

Little Hadham Parish Council

Minutes of the thirty-third meeting of the Little Hadham Parish Council (2003 – 2007 Session) held on Monday 5th June 2006 at 8:54 p.m. in the Village Hall, Little Hadham.

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

Mr B Evans – Clerk, and 9 members of the public.

- 33.1** **Absent** Cllr Mrs Gibson.
- 33.2** **Declarations of interest** None.
- 33.3** **Minutes of the Parish Council meeting** held on Tuesday 2nd May 2006 having been previously circulated were agreed as accurate. Proposed by Cllr Fairchild and seconded by Cllr Feather.
- 33.4** **Matters arising from the minutes**
- 33.4.1** War Memorial. The Chairman said he had received information from the War Memorial Trust. It was possible that the Council might qualify for a grant.
- 33.4.2** Bus shelter. Cllr Stigwood reported that the shelter was in worse condition than he had thought. He would need to buy a pack of shingles for the roof as well as wood preservative. It was agreed that he could spend up to £50 on materials.
- 33.5** **Road works**
- 33.5.1** Cllr Morris said that he had received the timetable for gully clearing.
- 33.5.2** Cllr Morris said that Herts Highways would be conducting a survey of traffic through Bury Green. The Herts Transportation Panel would use the results to decide whether to apply for funding. Cllr Morris said he would find out when the survey would be completed.
- 33.5.3** Cllr Morris said that he was unable to identify which manhole on the A120 was in need of repair.
- 33.5.4** Cllr Fairchild spoke of reports of strings of four or more potholes being laid along the roads around Bury Green. They caused a significant traffic hazard particularly as traffic drove through the narrow lanes at excessive speed. It was proposed that a request be made to Herts Highways for warning signs and that Cllr Fairchild would speak to the owners of Bury Green Farm so as to reduce the risk of an accident.
- 33.5.5** **East Herts Transportation Plan – consultation.** Cllr Morris said the plan was for the next 15 years. It recognised the poor E-W links in the area, the congestion around Little Hadham, rat running and the queues for the traffic lights. It accepted that expansion of Stansted would make matters worse. The objective was to reduce the volume of traffic. EHDC want a comprehensive solution to A120 congestion rather than a Little Hadham bypass. Cllr Morris noted that car ownership in the parish was the highest in East Hertfordshire while cycle usage was lowest. It was agreed that Cllr Morris would draft a response to the plan before the next Council meeting.
- 33.5.6** **Bypass petition.** Cllr Foreman presented a report prepared by himself and Cllr Morris. They thought the Council should support the principle of a bypass but there was no specific evidence of community support. The Parish Plan questionnaire did not specifically ask for views on a bypass. It was unlikely that there would be

general support for a petition that did not include a route. Cllr Foreman proposed that the Council should promote a petition but that the question of the route must be addressed. Cllr Foreman should write to Cllr Engel and Cllr Morris should set up a working party that would consider ways of consulting the community. Agreed

33.5.7 Flooding of the Ash.

33.5.8 Cllr Morris referred to a letter from the Environment Agency answering questions posed at an earlier Council meeting. Cutting of vegetation in the riverbed would continue where properties were at risk. The stream banks had been inspected and none were in need of repair though owners of property next to the river were reminded of their riparian responsibilities. The bed of the river was not above the grade line so dredging was not worthwhile. Cllr Stigwood said that he would consult with landowners' agents concerning the possible removal of the concrete ford near the playground.

33.6 Village Hall playground

33.6.1 EDF works. Cllr Foreman said that he had not heard from EDF though the latest date he had heard for completion was some time this summer.

33.6.2 Playground Repairs. The Chairman presented a document describing work proposed for the playgrounds.

After consultation with the Clerk, it was decided that the possible cash flow difficulty was an acceptable risk so the contract with BigFoot discussed at the last meeting had been confirmed. The Council would have £5000 available to pay a deposit should it gain a Biffaward. If its bid failed there would be £5738 available to make improvements to the Village Hall playground.

The Chairman said that he had held a meeting with the residents of the Ridgeway, including young people, and the Area Sales Manager of BigFoot. The residents had approved of the Council's plans for the playground and had helped choose colours for the apparatus.

The Chairman summarised the proposed changes:

At the Village Hall: installation of goal end and basketball shooting area unit (ex EHDC surplus equipment); relocate seesaw; install goal post ex Ridgeway; move basketball hoop to Ridgeway; longer term (when funds available) an aerial runway, and picnic tables and seating.

At the Ridgeway: renew fencing; new entrance gateway; shorten seesaw; BigFoot project (new equipment) swings and goal posts; basketball hoop ex Village Hall play area; longer term – (when funds available) a Junior Multi Activity Centre.

The Chairman noted that this was in line with what was agreed at the May Council meeting.

Cllr Forman was concerned that no overall plan existed for the Village Hall playground and that the current work might be affected by future plans. The Chairman agreed that the detailed plan must be agreed before any extra work was proposed.

33.7 Parish Plan

33.7.1 Cllr Fairchild said that formal invitations had been sent out for the presentation of the completed Parish Plan on Thursday 22nd June 2006. He said that he had received promises of donations of goods from Tesco and WH Smith and that these would be presented as prizes in a competition.

33.7.2 Cllr Fairchild spoke of the need for a housing needs survey. The Parish Plan questionnaire showed support for affordable housing for local people. A Parish Plan focus group had considered these findings but, after discussion, voted against a housing needs survey. The Parish Plan steering committee thought this was unwise.

There was great pressure to build extra housing in East Herts and Little Hadham could have extra housing imposed on it. The views of local people gained from a housing need survey, together with a parish design statement, might be adopted by the district council as supplementary planning guidance.

Cllr Fairchild proposed: That the council supports the recommendation of the Parish Plan Steering Committee that a survey is carried out in conjunction with East Herts Council to establish present and likely future housing needs of families in Little Hadham to enable the Council to respond appropriately to any applications to build homes in the parish, bearing in mind its protected status under the District Plan. The Clerk asked if there were any cost implications to the Council. Cllr Fairchild said the costs to the Council would be minimal as the District Council would help conduct the survey. Cllr Foreman welcomed the idea of a design statement as this would help make planning decisions more consistent. The proposal was agreed.

33.7.3 Cllr Fairchild said that a double-decker Volunteer Bus would visit the Village Hall between 9 and 11 a.m. on Tuesday 13th June 2006.

33.8 Stansted Airport

33.8.1 Cllr Fairchild spoke of the timetable for the expansion of Stansted. In September 2006 UDC would publish its decision on the plans for expansion on the existing runway. It was possible they would reject the plans on the grounds that important information was missing. This would lead to a public enquiry. The formal application for a second runway would be summer 2007. Cllr Fairchild would check to see if a further Council response to the second runway proposal was required.

33.9 Chairman's Report

33.9.1 The Chairman said that he had no pressing matters.

33.10 Democratic 10 minutes

The meeting closed at 10:03 p.m.

Mr Nubel said the Stansted expansion would make Bury Green rat-running even worse. He would like the upgrading of the A120 in Essex continued to the A10. Cllr Morris said that BAA claimed that the airport expansion would have only a marginal impact on traffic volumes.

The meeting reopened at 10:04 p.m.

33.11 Clerk's Report

33.12 Financial statement

Period ending 5th June 2006

Barclay's Bank C/Acc		£18,424.80
High Rate BP Acc		£4.89
BP Acc		£164.73
Petty cash		£23.28
	Total	£18,617.70
Included above		
EHDC - half precept	Received 26/4/06	£5,145.00
Sale redundant play equipment		£40.00

To be approved for payment

Mr M Dedman Litter picker	(May)		£87.36
Mr B Evans	(P/Clerk - (May)	£318.82	
	Exp (Apr)	£36.97	£355.79
Mrs K Green	Grass bins (May)	£40.63	
	Mower repair and Petrol	£14.06	£54.69
Mrs E Booth	P.O.cleaning		£30.00
Village Hall - Council meetings increase + assembly			£67.00
Herts Buildings Preservation Trust	Subscription		£30.00
Allianz Cornhill	Insurance		£566.94
Citizens' Advice Bureau	Donation		£50.00

Total payments	£1,241.78
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Total in all accounts and petty cash after payment of this month's bills £17,375.92

Playground	£12,255.62
Uncommitted	£5,120.30

- 33.12.1** Resolved to accept payment of accounts. Agreed
- 33.12.2** Resolved to accept accuracy of financial statement. Proposed Cllr Fairchild, seconded Cllr Stigwood. Agreed.
- 33.12.3** Resolved to accept the completed accounts for 2005/06. Agreed.
- 33.12.4** Resolved to accept the completed audit submission for 2005/06. Agreed.
- 33.13** **Planning matters** The transactions of the Planning Committee were noted.
- 33.14** **Correspondence** The Clerk distributed items of correspondence to relevant EHDC Minutes and agendas for council and committee meetings
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| EHDC Overview and Scrutiny annual report | MF |
| EHDC Planning – farm diversification guidance note | TF/SS |
| Herts Highways Stortford and Sawbridgeworth Transportation Plan Forum newsletter | AM |
| Herts Highways – gully clearing programme | AM |
| BAA PlaneTalk newsletter and CD-ROM | MF |
| SSE Newsletter | MF |
| Environment Agency Letter and booklet concerning flooding | AM |
| Charter88 Newsletter | MF |
| Herts Assoc Local History – list of speakers | TF |
| CPRE Local Development Frameworks meeting 7.45pm Thurs 8th June | MF |
| CPRE newsletter | TF |
| Clerks and Councils Direct magazine | TS |
- 33.15** **Any other business.** Cllr Stigwood asked if the 30MPH zone could be extended to include the C15 to Bridgefoot Farm and Chapel Lane to Westland Green. Cllr Forman said that Westland Green residents would like a name sign for the hamlet. The Clerk said that he would write to Herts Highways.
- 33.16** Cllr Fairchild reported a letter from the new owner of The Paddock opposite South Cottages. The field would be reseeded and a new gate installed.
- 33.17** **The Chairman closed the meeting to the Public and the Press at 10:07 p.m.**
- 33.18** **Date of the next meeting Monday 3rd July 2006.**