



LITTLE GADDES DEN *parish council*

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

August 8th, 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. Hyde, Kelly, Magson, Saner. Also in attendance, the Clerk, County and Borough Councillor Terry Douris, and sixteen members of the public.

APOLOGIES: Cllrs. Thompson & Townsend

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.

Cllr Kelly declared an interest in the planning item on Old Cottage Paddock and excused himself from any discussion on that item.

2. OPEN SESSION FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Cllr. Kelly asked if anyone wished to raise any matters not already covered in the agenda. One issue was raised about the horses using the footpath that runs between the Bridgewater Arms Pub and Ringshall Drive. It was agreed that Cllr Saner would speak to the land owners of the field to see if they had given permission in connection with the grazing in the adjacent field.

3. REPORTS AND MATTERS ARISING

(a) Report from Hertfordshire Constabulary.

The Clerk read out the reported crimes for June/July:-

June

No reportable crimes (i.e. burglary, thefts, car crime etc.)

July

1 x burglary

1 x criminal damage.

(b) Church Road Enforcement appeal

Cllr Kelly confirmed that the appeal had been decided in the favour of Dacorum Borough Council (DBC) but that the appellants had at the last possible moment called for a judicial review (JR) of the Planning Inspector's decision. Cllr Douris advised that the issues raised in the judicial review had been accepted by the court as worthy of a hearing and would be heard in due course.

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

Cllr Kelly advised that he and Cllr Saner had met with DBC to understand next steps and understood that the JR is likely to be heard before any further substantive action would be taken.

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

In Cllr Townsend’s absence the Clerk advised that a meeting had been held between the Parish Council and Savills, agents acting for Britannia Car Parks and discussions included the number of signs, their height, positioning and colour. Savills agreed that the number of signs and posts could be reduced and agreed to supply plans of the revised scheme. Savills confirmed that the car park cameras would only come into operation after 9.30am, which would give parents the opportunity to drop off children for school in the morning and allow people to shop without causing congestion in front of the shop first thing in the morning.

It was agreed the Parish Council would review the revised plans prior to making any consultation response.

(d) Latest DriveSafe statistics/Police and Crime Commissioners Grant? SID relocation.

Cllr Hyde advised that the last DriveSafe session took place on 14 June between 7.30 – 10.30 am-sited near Deer Leap Horticultural and Home Farm.

160 cars passed during that time. (58 exceeding 36 miles an hour = 36%). That level of flouting of the speed limit automatically triggers a formal police speed-trap session.

The Clerk confirmed that the Police and Crime Commissioner’s (PCC) Road Safety Grant application had been approved in principle for the installation of an official permanent speed camera in the village. The grant remained subject to a location feasibility study and confirmation that the Parish Council would agree to fund the second-year maintenance charge of £2500. This was approved in principle and the Clerk was instructed to request a PCC feasibility study.

Cllr Hyde suggested that the SID should be moved to a new location and that the Cromer Close location would be good as it had been some time before it was last at that location. Consideration was also given to the need for a second SID, however, as in previous discussions on a second SID, it was agreed to hold back until the PCC feasibility study had been completed.

Two residents from Ringshall asked whether there was more that could be done regarding the speed of traffic on the road in the dip at Ringshall. Cllr Hyde undertook to check again regarding a safe location to do DriveSafe checks. It was noted that the 30mph roundel applied to the road surface last year has already badly worn.

John Russell called for a consistent speed limit through the village. Cllr Douris reminded everyone that at some point there was a plan to have the speed limits revised but that our village was low on the priority list.

(e) Jubilee Event & Commemorative mug sales

The Clerk confirmed receipt of various funds totaling £3,726 leaving net spend at £2,366.38 against a planned commitment of £2,000. Hopefully further mug sales will close that gap.

(f) The Annual Playground Safety Report prepared by PlaySafety.

The Clerk advised that the monkey bars at Cromer Close were in need of replacement and promised to find the previous quote for that work and get it updated.

Cllr Magson noted that the PlaySafety inspector had no concerns regarding the red bar to the climbing frame which the Council had received a complaint about. It was noted that this bar was a

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

frequently used part of the apparatus and that it also provided the frame with structural stability, so should not be removed. It was agreed though to ask PlaySafety as to the preferred colour treatment, be that tape or paint, to try and make the bar more visible.

Cllr Magson went on to give details of the first meeting with the Play Area Group who wished to make improvements to the children's play area in Church Road including making it secure by enclosing it within low level fencing and extending the soft surfacing and installing more modern play equipment. The idea was not to make this a destination location for others to come to but to make it a more attractive and accessible facility for local children.

In principle it was agreed that the Parish Council would support the group in making improvements and would assist with funding, though the group would need also to carry out fund raising activities and apply for grants. As the land was owned by the Parish Council, procuring of the equipment would need to follow the Parish Council's Financial Regulations and the future maintenance of the equipment would need to be carried out by the Parish Council. It was understood that the Play Area Group would formulate their proposals further and at an early stage there would need to be a consultation with the village about the proposed improvements.

Cllr Magson felt that there should be some signs at the play area and in particular adjacent to the ramps making it clear that in general the equipment should be used under supervision of parents and that the ramps could only be used at their own risk. The Parish Council approved expenditure of up to £250 for such signs.

It was agreed that to ensure progress on this matter a standing item on 'Church Road Play Area improvements', would be included on the agenda.

(g) Recruitment of a new Clerk

Cllr Kelly confirmed that Vicki Fruish had been appointed as Clerk and the current Clerk was asked to put in place the steps needed to facilitate that, including the contract of employment and adding her to the authorised signatories on the bank mandates. Vicki in standing down as Councillor had created a vacancy for Councillor that Cllr Kelly said would be advertised.

(h) Tennis Club refurbishment works

Cllr Magson advised that the works were all agreed and would be starting on 11th August. Fortunately, the hot weather and dry ground was likely to alleviate the concern about heavy vehicles crossing the pitches and causing damage.

(i) Noise from Ashridge (Fireworks plus Cinema nights)

Cllr Kelly had planned to invite Ashridge staff to the village when the cinema night was on so that they could hear the impact, however that meeting had not yet taken place.

It was noted that due to the fire risk no fireworks were currently being set off at Ashridge until the Fire Brigade had approved the go ahead.

(j) Green/Sustainability agenda

Cllr Magson asked that the Council have as a standing item on the agenda 'Sustainability issues' so that progress could be made as an organisation in that regard. Cllr Hyde agreed and said that the pre-covid 'Greener Gaddesden' agenda was part of that and could be reactivated.

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

(k) Protection of village historical artefacts/documents in fireproof cabinets.

George Godar asked whether the Council would be willing to support the idea of funding fireproof cabinets for the protection of historical documents. It was acknowledged by those present including the Vicar, John Russell, that several organisations, The Gaddesden Society, the Church the RHS and the Parish Council to name a few, were struggling with the issue and perhaps a joint working party could be formed to take the matter forward.

(l) Highway verge opposite the shop

Cllr Hyde asked whether the Council should ask the maintenance contractor to trim the hollies growing within the verge opposite the shop, to ensure they do not grow too large. The Clerk was requested to pass on the instruction.

(m) Fire risk assessment of the Green

A few villagers had raised the issue about the long dry grass on the Green being a fire risk ahead of cutting/baling. There had been a few frightening images in the papers of villages who had experienced this in the last few weeks.

Cllr Hyde advised that she had spoken to HCC about the current cutting regime and fire risk associated with it. HCC had responded with a quote they had received from the Fire Brigade on a similar issue where it was suggested that keeping the green free of litter, glass and cans was important and cutting earlier if the weather permitted it would help. DBC have been asked if they have the equipment and capacity to help with the cutting and baling of the hay. This might enable an earlier cut than the regular contractors, who are tied up with the harvest work. Meanwhile the Sunnyside Trust as our village wardens would be asked to pay particular attention to the collection of litter especially glass.

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

The Clerk shared a couple of emails that had previously been circulated to Councillors, one from DBC looking for feedback on care services for the elderly (action - share also with Cllr Douris) and another which was an invitation to Councillors to hear about the next stage of the South West Herts Joint Strategic Plan on 6th Sept. Cllr Townsend had applied for that and the Clerk offered to attend unless a Councillor was keen. Only two places were available per Council.

(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. Councillor Hyde was now able to authorise payments and Cllr Kelly said he would register as an approver on the system. The Clerk advised that Cllr Saner was also being added.

(iii) Health and Safety

The Clerk advised prior to the meeting that the Play Area inspections were completed on 5th July and noted that no new actions were required (but note item (f) above)

5. COUNCILLOR UPDATE

Cllr Magson asked in the 'Beacon Road' name sign could be replaced. Cllr Douris agreed to add it to the list of road name signs to be replaced including 'Hudnall Lane' which was long outstanding.

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

Cllr. Magson also asked if the vegetation adjacent to the electricity sub-station on the footpath to Ringshall Drive from Ringshall could be cut back.

FINANCE SCHEDULE

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

Clerk– Salary & PAYE for **July & Aug**

SRT Trading Limited – £220 ex vat– Warden Services for **July & Aug**

MWAgri – £771 ex vat for **July** + £320 ex vat for Tree removal in **April**

Expenses payment to Clerk **July & Aug** £77.91 ex vat phone rental/calls, printer ink

Zurich top up insurance for Marquee for the Jubilee event £116.48 no vat

Rospa PlaySafety £168 ex vat

Grant to VPA as contribution towards Store roof £2,000 (approved in April)

John Saner repayment of £34.00 expenses, ink cartridge for A3 printer

Land Registry search fees Church Road £33.00 no vat

Hiring of Sports Pavilion for meeting £30

Village Hall Hire Jan – Mar, £135

David Brattle expenses for repair of Cromer Close picnic bench £43.39

b. Cheques/payments received

LGVH Management Committee - Village Hall Manager salary, final payment received

Herts CC Locality Budget Terry Douris £1,000 towards the Platinum Jubilee Mugs

Gaddesden Society contribution towards Jubilee expenses £600

Mug income (£1305, £132, £286, £100, £24, £204)

PLANNING SCHEDULE - CURRENT APPLICATIONS (status at 8th August 2022)

Applications received since the last meeting.

After the public had had an opportunity to comment on the applications below, Cllr Hyde summarised the proposed responses for approval by the full Parish Council.

54 Nettleden Road. Works to trees. 22/02268/TCA **Supported**

Old Cottage Paddock, Nettleden Road North. Certificate of lawfulness for existing outbuildings
22/02037/LDE – **Councillors had no comments regarding this certificate**

8 Little Gaddesden House. Works to tree. 22/02318/TCA **Supported**

John O Gaddesden House, 29 Nettleden Road North. Felling of trees and works to trees.
22/02326/TCA **Supported**

58 - 59 Nettleden Road North. Works to tree and felling of tree. 22/02331/TCA **Supported**

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

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

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

Pinetrees, The Grovells. Garden Room and Storage Outbuilding. 22/01550/FHA
Supported by LGPC, Granted by DBC

Ashridge Golf Club, Golf Club Road. Demolition of temporary structure and construction of a permanent building. 22/01586/FUL Withdrawn. New application submitted with Heritage Statement to be considered at next meeting.

Home Farm Works, Nettleden Road. Removal of modern interventions including internal wall coverings to expose timber structure for archaeological survey and recording to two barns, Barn 1 is a listed building Barn 2 is sited within the curtilage of the listed barn.22/02046/LBC
Supported by LGPC, decision awaited

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, Granted by DBC**

Witches Hollow, Ringshall Drive. Installation of 2 conservation style roof-lights to lean-to roof to kitchen. 22/01275/LBC **LGPC adopted a neutral stance, Granted by DBC**

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

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, decision awaited from DBC**

Rodinghead, Ashridge Park. Basement level extension, connecting staircase and internal alterations. 22/01486/FHA **Supported by LGPC, Granted by DBC**

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. **DBC decision awaited**

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.

DBC decision awaited

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

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. **Further meeting held between applicants and LGPC, 27th July. New plans awaited.**

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 **Appeal dismissed. Applicant seeking Judicial Review**

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. Status: Pending Consideration

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
 Planning application now under review

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
 Report of Electrical installation added June/July 2022

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 19th September, 2022 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.**

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