

LITTLE MUNDEN PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 19th May 2011 at Little Munden School.

This being the first meeting of the new Council, the Clerk opened the meeting and called for nominations for a new Chairman. No nominations were received so it was proposed that David Metcalf be returned as the Chairman. This was proposed by Keith Williams and seconded by Lizzie Bacon.

The meeting then commenced:

1. ATTENDANCE

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

Geraldine Ward (GW) Clerk.

Members of the Public:

The first task of the new council was to co-opt Jonathan Pool on to the Council. David Metcalf proposed this and LB seconded.

Darren Jones who had sent in his Nomination Form was also still interested in becoming a Councillor. DM read out a letter that he had sent to him expressing an interest. KW was happy to propose Darren on to the Council and JM seconded.

DM went on to say that Tony Bartels who was present as a member of the public was also interested. DM asked if everyone was happy to nominate Tony on to the Council. KW nominated TB and JM seconded. Tony Bartels is now a member of the Parish Council.

2. PREVIOUS MINUTES.

DM proposed that the minutes of the previous Parish Council Meeting held on 21st April 2011 be taken as read. The minutes were proposed by LB and seconded by JM.

3. MATTERS ARISING from the Parish Council Meeting.

i. Common Land

DM had received correspondence from HCC. They are now prepared to start to look at our plans and prepared to help get the land back. A site meeting will now take place and DM said he was happy to attend. A representative from HCC would be there to take measurements. DM showed the Council a map of the bits of land involved. The pieces of land involved include adjoining land to cottages at the bottom of Whitehills, the Telephone Exchange Plot, CL161 which is the piece of land that runs alongside road up to Haultwick and Bury's Butts. There is also the Chalk Pit land which runs alongside Haultwick Road

which is 2 acres and of considerable interest. The previous owner of this land was aware that it is common land and has assured DM that new owners are aware too. The acquisition of the land could tie in with Youth Plan and will cost the council money. The reclaimed land could possibly be used for Allotments or Community Gardens or Orchards.. DM went on to suggest that it could possibly be used as a wild trail or even a skate board ramp. The date of the site meeting is 26th May at 10 am.

ii. **Charity Commission**

Nothing to report at present. Anthony Brown and Brian Long are to continue working on this.

iii. **Jubilee Walk**

JP expressed concern that the weeds and nettles had got extremely high. There had not been any follow through on the work already done, although LB would remind Adrian Worthington to continue the work. JP suggested that we should employ someone to do this and maintain the work that had already been done if necessary.

iv. **Exchange Plot Posts**

Stuart Kirkham had provided quotes for the telephone Exchange Plot but had given no indication when this would be. JP suggested that we should make sure we get alternative quotes for the annual grass cutting and KW agreed. GW to remind Stuart that he needs to weed-kill under the posts.

v. **Bridleway 013 to Bugby's and Herringworth Hall**

Colin Hanbrook from HCC Rights of Way had assured LB that this was still a bridleway and was very apologetic that it had been given the wrong signage. He assured her that this would be rectified as soon as possible.

4. **PLANNING**

New Applications

3/11/0638/FP

Erection of first floor rear extension The Cottage, Green End, Dane End, Ware Herts SG12 0NY. A Letter of objection from a Mr Andrews had been received which the Parish Council had been copied on to. His main concern was that other applications would follow if this was approved and that further development would be detrimental to the rural character of this site. KW suggested that we write a letter to EHC saying we had received a letter of objection regarding this application.

3/11/0365/FP

Single storey front and rear extensions and two storey side extension. 4 Wentworth Cottages, Haultwick, Ware, Herts SG11 1JG. PLEASE NOTE AMENDED DESCRIPTION OS SHEET: TL3322; GRID REF 222941 533780. Amendments not enclosed. **No objections were received.**

1. Decisions

3/11/0229/FP

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

3/11/0382/FP

Erection of barn for storage and garaging purposes with associated landscaping. Rowney Priory, Rowney Lane, Dane End, Ware, Herts SG12 0JY. **Permission refused**

4. FINANCE

Current Account Balance B/F 12/4/11	£ 2816.36
Deposit Account Balance B/F 12/4/11	£ 4486.91

Receipts on Current Account	Nil
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Receipts on Deposit Account	
Precept 26/4/11	£ 4715.00

Deduct Payments from Current Account

Date	Payment to	Ch/No	Amount £
	VOID	618	00.00
12/4/11	Herts Internet Ltd	DD	35.86
16/4/11	Zurich Insurance	619	620.89
	Void	620	00.00
20/4/11	Herts Display	621	220.50
20/4/11	Carol Bartels/Website	622	30.00
20/4/11	G Ward/Clerks Fee	623	164.75
20/4/11	Veolia/Water Rates	624	41.96*
21/4/11	Lizzie Bacon (TB Presentation)	625	115.00
3/5/11	Alex Bartel/Litterpicker Payment	S/O	35.58
10/5/11	Little Munden Memorial Hall/APM	626	30.00*

	Total Payments		1294.54

Total Payments	£1294.54
Plus Cheque Amounts cleared (613/617)	£ 786.00
Less Cheque Amounts to be cleared (624/626)	£ 71.96
Total Payments	£1972.72

Deduct Payments from Deposit Account

Balance on Current Account (on-line balance) 10/5/11	£ 807.78
Balance brought forward 12/4/11	£ 2816.36
Plus Receipts	£ 00.00

Less Payments	£ 2008.58
Balance as at 10/5/11	£ 807.78
Balance on Deposit account (on-line balance) as at 10/5/11 (£2000 = Grant)	£ 9201.91
Balance brought forward 12/4/11	£ 4486.91
Plus Receipts 26/4/11 Precept	£ 4715.00
Less Payments	£ Nil
Balance as at 10/5/11	£ 9201.91

5a. Financial Issues

JP suggested we should look at increasing the Allotment rental. It is only £6.00 and in view of the fact that the water rates had increased, the last bill was over £40. Discussion took place as to whether there may be another leak. It was decided that next year the yearly rental amount should be discussed. In the meantime DM to contact John Grisbrook and query whether there is a possibility of a leak on the Allotments.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

(i) Correspondence Received

5/5/11 Police Authority; Policing Priorities. Brochures distributed.

(ii) Emails received

1/5/11 EHC Community Projects Team. Council Community Capital Grants Programme. Deadline.

4/5/11 Owl Neighbourhood Watch. Burglary at Waggon and Horses, Watton-at-Stone.

9/5/11 Herts Constabulary. Buntingford Safer Neighbourhood Newsletter May 2011.

9/5/11 Society of Local Council Clerks. CPD Course Booking Confirmation.

9/5/11 EHC. Notification of East Herts Rural Parish Conference, Thursday 15/9/11 at Datchworth. GW volunteered to attend.

(iii) Correspondence Sent

30/4/11 Letters to Allotment holders regarding annual fee.

10/5/11 Email to Council re update on disabled parking bay, Fouceley Avenue Flats.

10/5/11 Email to Stuart Kirkham re Telephone Exchange Posts and strimming under rails on Munden Road.

(iii) Late Post

18/5/11 Hertfordshire Highways/Members Information Bulletin. They would be doing something about the culvert that floods in Sacombe.

12/5/11 OWL Messaging: "Horse owners be alert". LB to pass on to the Newsletter.

12/5/11 Sustainable Governement. Public service efficiency update.
16/5/11 Hertfordshire Highways Recycling re event taking place at County Hall giving people opportunity to recycle electrical goods. GW to advertise on Notice Board.
18/5/11 Littlethorpe Bus Shelters – news regarding grants for bus shelters,. Available from HCC. DM to look into.
18/5/11 Letter from Tony brown thanking the Parish Council for the retirement gift.
18/5/11 CVS Broxbourne and Herts. DM to look at.
18/5/11 Essential Guidance for Local Councillors.

7. ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Discussion took place regarding the discrepancy over the Precept amount and it was confirmed that there would be a 12% increase next year to make up for the shortfall applied for this year.

DM went on to say that he was pleased with the meeting and all the report that were given by the various local groups. The Minutes of the meeting would be approved next year.

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 held on 17th May 2011 at the Little Munden Memorial Hall

DM reported that attendance was not very good. DM suggested that the Parish Council could get more involved with the Village Hall with a view to using the back room for youth gatherings. The Council agreed that they needed to know and possibly attend the Village Hall AGM to get more involvement in the Hall. However it was evident from the Youth Meeting that the youngsters had made no effort to form a youth council or had shown little interest in attending the meetings. After some discussion the Council agreed that unless more support came forward from the Youth of the village, the Parish Council would not have any more involvement in trying to move things forward. LB had noted that there were no children at the meeting apart from two teenagers and that unfortunately, due to various reasons the Committee had dwindled in numbers. DM explained that one way to drive these matters forward would be to get the village hall so the youth had a central meeting point, where such discussions could take place. This could then be built on to

build a great sense of community within the Parish, by perhaps having a Saturday Café once or twice a month.

The general consensus of opinion was that the acquisition of a Skateboard ramp had not moved forward at all and would not unless more enthusiasm was generated by the youth of the village.

JP to look up in the Questionnaires those children who had responded to the Questionnaire and to mail them directly about attending the next meeting on 16th June 2011. DM to pass on the names of the parents who were interested. To also be put on the website by Carol.

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: **BL**
JP reported that there was still some litter but no major problems at the moment. DM suggested that a gate could be erected and locked by key holders. Special padlocks were available for multiple numbers of keys for those who needed them with a deposit payable on the keys. JP said he would rather not go down that route but it was something that could be considered. DM suggested further that keys could be made available at the shop for people to pick up.

(v) Tennis: **JP**
JP still waiting to hear from Datchworth Tennis Club as they have a junior club. Also to write to Heath Mount and St Edmunds schools about use of their facilities.

(vi) Community Policing: **Jackie Morris**
Beat Surgeries still to be published in the Newsletter.

(vii) Dog Fouling: **Council**
DM to put something in the Newsletter. JP reported that the Footpath up to the school was still bad.

(viii) Footpath FP1/Little Munden School: **KW**
KW reported that progress was being made, although slowly.

(ix) Mundens.Net ‘Traders’ Page

DM

TB reported that the Traders Page was getting very busy. DM said it would be nice to have a local Traders Directory.

(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. GW to check on East Herts Website on a regular basis.

B. Medium Term (1-3 Years)

(i) Traffic Calming

Council/JP

DM to inform Hertfordshire Highways that traffic calming measures were wanted by Parishioners as a result of a public referendum. DM contacted Raj about this but there is probably a lack of funds. Residents would like 20 mph through the Estate. JP to follow-up.

(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 is being dismantled. Reception for this area is not part of their business plan. T Mobile is meant to cover the area although they don't. KW continues to get the rent for the concrete square which is left.

(vi) Allotments

DM

Provision of new allotments ties in with whether or not the Common Land can be repatriated. DM to follow-up.

C. Long Term (3 – 5 Years)

(i) Planning

Council

East Herts Development Plan.

(ii) Youth Meeting Place

DM/LB

There was some discussion about this at the Youth Meeting on March 15th. It may be possible to have use of the new Church room. JMc to follow-up.

(iii) Skateboarding

DM/LB

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

8. Audit

Derek Wheeler has been contacted by GW who will complete the internal audit next week.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Horse Thefts

LB pointed out that OWL Messaging had received information that horses were under threat of theft. They want people to be on the look out for slow moving vehicles patrolling fields. Attempted thefts had taken place in the Puckeridge Hunt Area. LB to do a piece on this for the Newsletter.

Church

JM reported on the Church Café and said that it was extremely popular. She also went on to say that Hertfordshire Wildlife Trust had accredited the Churchyard for the substantial variety of wild flowers growing there.

Open Garden

JP requested that the Car Park in Horses Meadow be used for the Open Garden at the White House, over the period of the 5th/6th June. Permission was granted.

The meeting was brought to a close at 9.45 pm.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Thursday 16th June 2011.

Signed _____ **Date:** _____
Chairman