

Little Hadham Parish Council

Minutes of the second meeting of the Little Hadham Parish Council (2007 – 2011 Session)
held on Monday 4th June at 8:15 p.m. in the Village Hall, Little Hadham.

Present:	Mr M Fairchild	Chairman
	Mr A Morris)
	Mrs C Piccolo) Councillors
	Mr J Purvis)
	Mr T Skidmore)

Mr B Evans – Clerk, and 5 members of the public.

- 2.1 Public session.** The meeting was suspended to allow members of the public to ask questions and make comments on agenda items.
There were no comments.
- 2.2 Absent** Cllr Darken [on holiday] and Cllr Williamson [on holiday].
- 2.3 Declarations of interest** None.
- 2.4 Minutes of the Annual meeting** held on Wednesday 9th May 2007 having been previously circulated were agreed as accurate. Proposed by Cllr Mrs Piccolo and seconded by Cllr Skidmore.
- 2.5 Minutes of the Parish Council meeting** held on Wednesday 9th May 2007 having been previously circulated were agreed as accurate. Proposed by Cllr Skidmore and seconded by Cllr Morris.
- 2.6 Matters arising from the Council minutes**
- 2.6.1 Bury Green Farm.**
The Chairman said that the owner wished to clear some scrub from the Green around the most westerly entrance to the new houses. Mr Roat and Cllr Darken have agreed that nothing would happen until Cllr Darken and Mr Phil Roberts, the site manager, had had a site meeting.
The Chairman said that he had spoken to Mr Roberts concerning the cleared fence/hedge by Bury Green Farmhouse. Mr Roberts said that he had removed a rotten close-boarded fence and general undergrowth and had cleared the ditch. A new 3ft white picket fence would be erected in front of the house and a 6ft close boarded fence around garden. The Chairman suggested that residents could do some moderate planting of hedging by the new fence if they felt it was too stark. Mr Roberts was concerned that there might be a delay due to the intervention of the Council. Cllr Morris wondered if it was a device to improve the outlook of the other houses. Cllr Darken would review the changes.
- 2.6.2 Sound amplification at Council meetings.** Cllr Williamson would meet Mr Jon Fardell to discuss ways of improving the audibility of Council meetings for the public.
- 2.6.3 Upkeep of Westland Green.** Cllr Purvis said Westland Green was currently a tall meadow. There were tracks created by non-residents using 4x4s that were up to a foot deep. The Clerk said that the previous Clerk had discovered that there was no way to prevent vehicles crossing the Green, as the route is a Byway. Cllr Purvis said that he would like grass at the Green cut but this could not be done until the ruts had been levelled. It was agreed that Cllr Purvis would seek information from Mr Don Gibson and Herts Highways.
- 2.6.4 Scrub near the Smithy.** The Clerk said that he had visited the site but was unable to identify which area was in need of clearing. He said that he would talk to Mrs Baron who made the original complaint.

2.7 Road works

2.7.1 Road repairs. Cllr Morris there had been no changes to the list of outstanding repairs.

2.7.2 Traffic census data. Cllr Morris said that he was still trying to obtain information on traffic volumes, speeds and destinations for the A120.

2.7.3 Hazardous sites on the A120. Cllr Morris said that he and Cllr Darken had identified a number of particular hazards including the Cradle End turn out, the brow of the hill when approaching the traffic lights from Standon and the footpath from Hadham Hall to the Tesco roundabout. It was agreed that Cllrs Morris and Darken would circulate a report for discussion at the next meeting.

2.7.4 Meeting with Herts Highways to discuss flooding on the C15 near the village hall. Cllr Morris said that the meeting would be at 9:00 a.m. on Friday 8th June 2007.

2.7.5 Signs to reduce rat running through Bury Green, Ford Hill and Westland Green. Cllr Morris said that there appeared to be many differing opinions held by residents on what to do. He proposed that Cllrs Williamson and Darken be asked to canvas local views. Agreed. Cllr Morris said that 45% of journeys appeared to be by local people. Cllr Skidmore said that he wanted it made clear to drivers that the road was unsuitable for through traffic. The Chairman said that the Council had tried to persuade Herts Highways to restrict access on a number of occasions.

2.8 Village Hall playground

2.8.1 Application for a Community Capital grant from EHDC.

The Chairman said the application to the Partnership Fund was too late and it had been passed to the Community Capital Grant office.

Funds were required to complete the playground refurbishment such as for new fencing and gates, lowering the hedge and laying some tarmac. The terms of the grant say that the work cannot be started before any award and that the Council would need to supply 30% of the money. The application was for £8,600 so £2,900 would need to be found. The Clerk said that the sum could be found by using the money for the War Memorial, the saving from the uncontested election, by not replacing notice boards and from the contingency. Cllr Skidmore asked for assurance that money was not being taken from other heads. Cllr Morris asked if there was an obligation to spend insurance money on the war memorial. It was agreed that the War Memorial repair be deferred. The Chairman said that it might be possible to save £500 by doing some work with volunteers. He proposed: the Council to fund £2,900 [one third] of the sum applied for by redirecting monies within the budget. Agreed.

2.8.2 Other works at the playground. Cllr Skidmore said that the current plan was to turn the netball net around and put the tarmac on the southern side to avoid shooting into the sun. He suggested the net could be left and the tarmac put on the northern side. Cllr Purvis said that it would be better to move the whole cage further north and turn it round so that balls were not kicked towards the new equipment. It might be best to leave a final decision until funds were available. Cllr Mrs Piccolo said that young people were keen to know what will happen. It was agreed that Cllrs Mrs Piccolo and Purvis would consider the options.

2.8.3 Re-equipment of the Village Hall playground by SMP Playgrounds Ltd.

Cllr Purvis distributed minutes of a site meeting between SMP, Cllrs Skidmore and Purvis, Mr Trevor Waldoock of EHDC and the Clerk.

Mr Waldoock had suggested a different roundabout to allow better disabled access but Cllr Purvis said that the extra £4,000 could not be afforded. Some slight alterations to the layout had been agreed including moving the chat room near to the basketball net. Cllr Skidmore said that delivery would be in the week starting 18th June 2007. Mr Stephen Stigwood had agreed to remove all the old apparatus, including the seesaw, before then. Only the benches would be retained. The playground would be closed

for the four-week installation. Cllr Purvis agreed to send a copy of the minute to SMP.

The Chairman reported on a meeting for young people in the hall when the SMP video had been shown to about 20 young people and parents. The Chairman hoped to involve older young people in caring for the new apparatus.

2.8.4 Repairs to uneven football pitch. Cllr Williamson had spoken to Mr Stigwood concerning rolling the field. As installing the new equipment would likely damage the surface it might be better to leave rolling the pitch until the autumn.

2.9 Parish Plan

2.9.1 Family event at Bury Green. The Chairman said plans were well advanced and would be advertised in the Newsletter. It would be held on a Sunday afternoon in late August / early September in a field near the Millennium wood by agreement with Romehold.

2.9.2 Youth Council. The Chairman said that plans for the Youth Council were moving slowly. He wanted to organise a meeting for older children of 12 to 16. Cllr Mrs Piccolo said most were currently involved in exams. She said that EHDC had a number of initiatives for young people including summer activities. Cllr Skidmore asked the purpose of the Youth Council. Was it to shadow the parish council? The Chairman said that the agenda would be up to the young people themselves but the principle was to give them more say in local issues.

2.9.3 Welcome pack for new residents in the parish. The Chairman said the editor had one walking tour of Little Hadham though one more was needed. The pack should be ready by the end of the summer.

2.9.4 Housing needs survey. Cllr Skidmore distributed a discussion document to councillors. The survey had revealed the need for about four new affordable homes for rent. However there was some confusion as to whether new housing would be allowed under the local plan. It appeared that the district council had rejected all the possible sites. It was agreed that the working party would seek clarification from EHDC. EHDC had proposed that they, including Mrs Sally Smallwood, attend a Council meeting – possibly in September. Agreed.

2.10 Stansted Airport

2.10.1 Public enquiry into expansion of the airport using the existing runway. The Chairman said that he had presented a report on behalf of the Council to the enquiry. The enquiry was expected to last eight months. Cllr Skidmore asked if the inspector was independent. The Chairman said he was government appointed but independent. However, previous inspectors had decided against expansion but had been overruled by the government of the day.

2.10.2 Consultation on surface access to an expanded airport. The Chairman circulated a draft response to Councillors. He said that he had concentrated on local issues especially the knock-on effect airport expansion would have on the A120. BAA claimed that the expanded M11 would relieve pressure on local roads and that the airport generated only 12% of traffic on the A120. Cllr Morris said it was difficult to define airport related traffic as extra residents and delivery companies should also be included. The Chairman said that construction work for the extra M11 lanes would send traffic onto the A120, as would any hold-up on the widened M11. He had asked for the principle of shared funding by BAA to be extended to the Little Hadham bypass. The Chairman proposed that the draft form the basis of the Council's response to the consultation. Agreed.

2.10.3 The Chairman commended a BAA website that showed the track and height of all aircraft passing over the village.

2.11 Chairman's report.

2.11.1 New Code of Conduct. The Chairman proposed: The Council to adopt the New Code of Conduct including paragraph 12(2). He said that the new code was slightly less draconian than the old. Paragraph 12(2) would allow councillors with a prejudicial interest to talk on the subject during the public part of the meeting. However they would still have to leave the room when the Council discussed and decided the matter. Agreed.

2.11.2 The Chairman said that Mrs Angela Fardell had approached him concerning young people using their cars and motorbikes to perform 'doughnuts' in the village hall car park. She was concerned that the proposed new chat room in the playing field might encourage them to take motor vehicles into the playground. The Chairman said that a watch would need to be kept.

2.12 Democratic 10 minutes

The meeting closed at 9:58 p.m.

A resident said that in the past travellers had parked in the field near the Millennium Wood. He thought that Romehold should be informed as he had noticed that the gate had been left open recently.

A resident asked about the Best Kept Village competition that had been won by Bury Green a number of times. The Chairman said that the rules had been significantly altered and it was difficult for the parish to satisfy the new criteria.

A resident said that he was responsible for proposals from EHDC to include The Ford in the Cat 2 area that currently only included the area around the traffic lights. This was because most of the parish facilities such as the hall and pub were in the Ford. He said that he was concerned to hear HCC officials at the exhibition on the bypass talk about possible infilling the area inside the new bypass with housing.

The meeting reopened at 10:00 p.m.

2.13 Clerk's Report

2.13.1 Financial statement

Period ending 4th June 2007

Barclay's Bank C/Acc		£9,994.29
High Rate BP Acc		£5.00
BP Acc		£166.32
Petty cash		£52.11
	Total	£10,217.72

Included above

Uncleared cheques

Chq. 101293	Médecins Sans Frontières	£25.00
Chq. 101298	LH Village Hall	£65.00

To be approved for payment

Mr B Evans	P/Clerk - (May)	£267.70	
	Exp (May)	£24.85	£292.55
Mrs K Green	Grass bins (May)	£41.85	
	Mower repair	£32.80	£74.65
Miss A Windmill	Litter picking (May)		£89.61
Mokut Ltd	Apr+May [4cuts]		£465.30
Mrs E Booth	P.O. cleaning		£30.00
	Total payments		£952.11

Total in all accounts and petty cash after payment of this month's bills £9175.61

2.13.2 Resolved to accept payment of accounts. Agreed.

2.13.3 Resolved to accept accuracy of financial statement. Proposed Cllr Morris, seconded Cllr Mrs Piccolo. Agreed.

- 2.13.4** The Chairman proposed that he sign the Annual Governance Statement as part of the audit. Agreed.
- 2.14 Planning matters.** The transactions of the Planning Committee were noted.
- 2.15 Correspondence.** The Clerk distributed items of correspondence to relevant councillors
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| HAPTC Newsletter and AGM details | TS/MF |
| CDA for Herts Newsletter | MF |
| SSE Newsletters | MF |
| EERA Consultation on Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation | MF |
| Herts Police Invitation to meet Ward Constable PC Phil Lord | |
| Herts Building Preservation Trust | CP/JP/GW |
| CPRE Herts Newsletter | MF |
| CPRE Fieldwork Newsletter | MF |
| Herts CMS Newsletter | JP |
| EHDC Invitation to Chairman's Garden Party | MF |
- 2.16 Any other business.**
- 2.16.1** Cllr Skidmore asked about training for the new councillors. The Chairman said that the Council had decided that there was not sufficient funding to include training in the budget.
- 2.17 Date of the next meeting Monday 2nd July 2007.**
- 2.18 The Chairman closed the meeting to the Public and the Press at 10:07 p.m.**