

# Little Hadham Parish Council

Minutes of the thirteenth meeting of the Little Hadham Parish Council (2007 – 2011 Session) held on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2008 at 8:34 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 5 members of the public.

## 13.1 Public session.

A resident noted that HCC had agreed to consult the Council on any further alterations to the bypass. However he thought the Council should object to the existing changes. He thought the route had effectively changed from Option 5 to Option 4 with the new western roundabout only 600m from the traffic lights. Very few local people had been consulted on the changes. Cllr Morris said that those immediately affected had been consulted and there were a number of engineering reports.

A resident asked if people were not obliged to allow parish councillors to visit the site of planning applications. Cllr Skidmore said they had no such obligation.

## 13.2 Absent None.

## 13.3 Declarations of interest. None.

**13.4 Minutes of the Parish Council** meeting held on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2008 having been previously circulated were agreed as accurate. Proposed by Cllr Williamson and seconded by Cllr Morris.

## 13.5 Matters arising from the Council minutes.

**13.5.1 Council officers and area representatives.** The Chairman proposed that Cllr Skidmore should become school representative, Cllr Mrs Wilkinson should deal with Police liaison and that Cllr Mrs Piccolo should continue with responsibility for the green at Bury Green as well as for Cradle End, Bury Green and Green Street. Agreed.

**13.5.2 Meeting with local police officers.** Cllr Mrs Wilkinson said that the local PCSO had asked for suggestions of objectives for the next three months. Cllr Mrs Wilkinson said that she had proposed action on drink driving on the ‘morning after the night before’. The PCSO said that she would visit the local school and talk to parents. Cllr Mrs Wilkinson said that she also asked for action on speeding through the parish. The PCSO said that she would visit the parish and note traffic speed. If she found excessive speeding she would ask her police colleagues to set up a speed trap. Cllr Mrs Piccolo said that the police had speed indicating equipment that the Council could borrow. Cllr Skidmore said that the Council had decided against using the equipment in the past because of possible neighbour on neighbour disputes, insurance in case an accident was caused by its use and risk of damage to the apparatus. The Chairman asked Cllr Mrs Piccolo to investigate further.

### **13.6 Possible locations for gypsy and traveller sites.**

The Chairman outlined the timetable for the enquiry into EERA policy on gypsy and traveller sites. He proposed that the Council should register to speak at the enquiry. Agreed and that that the Chairman and Cllr Skidmore should attend.

The Chairman said that the enquiry would start on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2008. In mid July the Planning Inspectorate would publish the list of issues to be considered by the enquiry. There would be consultation on this list and an enquiry to confirm it in Letchworth on 25<sup>th</sup> July 2008. Any possible speakers to the enquiry would be asked to present a written statement about four weeks in advance.

The Chairman said that there was a newspaper report that North Herts Council had removed a possible site from Barkway as it said sites were better suited to an urban situation.

### **13.7 Road works.**

**13.7.1** Cllr Morris noted that resurfacing work on the C15 was complete. He thought the work was well done.

**13.7.2 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 this had been dealt with in the Planning Committee meeting.

**13.7.3 Proposed changes to the bypass route.** Cllr Morris said that the HCC cabinet had ratified the new ends to the bypass. The new route would allow the possibility of flood alleviation measures for the tributary to the Ash. The Chairman said that he wanted to be sure of the justification for changing the bypass route and said that he would consult with Cllrs Morris and Williamson about the possibility of taking the matter up with Cllr Mrs Bayes and the HCC Highways and Transportation Panel.

**13.7.4 Rutting to the edge of Chapel Lane.** Cllr Morris said that he had spoken to Herts Highways. All potholes should be reported to the repairs system. He had been along Chapel Lane and found only one pothole though the road edges were badly rutted. He said that he would investigate whether the 7.5 tonne restriction outside the Kick and Dicky pub in Wellpond Green could be extended to include Chapel Lane.

**13.7.5 Anomalous speed restriction signs on Chapel Lane.** Cllr Morris said that this should be sorted out in August 2008.

**13.7.6 Fallen tree on the C15 near the village hall.** The Chairman reported that Herts Highways would replace the tree in the autumn.

**13.8 Proposed works in the village hall playground.** Cllr Williamson said that the work agreed by the Council was being carried out. This included installing a new gate onto the C15, moving the basketball apparatus and installing new picnic tables, noticeboard, litterbins and 5 a-side football nets.

**13.9 Repairs to the war memorial surround wall.** The Chairman said he had asked a new contractor to look into the provision of a traffic management scheme while any work was carried out.

**13.10 Stansted Airport.** The Chairman said the enquiry conclusions were expected soon. BAA was under pressure to improve rail access to an expanded airport. The Chairman said that he would prepare a response to the application for an expanded airport using a second runway for consideration by the Council at the September meeting. He noted that Oliver Heald MP had given support to the campaign for raising the proposed flight paths.

**13.11 Parish Plan Group.** The Chairman asked for volunteers to help organise a 5 a-side football event using the new playground equipment. He said the village guide was being edited by a number of volunteers. It would be published in loose-leaf format so that it could be easily edited.

**13.12 Post office consultation on closure of Post Offices.** Cllr Skidmore said that there would be a six-week consultation period though he hoped that the parish post office would not be closed as the village hall hosted it. A consultation pack was expected in early July 2008.

**13.13 Chairman's report.**

**13.13.1 East of England Regional Plan.** The Chairman said that HCC was expected to raise a legal challenge to the plan. This would be mainly based on the scale of house building, notably Harlow North which was based on an assumption of an expanded airport. The scale of development was made worse by the expected rate of housing expansion.

**13.13.2 Growth in a low carbon economy – EEDA's annual meeting.**  
Cllr Mrs Wilkinson agreed to attend the meeting on the 9<sup>th</sup> September 2008 and to take special responsibility for environment matters for the Council.

**13.13.3 Future status of the doctors' surgery.**  
The Chairman said there was some local concern that the local Health Centre might be affected by plans to introduce 'polyclinics'. He reported that Dr Brookbanks thought the local service would not be affected. The Chairman said he would prepare reports for the Council and the Parish News on the subject. Cllr Skidmore said that he would investigate the matter.

**13.13.4 Procedure at future Council meetings**  
The Chairman said that he would like to make the Council meetings more effective and, if possible, shorter. In particular he asked councillors to prepare brief notes on any topic they meant to speak on and circulate them to councillors at least a week in advance of a meeting.

**13.14 Democratic 10 minutes**

**The meeting closed at 9:33 p.m.**

A resident again raised the matter of the altered route for the bypass. The western roundabout would be less than half a mile from the traffic lights and in sight and sound of houses on Stortford Road. Cllr Morris said that the original route would have badly affected Tile Kiln Cottage and Tile Kiln Farm and would have been in clear view to the residents of Albury End.

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

**13.15 Clerk's Report****13.15.1 Financial statement****Period ending 1<sup>st</sup> July 2008**

Barclay's Bank C/Acc		£8,648.46
High Rate BP Acc		£5.15
BP Acc		£169.22
Petty cash		£33.53
	<b>Total</b>	<b>£8,856.36</b>

**To be approved for payment**

Mr B Evans	P/Clerk - (June & July)	£579.38	
	Exp (June & July)	£40.11	£619.49
Mrs K Green	Grass bins (June & July)	£86.22	
	Mower petrol	£5.90	£92.12
Miss A Windmill	Litter picking (June & July)		£187.30
Mower Services	Grass cutting		£244.40
HM Customs and Excise	PAYE		£62.20
Herts CC	Stationary		£26.43
	<b>Total payments</b>		<b>£1,231.94</b>

**Total in all accounts and petty cash after payment of this month's bills £7,624.42**

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

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

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

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

HAPTC Newsletters	<b>MF/AM</b>
CPRE Countryside Voice magazine	<b>CP</b>
CPRE Fieldwork newsletter	<b>MF</b>
Clerks & Council Direct magazine	<b>MF</b>
NALC LRC magazine	<b>MF</b>
SSE Newsletter	<b>MF</b>
Road Victims Trust request for donation	<b>MF</b>

**13.18 Any other business.**

The Chairman spoke of a litterbin that had been installed near Ford Field. He thought it was in the wrong place. The Clerk said that he had asked for the bin near the bus shelter to be replaced as it was in poor repair. He said he would speak to EHC about resiting the new bin.

**13.19 Date of the next meeting Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2008.**

**13.20 The Chairman closed the meeting to the Public and the Press at 9:40 p.m.**