordered.

(g) Green Maintenance

The Clerk advised that the results of the survey were now available. The survey had been sent out to all subscribers to the web site (c.190 people) and had also been posted on notice boards and hand delivered to some people on the Green, as well as being available at the shop.

90 people responded, of whom 85% were in favour of the wild flower regime and 15% for a more regularly cut approach.

Councillors agreed to carry on with encouraging wild flowers and pollinators but hoped to have an earlier final cut this year. The safety visibility splay for drivers exiting the crossovers will be carried out as usual.

(h) Use of the footpath between the Bridgewater Arms and Ringshall Road

It was noted that horses are being led along the footpath and that the steps at the end of the footpath that were recently repaired have been damaged. Cllr Saner undertook to discuss the matter with owners of the adjoining land.

4. ADMINISTRATION

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

The Clerk advised he had received correspondence from Debbie McMorran and Katie Margetts regarding the Church Road Play equipment. Debbie had raised a safety concern about the crossbar on the main climbing apparatus. Councillors felt that the Council should await the external annual safety report before taking any action.

Cllr Magson offered to meet up with Debbie/Katie to discuss fund raising ideas to improve/replace some of the equipment.

The Clerk advised that he had received an invitation to meet with Pippa Cawdron from DBC whose role was to make Dacorum a 'film friendly borough' in support of the growing number of studios and production companies in Hertfordshire. The Clerk and Cllr Townsend planned to meet with Pippa to find out more and report back to the Council.

(ii) Finance

- (a) The schedule of payments was approved together with the report on expenditure for the previous month.
- (b) The Clerk confirmed that in accordance with previous discussions he had opened an account with the Unity Trust Bank for dual authorisation of payments. Councillors were now registering as approvers on the system.
- (c) The Clerk advised that he had prepared the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) for the 2021/22 audit for submission to the External Auditor. Councillors first approved Section 1 the Annual Governance Statement and then Section 2, The Accounting Statement.

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

(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 3rd May. He thanked David Brattle on behalf of the Council for his work in repairing and refurbishing the wooden slats to the concrete picnic table at Cromer Close.

5. COUNCILLOR UPDATE

Cllr Magson said that Little Gaddesden Charities would like to use the Council's web site to advertise their charity. She expressed a concern about the cost of heating increases that would impact on people and thought that the work of the Little Gaddesden Charities should be wider known.

Cllr Magson mentioned that the builder in Beacon Road had installed giant concrete lumps on the highway verge. The Chairman undertook to have a look on site.

Cllr Kelly announced that the Bowl's Club had been in receipt of a Community Award which was much deserved.

FINANCE SCHEDULE

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

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

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

MWAgri – £692 + 7% ex vat for **May**

Petty Cash payment to Clerk **May** (no claim)

Scottish Power £12.27 inc vat per month direct debit

Talktalk Business Domain name renewal £37.80 inc vat

GH Electrical. External electric socket for Jubilee £153 ex vat

b. Payments received

LGVH Management Committee - Village Hall Manager salary

PLANNING SCHEDULE - CURRENT APPLICATIONS (status at 16th May 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.

Vine Cottage, Nettleden Road. Replace existing doors. Construction of porch. New external cladding at rear of property. New air source heat pump and air-conditioning condenser.
22/01149/FHA **Supported by LGPC**

Witches Hollow, Ringshall Drive. Installation of 2 conservation style roof-lights to lean-to roof to kitchen. 22/01275/LBC **The Parish Council adopted a neutral stance on this application**

4 Nettleden Road North. Notification of Planning Appeal APP/A1910/D/22/3296120.
21/03846/FHA **Noted**

Covetous Corner, Hudnall Common. Demolition of existing extension to side and rear and front porch. Construction of two storey side and rear extension and part single storey with front porch.
22/01351/FHA **Supported by LGPC**

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

Rodinghead, Ashridge Park. Basement level extension, connecting staircase and internal alterations. 22/01486/FHA (Only just received, bring forward to June meeting)

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

2 Chapel Close, 2-storey side extension and replacement of single storey rear extension.

22/00921/FHA Little Gaddesden Parish Council objected for the following reasons:-

We felt that it constituted over-development of a small plot and would be overbearing to the neighbouring property. The addition of another bedroom (to make 5) is potential for higher occupancy and greater car usage. Chapel Close has inadequate parking provision as it is and any further usage would create more problems.

Another bedroom also implies more intensive residential use leading to potential higher footfall in Chiltern Beechwoods SAC. Chapel Close is approximately 1000 metres from the SAC so quite close to the 500m exclusion zone.

No decision by DBC

Beggars Roost, Alderton Drive. A two-storey garage extension, driveway extension and a swimming pool. 22/00840/FHA

LGPC reviewed the application and objected for the following reasons:-

1. The new garage, being two storeys and being on the boundary with the neighbours, will be intrusive

2 the addition of another storey is potential for future residential development

3 the size is excessive.

If the application was simply for the swimming pool, with no change to the garage the Parish Council would not object.

No decision by DBC

Wood Ash, Gatesdene Close. Fell beech tree and sycamore tree. 22/00938/TCA

No objection from LGPC. Granted by DBC

28 Ringshall Cottages. Fell tree. 22/00998/TCA No objection from LGPC. Granted by DBC

The Bridgewater Arms Car Park. Installation of 2 ANPR cameras to be mounted on a single pole.

22/01036/FUL. Also, Addition of 6 pole mounted signs. 22/01037/ADV

LGPC objected and the full background and detail of the objection and possible way forward is available on the LGPC web site and notice board next to the Village Shop. DBC decision awaited

Church Farm House, Church Road. Construction of a detached store building. 22/00507/FUL

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'.

Granted by DBC (with no mention of permitted rights)

NB. Bund/soil bank created to the rear and adjacent to footpath. Ref. No: E/20/00448/ENG.

Tue 17 Nov 2020. Status: Pending Consideration

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

ENFORCEMENT CASES**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**

Land South East of Church Road.

Material change of use of land from agriculture to a mixed use of agriculture and the siting of a caravan for residential use. E/21/00448/NPP.

Land South East of Church Road.

Lots of items scattered across rear field very untidy. Land E/22/00120/S215 Received: Sun 24 Apr 2022 | Status: Pending Consideration

Bridgewater Arms Car Park

Erection of posts, cameras and signage within the car park. E/22/00019/LBG

Coach House Beaney Farm Nettleden Road

Change of use from private to commercial (equestrian) E/20/00301/NPP Ref. No: Received: Fri 07 Aug 2020 Status: Pending Consideration

Coach House Beaney Farm Nettleden Road

A large concrete slab has been installed. 2) Underground engineering work for cesspit has been completed. 3) A tree was removed in a Conservation area. Ref. No: E/22/00106/MULTI

Land North of The Bothy Nettleden Road

Construction of a hardstanding and road. Ref. No: E/21/00406/NPP Received: Thu 11 Nov 2021 Status: Pending Consideration

Mosshall Farm, Nettleden Road

Bund/soil bank created to the rear and adjacent to footpath. Ref. No: E/20/00448/ENG.
 Tue 17 Nov 2020. Status: Pending Consideration

The meeting closed at **9.30pm.**

The next meeting is on **Monday 20th June, 2022 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.**

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