

Little Hadham Parish Council

Minutes of the fifth meeting of the Little Hadham Parish Council (2007 – 2011 Session) held on Monday 1st October 2007 at 8:28 p.m. in the Village Hall, Little Hadham.

Present:	Mr A Morris	Vice Chairman
	Mr N Darken)
	Mrs C Piccolo)
	Mr J Purvis) Councillors
	Mr T Skidmore)
	Mr G Williamson)

Mr B Evans – Clerk, and 4 members of the public.

- 5.1 Public session.** The meeting was suspended to allow members of the public to ask questions and make comments on agenda items.
A resident asked about the anomalous 30 MPH signs in Chapel Lane that showed different speed limits in each direction. The Clerk said that the matter had been reported to Ms Jacques of Herts Highways who was investigating the legal position.
- 5.2 Absent** – Cllr Fairchild [holiday].
- 5.3 Declarations of interest** None.
- 5.4 Minutes of the Parish Council meeting** held on Monday 3rd September 2007 having been previously circulated were agreed as accurate. Proposed by Cllr Mrs Piccolo and seconded by Cllr Darken.
- 5.5 Matters arising from the Council minutes**
- 5.5.1 Overgrown hedges beside the C15 pavement.** The Vice Chairman said that the Council had had the base of the playground hedge trimmed as had the owners of the other hedge.
- 5.5.2 Undergrowth in the bed of the Ash.** The Vice Chairman said that the riverbed had been cleared. The Environment Agency would do this twice a year.
- 5.5.3 Developments at Church End Farm and the former Hadham Water site.** Cllr Skidmore said that the Council was seeking a meeting between a number of Councillors and Mr Kevin Steptoe, head of EHDC Development Control. Cllr Skidmore referred to draft letters to the owners of Church End Farm and to Mr Steptoe. The Vice Chairman said that he would prefer to talk to the owners before talking to the planning office. Cllrs Williamson and Skidmore said that they would prefer to know the facts before meeting the owners. Cllr Skidmore proposed that Cllrs Morris, Skidmore and Mrs Piccolo should meet Mr Steptoe and that the draft letter be sent to Mr Steptoe so that he would be aware of the Council's concerns. Agreed.
- 5.5.4 Possible invitation for the local PCSO to attend a Council meeting.** Cllr Darken said that he had invited the local PCSO to a Council meeting and he awaited a reply.
- 5.6 Road works**
- 5.6.1 Road repairs.** The Vice Chairman said that notice had been received that the C15 was to be patched and later resurfaced. The Council would have to monitor the situation to ensure that the bus service and access to the village hall were not affected. He was pleased to note that Herts Highways planned to clear and repair the pavement from Hadham Hall to the Tesco roundabout.
- 5.6.2 Blocked gullies following the resurfacing of Ford Hill.** The Vice Chairman said that this had been reported and would need to be followed up.
- 5.6.3 Reducing hazards at the A120/Cradle End junction.** The Vice Chairman said that he had discussed the matter with Herts Highways. He noted that a safety audit of the Stortford road had failed to identify the junction as a particular hazard.

5.6.4 Petition to HCC Roads and Transportation Panel concerning traffic calming measures for the Cradle End, Bury Green, Ford Hill, Chapel Lane and Westland Green roads.

The Vice Chairman reported that 110 signatures had been collected so far for a petition to be presented to the Herts Roads and Transportation Panel. The Council would be allowed three minutes on 15th October 2007 to present its case. Cllrs Tindale and Mrs Bayes supported the petition. The Vice Chairman said that he would describe the dangers and leave possible solutions to the engineers.

5.7 Village Hall playground

5.7.1 Repairs to damaged play equipment.

Cllr Williamson said that he and Cllr Fairchild had completed the repair to the damaged swing. The cost to the Council was about £150. Cllr Skidmore noted that the roundabout was still very stiff.

5.7.2 Further works in the village hall playground. Cllr Williamson said that about £600 remained from the Biffaward grant and a £4,300 Community Grant had been awarded though this had to be spent by the end of the financial year and the Council had to match the funding. He was reluctant to use all the Council's limited resources on the playground. He proposed that Cllrs Williamson, Purvis, Fairchild and Mrs Piccolo form a working party to draw up a costed list of possible works in order of priority. Agreed.

Cllr Skidmore said that the playground should be completed before moving on to other projects. He agreed to investigate a notice from EHDC concerning sources of funding.

5.8 Parish plan

5.8.1 Housing needs survey. Cllr Skidmore said that the survey had shown the need for four affordable houses for rent. He proposed: The Council accepts the need for 4 units for rent to be created in the parish. The Council should not seek development sites at present but it should keep this under review at 6 monthly intervals. The Council should object to any proposal for small-scale development that did not include affordable housing to rent. Agreed.

Cllr Williamson said that several residents had mentioned unused housing association homes in the parish. The Clerk said that, when repaired, these would be open to anyone in the district not necessarily local people.

Cllr Skidmore proposed that a spokesperson from the housing association be invited to speak at a Council meeting about the current housing stock. Agreed.

5.9 Stansted Airport. The Vice Chairman said that the effects of airport expansion on the A120 were raised at the public enquiry on airport expansion. HCC had requested funding from BAA towards the bypass. BAA had said little but had admitted inaccuracy in their modelling of the affects of expansion on the road system. Cllr Fairchild would prepare a brief statement on the subject.

5.10 Chairman's report.

5.10.1 The Vice Chairman said that the HCC cabinet had given the green light to the longest northern route for the bypass. A detailed engineering and business case would now be prepared for submission to the government in 2008. The Vice Chairman said that the Council must ensure that the Environment Agency moves forward with plans for flood alleviation at the same time so that they can be included in the bypass scheme. Cllr Mrs Bayes supports the combined scheme. The Vice Chairman said that he would try to arrange a meeting with the Environment Agency to discuss the matter.

5.10.2 Invitation to EHDC Rural Parish Conference. Cllr Piccolo agreed to attend.

5.10.3 HCC consultation on sites for gypsies and travellers. Cllr Fairchild was considering the matter.

5.10.4 Consultation on the quality of local health provision. Cllr Skidmore referred to a questionnaire from the local primary care trust. It asked for local opinions on the reorganisation of hospital services on two sites and the creation of urgent care centres at a number of possible sites. It appeared that no local residents had received the questionnaire. Cllr Mrs Piccolo proposed that the Council should not give a formal response to the questionnaire. Instead it should request that the deadline for the response be extended and copies of the questionnaire be circulated to all local residents. Agreed.

5.10.5 Highways Agency questionnaire on changes to the M11 and access to Stansted Airport from the M11 and A120. The Vice Chairman read a draft response prepared by Cllr Fairchild. This raised the problem of congestion on the A120 especially when the expanded M11 became blocked. It also objected to the fact that the consultation assumed that the airport expansion was bound to occur even though the current inquiry has yet to reach a decision. The Vice Chairman proposed that the letter be sent as the Council's response. Agreed.

5.11 Democratic 10 minutes

The meeting closed at 9:18 p.m.

A resident said that no one locally had received the questionnaire about hospital reorganisation. The Vice Chairman said that the Clerk would write to the local primary care trust.

A resident said that he thought that enough money had been spent on the playground and that funds should not be diverted from other areas such as maintenance of the war memorial and replacing notice boards.

The meeting reopened at 9:23 p.m.

5.12 Clerk's Report

5.12.1 Financial statement

Period ending 1st October 2007

Barclay's Bank C/Acc	£12,515.71
High Rate BP Acc	£5.06
BP Acc	£166.88
Petty cash	£7.24

Total **£12,694.89**

Included above

EHDC - second half of precept [received	£5,402.00
HM Customs & Excise VAT refund	£8,204.06
Mokut Ltd 2 cuts in August [paid 7/9/07]	£232.65

Uncleared cheque

Cllr M Fairchild £123.15

To be approved for payment

Mr B Evans	P/Clerk - (Sept)	£267.70	
	Exp (Sept)	£49.81	£317.51
Mrs K Green	Grass bins (Sept)		£41.85
Miss A Windmill	Litter picking (Sept)		£93.65
SMP (Playgrounds) parts for swing seat repair			£178.03
HM Revenue & Excise PAYE			£226.38
EHDC - Allotments rent			£20.00
CPRE	Annual subscription		£27.00

Total payments **£904.42**

Total in all accounts and petty cash after payment of this month's bills £11,667.32

5.12.2 Resolved to accept payment of accounts. Agreed.

5.12.3 Resolved to accept accuracy of financial statement. Proposed Cllr Darken, seconded Cllr Mrs Morris. Agreed.

5.12.4 The Clerk said that for the next meeting he would prepare an outline budget for consideration by a Council work party. The Vice Chairman proposed that a work party be appointed at the November meeting for the consideration of a draft budget to be approved by the Council at the December meeting. Agreed.

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

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

Defra booklet on 'Ways to tackle climate change'.

CP

HAPTC Invitation to Herts Conference Tues. 6th Nov 2007, 09:30 to 15:00 Ware

Priory

All

HAPTC newsletter

MF/AM

Standards Board for England newsletter

MF

NALC Annual report

MF

SMP (Playgrounds) maintenance for the new apparatus

GW

Herts Police Authority newsletter

JP

Stansted Airport Community Trust newsletter

MF

5.15 Any other business.

5.15.1 Cllr Darken said that he was aware that, because of his business commitments, he was not able to give the Council as much time as he would like. The Vice Chairman said that Cllr Darken's presence at meetings was valuable because, as a Bury Green resident, he was able to monitor problems in the area and advise the council – especially on developments of at Bury Green Farm.

5.16 Date of the next meeting Monday 5th November 2007.

5.17 The Chairman closed the meeting to the Public and the Press at 9:34 p.m.