

# Little Hadham Parish Council

Minutes of the twenty-ninth meeting of the Little Hadham Parish Council (2003 – 2007 Session) held on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2006 at 8:40 p.m. in the Village Hall, Little Hadham.

The meeting was preceded by a presentation by Mr Stephen Whipp of the Environment Agency on the study into the flooding of the River Ash

<b>Present:</b>	<b>Mr T Skidmore</b>	<b>Chairman</b>
	<b>Mr M Fairchild</b>	)
	<b>Mr T Feather</b>	)
	<b>Mr P Foreman</b>	) <b>Councillors</b>
	<b>Mr A Morris</b>	)
	<b>Mr S Stigwood</b>	)

Mr B Evans – Clerk, and 10 members of the public.

**29.1** **Absent** Cllr Mrs Gibson - unwell.

**29.2** **Declarations of interest** Cllr Morris declared an interest in the donation to Little Hadham School, as he is a school governor.

**29.3** **Minutes of the Parish Council meeting** held on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2005 had been previously circulated. Cllr Stigwood proposed that item 28.10.2 be amended by adding the words “if Council finances allow” so that the final sentence reads – “The Chairman proposed that the Council should not make a donation to SSE in the current year but to make a donation of £100 in the year 2006/2007 if Council finances allow.” Agreed. With this amendment the minutes were agreed as accurate. Proposed by Cllr Fairchild and seconded by Cllr Feather.

**29.4** **Matters arising from the minutes**

**29.4.1** The Chairman said that he was in consultation with the members of a family in Bury Green with the hope that they might set up a ‘Friends of Bury Green’ group.

**29.4.2** The Clerk said that he had received a letter from Herts Highways concerning the birch tree obscuring the sign near the village pump. The Council has been granted a ‘permission to cultivate’ free of charge but Herts Highways is unclear what to do about the tree. The Clerk said that he thought it best to leave things as they are until the tree is tall enough to see the sign under the branches.

**29.4.3** The Clerk said that Herts Highways had written saying that they cannot help with the repair of the road edging at the war memorial. The Council was unable to pay the sum quoted for repairs so it would have to make what diy repairs it could.

**29.4.4** Cllr Skidmore said that he would be meeting local stonemasons at the war memorial to discuss safe ways of cleaning it.

**29.4.5** Cllr Fairchild said that he had spoken to CAA and NATS concerning the Council becoming consultees on developments of flight paths. Neither body is willing to act before the proposal for a second runway is decided. In any case they would have to receive a request from BAA and the government. NATS is unwilling to discuss with any council below District Councils. Cllr Fairchild said that he would keep a close watch on developments and would draft a letter asking CAA and NATS to reconsider.

**29.5** **Road works**

**29.5.1** Cllr Morris reported that the bollard at the Cradle End/A120 junction had been replaced.

**29.5.2** Cllr Morris said that all the gullies on the A120 have now been dug out.

**29.5.3** Cllr Morris noted that there had been two accidents on the A120 – one on the Standon Road and the other at Cradle End. Both closed the A120 for some time sending a lot of traffic

through Bury Green and Ford Hill. Cllr Skidmore said the Council had, on numerous occasions tried to lower the speed limit on the A120 through the parish but with no success.

**29.5.4** The Clerk said that he had spoken to Mr Roat of Romehold concerning clearing weeds from Bury Green pond. Mr Roat had agreed to clear the pond and the Clerk was awaiting a call from Mr Wenham the site manager

**29.5.5** The Chairman said that Mr Paul Collins was in consultation with Herts Highways about clearing the pavement between Hadham Hall and Cradle End. Cllr Morris said that he had contacted Mr Mark Fell of EHDC Transportation Study. Mr Fell thought he would be unable to help with the pavement.

**29.5.6** Cllr Fairchild noted that Ford Hill would be closed for up to a month for BT to replace telephone cables.

**29.5.7** Cllr Morris said that HCC was asking if there were any final comments to be made concerning the Local Transportation Plan. Cllr Fairchild said that he would study the last Council response to see if there was anything to be added.

**29.6** **Flooding of the Ash.** Mr Stephen Whipp of the Environment Agency gave a presentation before the meeting. The study into the Ash calculated the cost benefit analysis that showed flood alleviation measures would cost less than the potential damage caused by flood. However the savings were not great enough to meet government criteria so the major works were unlikely to be carried out. However the study showed that the current maintenance schedule was beneficial and would continue. Several people spoke of undergrowth, trees and debris blocking the riverbed. People also said that the watercourse had narrowed and become shallower over the years. Mr Whipp said that he would investigate. Mr Whipp said that he could organise a flood clinic in the village hall. Cllr Morris said that he would liaise with Mr Whipp over setting this up.

**29.7** **Village Hall playground**

**29.7.1** **Removal of electricity poles and power lines** Cllr Foreman said that the Clerk had written to EDF concerning making good around the playground. Cllr Foreman said that he would endeavour to get a completion date for all the work.

**29.7.2** **Playground Repairs** The Chairman presented a paper following a report to councillors from the Clerk on the safety of the playgrounds. The Chairman proposed that most of the Clerk's recommendations be carried out urgently together with some other improvements. **At the Ridgeway;** the seesaw to be reduced in length to increase ground clearance; the fixing bolts of the swings to be checked – if the bolts are unsound the swings to be removed; the bench to be clamped together and rough edges to the concrete smoothed; the fence to be repaired; lower branches to be cut from the tree near the fence. The gate to the playground not to be moved but advice sought on building steps down to the existing gate. The netball post to be securely fixed to the ground and two five-a-side goal posts to be installed. Estimated cost, including £300 contingency, £1,308.

**At the Village Hall:** the toddler unit and slide and the chain bridge to be retained; the tyre swings to be converted to cradle seat swings; the seesaw to be reduced in length to increase ground clearance and protruding bolts made safe; garden seats protruding bolts to be made safe; all other play apparatus to be removed; the goal posts from the Ridgeway to be erected; the basketball post to be moved and the surrounding area tarmaced; possibly install picnic area table and chairs. Estimated cost, including £300 contingency, £6,356.

This would leave £6,136 to support the Biffa application.

Cllr Fairchild said that the Council should consult Ridgeway residents as the playground could lose most of its play apparatus. He wondered if the blacksmith might check, and if necessary repair the bolts on the swings. Cllr Foreman was concerned that current alterations should fit in with Biffa plans. Cllr Fairchild said the Biffa result should be known soon after the end of March. The Chairman said that there was a plan of the

playground showing the position of the picnic tables. He asked if it was necessary to wait for EDF to finish work before starting. The Clerk said he would like dangerous apparatus gone by the end of the month. It was agreed to follow the Chairman's proposals and carry out the proposals to a cost of £7,664.

- 29.8 Parish Plan** Cllr Fairchild said that draft copies of the final report had been circulated to the members of the steering committee, councillors and others. There had been a lot of useful feedback. Some new ideas had come up including a community shop run by parishioners. Many felt there was an urgent need for a parish website. The Chairman thanked Cllr Fairchild and all his many helpers for their continuing efforts.
- 29.9 Stansted Airport** Cllr Fairchild spoke of a successful SSE meeting at the Rhodes Centre, Bishop's Stortford where over 600 people had attended with 200 turned away. There had been particularly strong support from local MPs. Cllr Fairchild said that the BAA road show had visited the Village Hall with 11 representatives of BAA. About 30 parishioners had attended. Cllr Fairchild encouraged people to return the questionnaire concerning the second runway though he was disappointed that there was no option to say there should be no second runway. Cllr Morris asked if the second runway was a red herring to distract attention away from the expansion using the existing runway. Cllr Fairchild said there could be massive expansion just on the current runway – 55% of the air traffic crosses the parish. There is substantial financial opposition to the second runway.
- 29.10 Parish pager** Cllr Feather said that the police were unable to continue funding the pager used to send messages concerning local policing incidents. The Council could continue with the pager for £8 a month. Cllr Feather said few messages concerned the parish. From the floor, Mr Pearson said that there was an email system, currently being replaced, that was a part of Neighbourhood Watch. He would send the Council the details. It was agreed not to continue with the pager.
- 29.11 Chairman's Report**
- 29.11.1** The Chairman said that there were problems printing the parish newsletter. The church had proposed that a number of sponsors, including the Council, each pay a share - £86 in the year 2006/2007. The Chairman proposed that the Council pay £86 towards the newsletter in the next financial year. Agreed. Cllr Fairchild said that the Parish plan proposed an expanded newsletter for the future.
- 29.11.2** The Chairman presented a letter from the head teacher of the village school requesting a donation of £300 toward refurbishment of the library. The Chairman proposed that this be paid as agreed at the last meeting. Agreed.
- 29.11.3** The Chairman said that the parish litter picker had resigned at the end of January and that a replacement was being sought. The Clerk thanked Mr David Whillis for his conscientious efforts during his time as litter picker and wished him well in the future.
- 29.11.4** The Chairman mentioned the Rural Parish Conference and asked if any councillors wished to attend. Cllr Feather said that he would consider it.
- 29.12 Democratic 10 minutes**  
**The meeting closed at 9:51 p.m.**  
 There were no comments.  
**The meeting reopened at 9:52 p.m.**

**29.13 Clerk's Report**

Financial statement

**Period ending 6th February 2006**

Barclay's Bank C/Acc		£15,945.81
High Rate BP Acc		£4.86
BP Acc		£164.40
Petty cash		£34.06

<b>Total</b>		<b>£16,149.13</b>
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**Included above****Received**

EHDC 2nd half litter picker salary £524.16

**Paid**

Leventhorpe School Copying [paid 14/1/06] £11.12

**Accounts submitted for approval:****To be approved for payment**

Mr D Whillis Litter picker (Jan) £68.22

Mr B Evans (P/Clerk - Jan) £320.75

Exp (Dec &amp; Jan) £39.21 £359.96

Mrs K Green Grass bins (Jan) £39.48

Planting hedging £25.00 £64.48

Little Hadham Primary School Donation £300.00

EHDC Playground Inspection £92.83

<b>Total payments</b>		<b>£885.49</b>
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**Total in all accounts and petty cash after payment of this month's bills £15,263.64**

Playground £12,255.62

Parish Plan -£1,489.79

Uncommitted £3,008.02

**29.13.1** Resolved to accept payment of accounts. Agreed**29.13.2** Resolved to accept accuracy of financial statement. Proposed Cllr Feather, seconded Cllr Stigwood. Agreed.**29.14 Planning matters** The transactions of the Planning Committee were noted.**29.15 Correspondence** The Clerk distributed items of correspondence to relevant councillors.

EHDC Supplementary Planning Document Sustainability appraisals: indicators and targets

Draft consultation document **MF**

EHDC Agendas and minutes for latest Council and Committee meetings

HCC Minerals and waste development framework consultation **TF**HCC Transportation 2004/05 review **TF**Herts Police invitation to launch Policing Plan. Monday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2006 10:30 Hatfield **TF**ODPM Standards of conduct in English local government: the future. Discussion paper **MF**CPRE Newsletter **MF**SSE Consultation of second runway **MF**HAPTC Newsletter **MF**HAPTC Grants and funding leaflet **MG/TS**Countryside Management Service Newsletter **SS**

CDA for Herts Invitation the 'Growing Old in Herts' conference 09:30 to 15:30 Thursday

9<sup>th</sup> February 2006, Woolmer Green **TF**CDA for Herts Newsletter **TF****29.16 Any other business****29.16.1** Cllr Fairchild said the Parish Plan might help the parish qualify for the CPRE Herts village of the year competition in future.**29.16.2** Cllr Fairchild spoke of the CDA for Herts Good Neighbour scheme. He would put a notice in the Newsletter.**29.17 The Chairman closed the meeting to the Public and the Press at 10:00 p.m.****29.18 Date of next meeting Monday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2006.**