

# Little Hadham Parish Council

Minutes of the thirty-first meeting of the Little Hadham Parish Council (2003 – 2007 Session)  
held on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2006 at 8:50 p.m. in the Village Hall, Little Hadham.

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

Mr B Evans – Clerk, and 24 members of the public.

**31.1**        **Absent** Cllr Mrs Gibson; Cllr Foreman – abroad on business.

**31.2**        **Declarations of interest**    None.

**31.3**        **Minutes of the Parish Council meeting** held on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2006 having been previously circulated were agreed as accurate. Proposed by Cllr Fairchild and seconded by Cllr Stigwood.

**31.4**        **Matters arising from the minutes**

**31.4.1**      War Memorial. The Chairman said that he intended to try an experimental cleaning of a small area of the memorial during the Easter holiday.

**31.4.2**      Flooding of the road at Bury Green. The Clerk reported that the road flooding was caused by rainwater running down the road and gathering near the bridge. Mr Wenham, site manager for Romehold, had cleared the pond and dug a shallow ditch to drain water from the road.

**31.5**        **Road works**

**31.5.1**      Cllr Morris said that there was little new to report. The potholes in the Bury Green to Cradle End road had been reported to Herts Highways. Cllr Morris said that he would check on progress. Gullies on the A120, especially around the traffic lights, continued to be dug out.

**31.5.2**      Cllr Morris said that he had discussed the matter of Cradle End and Bury Green being used as a rat-run with Ms Chrissy Jacques of Herts Highways. A major scheme for the A120, such as a little Hadham bypass would be the real solution to the problem. Herts Highways would carry out a traffic survey at Bury Green during the next school term. Cllr Fairchild noted that this survey would inform the consideration of the Bury Green Farm planning application.

**31.6**        **Flooding of the Ash.**

**31.6.1**      Cllr Morris said that the flood clinic for local residents had been held in the Village Hall, Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> March from 3:00 pm to 7:30 pm. Many people had attended and had learned what was being done to control flooding and had been given advice on how to minimise flood damage.

**31.6.2**      Cllr Morris said that support was needed to raise local levy funding for flood prevention measures. The Environment Agency was preparing a local levy business plan, as national funding was not available. About £2,000,000 would be required.

**31.7**        **Village Hall playground**

**31.7.1**      The Clerk said that no news was available on when EDF would complete their work. Cllr Fairchild said that the business plan for the Biffaward application had been completed and accepted. The result of the application should be known by June when the EDF work should be complete.

- 31.7.2 Playground Repairs** Cllr Fairchild said that some of the old equipment removed from the playground was available on the understanding that the council would not be responsible for its use elsewhere or its safety.
- 31.7.3** The Chairman said that Mr Mynott would be able to start work on making some repairs and alterations to the playgrounds at the start of May. In particular he would: Remove redundant soccer and basketball play equipment from Watton at Stone, make necessary modifications, repaint and install in the village hall playground. At the village hall playground, resite and make safe the seesaw and install the goal posts from the Ridgeway. At the Ridgeway playground, check and if necessary replace the fixing bolts on the swings, replace damaged fencing, provide fixing points for the basketball hoops, make safe the seesaw, seal up the existing gate and install a new pedestrian access gate. Total costs £2429.85 incl VAT. The Chairman said that he would discuss tarmac on the area around the basketball post with Mr Mynott. Allowing for £1000 for the tarmac and £600 contingency the Chairman said that the cost was within the £7664 agreed at the February 2006 Council meeting.
- 31.8 Parish Plan**
- 31.8.1** Cllr Fairchild said that the plan was virtually complete. He had found a designer, illustrator and a printer and had received confirmation that East Herts Council would pay £1,000 for printing the full report and also a summary report that would go to each household. The report should be completed within 2 weeks and would be launched formally at a special public meeting (subsequently confirmed for June 1<sup>st</sup>). The Clerk asked if the printing would be within the £1000 budget. Cllr Fairchild said that it would.
- 31.9 Stansted Airport**
- 31.9.1** Cllr Fairchild reported on a successful meeting in Ware where a local protest group against airport expansion had been formed. He said that Braintree Council had formally opposed the second runway. These developments were further evidence that opposition to airport expansion was spreading.
- 31.9.2** Cllr Fairchild proposed: The Council to retrospectively confirm its acceptance of the Council's response to consultation on the second Stansted runway. Agreed
- 31.9.3** Cllr Fairchild encouraged people to continue reporting noisy aircraft. He recommended people to use the new and simplified report form on the SSE website. SSE would ensure that all reports were replied to.
- 31.9.4** Cllr Fairchild noted that the 08:06 train from Cambridge was the most crowded train in Britain yet BAA claimed there was sufficient spare rail capacity to cope with an expanded airport.
- 31.10 Chairman's Report**
- 31.10.1** The Chairman spoke of the Parish Assembly and went through the agenda. The Clerk asked if the order of speakers was correct. Agreed.
- 31.10.2** The Chairman spoke of a request for a donation from the Friends of Bishop's Stortford Citizens Advice Service. Cllr Fairchild said that if it could be afforded the Council should make a donation. He noted that some local companies had made donations in kind. Cllr Fairchild proposed that any money raised from the sale of the old play equipment should be donated. Agreed.
- 31.10.3** The Chairman asked when grass cutting at the playgrounds would start. The Clerk reported that he expected MoKut to start that week.

**31.11 Democratic 10 minutes****The meeting closed at 9:46 p.m.**

Enquiries were made about when the grass at Bury Green would be cut. The Clerk said that Mr Wenham expected to start within the next week. He reminded residents that Romehold were under no obligation to cut the Green and that they cut the grass more frequently than the Council could afford.

There were complaints that the Herts Highways response to rat running at Bury Green had been very anodyne and that little notice would be taken of this when considering the Bury Green Farm application. The traffic was thought to be dangerous and too fast. There was concern that the traffic survey should start early in the morning and not after the going to work and school run rush.

**The meeting reopened at 9:54 p.m.****31.12 Clerk's Report**

Financial statement

**Period ending 3rd April 2006**

Barclay's Bank C/Acc		£13,957.38
High Rate BP Acc		£4.89
BP Acc		£164.73
Petty cash		£47.66
	<b>Total</b>	<b>£14,174.66</b>

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

Mr M Dedman Litter picker	(Mar)		£87.36
Mr B Evans	(P/Clerk - (Feb)	£320.75	
	Exp (Feb)	£31.13	£351.88
Mrs K Green	Grass bins (Feb)		£39.48
Leventhorpe School	Copying		£12.15
Herts Assoc Local History	Subscription		£14.00
PAYE	Jan - Mar		£27.94
	<b>Total payments</b>		<b>£532.81</b>

**Total in all accounts and petty cash after payment of this month's bills £13,641.85**

Playground	£12,255.62
Parish Plan	-£1,535.24
Uncommitted	£1,386.23

**31.12.1**

Resolved to accept payment of accounts. Agreed

**31.12.2**

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

**31.13**

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

**31.14**

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

SSE Stansted Update newsletter	MF
EEDA Networking East newsletter	TS
Clerks and Councils Direct magazine	TS
EHDC Sawbridgeworth Community Voice public meeting Thurs 6th April 7:30pm	TF
CPRE Houses and Gardens catalogue	TF
CPRE Countryside Voice magazine	TF
Herts Assoc Local History magazine	TF
CDA for Herts newsletter	MF

- 31.15 Any other business None**
- 31.16 The Chairman closed the meeting to the Public and the Press at 9:57 p.m.**
- 31.17 Date of next meeting Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2006.**