



**LITTLE GADDES DEN** *parish council*

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL on  
16<sup>th</sup> September, 2019**

PLEASE NOTE THAT MINUTES ARE ALSO PUBLISHED ON THE VILLAGE WEB SITE  
<http://www.littlegaddesden.org.uk>

The meeting commenced at 8.00 pm.

**PRESENT:** Cllrs. Hyde, Lawson, Kelly, Magson, Pritchard, Townsend. Also in attendance, Alastair Greene (Clerk), County and District Councillor Terry Douris and nine members of the public.

**APOLOGIES:** Cllr. Saner

**1. FORMALITIES**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting

The attendance register was signed. There were no declarations of interest.

The minutes of the previous 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.

Peter Trowsdale raised a concern about the poor state of the road at the bottom of Hudnall Lane, next to Fourways Garage. He advised that he was a motorcyclist and had experienced a few worrying incidents due to the loose gravel that was spread across the road following the last heavy rain. He explained that he had contacted the County Council and they had come out and swept the stones into a pile at the centre of the road, however, unfortunately the gravel was now being redistributed over the road by traffic, wind and rain.

The Clerk added that he was aware that further up Hudnall Lane, rain eroded road edges giving rise to the gravel, had meant that dangerous trenches had been created and that on two occasions he had witnessed drivers having to repair punctured tyres as they had got caught in the trenches.

Peter Trowsdale said that he was also worried about the gravel on the bend of the road further up Hudnall Lane which as a motorcyclist threatened his safety.

Of course, this is also the route of the Chilterns Cycle route, so it is no doubt a concern for cyclists too. Cllr Douris made a note to look at this and see what could be done.

Virginia Westmacott asked if the Parish Council would approve a request for the advertising of the Art Club event on 2<sup>nd</sup> November by posters on the Green during the week prior to the event and the same again for the Charities Fair on 9<sup>th</sup> November. These were both approved.

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

**3. REPORTS AND MATTERS ARISING**

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

The report advised that in Little Gaddesden in August 2019 there had been only one matter reported:-

Livestock being threatened by a dog.

**(b) To advise on the status of the sale of the Mead Trust land**

Cllr Kelly advised that he was aware that the land was being sold in one lot to an individual but that the agents would not release the name of the purchaser. It was agreed that the Parish Council would approach the new owner to see if it was possible to purchase a small parcel of land for the expansion of the children's play area.

**(c) To discuss fund raising for the Village Hall improvements**

Cllr Kelly advised that he was planning to meet up with the David Brattle to discuss this matter.

**(d) To provide feedback on the launch of the play equipment**

Cllr Magson advised that there had been a lot of interest in the new equipment and that there had been a successful launch at the start of the Sports Day. The new investment had further enthused the teenagers who had played a big part in the fund raising. They now wondered whether it would be possible to install a zip wire, similar to the one at Ivinghoe Play Area.

**(e) To confirm planned actions against the ROSPA Playsafety reports**

The Clerk confirmed that he and Cllr Hyde and Cllr Kelly had met at the Church Road Play Area to agree what work needed to be done. Cllr Hyde had received a quote for less than £100 from Dacorum Borough Council for the re-painting of the climbing frames and it was agreed that the Parish Council should accept the quote. It was also noted that DBC were willing to quote for the roundabout matting replacement and the ramp repairs to the climbing frame.

The Clerk confirmed that he had ordered a replacement steering wheel for the climbing frame and that he would fit it as soon as it arrived.

**(f) To consider a request from The Friends of the School to use the playing field for Fireworks**

It was noted that The Friends had decided in the light of the complexities of the organisation of the event to drop the idea for this year and hold a different event in the school play area.

**(g) To obtain feedback on the web site released to Councillors prior to public release**

The Clerk advised that he had received positive feedback on the web site. Cllr Lawson advised that the automated feed of minutes, agendas and news items needed to be set up and it was likely that the go-live would be in a few months' time. It was agreed that as everyone now had Parish Council email addresses that those should now be tested to check that they functioned correctly. The Clerk agreed to circulate the new email addresses. It was agreed that if the public were permitted to submit items to be put on the web site that they would be identified as such.

**(h) To discuss the surface and entrance of the Bowls Club car park**

Cllr Townsend advised that the entrance area was in need of attention and that it had been agreed that the Clerk would obtain ideas from the contractor about how best to surface that area.

**(i) To discuss the benefits of adopting the General Power of Competence (GPC)**

The Clerk advised that he had circulated a document explaining the operation and benefits of the GPC. In effect rather than the Parish Council having from time to time to check that it had the

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

power to carry out its activities, the GPC gives the Council the right to do anything that an individual can do, subject of course to the general law.

Provided that at least two thirds of the Councillors had been elected (which they had) and that the current Clerk had obtained the CILCA qualification, (which he has) the Parish Council can opt to adopt the GPC at a Parish meeting and then that remains available until the end of the administration, i.e. April 2023. This date remains so even if the qualified Clerk retires during that period of administration and is replaced with a non-qualified Clerk.

Councillors asked what the downsides to the adoption were. The Clerk advised that HAPTC had advised him that there were none. However, the Clerk advised that he and Cllr Townsend would be attending a NALC legal briefing meeting with other Parish Councils and would obtain examples of the benefits other Councils had found through adopting the GPC and see if those Parish Councils had encountered any downsides.

**(j) To update everyone with the status of the Conservation Area Character Appraisal.**

Cllr Hyde advised that a meeting had been held with DBC to agree next steps and that it was hoped that by end of year the CACA would be completed.

A member of the public asked what the purpose of the CACA was and Cllr Kelly advised that it meant applicants had to think carefully about the special status of the conservation areas in formulating their proposals. It is hoped that this document would help to protect the particular characteristics of the Little Gaddesden and Ringshall Conservation areas. The CACA would be 'owned' by DBC and sit alongside the other key reference documents such as the Local Plan.

**(k) To provide feedback on the DriveSafe Report for September**

Cllr Hyde confirmed that a further DriveSafe survey had taken place as follows:-

The Spinney, Nettleden Road North. Traffic coming into the Village from the Ringshall direction

5<sup>th</sup> Sept 7.30am – 10am

322 vehicles checked, of which:-

69 (21%) were travelling at 35mph or greater in the 30mph speed control area

7 vehicles were travelling faster than 50 mph in the 30mph speed control area

**(l) To consider how to manage the verge clearance at Beacon Road**

Cllr Magson asked Cllr Douris whether the highway verge in Beacon Road fronting the builder's yard could be cleared of debris. Cllr Douris said that he knew the location and would have a look at it.

**(m) To agree who will attend the Town and Parish Council Conference 29<sup>th</sup> November, 2019**

It was agreed that Cllr Hyde and the Clerk would attend.

**(n) To review and update (i) Standing Orders and (ii) Public Participation at meetings policy**

The Clerk advised that these were documents scheduled for review and he would circulate updated documents for consideration at the next meeting.

**Items brought forward from previous meetings**

None

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

#### 4. ADMINISTRATION

##### (i) Correspondence not already covered above and that requires action by the Council

The Clerk advised that he had received a request from the National Trust to attend the next Parish meeting to explain their proposed programme of tree works. It was agreed that if there were any other issues for the NT, advance notice should be given to them so that they can prepare a response.

The Clerk advised that he had circulated to Councillors an email from Marika Graham-Woods raising concern about the aircraft noise. She further advised that she had made an official complaint to NATS. George Godar confirmed that it was essential that people complained otherwise NATS would just be able to say that the complaints level had fallen. Cllr Pritchard confirmed that as this was in her portfolio of responsibilities she would speak to George Godar and do research to bring herself up to speed so as to be able to discuss airport issues at the next meeting.

##### (ii) Finance

The schedule of payments was approved together with the report on expenditure for the previous month.

##### Finance Schedule

###### a. The Council approved the following payments:-

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

SRT Trading Limited – £220 plus vat– Warden Services (**Sept** invoice)

MWAgri – £692 ex vat (**Sept** invoice)

Petty Cash payment £22.93 inc vat to Clerk.

Sports Courts UK Ltd £1,000 ex vat final payment for Basketball area

Village Hall Management Committee £309.17 overpayment to PC repaid to VHMC

PKF Littlejohn LLP £300 ex vat for Government appointed External Auditor

HAPTC £100 Training

###### b. Cheques/payments received

LGVH Management Committee - Village Hall Manager salary

##### (iii) Health and Safety

The Clerk confirmed that the Safety inspections of the play areas had taken place earlier that day (on 16<sup>th</sup> September, 2019)

#### PLANNING SCHEDULE - CURRENT APPLICATIONS (status at 16<sup>th</sup> September 2019) (Red text show changes since previous meeting)

ASHRIDGE HOUSE, RECONSTRUCTION OF GATE PIER AND HONEY SUCKLE WALL. 4/00573/19/LBC  
No objection from LGPC, **Granted by DBC**

THE RED HOUSE, NETTLEDEN ROAD NORTH, WORKS TO 2x YEW TREES. 4/01513/19/TCA  
**Supported by LGPC, DBC decision - Raise no objection**

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

**CROMER COTTAGE, NETTLEDEN ROAD, WORKS TO ASH TREES. 4/01569/19/TCA**

**Supported by LGPC, DBC decision - Raise no objection**

**1 CHURCH ROAD, SINGLE STOREY REAR EXTENSION TO REAR WITH ROOF LANTERN & MODIFY GROUND FLOOR LAYOUT. 4/01654/19/FHA**

**Supported by LGPC, Granted by DBC decision**

**LAUREL BANK, NETTLEDEN ROAD, WORKS TO TREES. 4/01750/19/TCA**

**Supported by LGPC, DBC decision - Raise no objection**

**MEADOW FARM, THE GROVELLS, ALTERATIONS TO BARN. 4/01754/19/FHA**

**Withdrawn**

**5 LITTLE GADDESSEN HOUSE, REAR SINGLE STOREY EXTENSION, 4/01810/19/FHA and 4/01811/19/LBC. Under review by LGPC, no decision yet by DBC**

**49 NETTLEDEN ROAD REPLACEMENT WINDOWS. 4/01706/19/LBC**

**Supported by LGPC, DBC decision awaited**

**Applications received since the last meeting.**

**After the public attending this meeting had had an opportunity to comment on the applications below, the Planning Working Group made recommendations to the full Parish Council.**

**MEADOW FARM, THE GROVELLS, ALTERATIONS TO BARN. 4/01754/19/FUL**

**Change of use from Agriculture to residential. Supported by LGPC, DBC decision awaited**

**9 NETTLEDEN ROAD NORTH. SINGLE AND 2 STOREY EXTENSION TO REAR. 4/02014/19/FHA**

**The applicant Joe Wrigley made a presentation of his proposals. The Planning Working Party and the Rural Heritage Society raised concerns about aspects of the design. It was agreed to hold a separate meeting to see if there were changes that the applicant could consider making to help make the scheme more acceptable to the Parish Council.**

**31-32 NETTLEDEN ROAD NORTH. RELOCATION OF EXISTING ROOFLIGHT IN SOUTH EAST FACING TO NORTH WEST FACING ROOF PITCH. 4/01502/19/LBC**

**Supported by LGPC, DBC decision awaited**

**THE BRIDGEWATER ARMS, NETTLEDEN ROAD NORTH. INSTALLATION OF REPLACEMENT ILLUMINATED AND NON-ILLUMINATED SIGN TO THE EXTERIOR OF THE BUILDING. 4/02054/19/ADV and 4/02106/19/LBC.**

**LGPC Object to the level and position of lighting and signware. DBC decision awaited**

**BEANEY, NETTLEDEN ROAD. FELL T1 AND T2 SCOTS PINE. 4/02084/19/TCA**

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

**Supported by LGPC, DBC decision awaited**

**10 RINGSHALL ROAD, RINGSHALL. CONSTRUCTION OF WOODEN SUMMER HOUSE IN REAR GARDEN. 4/02087/19/FHA Under review by LGPC**

**SILVER BIRCHES, NETTLEDEN ROAD NORTH. RETENTION OF CHANGE OF USE OF A BARN INTO A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING, ROOF EXTENSION WITH DORMER EXTENSION. MODIFICATIONS TO OPENINGS. 4/02148/19/RET Under review by LGPC**

Information to share / Items for the next meeting

Cllr Hyde raised a concern about Ash dieback in the village and Cllr Douris said that if the Clerk can supply the details he would take a look and advise accordingly.

Cllr Hyde also mentioned that Footpath LG22 from Covetous Corner across to Cromer Close needed reinstatement following ploughing and that she would follow that up.

A resident mentioned that there was a loose drain cover on the bend coming into the village from Ringshall which had been partially covered with tarmac but was still jumping very noisily in its frame. Cllr Douris agreed to take a look and advise.

Cllr Douris said that the safe route to school signware installation was in the final stages of planning.

Virginia Westmacott asked whether anyone had noticed a small water leak in the area of Windyridge on Hudnall Lane.

George Godar kindly updated everyone on the status of the footpath planning inquiry. The Planning Inspector confirmed that the route of the footpath known as LG3 through the gardens of among others, Blue Cottage, had never been officially moved from its original route and therefore its position should stay as shown on the definitive map, the practical remedy being to apply for a formal relocation of the route to the actual route that people use on the ground.

The meeting closed at **10.30pm.**      The next meeting is on **Monday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2019.**

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