

Little Hadham Parish Council

Minutes of the fortieth meeting of the Little Hadham Parish Council (2003 – 2007 Session) held on Monday 5th March 2007 at 8:16 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 13 members of the public.

- 39.1** **Absent** Cllr Foreman [away on business] and Cllr Mrs Gibson.
- 39.2** **Declarations of interest** None.
- 39.3** **Minutes of the Parish Council meeting** held on Monday 5th February 2007 having been previously circulated were agreed as accurate. Proposed by Cllr Stigwood and seconded by Cllr Feather.
- 39.4** **Minutes of the Parish Assembly** held on Thursday 12th April 2007 to be agreed and signed as a true record. Agreed.
- 39.5** **Matters arising from the Council minutes**
- 39.5.1** **Bench near Halfway Cottage.** Cllr Stigwood said that he had arranged for the parts to be collected. He expected the total cost to be about £10.
- 39.5.2** **War memorial surrounding wall.** The Clerk said that the matter was still under consideration. Cllr Fairchild said that some more damage had been caused by vehicles slipping on the icy road. The Chairman asked about road salt. Cllr Fairchild said that he had twice reported that the bins at Ford Hill were empty. After two weeks he had written a letter to Herts Highways but there was still no salt.
- 39.6** **Road works**
- 39.6.1** **Road repairs** Cllr Morris said that Ms Jacques of Herts Highways did not think that they were responsible for the mud from the erosion of the passing places on Ford Hill. Cllr Stigwood said that in 2002 there had been a landslip and Herts Highways had graded the bank in places to prevent further falls. Over time drivers had used the places with shallow banks as passing places. Herts Highways were due to strengthen the banks but there had been no money. The passing places had been tarmaced during resurfacing works.
 Cllr Morris said that Herts Highways would like the tree in front of the direction sign at the bottom of Chapel Lane to be moved. The Clerk said that this would probably kill the tree. It would be better to move the sign – he had photographic evidence that the sign was sited after the tree.
- 39.6.2** Cllr Morris said that Herts Highways would investigate blocked drains at Green Street and the road flooding at Cradle End.
- 39.6.3** **Drainage works on the C15** Cllr Morris reported that the blocked drains on the C15 had been jetted out but Cllr Fairchild had been told by the workmen that some drains had collapsed.
 Cllr Feather reported that there were blocked gullies on the Standon Road near the traffic lights. From the floor a resident said that he would show Cllr Morris the location of the blocked gullies.
 Cllr Morris said that Herts Highways were investigating a blocked culvert on Albury Road.
- 39.6.4** **Speeding on the A120 near the traffic lights.** Cllr Morris said that flashing speed warning signs had been installed in Standon following a safety audit and he thought

that Little Hadham should formally apply for an audit so that proposals for safety measures could be added to the system. The Chairman proposed that the Clerk should write to Herts Highways making a formal request for a road safety audit. Agreed.

39.6.5 Bypass. The Chairman said that all residents should have received a leaflet describing the various possible routes for a bypass. There would be an exhibition in the village hall from 8th to 10th March 2007. Residents had a prepaid card to send to Herts CC expressing their view on the seven options. The Chairman said that the Council would consider the issue at its April meeting and had deliberately not taken a view so far as to which route to recommend.

A member of the audience said that the leaflet had not mentioned the increased noise to Hadham Ford that would result from the southern routes. Cllr Morris noted that the northern routes would include a solution to the flooding of the river Ash.

39.7 Village Hall playground

39.7.1 Biffaward The Chairman presented a report to the Council. At the last Council meeting it was reported that that four suppliers had been asked to submit proposals. Proposals had been received, and initially reviewed by Cllr Foreman and the Chairman on 4th February 2007. Potential suppliers were asked to revise and/or clarify their proposals.

Cllr Fairchild, the Clerk and the Chairman reviewed the revised quotations on the 1st March 2007 (Cllr Foreman was not available). Councillors were given a table summarising the various proposals.

The Chairman said that technical advice had been received from Mr Trevor Waldock who managed 60 play areas in the EHDC area – Mr Waldock had helped choose the original suppliers to approach for quotations.

The Chairman said that the recommendation, following the meeting on the 1st March and subsequent discussions with suppliers, was that the contract for the Village Hall Playground apparatus be awarded to SMP Playgrounds Ltd. at a cost of £45,664.73 (plus VAT).

Cllr Fairchild said that in choosing the scheme consideration had been given to cost, design and excitement for the users. He proposed that the Biffaward application be based on the SMP Playgrounds Ltd. Quotation and the quotation from Mynott & Son for the other work. Agreed.

The Chairman proposed that the Council should also submit a bid before the next meeting for additional funding to EHDC to support related elements of this project – such as the hard standing for the Netball area. Agreed.

39.8 Parish Plan

39.8.1 Cllr Fairchild said that he had spoken to Mrs Stockley and had outline agreement to use the school computer suite for training on email and using the Internet.

39.8.2 Cllr Fairchild said that the Fun Day would be held every other year. This year there would be a smaller event either at Bury Green, possibly involving the Millennium Wood, or at Westland Green.

39.8.3 The constitution of the Parish Plan Group had been agreed and it was about to be submitted to the Charity Commissioners.

39.8.4 Work had started on a welcome pack for new residents. The Chairman stressed the importance of keeping the information up to date.

39.8.5 Housing needs survey The Chairman said that the analysis of the survey should be available by 24th March 2007. Cllr Fairchild said that the Council had been invited by EHDC to take part in a survey on affordable housing – there would be formal consultation in mid April 2007. EHDC had indicated that if there is shown to be a shortage in East Herts, it would be reasonable to lower the criteria in Cat 1 and 2

villages – developments as small as three houses might contain an affordable home element.

39.9 Stansted Airport

39.9.1 Cllr Fairchild said that he had registered to give evidence on behalf of the Council to the enquiry into the application for expansion using the existing runway. The enquiry was expected to take several months. Cllr Fairchild said that he would like to hear the views of parishioners and he would put a notice in the Newsletter.

39.9.2 Cllr Fairchild said that BAA would hold an exhibition in the village hall on 4th April 2007 on the second runway. BAA had issued its report on surface access to the expanded airport and Cllr Fairchild said that he would welcome any comments to help him prepare a Council response.

39.9.3 Cllr Fairchild said that he intended to attend a workshop on health impacts of the expanded airport and would like some feedback on the effect on local residents. The Chairman said that he would seek evidence from the local health authority. The Clerk said that Uttlesford DC was asking for evidence of harmful effects of the expanding airport on local communities. Cllr Fairchild thought the school might be able to contribute evidence. Cllr Morris asked about alterations to flight paths. Cllr Fairchild said that newspaper articles suggested that all flight paths would have to be reconsidered in the light of possible expansion at Stansted.

39.10 East of England Regional Plan Cllr Fairchild said that the Council had been asked to comment on alterations to the plan. He outlined a proposed response letter. Cllr Fairchild said that he had concentrated on Harlow North that had been reinstated by the Secretary of State despite the inspector's recommendations. He said the Council should reject the proposal for extra housing on the grounds that it would distort the jobs market in an area of low unemployment, its pressure on traffic levels and its pressure on inadequate services. The plan should not assume expansion at Stansted that had yet to be decided. Cllr Fairchild proposed that the letter be sent as the formal Council response. Agreed.

39.11 Chairman's report.

39.11.1 The Chairman proposed that, subject to family wishes, the Council should send flowers to Miss Hughes funeral to a value of £25. Agreed.

39.11.2 Parish Assembly The Chairman said that the Assembly, on Thursday 12th April 2007, would be the last activity of the current Council. The new Council would first meet in May following the election on Thursday 3rd May 2007. The Clerk had sent invitations to speakers as agreed at the February meeting. The Chairman proposed that refreshments should be served before the meeting. Agreed.

39.11.3 Consultation on Code of Conduct. The Chairman proposed that Mr Bob Sewell be asked to consider the document. Agreed.

39.11.4 EHDC consultation on Community Involvement. The Chairman proposed that Mr Denis Olliver be asked to consider the document. Agreed.

39.12 Democratic 10 minutes

The meeting closed at 9:21 p.m.

A resident asked why the Council had made no comments about the bypass exhibition. The Chairman said that the Council had made clear that it wanted a bypass but did not want to make a judgement as to the best route until after residents had had a chance to visit the exhibition and councillors had had an opportunity to discuss routes. Cllr Fairchild said that the Council would like to know the opinions of local people. The Chairman thought it possible that the results of the residents' survey carried out by the consultants would be available before the next meeting when the council would decide on its response. The Clerk said that Herts CC had made it clear that it was not holding a referendum, as it would have to consider other

factors such as cost and the effect on the environment.

The meeting reopened at 9:27 p.m.

39.13 Clerk's Report

39.13.1 Financial statement

Period ending 5th March 2007			
Barclay's Bank C/Acc			£8,158.09
High Rate BP Acc			£4.97
BP Acc			£165.80
Petty cash			£51.96
Total			£8,380.82
Included above			
Receipts			
EDF - village hall power line easement			£31.84
Mr S Stigwood - Westland Green rent			£300.00
To be approved for payment			
Mr B Evans	(P/Clerk - (Feb)	-£19.05	
	Exp (Feb)	£19.05	£0.00
Mrs K Green	Grass bins (Feb)		£40.63
Miss A Windmill	Litter picking (Feb)		£89.61
EHDC	Playground inspections		£105.75
Total payments			£235.99
Total in all accounts and petty cash after payment of this month's bills £8,144.83			

39.13.2 Resolved to accept payment of accounts. Agreed.

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

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

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

EHDC Agendas and Minutes

EHDC Letter reporting on recycling **AM**

East of England Regional Assembly newsletter **MF**

NALC magazine **TS**

"Local Councils" Update **TS**

CPRE Newsletter **MF**

CPRE Voice magazine **TF**

HAPTS Newsletter **TS/MF**

UDC request for evidence of negative effects of airport **MF**

SSE Newsletter **MF**

Vocal magazine for voluntary and community groups in E. Herts **MF**

Clerks and Councils Direct magazine **TS**

39.16 Any other business.

39.16.1 Cllr Fairchild said that the Council had been asked to take part in a survey on local cultural strategy. He proposed that he should respond after consultation with the Parish Plan Group, the Village Hall, the Youth Council and the Clerk. Agreed.

39.16.2 The Chairman asked if the police had responded to the Council letter concerning vandalism. The Clerk said no reply had been received.

39.16.3 The Chairman asked if the Village Hall was tapping into possible sources of funding. Cllr Fairchild said that the committee say considering various schemes.

39.17 Date of the next meeting Monday 2nd April 2007.

39.18 The Chairman closed the meeting to the Public and the Press at 9:35 p.m.