LITTLE GADDESDEN *parish council*

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL ON Monday 7 September 2026

PLEASE NOTE THAT MINUTES ARE ALSO PUBLISHED ON THE WEB SITE
https:/littlegaddesden-pc.gov.uk

The meeting commenced at 7.30 pm.

PRESENT: Cllrs Allen, Gall, Green, Hyde, Kelly, Scott and 12 Members of the Public. B/Cllr Terry Douris and the Clerk were in attendance.

1. FORMALITIES
The Chair welcomed all to the meeting.

a) Apologies:
Apologies for absence were received from

- Cllr Baker.
- B/Cllr Douris apologised that he would need to leave the meeting early and C/Cllr Smith Wright apologised that she would join the meeting late.
- There were no other apologies.

b) Declarations of Interests – To receive and consider Declarations of Interests and those in connection with items on the Agenda or consider requests for dispensation for declarable interests.

- There were no Declarations of Interest

c) To confirm the Minutes of the Meeting held on 20 July 2026 as a true and accurate record of the proceedings

- The Minutes were unanimously approved and signed at the end of the meeting.

2. OPEN SESSION FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC
There were no matters which attendees wanted to raise that were not included in the Agenda.

3. REPORTS AND MATTERS ARISING

a) To receive a report from Hertfordshire Constabulary – PSCO if attending, and to discuss increase in crime

- None had been received.

b) Report from County Councillor Caroline Smith Wright

- None had been received.

c) Report from Borough Cllr Terry Douris

B/Cllr Douris reported that

- the Local Government Re-organisation had been paused by the Secretary of State and that no further action was allowed until further notice as several councils had requested Judicial Reviews of the process.
- Hertfordshire had formally sought information and explanations to better understand the decision.
- he did not have the information available regarding the Parish Council's request for information from DBC on the possibility of their support to move the listed phone box from its current location to an alternative location. He would provide this as soon as possible.

d) Update on the current issues associated with the Land adjacent to Church Road and to agree associated actions and expenditure

- Cllr Kelly hoped to be able to report more in the October meeting.
- It was noted that the sheep continued to look in very poor health and concerns remained for their welfare and that of the horses.

(e) Report on the Annual Governance Accountability Return & Notice of Completion of the Audit

The Clerk was pleased to report that:

- the External Auditor had signed off the Completion of the Audit and that the notices to this effect had been placed.
- there had been one issue with the submission relating to the interpretation of a tick box which had been unclear and which once clarified had been corrected. The Clerk was grateful to Jane Tilley for her support during the audit process.
- work now had to commence on the budget for the coming financial year.

(f) Update on Bridgewater Arms potential community purchase

Cllr Allen updated the meeting as a member of the Steering Group.

- 278 responses had been received to a survey sent to 470 households to ascertain support for a community purchase and what people wanted to see in a village pub. The team were very pleased with the response levels and somewhat disappointed that only 50% of those who had indicated that they would help support the initial project costs with a donation of £250 had actually done so.
- there was also disappointment with DBC's response to the Parish Council's application that the Bridgewater Arms be considered an asset of community value (ACV). Both C/Cllr Smith Wright and B/Cllr Douris had been asked to be kept informed of the progress of the application and it was hoped that both would be able to assist with the bureaucracy and processes involved.
- more information would be shared at a public meeting to held by the Steering Committee on 7 October in the village hall.

(g) Update on Speed Management Strategy

Cllr Allen updated the meeting that:

- the additional SID funded by a Grant from the JCC had been installed in Hudnall Lane.
- the SID on the main road from Ringshall to the Village at Beaney Corner had failed and the parish council were exploring how to address this.

(h) Update on Parking on the Green and its access ways

The Chair noted that:

- there had been many complaints for some time about parking on the Green and its access ways including overnight parking.
- concerns related to inconsistencies in following the byelaws and to damage that was being caused by increasing numbers of vehicles parking on the grass, or the edges of the grass.
- the signage needed to be improved and every household on the Green would be written to about this. The wording of the signs and letter was still being considered.

Action: Cllr Kelly

(i) Road closures

- Residents were keen that C/Cllr Smith White understood the discontent arising from the gap in time from works being completed and roads being opened. Disruption to villagers and loss of business by the shop and pub had been significant.

Action: The Clerk to contact C/Cllr Smith Wright to raise this.

(j) To approve the order of a Christmas Tree and associated expenditure

- The Clerk asked the Parish Council if would agree to the provision of a Christmas Tree for the Green and to the costs associated with it. This was agreed

Action: The Clerk to contact Christmas Tree Farm and MW Agri to arrange.

ADMINISTRATION

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

Correspondence had been received about:

- the Road Closure
- Hudnall Common and the definitive map
- the Hedge between Peel House and the edge of the car park which needs cutting. The village hall asked if the Council could add it to the contract with MW Agri to ensure that it was done on a regular basis. The village hall was happy to come to an appropriate financial arrangement with the Parish Council. This was agreed.
- Sports Pavillion Car Park – request for works to be carried out.
- a Cycle Repair Stand – The Parish Council accepted a free cycle repair stand to be installed at a suitable location and noted on a cycle map/app as a resource for cyclists.
- an email from DBC Planning which would be discussed in the planning section of the meeting.

(ii) Finance:

- The Council approved the Clerk's Salary, PAYE and Pension.
- The schedule of payments was approved together with the report on expenditure for the previous month which detailed the statutory powers used for expenditure.
- The monthly financial reports against budget and bank reconciliation was approved.

(iii) Health and Safety

- The weekly reports did not show any changes to the status of the equipment.
- It was noted that the ground was still too hard to undertake the recommended maintenance and that this would be undertaken as soon as possible. Signage for the playground would be done at the same time as other signage in the village.

(iv) Planning Schedule

- The Public were invited to make responses to the applications received since the last meeting.
- The Parish Council discussed and agreed the wording of the consultation responses to DBC in respect of the applications received.
- Decisions agreed by the Council are documented on the attached Planning Schedule 4 (iv), some of the comments made are featured below.

The Parish Council reported that having heard nothing about Beaney Farm from DBC Planning following LGPC Strong Objection lodged in June 2026 LGPC had requested an update. It was the Council's understanding that as the application was /FUL that it would go to Development Management Committee (DMC). The email response received from DBC was interpreted differently by Councillors. The Clerk was asked to contact DBC to confirm that the Parish Council still strongly objected to the application and that as it didn't follow planning policy the Parish Council still expected that it would go to DMC.

6. COUNCILLOR UPDATE/ Agenda Items for next meeting

Items raised are for discussion only. No resolutions can be made on items that did not form part of the agenda but new matters can by agreement of the Council be added to the agenda of the next Parish meeting**.**

Cllr Green noted that the War Memorial and other memorials would not be cleaned prior to Remembrance as Listed Building consent was required from planning. Also, the Parish Council had decided not to apply for a grant to the cleaning of the War Memorial as the amounts were not significant and the Grant awarding body required 3 quotations. As Ashridge House was going to supply a Cherry Picker and driver to assist with the works and stone masonary paint it was not possible to provide like for like quotations. Applications would be made in due course.

Cllr Hyde noted that a new resident had shown great community spirit in trimming a very long and overgrown hedge and its undergrowth which had been causing a safety issue for those using the pavements. More substantive works were needed. **Action:** The Chair to speak to the land owner.

6. DATE OF NEXT MEETING
19 October at 19:30
November 16 and December 7th

The meeting closed at c20.45

7 September 2026 LGPC Council Meeting Item 4 (ii) Finance – Schedule

To approve the appended schedule of payments for September

Payee	Purpose	Expenditure ex vat£	Vat£	Expenditure inc vat£	Power to
Reimbursement Clerk	Expenses-LGPC monthly phone fees	14.04		14.04	provide & equip office
Reimbursement Clerk	Expenses-Microsoft-Cllr Emails monthly charge	22.82	4.56	27.38	provide & equip office
Reimbursement Clerk	Expenses-Microsoft-LGPC MSO & Email monthly charge	10.08	2.02	12.10	provide & equip office
Scottish Power	Electricity on the Green monthly charge	17.07	2.60	19.67	provide Lighting
Village Hall	LGPC Official Monthly Meetings - Room Hire (in arrears)	66.00		66.00	provide & equip office
MW Agri	Grounds maintenance monthly charge	852.92	170.58	1023.50	acquire/maintain open spaces
SRT Warden Service	Warden Services monthly charge	279.84	46.64	279.84	provide warden services
PK Littlejohn	Annual Governance and Accountability Return/Audit	315.00	63.00	378.00	Professional services

Item 4 (iv) Planning– Schedule - Applications received since the last meeting. For public comment before decision by Parish Council

Date	Address	Post Code	Proposal	Application number	LGPC Decision
22/07/2026	White Meadows Nettleden Rd North	HP4 1PF	Fell Tree	26/01610/TCA	Neutral
23/07/2026	Ashridge Management College Ashridge House Ashridge Park Little		New timber open porch structure to the Red Lodge, located in Duke's Yard, Ashridge House.	26/0615/FUL 26/01616/LBC	Neutral
27/07/2026	Mosshall Farm Nettleden Rd North	HP4 1PE	Extensions to rear of property and replacement of existing garden room	26/01622/FHA	Support
30/07/2026	Ringshall Rise Ringshall Rd Ringshall	HP4 1LU	Single and first floor side and rear extension	26/01654/FHA	Neutral
04/08/2026	5 Hudnall Lane LG	HP4 1QE	Proposed single storey front extension	26/01683/FHA	Neutral
06/08/2026	White Rails Cottage Hudnall Corner	HP4 1QP	Installation of 30 all-black photovoltaic solar panels	26/01717/FHA	Support
11/08/2026	58 - 59 Nettleden Rd North LG	HP4 1PL	Removal of existing garden shed and 3 low quality trees for the installation of new timber clad art store	26/01544/FHA	Support
12/08/2026	The Red House, Nettleden Rd North LG	HP4 1PL	The Red House Nettleden Road North	26/01746/TCA	Neutral
13/08/2026	Beggars Roost Alderton Drive LG	HP4 1NA	Pitched roof single-storey extension to drawing room and a new adjoining orangery/garden-room extension.	26/01629/FHA	Neutral
21/08/2026	Manor Cottage Nettleden Rd LG	HP4 1PL	Single storey side extension and internal works to ground floor areas	26/01792/LBC	Neutral
25/08/2026	44 Nettleden Rd LG	HP4 1PH	Removal of existing front boundary wall. Replace to match existing design and materials on new concrete foundation.	26/01839/LBC	Support