



## LITTLE GADDES DEN *parish council*

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

June 20th, 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 & Townsend. Also in attendance, County and Borough Councillor Terry Douris, and five members of the public.

**APOLOGIES:** Alastair Greene (Clerk) Minutes taken by Cllr Magson

### 1. FORMALITIES

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained how the meeting would be run.

The attendance of Councillors was noted and recorded 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. David Brattle advised that there had been a large number of posters stapled to the Village Hall recently. The posters were heavily stapled and it took a long time to remove the staples. There was good support for DENS in the village but the staples were excessive. Cllr Magson knew a senior manager at DENS and agreed to see if they can have a polite word for the future.

### 3. REPORTS AND MATTERS ARISING

#### (a) Report from Hertfordshire Constabulary.

There was no Police attendance or crime statistics presented. The Clerk will provide an updated report at the next meeting.

Cllr Fruish advised that there was an issue the previous night on Church Road where a villager felt threatened. The police were called.

#### (b) Church Road Enforcement appeal

Cllr Fruish confirmed that some of the pallets had been removed, and it had been reported that there appeared to be a new dog, appeared to be different people staying at night and 2 peacocks and a peahen now present.

Cllr Kelly advised that the appeal has been found in the favour of Dacorum Borough Council (DBC). Cllr Kelly read out a letter sent to Sir Mike Penning which confirmed that the Enforcement Officer had written to those on the land, reminding them of the position, and the work that required

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

completing within 2 months. DBC has confirmed that they will not accept delay beyond 2 months.

Cllr Kelly is proposing to meet with the DBC Enforcement Officer to discuss the exact next steps and actions. Cllr Terry Douris has been asked to be kept informed and will attend the meeting. Cllr Townsend gave his thanks on behalf of the village, his thanks to the villagers and also specifically to Cllr Kelly in relation to the extraordinary hard work in getting to this point. All Cllrs strongly supported this comment.

It was disappointing that there appeared to be more animals/birds being introduced on the land and Councillors remain concerned for the wellbeing of some of the residents affected by the activity. It was agreed that the wellbeing of residents should also be a priority in the discussion with DBC. The output from the meeting with DBC should be a set of actions and timelines, documented by formal correspondence and copied to Sir Mike Penning and Cllr Terry Douris.

It was generally agreed that the Parish Council should continue reporting any activities of concern and encourage DBC to take the appropriate actions. The most strategic action of winning the appeal has been achieved, and everything else should follow on.

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

Cllr Townsend confirmed that there has been several applications and a series of amendments. Fundamentally they are sticking by their guns, reducing posts (only by one), taking away two columns. Signs are going to be the same size, wording slightly different (ANPRs won't operate until 9.30 – nothing is noted around the afternoon currently). Operating hours do not form part of the planning application (i.e. discretionary). Plan is to respond to the submission on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2022 made by Britannia Car Parks – confirming that nothing has in reality changed. Regarding the columns, they will maintain a number and remove three in total. They have offered to paint them white, but they are asserting that the yellow posts are permitted development. This is a matter for Dacorum. The timeframe for response to the latest application is 14 days from 6<sup>th</sup> June, which is the date of tonight's meeting. However, there is a further amendment since then, and there may be a further 14 days' timeframe. Cllr Townsend has written to DBC to confirm.

It was noted that the LGPC will object to the submission as it currently stands. Ultimately it will be up to DBC who determine whether the posts are permitted development alongside the rest of the planning application. It was noted that Britannia and their specialist advisor are claiming consultation with the Parish Council, which is not accurate and Cllr Townsend will ensure that this is included in the response.

Cllr Townsend also noted at this part of the agenda that he is stepping down from the planning committee but would like to see this matter through.

**(d) Latest DriveSafe statistics**

Last DriveSafe took place on 14<sup>th</sup> June between 7am-10am - sited near Deer Leap Horticultural /Home Fm.

155 cars (74 exceeding 36 miles an hour).

Cllr Fruish advised of an incident where a car had mounted the pavement near Cllr Hyde's house whilst someone was walking his children to school. This gentleman is going to ask for the rear footpath to the school to be re-opened and is going to write to the Council. Cllr Hyde said that it would be better if we had a 20 mph speed limit through the centre of the village, No.1/Beany Corner to Church Road.

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

Cllr Townsend reminded the Councillors about the history/background to the pathway and the school not meeting the requirements around the opening/closing of the gate to let the children in. There is a simple solution here to this problem but so far this has not been possible. It was agreed that Cllr Thompson would contact the school headteacher to discuss the matter again to see if there is a way of managing this. Cllr Townsend could then check whether the landowner is happy that the pathway could be reopened with the same conditions.

**(e) Feedback on the meeting with Pippa Cawdron DBC regarding filming in the Borough**

Cllr Townsend confirmed discussions with Pippa Cawdron DBC had identified that they are trying to put together a bible of properties that can be used for filming. She will identify properties that may be considered, there is no need to volunteer.

**(f) Jubilee Event & Commemorative mug sales**

Update from David Brattle confirmed that we have sold £1500 of mugs, 150 left in total which includes some left at the shop and in Ashridge Business School (approx. 50% of the mugs).

Everyone in attendance confirmed that the event was really well attended, very well organised and very well supported by the village. General view is that it was a really good event.

The budget position was discussed in brief, as the final position is not yet understood. Even if subsidised by the Parish Council it was very much worthwhile doing. There is now a framework in place and learnings that could be used in the future – e.g. a village party perhaps considering charging for tickets.

Cllr Hyde talked about a tradition in Victorian time called the Gaddesden Feast.

Thanks were expressed to all those involved in the organisation of the event.

**(g) The Tree condition report (sought every three years)**

Cllr Hyde advised that the Tree inspection had been completed. The consultant confirmed that the Parish Council’s trees were relatively safe and in very good condition. 3 medium actions were required (within 12 months), and 2 lower priorities (within 24 months). These will be attended to in due course. The independent report cost c. £700. Cllr Hyde confirmed that the cost of the works is expected to be around £2,000 over the next 2 years.

**(h) Confirmation of retirement of Clerk w.e.f. Sept 24<sup>th</sup>**

The formal announcement of the retirement of Alastair was made. Everyone noted what a fantastic job Alastair has done. A member of the public commented that he has contributed to making the Parish Council more accessible and more accountable.

**4. ADMINISTRATION**

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

(Not covered – defer to the next meeting)

At this point during the meeting, two members of the public joined the meeting and were welcomed to take a seat. The two individuals introduced themselves as residents of Church Road, and later asked just before departing where the dates of the meetings were advertised. Members of the Parish Council confirmed that this was on the LGPC website.

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

**(ii) Finance**

- (a) The schedule of payments was approved together with the report on expenditure for the previous month.
- (b) The Clerk had at the last meeting confirmed that he had opened an account with the Unity Trust Bank for dual authorisation of payments. Councillors Hyde and Kelly were now registering as approvers on the system.
- (c) The Clerk advised that the Internal Audit report had been completed with no actions required and that the AGAR for 2021-22 had been submitted following sign off by the Chairman.

**(iii) Health and Safety**

The Clerk advised prior to the meeting that the Play Area inspections were completed on 7th June and noted that no new actions were required. The ROSPA Annual External Report was awaited. Cllr Kelly confirmed he had refurbished all the new ramp equipment in readiness for the Jubilee event.

**5. COUNCILLOR UPDATE**

Cllr Magson said that she had made contact with the ladies who had volunteered to look at upgrading of the playground on the sports field. A member of the public asked that the review include all facilities in the village e.g. Cromer Close.

Cllr Magson also advised in relation to the tennis courts refurbishments that she was waiting a copy of the contractor’s schedule of works. Jane Tilley was currently away on holiday but is aware that this was outstanding. Cllr Magson confirmed that she will share the Schedule with all Cllrs via email. Consideration would be given to using the Pavilion entrance rather than the Bowls Club car park now that the lower branches of the tree had been lopped for the Jubilee event.

Cllr Hyde spoke regarding the initial plans for the Ringshall CACA – they don’t think this would take as long as the LG CACA but just a heads up, that those discussions are underway. Cllr Hyde also asked whether there would be support for a hard copy at around £7.50 each. It was agreed that Cllr Hyde would find out more on the costs and the output.

Cllr Douris – confirmed that the white lines outside the village shop had been repainted and this had seen a small improvement in the parking issue.

Cllr Douris also confirmed that the traffic leaving the cinema nights would be directed towards the Berkhamsted exit.

Cllr Kelly thought that there is likely to be a number of complaints about the open-air cinema as Ashridge will not be using headphones. Cllr Kelly confirmed that he is going to meet with Ashridge House to discuss the position.

**FINANCE SCHEDULE**

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

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

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

MWAgri – £976 ex vat for **June**

Expenses payment to Clerk **June** £106.43 ex vat phone rental/calls laminator pouches, and McAfee virus protection fee.

John Cromar Tree survey £745 ex vat

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

Susan Rose China £3505 ex vat less £27.72 breakages (deposit of £2103 already paid)  
GI Rogers Christmas Tree Invoice finally arrives! £420 ex vat  
GH Electrical External socket in connection with Jubilee £153 ex vat  
UK Marquee hire £1,950 ex vat (Marquee & furniture – £960 Deposit already paid Balance £1380  
Paul Chambers PA equipment for Jubilee £266 no vat  
Town and Parish Council websites (hosting and maintenance) £300 no vat  
BHIB Insurance £642.08 Annual policy set up for three years  
Lock67 banner for Jubilee £60 ex vat  
Village Hall hiring April-June 2022 £162

**b. Payments received**

LGVH Management Committee - Village Hall Manager salary

**PLANNING SCHEDULE - CURRENT APPLICATIONS**

**(Only current applications were considered at this meeting. A full schedule will be provided at the August meeting)**

**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.**

**Rodinghead, Ashridge Park.** Basement level extension, connecting staircase and internal alterations. 22/01486/FHA

CLlr Hyde advised that we had previously deferred since the last meeting as a recent submission. Agreed a supporting response.

**The Traction Engine Shed, Nettleden Road North.** Works to tree. 22/01528/TCA

For information only. No need to comment.

**Pinetrees, The Grovells.** Garden Room and Storage Outbuilding. 22/01550/FHA

Agreed supporting response.

**Ashridge Golf Club, Golf Club Road.** Demolition of temporary structure and construction of a permanent building. 22/01586/FUL

The proposed structure is 32 metres long (100 feet) and 30 feet wide. By comparison the Village Hall is 60 feet long and 30 feet wide. So, the proposal is considerably bigger than the Village Hall. The proposal is to be sited on a raised position as well. Historic England & DBC Conservation Department have requested a Heritage Statement. It was proposed that the Parish Council wait until it has seen the Heritage Statement.

Holding response will be given to DBC that we would also like access to the Heritage Statement before we consider our final consultation response.

The meeting closed at **9.30pm**

The next meeting is on **Monday 8<sup>th</sup> August, 2022 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.**

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