



## LITTLE GADDES DEN *parish council*

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

~~Draft~~ - Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2023

PLEASE NOTE THAT MINUTES ARE ALSO PUBLISHED ON THE WEB SITE

<https://littlegaddesdenpc.org.uk>

**The meeting commenced at 7.30 pm.**

**PRESENT:** Cllrs Gall, Hartwell, Holland, Hyde, Kelly, Scott

**APOLOGIES:** There were no apologies for absence. C/Cllr - Terry Douris joined the meeting at 20:20 item (d) onwards. 48 Members of the Public were present for items (a) to (d) 8 remained for items (e) to the end of the meeting

### 1. FORMALITIES

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

The attendance of Councillors was noted in the register.

**Approval of the Minutes.** The Minutes were agreed as a correct record of the meeting and were signed at the end of the meeting.

**There was no declared conflict of interest.**

### 2. OPEN SESSION FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There were no questions raised at the start of the meeting.

### 3. REPORTS AND MATTERS ARISING

**(a) To welcome new Councillor, Francois Gall**

- Cllr Kelly

Cllr Gall was welcomed to the Council.

**(b) To receive a report from Hertfordshire Constabulary.**

There was no one present from Hertfordshire Constabulary. A report for November was received showing 4 incidents of mushroom theft at Ashridge.

**(c) Guest speaker: Paul Miller from NT – Protecting our Roots**

Paul Miller explained the importance of the National Trust' Protecting our Roots programme and how to find out more about this by accessing their website which supported the presentation.

There were many considerations to be taken into account. Paul asked for feedback on the proposals via the NT website and offered to return to provide more information in 2024 when there would be more information to share about the proposed location of the 2 new hubs so that the impact of these could be better understood by the public. Residents were encouraged to attend. The Chairman thanked Paul for his time and presentation.

Signed by the Chairman

Dated

15/1/24

**(d) Update on the current enforcement issues at Church Road**

- Cllr Kelly

Following an update on developments which had taken place regarding the enforcement of issues relating to Church Road the Council unanimously agreed to take legal advice and approved expenditure for this.

**( e ) To discuss further Councillor recruitment and next steps**

Cllr Kelly

DBC had confirmed that no election was necessary to appoint another Cllr and LGPC continued to seek another Cllr to join the Parish Council.

**( f ) DriveSafe / SID update**

Cllr Hyde

Cllr Hyde reported that:

- there was no drive safe in October or December due to lack of volunteers and bad weather respectively.
- in 2023 10 Drive Safe sessions took place during which 3049 cars were logged passing of which 557 were travelling above 36mph.
- the road from Ringshall to Beaney Bend recorded the highest percentage of speeding vehicles:34% versus 1.1% in the Cromer Close area.
- residents were experiencing more speeding in Hudnall Lane following the removal of the SID and it was resolved that a replacement SID should be installed as soon as possible.

LGPC were grateful to the 3 lead volunteers and team of 12 supporting volunteers for their time and efforts in support of keeping the village safer from dangerous driving/speeding.

**(g) To agree Cllr responsibilities**

Cllr Kelly

The list of Cllr responsibilities had been circulated to Cllrs. The list was unanimously agreed. The Chair asked the Clerk to upload this onto the website for public information.

**h) To agree the support for the Village Christmas Carols on the Green**

Cllr Kelly

It was noted that:

- Carols on the Green were taking place on 19 December at 18:00
- the Heaphy's had kindly funded, and supplied, the refreshments for the Carols on the Green for a number of years with the support of volunteers and bakers in the village.
- LGPC wished to support this community event up to a maximum of £200.00 and were grateful to other residents agreeing to assist with this.

LGPC acknowledged the contribution made by the Heaphys and thanked them on the Village's behalf. The Council's agreement was unanimous.

**( i ) To agree Social Media Training for Cllrs**

Clerk

It was agreed to defer this until 2024 after the need had been evaluated.

**( j ) To agree that Cllrs will consult on possible projects to inform the budget and precept request.**

Cllr Hartwell reported that:

- a budget planning meeting had taken place.
- a cash balance of circa £20k had accumulated which was available to fund projects and necessary expenditure.
- items identified for possible expenditure included a plan for refurbishment and / or replacement of play equipment in Church Road and Cromer Close playgrounds.
- additional SID
- basic IT literacy training sessions in the village for those without access to this in the workplace and/ or who were struggling

Signed by the Chairman

Dated

15/11/20

- the Village Hall roof was in need of significant levels of funding and that applications for funding would also need to be made to the appropriate bodies.
- LGPC were waiting for information from DBC about the precept increase for 2024 before setting the level of increase for 2024. However, an increase was expected given the increase in costs.

#### 4. ADMINISTRATION

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

This had been responded to.

##### **(ii) Finance:**

- The Council approved the Clerks Salary, PAYE and Pension.
- The schedule of payments was approved together with the report on expenditure for the previous month.
- The monthly financial report against budget and bank reconciliation was approved.

##### **(iii) Health and Safety**

It was noted that

- no concerns had been raised via the Whatsapp monitoring group nor from the public regarding hazards on the playground areas.
- repairs noted by ROSPA were outstanding. Cllr Kelly had attained his qualification and was scheduling the repairs.

##### **(iv) Planning Schedule**

The Planning Schedule was discussed and annotated.

In all cases where LGPC had received and reviewed the applications at the meeting, the responses were Neutral. It was noted that an application in respect of Old Cottage Paddock had arrived too late for it to be included in the December Committee meeting and that this would be reviewed for the January meeting of LGPC.

#### 5. COUNCILLOR UPDATE/ Agenda Items for next meeting

It was noted how lovely the Christmas Tree looked and LGPC were thanked for providing this. In turn, Malcolm Weaver of MW Agri was thanked for repairing and lighting the tree and James Rogers was thanked for providing and installing the tree.

C/Cllr Douris was thanked for having the pavements cleared.

It was noted that a couple of trees had fallen over in the footpath leading from the Bridgewater Arms Pub which lead to Ringshall. The trunks were leaning against the fence. They were likely to fall further. It wasn't known how to contact the land owner. This would be looked into.

The Council and C/Cllr Douris were reminded that signage was legally required in Hudnall Lane to indicate the road narrowing to a single track. LGPC undertook to address this asap. Action: Clerk

A volunteer asked if any progress had been made in clarifying if volunteers were covered for working on land where it was the subject of adverse possession. Cllr Kelly had undertaken to look into this and said he would do so as soon as reasonably possible.



Dated

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C/Cllr Douris informed the meeting that Herts Links, the on demand bus service had been launched that day. It cost £2.00 per journey and would need to be used if it was to be a success. The meeting welcomed this news.

Cllr Douris and LGPC were thanked for their support with the significant local challenges which had been ongoing during 2023.

The Clerk noted that whilst the Minutes at the last meeting had thanked Jim Townsend for his contribution over many years, the significant contribution he had made should be minuted. Jim's work with Greene King and Britannia resulted in a much improved solution to the Bridgewater Arms Car Park for which the Village and LGPC are very grateful.

There were no other updates.

**6. The next meeting is on Monday 15h January 2024 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall**

**The meeting closed at c21.30**

Signed by the Chairman



Dated



11 December 2023

LGPC Council Meeting

Item 4 (ii) Finance – Schedule

## a) To approve the appended schedule of payments for December

Payee	Purpose	Expenditure ex vat	Vat	Expenditure inc vat
Reimbursement	Expenses-LGPC monthly phone fees 7 Dec to 6 Jan	10.28	0.00	10.28
Reimbursement	Expenses-Microsoft-Cllr Emails 25/11to24/12	19.80	3.96	23.76
Reimbursement	Expenses-Microsoft-LGPC MSO & Email 25/11to24/1	10.30	2.06	12.36
Scottish Power	Electricity	15.82	.79	16.61
Village Hall	LGPC Official Monthly Meetings - Room Hire	64.00	0.00	64.00
MW Agri	Grounds maintenance- December estimate	741.00	148.20	889.20
SRT Warden Services	Warden Services for December	220.00	44.00	264.00
Mutts Butts	Pooh Bags	34.45	6.89	41.34
Misystems	IT Computer Support for new Cllrs	70.00		70.00

**It was noted that**

- The Microsoft costs had increased
- A rent request had been received from the National Trust in respect of Cromer Close Fields for £1.00. It was agreed that this could be paid.
- No costs had been incurred in respect of Social Media Training for Cllrs

11 December 2023

LGPC Council Meeting

Item 4 (iv) Planning– Schedule

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

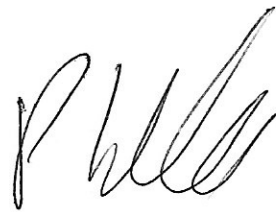
Planning Applications received since the last meeting of the Parish Council  
 For public comment before decision by Parish Council At the time of posting the Agenda no planning applications have been received since the last meeting which was held on 20 November.

Planning Applications received after the Agenda was posted

Date received	Address	Post Code	Proposal	Application number	IGPC Decision
05/12/2023	8 Little Gaddesden House Nettlede	HP4 1PL	Fell trees	23/02856/TCA	
08/12/2023	Ash Riding Gatesdene Close	HP4 1PB	Single storey rear extensions, porch, bay window, extension above ga	23/02897/FHA	
11/12/2023	Old Cottage Paddock Nettlede	Rc HP4 1PE	Demolition of existing dwelling and construction of new dwelling with	23/02903/FUL	

LGPC were Neutral on 23/02856/TCA and 23/02897/FHA

Application 23/02903/FUL was received on the day of the meeting. There was insufficient time to consider this. The application will be reviewed at the January meeting.

  
 15/1/24

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