

LITTLE MUNDEN PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 16th June 2011 at Little Munden School.

1. ATTENDANCE

Present were: David Metcalf (DM) Chairman, Jonathan Pool (JP), Keith Williams (KW), Jenny Macintosh (JM), Lizzie Bacon (LB), Tony Bartels (TB), Darren Jones (DJ), Councillors.

Geraldine Ward (GW) Clerk.

Apologies:

Members of the Public: 1

2. PREVIOUS MINUTES.

DM proposed that the minutes of the previous Parish Council Meeting held on 19th May 2011 be taken as read. The minutes were proposed by LB and seconded by TB.

3. MATTERS ARISING from the Parish Council Meeting.

i. Common Land

DM commented on the letter sent to Symon Gaughan at Herts County Council from LMPC, detailing past correspondence concerning the Common Land. He pointed out that some of the correspondence dates as far back as 1840. He went on to point out that once Simon had given the go ahead to proceed, the relevant landowners or land agents would need to be informed. However first the chairman wanted to ensure that the Council was in full agreement to bring the Common Land back under Parish Control. All Councillors agreed to proceed and DM pointed out that it would cost a significant amount of money to do. There would need to be ploughing, grassing and fencing and signage warning motorists of children etc. KW did point out that grants were available from HCC which could cover the costs of planting. DM went on to say that in due course a Land Management Committee would need to be set up. The general consensus was that all boundaries bordering the common land would have to be clearly defined and would need to note the existence of any extinguished footpaths over the area.

ii. Charity Commission

DM spoke to Tony Brown about this. There was nothing to report although there was one case being monitored.

iii. Jubilee Walk

LB reported that she had spoken to Adrian Worthington – he has sprayed the nettles and wanted to leave an area for wild flowers. LB had pointed out that there were still large nettles and strimming needed to be done further up the meadow. JP suggested that he calls in to his house so the two of them could have a site visit and see exactly what else needs doing.

iv. Exchange Plot Posts

No action on this. GW to chase up. DM suggested that the Council seeks alternative quotes in the future.

4. PLANNING

DM reported that East Herts Council had decided to send out Planning Applications in electronic form from 1st July 2011. A letter would first be sent out notifying the Clerk of any planning applications. GW to advise Councillors when such a letter had been received so they could view the plans on-line. KW suggested that this could be emailed to the website so parishioners also have a chance to look at plans. They could be kept on the Website under a planning file. TB to talk to Carol Bartels about this matter.

New Applications

3/11/0712/FP

Extension to an existing outbuilding and repair works to existing outbuilding within curtilage of listed building, alteration to driveway and turning area. Tudor Cottage, Whitehill, Dane end, Herts SG12 0JT.

Re-application

3/11/0229/FP

Proposed two storey side and single storey rear extensions 26, Whiteley Close, Dane End, Ware, Herts SG12 0NB. **Application resubmitted.**

Decisions

3/11/0365/FP

Single storey front and rear extensions and two storey side extension. 4 Wentworth Cottages, Haultwick, Ware, Herts SG11 1JG. Permission granted.

3/11/0597/FP

Conservatory to side elevation. Knights Cottage, Green End Road, Dane End, Ware, Herts SG12 0PB. Permission granted.

4. FINANCE

Current Account Balance B/F 10/5/11 **£ 807.78**
Deposit Account Balance B/F 10/5/11 **£ 9201.91**

Receipts on Current Account

Allotment payments £ 36.00*
 Payment for maps via Dane End Stores £ 10.00*

Receipts on Deposit Account

Nil

Deduct Payments from Current Account

Date	Payment to	Ch/No	Amount £
19/5/11	Carol Bartels	627	30.00
19/5/11	G Ward Clerks Fee	628	164.00
31/5/11	A Bartels	s/o	35.58
1/6/11	Horses Meadow Rental	s/o	0.50

	Total Payments		230.08

Total Payments	£ 230.08
Plus Cheque Amounts cleared (624/626)	£ 71.96
Less Cheque Amounts to be cleared	£ 00.00
Total Payments	£ 302.04

Deduct Payments from Deposit Account

Bank Transfer to Current A/C	£ 1800.00
Balance on Current Account (on-line balance) 7/6/11	£ 2305.74
Balance brought forward 10/5/11	£ 807.78
Plus Receipts	£ 1846.00
Less receipts not credited (£46.00**)	£ 46.00
Less Payments	£ 302.04
Balance as at 7/6/11	£ 2305.74
Balance on Deposit account (on-line balance) as at 7/6/11 (£2000 = Grant)	£ 7401.91
Balance brought forward 10/5/11	£ 9201.91
Plus receipts	£ 00.00
	£
Less Payments Bank Transfer from Current A/C	£ 1800.00
Balance as at 7/6/11	£ 7401.91

5a. Financial Issues

Clerks Wages: The Clerks fee had not been paid in line with the NALC recommendations. JP suggested that this should be adjusted. The PAYE also needs to be set up and JP volunteered to set this up and back date to 1st April 2011.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

- (i) **Correspondence Received**
7/6/11 EHC Re Urgent Notification on E-Consultations on Planning Applications. As above.
6/6/11 EHC Herts Highways Member Update June 2011. Copy sent by email.
- Emails received**
23/5/11 Herts County Council Re Locality Budget Scheme Evaluation – the Mundens with Sacombe Village Appraisal Group. To action April 2012 to inform where the money was spent.
- (ii) **Correspondence Sent**
1/6/11 Letter of thanks to Brian Long on his retirement as Parish Councillor.
- (iii) **Late Post**
14/6/11 EHC Annual Playground Safety Inspections 2011. Need to respond by 4th July 2011 to confirm inspection. GW to action.
10/6/11 East Herts Sports Extra Summer fun Activity Camps. Put in Newsletter – GW to action.
8/6/11 OWL Messaging Neighbourhood Watch – Be on the alert following damage to vehicles.
9/6/11 OWL Messaging: Police appeal for witnesses following a fatal road accident on A10 Ware Viaduct, 8/6/11. DM to put in Newsletter. JP suggested to add to this and say if you wish to get this information more promptly then contact your local Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator.
15/6/11 Jubilee Woods Project: May be of interest next year when the Common Land issue has progress further. DM to keep in Common Land file.

7. LITTLE MUNDEN PARISH ACTION PLAN

It had been agreed at the November 2010 meeting that the Council would run through each Action Point that had been generated from the VAQ and a progress report would be given by whoever had responsibility for an individual action point, on a monthly basis. The Action Plan has been split into three sections, short, medium and long term plans.

First discussion took place regarding the:

Youth Meeting 14th June 2011

DM thanked JP for delivering invitations to the meeting to the youngsters. 11 had shown up at the meeting with 3 parents. A 17 year old boy Stuart Weston has stepped forward to co-ordinate youth matters. TB to offer to help him and provide adult support. The next meeting will be on the 19th July 2011. DM pointed out that JM had been a great help offering the Church room for any youth meetings they may wish to hold there. An adult would need to be present. JM could book any meetings in. There was consensus that the Council needed to push home the fact that the Action Plan was the catalyst to promote activities but it still needed help from outside to keep it going and take forward.

With regards to using the Memorial Hall for activities, DM has spoken to Tony Brown who reported that the AGM is to be organised soon which may present an opportunity for anyone interested in taking on the management of the Hall to relieve the Browns. The future of the Memorial Hall was discussed and it was agreed that it was a large job for anyone willing to take it on. The finances of the Hall were also discussed but KW pointed out that a copy of the Constitution was needed and it was presumed that Mr and Mrs Brown were the only Trustees, although there was some debate as to whether there were other trustees of the Charity.

DM to produce the Minutes and submit to the Newsletter.

A. Short Term (6 - 18 Months)

(i) Communication with Parishioners: *LB, JMc and Jackie Morris*
Newsletter: A précis of the Council Minutes to be forwarded for publication in the Newsletter. Need to get more items of information in to the Newsletter.

(ii) Parish Council Minutes: **GW**
A précis of the Minutes to be forwarded to Carol Bartels for inclusion on the website.

(iii) Neighbourhood Watch: **JP**

(iv) Horses' Meadow Detritus: **JP**
Nothing serious to report and DM pointed out that there was always the option of a gate being put on with a padlock. He went on to say that these large security gates were not as expensive as one would think.

The large water bill was discussed. DM had spoken to John Grisbrooke who did not think that much water had been used which indicated that there maybe a leak. DM and DJ agreed to go and try and install a new ball cock and then inspect the metre.

(v) Tennis:

JP

JP still waiting to hear from Datchworth Tennis Club as they have a junior club. With regards to the private schools offering their facilities, JP felt it highly unlikely that access be given to outsiders now. The Government was now calling for a hearing to be held into the guidance issued by the Charities Regulator concerning the retention of charitable status by private schools after admitting it created “uncertainty as to the operation of charity law in the context of fee-charging schools”. Therefore it is now unlikely that Heath Mount and St Edmunds College will consider making facilities including tennis courts, accessible to local children until at least the results of the hearing are clear. This therefore is not something to be pursued now but may be worth considering at a later date.

JP reported that no one from Dane End had contacted the Watton-at-Stone club.

(vi) Community Policing:

Jackie Morris

Beat Surgeries still to be published in the Newsletter.

(vii) Dog Fouling:

Council

There had been some bad dog fouling up at Haultwick.

(viii) Footpath FP1/Little Munden School:

KW

KW reported that a meeting was to be held next week.

(ix) Mundens.Net ‘Traders’ Page

TB

TB to action on this subject in the future.

(x) Free Summer Activities for Youth

Council

To keep village informed of any free activities during the summer months as and when EHC publish them. The activities planned were still not finalised and the programme would not be ready for the next Newsletter. However JP had forwarded to Jackie Morris a summary of what was planned and where information could be obtained, i.e. the EHC website and the local website, mundens.net.

B. Medium Term (1-3 Years)

(i) Traffic Calming

Council/JP

Finance was not available at present for any of these measures.

(ii) Bus Shelter

DM (Herts Highways)

KW (residents)

To contact Herts Highways to see if a shelter could be put in at the top of Gladstone Road where the children wait for the bus in the morning.

(iii) Youth Informal Meeting Place

DM/LB

See C (ii).

(iv) Disability Drop Curbs

DM

A disabled parking space is to be put in to the Fouceley Avenue Flats.

(v) Mobile Phone Reception

KW

KW reported that the Orange mast had been dismantled. KW had spoken to someone from the Council who was doing a survey on Broadband coverage in the area.

(vi) Allotments

DJ

DJ to action on this subject in the future.

C. Long Term (3 – 5 Years)

(i) Planning

Council

East Herts Development Plan.

(ii) Youth Meeting Place

DM/LB

As per Youth Meeting Report above.

(iii) Skateboarding

DM/LB

As per report on Youth Meeting above, no progress had been made.

8. Audit

The Annual Return was approved.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Overhanging Trees

KW reported that there were a number of overhanging trees at Whitehills just past the bend. JM to action.

Open Garden

JP thanked Parish Council on behalf of Mrs Pool for use of Car Park at Horses Meadow.

North Lodge, Rowney Priory

JM reported that she was concerned at the building works taking place. JM to check the plans to see if they were in line with the building works.

The Slipe at the bottom of Whitehill

The representative from HCC had suggested that the Council contact Countryside Management to advise on what is to be done with this piece of Common Land. They would be in touch shortly.

Tree on side of road up to Whempstead

KW was concerned about this tree as it had a number of rotten branches.

JM also reported on some trees near Tudor Cottage, Whitehills which showed signs of falling down. JM to action by writing to Simon G about these concerns.

Vice Chairman

DM proposed LB as Chairman. All were in favour.

The meeting was brought to a close at 9.55 pm. The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Thursday 21st July 2011.

Signed _____ **Date:** _____
Chairman