

# Little Hadham Parish Council

Minutes of the thirty-seventh meeting of the Little Hadham Parish Council (2003 – 2007 Session) held on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November at 8:36 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 12 members of the public.

- 37.1**    **Absent** Cllr Foreman, away on business and Cllr Mrs Gibson.
- 37.2**    **Declarations of interest**    None.
- 37.3**    **Minutes of the Parish Council meeting** held on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2006 having been previously circulated were agreed as accurate. Proposed by Cllr Fairchild and seconded by Cllr Stigwood.
- 37.4**    **Matters arising from the Council minutes**
- 37.4.1**    **Bus shelter.** Cllr Stigwood said that the cedar roof tiles had recently been delivered to the builders' merchants and he hoped to proceed with the work shortly.
- 37.4.2**    **War memorial.** The Chairman reported that he and Mr Gibson had cleaned the memorial, with valuable support from Cllr Mike Fairchild, at a cost of £4.48 for materials.
- 37.4.3**    **School buses.** Cllr Morris said that at the start of the new year, service buses had replaced some school buses. Initially some buses had been overfull and some had arrived late for school. However, County Cllr Mrs Bayes had held a meeting for parents and the county council officials had listened to parents and most problems appeared to have been resolved.
- 37.5**    **Road works**
- 37.5.1**    **Road repairs** Cllr Morris said that the works currently underway on the C15 should solve a number of problems on the road repairs list.
- 37.5.2**    **Drainage works of the C15** Cllr Morris said that there had been a site meeting of Cllr Feather, Herts Highways, some residents and the Clerk to discuss the drainage works before they started. Herts Highways had agreed to investigate ways to prevent silt being washed from drainage pipes and blocking the ditch that carried the water to the Ash. The Clerk said he had not yet received details of any solution. He would continue to pursue Herts Highways on the matter, as he was aware that any work not done now might be left for years.
- 37.5.3**    **Buses during the roadworks.** Cllr Fairchild said that, because of the works, buses were unable to run through the village. He had been in continual contact with the HCC in an effort to keep residents informed and to provide some sort of service. Notices had been put up on bus stops but the promised service to the Nag's Head had proved very unreliable. Cllr Fairchild said that problems had been experienced by a number of residents including elderly, infirm and people going to work. Some had walked carrying shopping to and from the bus stop on the A120 while others had waited a number of hours at the Nag's Head for buses that failed to appear. Cllr Fairchild said that he would continue to put pressure on HCC to provide a regular service though he thought it might be necessary to organise a voluntary service to ferry resident to and from Much Hadham to catch the bus.
- 37.5.4**    **Traffic survey.** Cllr Morris reported that the results of the traffic survey from Ford Hill, through Bury Green to Cradle End had been analysed. The roads had been

ranked with other roads in the district and Ford Hill was most likely to be considered for road calming measures when Herts Highways planned their work for 2007. Cllr Morris said the Council would be consulted about any calming measures.

**37.5.5 Bypass.** Cllr Morris reported on an informal meeting between County Cllr Mrs Mary Bayes, Cllrs Morris, Fairchild and Skidmore and the Clerk. Cllr Mrs Bayes explained that the HCC Highways and Transportation Panel would consider a report on the bypass at its meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2006. This would include maps of possible routes. If accepted the report would go out for public consultation in Spring 2007 and the Panel would recommend a route in Summer 2007. The government had not yet agreed to fund the project but Cllr Mrs Bayes was optimistic that funding would be found. If so, the earliest the bypass could open would be in 2016.

Cllr Fairchild asked what was to be done in the years before 2016, as the A120 would soon reach bursting point. Although BAA claimed the expansion at Stansted would have little effect on road traffic, he noted that they had paid towards the A120 bypass through the airport and towards the new traffic light system in Little Hadham. He thought that they might be required to make a payment towards the Little Hadham bypass because of the impact of the airport on local roads. Cllr Fairchild proposed that he should talk to Cllr Mrs Bayes to ask her to present the views of the Council to the Panel and to press for a solution to what should be done in the years before a bypass is opened. Agreed.

### **37.6 Village Hall playground**

**37.6.1 Biffaward** The Clerk reported that Biffaward had asked for a detailed costing of the playground project including quotations from suppliers. The Council was working towards this.

The Chairman said that there had been a site meeting including Cllrs Fairchild and Foreman, himself, the Clerk, several residents and Mr Waldock from EHDC. Mr Waldock had recommended that the existing apparatus should be removed. The Chairman said that a leaflet had been included in the Newsletter asking people what they want to see in the playground and he and Cllr Fairchild had agreed to attend a Brownie meeting to hear views about the playground. The work party would consider the results and a number of suppliers would be invited to draw up plans and make quotations.

**37.6.2 EDF works.** The Clerk reported that he had written to EDF reminding them that they had agreed to remove the pole from the north end of the playground. He awaited a reply.

**37.6.3 Work in the playgrounds** The Chairman reported that Bigfoot had completed the remedial works to their installation at the Ridgeway and that he recommended that their invoice be paid. Agreed.

### **37.7 Parish Plan**

**37.7.1 Progress report** Cllr Fairchild said that the Fun Day had taken about £2,500 [less expenses] and £1,650 had been donated to the Village Hall. A significant sum had been kept in reserve contribute towards future activities.

**37.7.2 Relationship between the Council and the Parish Plan Steering Committee** Cllr Fairchild said that the steering committee had needed reorganisation after the report had been published. Eight people had agreed to join the new committee. Its first task would be to set up a trust so as to formalise the constitution of the committee. Cllr Fairchild noted that many of the medium term objectives of the report seemed well in hand. For example. the website had been extended with pictures of playground apparatus and links to equipment suppliers to help residents make choices. Cllr Fairchild said that he had been consulted by a number of other

councils on how to produce a parish plan. The Chairman asked about the committee's funds and who was responsible for them. Cllr Fairchild said the funds, including a grant from the Stansted Community Fund, were in the Committee's bank account. He agreed a constitution was required to ensure accountability.

**37.7.3 Housing needs survey** The Chairman said that 460 questionnaires had been sent out with the November Parish Newsletter with 53 returned as at 6th November 2006 – the closing date was 24<sup>th</sup> November 2006. EHDC would do the analysis and discuss the results with councillors. The Council would not be bound by the survey.

**37.8 Stansted Airport**

**37.8.1** Cllr Fairchild said that UDC would decide on the application for expansion using the existing runway on 29<sup>th</sup> November 2006. There had been a rally in London of 20,000 protestors against the destruction of the environment. The Stern Report had predicted severe consequences to the global economy if global warming due to emissions of carbon dioxide were not brought under control.

Cllr Fairchild reported that Takely Parish Council was taking BAA to the European Court of Human Rights in an attempt to get compensation for residents living near the proposed new runway but outside the compensated area.

**37.9 Chairman's Report**

**37.9.1** The Chairman spoke of the EHDC Rural Parish Conference 23rd November 2006, Cottered. He had not yet received agreement to attend from a councillor.

**37.9.2** The Chairman said that there was a conference on 29<sup>th</sup> November 2006 on the Government white paper on 'the Future of Local Government'. He had agreed to attend together with Cllr Fairchild.

**37.9.3** The Chairman spoke of a Computer Equipment Grant that could pay 90% towards new computer equipment up to a total cost of £750. The Clerk had requested about £80 for a replacement scanner and there would be sufficient to buy a computer to help start the Internet café planned in the Parish Plan. Cllr Morris said that the café would need to be carefully thought through. The Chairman proposed that an application for a grant be made. Agreed.

**37.9.4** The Chairman reminded councillors that the memorial service would be held at the war memorial at 10:50 a.m. on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2006.

**37.9.5** The Chairman said that the Council would have to agree a budget for 2007/2008, including the precept, at its next meeting. He proposed that he should meet with Cllrs Fairchild and Morris and the Clerk to prepare a draft. Agreed.

**37.10 Democratic 10 minutes**

**The meeting closed at 9:42 p.m.**

It was asked if a width restriction could be placed on Ford Hill to keep large lorries away. Cllr Morris said that many of the lorries were going to local building sites but he would make enquiries.

A resident complained of the speed and aggressiveness of drivers using the Bury Green road. Two of her pet cats had been run over and someone had even stopped to complain about her walking her dog along the road.

Another resident asked what arrangements for sewage disposal were being made for the cottages next to May Cottage, Cradle End. The Chairman said he would find out.

There was an enquiry about grants from the district council. The Chairman said that it had paid £5,000 towards the playground and had paid for the printing of the Parish Plan. The District Council had been generous to the Parish Council whenever they had funds available.

There was a complaint that emergency vehicles passing through the A120 traffic lights late at night were waking people because they were unnecessarily using their

sirens. It was thought that emergency vehicles were obliged to do this when approaching traffic lights.

**The meeting reopened at 9:53 p.m.**

**37.11 Clerk's Report**

**37.11.1 Financial statement**

**Period ending 6<sup>th</sup> November 2006**

|                      |  |            |
|----------------------|--|------------|
| Barclay's Bank C/Acc |  | £15,711.77 |
| High Rate BP Acc     |  | £4.94      |
| BP Acc               |  | £165.39    |
| Petty cash           |  | -£4.25     |

**Total £15,877.85**

**Included above**

**Receipts**

|   |  |           |
|---|--|-----------|
| EHDC - second half of precept [received 26/9/06]                          |  | £5,145.00 |
| HM Revenue & Customs - Use of online reporting of PAYE [received 1/10/06] |  | £250.00   |
| Fulcher & Davies - war memorial garden                                    |  | £2.00     |

**To be approved for payment**

|  |                       |         |           |
|--|-----------------------|---------|-----------|
| Mr M Dedman Litter picker  | (October)             |         | £89.61    |
| Mr B Evans   | (P/Clerk - (October)  | £321.82 |           |
|  | Exp (October )        | £28.54  |           |
|  | Float                 | £50.00  | £400.36   |
| Mrs K Green  | Grass bins (October ) |         | £40.63    |
| Mynott & Son   | Playgrounds works     |         | £2,399.31 |
| Mokut  | 1 cut October         |         | £105.75   |
| Bigfoot Play Systems   | Playgrounds works     |         | £7,044.13 |
| Lubbock Fine   | Audit                 |         | £199.75   |
| Little hadham Village Hall - donation for P.O. fire extinguisher |                       |         | £211.50   |
| Little Hadham PCC - graveyard maintenance                        |                       |         | £250.00   |

**Total payments £10,741.04**

**Total in all accounts and petty cash after payment of this month's bills £5,186.81**

**37.11.2** Resolved to accept payment of accounts. Agreed.

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

**37.11.4** The Clerk reported that the loss adjusters had inspected the damaged war memorial and the decision from the insurers was awaited.

**37.11.5** The Clerk said that the Council's accounts had been audited and approved by Lubbock Fine. The Clerk presented their report for the Council's approval. Agreed.

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

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

EHDC Agendas and minutes of Council and committee meetings

HAPTC Newsletters **MF/TS**

NALC Annual magazine **TS**

CDA for Herts newsletter **MF**

East of England Regional Assembly newsletter **TS**

Herts Building Preservation Trust Annual Report and Accounts **TF**

Herts Assoc for Local History magazine **TF**

CPRE Countryside Voice magazine **TS**

CPRE Herts Newsletter **MF**

Clerks and Councils Direct magazine **TS**

**37.14 Any other business.**

**37.14.1** Cllr Fairchild noted that the C15 though the village was called 'the unnamed road'. He wondered if the Council should consider naming the road.

**37.15 The Chairman closed the meeting to the Public and the Press at 10:04 p.m.**

**37.16 Date of the next meeting Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2006.**