

Little Hadham Parish Council

Minutes of the twentieth meeting of the Little Hadham Parish Council (2007 – 2011 Session) held on Tuesday 7th April 2009 at 8.19 p.m. in the Village Hall, Little Hadham.

Present:	Mr M Fairchild	Chairman
	Mrs C Piccolo)
	Mr J Purvis)
	Mr T Skidmore) Councillors
	Mrs M Wilkinson)
	Mr G Williamson)

Mr B Evans – Clerk, and 4 members of the public including County Cllr Mary Bayes.

20.1 Public session.

A resident spoke about a barn adjacent to the C15 in the grounds of Ford House that had had white paint thrown over it. He asked when the damage would be repaired. Cllr Fairchild said that he would speak to the owner and request that the wall of the barn be repainted.

20.2 Absent Cllr Morris.

20.3 Declarations of interest. None.

20.4 Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 3rd March 2009 having been previously circulated were agreed as accurate. Proposed by Cllr Mrs Piccolo and seconded by Cllr Williamson.

20.5 Matters arising from the Council minutes. None.

20.6 Road works.

20.6.1 Near miss road accident near the A120 traffic lights. Cllr Skidmore reported that PC Tracey Fegan had told him that she had spoken to the driver of the vehicle involved and had further evidence to gain before reporting the matter to the CPS. Cllr Skidmore proposed that the Council should write to Insp Kennedy in the hope that he would apply some weight and move the matter forward. Cllr Williamson said that PC Fegan was making progress on the matter and the Council should not try to undermine her authority. He proposed that the Council should leave the matter to the police and not write to the inspector. Agreed.

20.6.2 Naming of the C15 south of the A120. Cllr Williamson reported on a number of communications with EHC, Herts Highways and local residents. The postal address of homes on the C15 north of Halfway House to the A120 was 'The Ash' while those from Halfway House to New Road was 'The Ford'. Herts Highways and EHC reported that their gazetteers showed these names for the different parts of the C15. Any changes to the name of the C15 would result in changes of residents' addresses. Cllr Williamson proposed that the Council take no further action on the matter. Agreed.

20.6.3 Temporary closure of Ford Hill. The Chairman reported that he had informed local residents of the works that would result in the closure of Ford Hill for a few days.

- 20.7 Flood warnings during the recent breaching of the Ash.** Cllr Williamson said that Cllr Morris had arranged a meeting with the Environment Agency for 22nd April 2009 to discuss the absence of a flood warning for the Ash during a recent period of high river level. Other councillors were invited to attend.
- 20.8 Local Development Framework [LDF] – ‘call for sites’.**
Cllr Skidmore said that the call for sites was to identify potential sites that may be available for development for residential, commercial, retail, leisure and community uses – a proforma was required to be returned to EHC Policy Planning Team by 12th June 2009. He said that in the guidance notes it stated that EHC must build at least 650 additional dwellings per annum all of which would need services and infrastructure etc. – a huge challenge. The sites suggested would be filtered by EHC and sites that were considered suitable for development would be subject to public consultation – likely to be Spring 2010. Cllr Skidmore said that the LDF would probably be an agenda item for the meeting of the Council with EHC and the planning officers.
- 20.9 Playgrounds**
- 20.9.1 Recommendations following the annual playground inspections.** Cllr Williamson said that a work party of volunteers would make the repairs to the playground, the bus shelters and the C15 seat on Saturday 18th April 2009.
- 20.10 War memorial.** Progress on funding for the replacement of the memorial surround wall.
Cllr Williamson said that there was £1,500 available from Council funds and £1,000 had been granted by EHC. Herts CC had agreed to supply the traffic management scheme free of charge. Cllr Skidmore said that he had been informed that no money from a EHC town centre development fund would be available. The Clerk said that he had almost completed the accounts for the year and there appeared to be an extra £1,000 available that could be used on the war memorial. Cllr Williamson said that a firm grant for the whole job was required. He said that he would obtain a quote in time for the May meeting.
- 20.10.1 Stansted Airport.**
- 20.10.2 Airport expansion.** The Chairman said that there had been little change except that BAA’s financial position had worsened as a result of the general financial crisis. Discussions on the possible sale of Stansted Airport continued.
- 20.11 Parish Plan.**
- 20.11.1** The Chairman said that the revised Parish Plan, together with the Village Guide, was being printed. They would be presented at the parish assembly and all households would receive copies delivered with the Parish News.
Cllr Purvis spoke of the Parish Plan Fun Run. There would be two routes of 5 km and 10 km on a Sunday to be arranged some time in May 2009. [Now confirmed for Sunday June 14].
- 20.11.2** The Chairman said that most of the cost of printing the Parish Plan and Village Guide would be paid using the Parish Plan Group funds and a grant of £1,500 from EHC. However there was a shortfall of £480. He hoped that EHC would increase its grant to cover this. The Chairman said that he would like the Council to loan £480 to the Parish Plan Group until it had raised the money from its activities or from an increased grant from EHC. He said that he was willing to personally give a surety for the loan if the PP Group was unable to repay it. Cllr Williamson asked if the Council would be open to criticism for not using public funds prudently. The PP

Group was an independent group. The Chairman said that the Group had a constitution and produced annual accounts. The Clerk said that the Council would not be able to force repayment of the money should there be any problem. He thought that the money should be viewed as a donation that the Council hoped would be repaid. The Chairman proposed that the Council make a donation of £480 to the Parish Plan Group. Agreed. The Chairman said that, what he considered to be a loan, would be repaid before the meeting of the Council in September 2009.

20.12 Chairman's report.

20.12.1 Council Business Plan. The Chairman said that councillors had received a draft copy of the plan and he was awaiting comments. He said that he would propose the plan at the May Council meeting.

20.12.2 Parish Assembly Thursday 16th April 2007. The Chairman said that the speakers for the Assembly had been agreed. There would be complementary wine and other refreshments available.

20.12.3 EHC Rural Parish Conference, 27th May 2009 at Standon and Puckeridge Community Centre. The Chairman said that the conference would discuss the Rural Parish Charter for East Herts together with arts and youth activities. Cllrs Fairchild and Skidmore agreed to attend in the morning and Cllr Mrs Piccolo in the afternoon.

20.12.4 The Chairman said that Sgt Chris Hunt had been promoted to inspector and would be stationed in Hitchin. He said that he had sent a message thanking Insp Hunt for his work in the parish as PC and lately as sergeant and wishing him well in his new post.

20.12.5 The Chairman proposed that the minutes of the Parish Assembly from April 2008, which had been previously been circulated to councillors, should be agreed as accurate. Agreed.

20.13 Clerk's Report

20.13.1 Financial statement

Period ending 7th April 2009

Barclay's Bank C/Acc	£6,114.51
StepSaver BP Acc	£5.19
BP Acc	£169.86
Petty cash	-£11.84
Total	£6,277.72

To be approved by the Council

To be paid

Mr B Evans	P/Clerk - (Mar)	£296.03	
	Exp (Mar)	£19.17	
	Float	£50.00	£365.20
Mrs K Green	Grass & bins (Mar)		£43.11
HAPTC	Subscription		£524.59
Gascoyne Cecil Estates	Rent		£3.13
Little Hadham PCC	Use of church copier		£31.24
Little Hadham Village Hall	Hire of hall		£33.75
Miss A Windmill	Litter picking (Mar)		£97.53
HM Revenue Customs	PAYE		£223.60
	Total payments		£1,322.15

Total in all accounts and petty cash after payment of this month's bills £5,005.57

20.13.2 Proposed to accept payment of accounts. Agreed.

20.13.3 Proposed to accept the accuracy of the financial statement. Proposed Cllr Mrs Wilkinson, seconded Cllr Williamson. Agreed.

20.14 Democratic 10 minutes.

The meeting closed at 9:06 p.m.

Cllr Mary Bayes apologised that she would be unable to attend the Parish Assembly. She introduced Ms Leanda Newlyn who was the prospective Conservative candidate for her seat on the County Council.

The meeting reopened at 9:07 p.m.

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

20.16 Correspondence. The Clerk distributed items of correspondence to relevant members.

CPRE – Fieldwork magazine

TS

CPRE – Countryside Voice magazine

MW

EHDC – Sawbridgeworth Community Voice minutes

MW

Dogs Trust – poster and leaflets

CP

SSE - newsletter

MF

Hertfordshire University – Guide to Growth

TS

HATPC – newsletter

MF

20.17 Any other business.

20.17.1 Cllr Mrs Piccolo thanked the Chairman for all his efforts towards the completion of the revised Parish Plan and Village Guide.

20.18 Date of the next meeting Tuesday 5th May 2009.

20.19 The Chairman closed the meeting to the Public and the Press at 9:07 p.m.