

# Little Hadham Parish Council

Minutes of the thirtieth meeting of the Little Hadham Parish Council (2003 – 2007 Session)  
held on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2006 at 8:30 p.m. in the Village Hall, Little Hadham.

**Present:**        **Mr T Skidmore**                    **Chairman**  
                      **Mr M Fairchild**                    )  
                      **Mr P Foreman**                    ) **Councillors**  
                      **Mr A Morris**                        )  
                      **Mr S Stigwood**                    )

Mr B Evans – Clerk, and **20** members of the public.

- 30.1**     **Absent** Cllr Mrs Gibson and Cllr Feather.
- 30.2**     **Declarations of interest**    Cllr Fairchild declared a prejudicial interest in joining SSE. He left the meeting when this was discussed.
- 30.3**     **Minutes of the Parish Council meeting** held on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2006 having been previously circulated were agreed as accurate. Proposed by Cllr Fairchild and seconded by Cllr Stigwood.
- 30.4**     **Minutes of the Parish Assembly** held on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2005 having been previously circulated were agreed as accurate after the correction of some typing errors. Proposed by Cllr Fairchild and seconded by Cllr Stigwood.
- 30.5**     **Matters arising from the minutes**
- 30.5.1**   Friends of Bury Green. The Chairman welcomed Celia and David Nubel who had agreed to represent the views of Bury Green residents to the Council. The Clerk reported that the Bury Green pond had been cleared of weeds and that Herts Highways would be contacted concerning the clearing of the culvert under the road. Cllr Fairchild said that potholes in the road through Bury Green would be reported to Herts Highways.
- 30.5.2**   Cleaning the war memorial. The Chairman said that he had taken advice from a local mason and would be advertising for volunteers to help with the cleaning in the Newsletter.
- 30.5.3**   A120 pavement. The Chairman said that Mr Paul Collins had discussed ways of improving the pavement with Herts Highways. He awaited a report on possible funding.
- 30.6**     **Road works**
- 30.6.1**   Cllr Morris said that there was little new to report. Herts Highways had a rolling programme for dealing with traffic safety measures such as calming. About two villages a year were dealt with – this year it had been Much Hadham's turn. Little Hadham was currently 8th in the list so the Council would be consulted on what might be done in 4 or 5 years time. Projects cost £20,000 to £30,000.
- 30.6.2**   The matter of Cradle End and Bury Green being used as a rat-run is a recurrent topic. Cllr Morris said that he would talk to Herts Highways to see if anything could be done. Cllr Fairchild said that reducing traffic through Buy Green would put still more traffic onto the A120.
- 30.7**     **Flooding of the Ash.**
- 30.7.1**   Cllr Morris said that a flood clinic for local residents had been arranged with Mr Whipp of the Environment Agency. It would be in the Village Hall, Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> March from 3:00 pm to 7:30 pm. Ms Mary Donahue of the National Flood Forum would be in attendance. The clinic would need to be advertised.

**30.7.2** Recent heavy rain. Cllr Morris reported that the rain had caused a rapid rise in the level of the Ash. Cut weeds and other debris left in the riverbed, were washed along causing blockages at gratings and around the bridges. Local residents had cleared the blockages before the river could overflow.

**30.8 Village Hall playground**

**30.8.1** Cllr Foreman said that most of the remedial work concerning the new transformer appeared to have been completed. However EDF had undergone an internal restructuring and there appears to be no time frame for the completion of the remaining works.

**30.8.2 Playground Repairs** Cllr Fairchild said that he, Cllr Stigwood and the Clerk had removed dangerous equipment from the village hall playground with the help of Cllr Stigwood's tractor. Holes had been filled and, when the weather improved, the field would be rolled to remove the tractor ruts.

**30.8.3** The Chairman said that Mr Mynott would be carrying out safety checks on the Ridgeway swings. He said that Watton at Stone were replacing some equipment that might be serviceable for the Village hall playground. He was obtaining quotes for moving and installing the second hand apparatus.

**30.9 Parish Plan**

**30.9.1** Cllr Fairchild said that the Parish Plan called for a focal point for the parish at the village hall playground. The final version of the plan was being prepared for printing. He awaited confirmation from EHDC that they would pay for the printing and distribution of the plan.

**30.9.2** Biffaward application. Cllr Fairchild said that he would work with Cllr Foreman to complete a business plan for the application. He still felt reasonably optimistic. The result of the application should be known by the end of June or beginning of July 2006.

**30.10 Stansted Airport**

**30.10.1** Cllr Fairchild presented a draft Council response to the BAA consultation on the second Stansted runway. He said that he had concentrated on the environmental impact of the new runway, both local and global. He was disappointed to note that the questionnaire at the road show did not include an option for saying there should be no second runway. The expanded airport would be bigger than the current Heathrow. Cllr Fairchild thought the potential job opportunities had been overstated. Cllr Fairchild asked councillors to send him any comments they may have on the draft response, as it would have to be sent to BAA before the next Council meeting.

**30.10.2** The Chairman proposed that the Council join SSE at a cost of £10 a year. Cllr Stigwood asked if a parish council could join. The Clerk said that he understood Little Hadham was the only parish in the area that had not joined. Cllr Morris was concerned that the parish should not lose the ability to comment independently on airport matters. It was agreed that the Council would join SSE.

**30.11 Chairman's Report**

**30.11.1** The Chairman reported that Mr Mark Dedman had been employed as Parish litter picker from the start of February 2006. The Clerk asked parishioners to welcome Mr Dedman's efforts and encourage him in his work of improving the parish.

**30.11.2** The Chairman presented a draft agenda for the Parish Assembly, Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2006. Cllr Morris said that he would ask Mr Whipp of the Environment Agency to talk about the recent report on the flooding of the Ash. The Chairman said that Cllr Tindale would be invited to talk on District Council matters. With these additions, the Assembly agenda was agreed.

**30.12 Democratic 10 minutes****The meeting closed at 9:23 p.m.**

Complaints were made about the dangerous volume and speed of traffic using the Cradle End to Bury Green road, especially from 7:30 am to 9:30 am and from 4:30 pm to 6:30 pm. It was asked if the road could be limited to 'access only'. The difficulty of turning onto the A120 was mentioned with a request to find a way of slowing the traffic near the junction.

**The meeting reopened at 9:34 p.m.****30.13 Clerk's Report**

Financial statement

**Period ending 6th March 2006**

Barclay's Bank C/Acc		£15,660.32
High Rate BP Acc		£4.86
BP Acc		£164.40
Petty cash		£9.34

<b>Total</b>	<b>£15,838.92</b>
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Uncleared cheque - Little Hadham School		£300.00
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<b>Total</b>	<b>£15,538.92</b>
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**Included above**

Home Farm - Westland Green rent	Received 6/2/05	£300.00
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**Accounts submitted for approval:****To be approved for payment**

Mr M Dedman Litter picker	(Jan)		£87.36
Mr B Evans	(P/Clerk - (Feb)	£320.65	
	Exp (Feb)	£31.63	
	Float	£50.00	£402.28
Mrs K Green	Grass bins (Feb)		£39.48
Mrs E Booth	P.O. cleaning		£30.00
Mr M Fairchild	Parish Plan		£45.45
Stop Stansted Expansion	Subscription		£10.00
EHDC	Election costs		£788.37

<b>Total payments</b>	<b>£1,402.94</b>
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**Total in all accounts and petty cash after payment of this month's bills £14,485.98**

Playground	£12,255.62
Parish Plan	-£1,535.24
Uncommitted	£2,180.36

**30.13.1**

Resolved to accept payment of accounts. Agreed

**30.13.2**

Resolved to accept accuracy of financial statement. Proposed Cllr Fairchild, seconded Cllr Stigwood. Agreed.

**30.14**

**Planning matters** The transactions of the Planning Committee were noted.

**30.15**

**Correspondence** The Clerk distributed items of correspondence to relevant councillors.

EHDC Agendas and minutes for latest Council and Committee meeting

Standards Board Newsletter

CPRE Fieldwork newsletter

Local Council Review magazine

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**30.16 Any other business**

**30.16.1** The Chairman spoke of the sad death of Mr Sam Ward who had been an active member of the parish for many years.

**30.17 The Chairman closed the meeting to the Public and the Press at 9:38 p.m.**

**30.18 Date of next meeting Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2006.**