

# Little Hadham Parish Council

Minutes of the eleventh meeting of the Little Hadham Parish Council (2007 – 2011 Session)  
held on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2008 at 8:43 p.m. in the Village Hall, Little Hadham.

<b>Present:</b>	<b>Mr M Fairchild</b>	<b>Chairman</b>
	<b>Mr A Morris</b>	)
	<b>Mrs C Piccolo</b>	)
	<b>Mr J Purvis</b>	) <b>Councillors</b>
	<b>Mr T Skidmore</b>	)
	<b>Mrs M Wilkinson</b>	)
	<b>Mr G Williamson</b>	)

Mr B Evans – Clerk, and 12 members of the public including County Cllr Mrs Mary Bayes.

- 12.1 Public session.** There were no questions or comments.
- 12.2 Absent** None.
- 12.3 Declarations of interest.** None.
- 12.4 Minutes of the Annual Parish** meeting held on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2008 having been previously circulated were agreed as accurate. Proposed by Cllr Mrs Piccolo and seconded by Cllr Morris.  
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- 12.5 Matters arising from the Council minutes.**
- 12.5.1 Council officers and area representatives.** The Chairman said that he would discuss with Cllr Mrs Wilkinson which posts within the Council she was willing to take up.
- 12.6 Possible locations for gypsy and traveller sites.**
- 12.6.1 Response to EERA consultation on Planning for Gypsy and Traveller sites**  
The chairman said that EERA had acknowledged receipt of the Council response. He noted that PC Moore had been appointed as the county police liaison officer to the gypsy and traveller community.
- 12.7 Road works.**
- 12.7.1** Cllr Morris noted that resurfacing work was in progress on the C15. Cllr Purvis asked about Chapel Lane. Cllr Morris said he thought it would not be resurfaced but he would investigate.
- 12.7.2 Traffic calming for the road from Cradle End via Bury Green, Ford Hill, Chapel Lane and Westland Green to Wellpond Green.** Cllr Morris said that Herts Highways had confirmed that Millfield Lane would be included in any investigation. The Council still needed to find the £5,000 required.
- 12.7.3 Proposed changes to the bypass route.** Cllr Morris reported a letter from a resident complaining that HCC had effectively changed the route from Option 5 to Option 4 without consultation. From the floor Cllr Mrs Bayes presented a map showing the new route. She said that she had spoken to the resident. The Cabinet had listened to those living near the ends of the proposed bypass. There were concerns about land take and farm severance and the effect on the landscape – especially the visual

impact at Tile Kiln Farm and Albury End. There had also been objections from Hadham Lodge. Cllr Mrs Bayes said she thought that access to Cradle End would be improved. She said that public consultation was very expensive. Those most affected had been consulted though if a major change were to be proposed the whole parish would be consulted. Cllr Mrs Bayes apologised for not including the Council in the deliberations.

Cllr Williamson said he preferred Option 5 as that had fewest road junctions and mainly used existing roundabouts. Cllr Morris said that the new route would use less land. The Chairman thought the new route created clumsier ends to the bypass. Cllr Mrs Bayes said that safety issues had been considered. For example the new roundabout would slow traffic before the Cradle End turn. However she said that the plans were not fixed and she would ensure that the Council was involved at every stage. She said she would supply the contact details of Cabinet members so that the Council could lobby them.

Cllr Skidmore asked about slip roads off the bypass onto the Albury Road. Cllr Mrs Bayes said that this was still under consideration.

**12.7.4 Fallen tree on the C15 near the village hall.** The Chairman said that Herts Highways had removed the tree near the village hall that had been knocked over by an uninsured driver. He asked the Clerk to write to Herts Highways asking if they could plant a replacement tree.

## **12.8 Village Hall playground.**

**12.8.1 Proposed works in the village hall playground.** Cllr Williamson outlined plans for the playground including: installing a new gate and safety barrier in the hedge onto the C15; removing the existing football goals; resiting the football / basketball apparatus; installing a notice board; installing a picnic table and benches; installing an extra litter bin and buying portable 5-a-side goals.

The Clerk reported a conversation with Mr Waldock of EHC. He said that playgrounds should have two exits at least 1.5m wide. A gate onto a main road should have a safety barrier. The Clerk said that it was essential that any plans be checked with Mr Waldock to ensure they complied with regulations.

The Chairman said that a decision was needed urgently and asked Cllr Williamson to consult with Mr Waldock. He proposed that the Council agree to a maximum expenditure of £7,700 and that the Clerk, with consultation with Cllrs Williamson, Purvis, Fairchild, Mrs Piccolo, should decide the final details. Agreed.

**12.8.2 Playground inspection.** Cllr Williamson proposed that the Council agree to playground inspections arranged by EHC at a total cost of £95.98 + VAT. Agreed.

**12.9 Repairs to the war memorial surround wall.** The Chairman said there had been no developments though he was determined to find a solution. He was awaiting a quotation from a contractor.

**12.10 Stansted Airport Community Trust.** The Chairman said that the trust regularly invited applications for grants using money collected from fines on excessively noisy planes. The Parish Plan Group were considering the matter. Cllr Skidmore said that he was staggered at the immoral nature of using money from an airport that the Council actively opposed. Cllr Purvis said the Trust worked with the 'good guys' policing aircraft noise. The Chairman said that the Council objected to airport expansion not the airport itself. He proposed that the Council recommend to parish organisations that they should consider applying for grants from the trust. Agreed. Cllrs Skidmore and Mrs Wilkinson asked that their objections to the proposal be minuted.

- 12.11 Parish Plan Group.** The Chairman said that about sixty people had attended the very successful barn dance. He advised people to watch the Parish News for future events.
- 12.12 Chairman's report.**
- 12.12.1 East of England Regional Plan.** The Chairman said that the final version of the Plan had been published and was now available on the Internet. Cllr Mrs Bayes supplied a summary of the Plan due to be discussed by the HCC Regional Panel. She said that she would supply the Council with a copy of the final response from HCC.
- 12.12.2 Police meeting** with PC Foote on 23rd June 2008 in Bishop's Stortford. The Chairman said that Cllrs Mrs Piccolo and Mrs Wilkinson had agreed to attend. He asked councillors to contact them if they had issues they would like raised.
- 12.12.3 Post office consultation on closure of Post Offices.** Cllr Skidmore agreed to investigate whether the parish part time Post Office would be affected.
- 12.12.4 EHC Rural Parish Conference** 29<sup>th</sup> May 2008. The Chairman said that he had received feedback from the conference that he would circulate to councillors.
- 12.12.5 Village school.** The Chairman said that the Council had received a card from the pupils of the village school thanking the Council for the donation that had enabled them to visit the Tutankhamun exhibition in London.
- 12.12.6 East and North Hertfordshire NHS Trust. Consultation on Foundation Trust Application.** Cllr Skidmore read an email he had circulated to councillors. He said that the consultation was part of the consultation on the reorganisation of NHS local health services in Hertfordshire. It concerned the hospital services at: QE2 in Welwyn, the Lister Hospital in Stevenage, Hertford County Hospital, and Mount Vernon Cancer Centre. The major change to hospital provision would be the concentration of acute services at the Lister Hospital (an investment of £100M). QE2 would be a local general hospital with inpatient facilities. Mount Vernon and Hertford County would continue to provide what they currently did. The hospital trust was applying for Foundation Trust status. As such it would remain part of the NHS but would have freedoms, including financial, to operate and be accountable outside the NHS. The local community would continue to be served by PAH in Harlow, Addenbrookes and the Herts and Essex Hospital in Bishop's Stortford – together with local GPs and health centres. Cllr Skidmore said that he had replied to the consultation using the simple tick sheet. He proposed the Council note the document. Agreed.
- 12.13 Democratic 10 minutes**
- The meeting closed at 9:35 p.m.**
- A resident said that PC Foote was on medical leave although the PCSO visited the parish regularly. The Chairman said that PCSOs regularly attended some parish council meetings and he would investigate whether it would be possible for one to attend in Little Hadham.
- A resident thought that replacing the goals in the playground with picnic tables was a retrograde move. Cllr Williamson said that the football / basketball frame would be resited. The Chairman said that the goals were rarely used. The resident thought they were and that removable goals were unlikely to be used much.
- A resident reported on the poor state of Chapel Lane to Westland Green. Vehicles were pulling off the road to allow others to pass. There were deep ruts along the side of the road and the road was effectively being made wider. Cllr Morris agreed to

liaise with the resident over taking the matter up with Herts Highways.

**The meeting reopened at 9:40 p.m.**

**12.14 Clerk's Report**

**12.14.1 Financial statement**

**Period ending 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2008**

Barclay's Bank C/Acc		£10,523.28
High Rate BP Acc		£5.12
BP Acc		£168.79
Petty cash		-£3.81
	<b>Total</b>	<b>£10,693.38</b>

**Uncleared cheque**

Village Hall £31.24

**Paid**

Broker Network Ltd. Insurance [Paid 16/5/08] £926.87

**To be approved for payment**

Mr B Evans	P/Clerk - (May)	£289.69	
	Float	£50.00	
	Exp (May)	£23.28	£362.97
Mrs K Green	Grass bins (May)		£43.11
Miss A Windmill	Litter picking (May)		£93.65
Mower Services	Grass cutting		£244.40
Mrs E Booth	PO cleaning		£30.00
Mr M Fairchild	Playground gate and assembly refreshments		£142.58
	<b>Total payments</b>		<b>£916.71</b>

**Total in all accounts and petty cash after payment of this month's bills £8,868.56**

**12.14.2** Proposed to accept payment of accounts. Agreed.

**12.14.3** Proposed to accept the accuracy of the financial statement. Proposed Cllr Mrs Piccolo, seconded Cllr Purvis. Agreed.

**12.14.4 Council risk assessment for 2008/09.** The Chairman thanked the Clerk for the work involved in preparing the risk assessment and audit documents. He proposed that the risk assessment be accepted. Agreed.

**12.14.5 Annual governance statement for 2007/08.** The Chairman proposed that the statement be accepted. Agreed. The Chairman signed the statement on the Audit document.

**12.14.6 Financial Statement of Accounts for 2007/08.** The Chairman proposed that the financial statement be accepted. Agreed. The Chairman signed the statement on the Audit document.

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

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

HAPTC Newsletters	<b>MF/AM</b>
CPRE Herts Newsletter	<b>MF</b>
Clerks & Council Direct magazine	<b>MF</b>
Herts Building Preservation Trust Newsletter	<b>CP/JP</b>
SSE Newsletter	<b>MF</b>

**12.17 Any other business.** None.

**12.18 Date of the next meeting Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2008.**

**12.19** The Chairman closed the meeting to the Public and the Press at 9:51 p.m.