

Little Hadham Parish Council

Minutes of the twenty-second meeting of the Little Hadham Parish Council (2007 – 2011 Session) held on Tuesday 2nd June 2009 at 8.21 p.m. in the Village Hall, Little Hadham.

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

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

22.1 Public session.

A resident reported that the roundabout in the village hall playground was too stiff for children to use. Cllr Williamson said that it was a little easier to use than when first installed but he would contact the manufacturer.

22.2 Absent Cllr Fairchild [on holiday].

22.3 Declarations of interest. None.

22.4 Minutes of the Annual Council meeting and of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 5th May 2009 had been previously circulated. The minutes were agreed as accurate. Proposed by Cllr Mrs Piccolo and seconded by Cllr Purvis.

22.5 Matters arising from the Council minutes.

22.5.1 Vandalism at Ford House, The Ford. Cllr Williamson said that some of the paint had been removed from the barn.

22.5.2 Pharmacy in Much Hadham. Cllr Skidmore summarised a letter of objection sent by the Council [Appendix 1].

22.6 Police matters. Meeting with members of the local police team. Cllr Wilkinson said that the ‘Policing Pledge’ included a promise to respond more closely to local concerns. In particular police should be spending more time on the streets and less in the office. The police had reported an increase in thefts from garden sheds and garages though these had declined following interviews of a number of suspects.

22.7 Playgrounds

22.7.1 Recommendations following the annual playground inspections.

Cllr Williamson said that the new fence for the Ridgeway playground was available. He intended to organise a work party to install it.

22.7.2 The Clerk said that the Council had budgeted to have the village hall hedge cut twice a year. He asked if he should organise the first cut. It was agreed to defer the cut until the end of June to accommodate nesting birds. Cllr Mrs Piccolo was concerned about weeds and hedging obstructing the pavement between the village hall and the A120 traffic lights. This was a danger to children walking to and from school and for participants in the Fun Run. It was agreed that the Clerk would arrange for the bottom of the playground hedge to be strimmed and that he would contact the owners of the field north of the playground asking that their hedge be cut.

22.8 War memorial. Progress on the replacement of the war memorial surround wall. Cllr Mrs Piccolo said that the Council had been awarded a £1,000 O₂ grant towards the cost. Cllr Skidmore said that he had applied for an EHC Historic Buildings grant but the application would have to include some mention of cleaning the war memorial. He said that he was keen to have the memorial professionally chemically cleaned. This view was strongly objected to by Cllr Mrs Piccolo and the Clerk as they thought the cleaning would likely damage the memorial and that the weathered look was more in keeping with the conservation area. It was agreed to submit an application including mention of a gentle cleaning of the memorial. Cllr Williamson said that about £4,500 was available for the repair to the surround wall. He had received one quote that was far too much though another was for a more acceptable £3,500. This was for using concrete kerbs and he would obtain a new quote using granite kerbs. Cllr Williamson said that a third builder had said that Herts Highways would insist on £10 million public liability insurance cover and that this might cost several thousand pounds. Cllr Williamson said that he would make further enquiries.

22.9 Parish Plan.

22.9.1 Fun Run- Sunday 14th June 2009. From the floor Mr Mike Smith said that 55 people had signed up so far. An adult had to accompany each child. He said he was in discussions with the police about safety. Marshals would patrol the pavement near the A120 traffic lights. The police were still considering Ford Hill – they might park a police car at Cradle End in order to persuade drivers to slow down.

22.10 Chairman's report.

22.10.1 EHC Rural Parish Conference. 27th May 2009 at Standon and Puckeridge Community Centre. Cllr Skidmore and Cllr Mrs Piccolo read reports from the meeting [Appendix 2].

22.11 Clerk's Report

22.11.1 Financial statement

Period ending 2nd June 2009

Barclay's Bank C/Acc	£9,350.13
StepSaver BP Acc	£5.19
BP Acc	£169.86
Petty cash	-£5.71

Total **£9,519.47**

Included above

Received

EHC half precept	£6,750.00
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To be approved by the Council

To be paid

Mr B Evans	P/Clerk - (May)	£320.86	
	Exp (Apr)	£19.17	
	Float	£50.00	£390.03
Mrs K Green	Grass & bins (May)		£44.40
Miss A Windmill	Litter picking (May)		£97.53
Mower Services	Grass cutting March and April		£772.80
Herts Supplies	Office supplies		£21.82

Total payments **£1,326.58**

Total in all accounts and petty cash after payment of this month's bills £8,242.89

- 22.11.2** Proposed to accept payment of accounts. Agreed.
- 22.11.3** Proposed to accept the accuracy of the financial statement. Proposed Cllr Mrs Piccolo, seconded Cllr Purvis. Agreed.
- 22.11.4** The Clerk said that he had received the insurance documents for 2009/10 after payment of the premium. He asked if Cllrs Purvis and Williamson could check that the documents were in order and that the cover was sufficient. Agreed.
- 22.12 Democratic 10 minutes.**
The meeting closed at 9:20 p.m.
 A resident asked who owned the seat at Bury Green and the bus shelters around the parish as he would like to stain the seat and repair the bus shelter. Cllr Williamson said the Council owned them. He thanked Cllr Mrs Wilkinson for repairing the Westland Green seat. He asked the resident to liaise with him over any repairs.
The meeting reopened at 9:22p.m.
- 22.13 Planning matters.** The transactions of the Planning Committee were noted.
- 22.14 Correspondence.** The Clerk distributed items of correspondence to relevant members.
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| HAPTC newsletter | MF/AM | |
| SSE Newsletters | | MF |
| CPRE Fieldwork magazine | | MF |
| CPRE Herts Newsletter | | CP |
| Hansard Oliver Heald MP debate on local chalk streams | | MW |
- 22.15 Any other business.**
- 22.15.1** Cllr Mrs Piccolo reported that work appeared to have stopped for the third week on the cottages next to May Cottage, Cradle End. The original developers had appeared in court and been fined £2,000 with £11,000 costs for breaches of the planning laws. She understood that the case had cost the community about £90,000.
- 22.15.2** Cllr Morris said that BT had installed a new cable near the traffic lights on the A120. The carriageway had been very poorly reinstated and Herts Highways was in consultation with BT over the matter.
- 22.16 Date of the next meeting Tuesday 7th July 2009.**
- 22.17 The Chairman closed the meeting to the Public and the Press at 9:26 p.m.**

Appendix 1 Letter of objection to the application(s) to establish a Pharmacy in Much Hadham

This application(s) was discussed at the meeting of the Council on 5th May 2009. The Council objects to this application(s) on the following grounds:

1. It could threaten the provision of medical services to the residents of Little Hadham and the surrounding area. The majority of Little Hadham residents are registered with the GP practice based at the Much Hadham Health Centre, which has its own dispensary serving the needs of patients for prescription medication. The practice also provides an important branch surgery in Little Hadham Village Hall three days per week. Other branch surgeries are provided in Hunsdon three days a week, and at the St Elizabeth's Centre where a dispensary service is provided plus three surgery/consultation sessions a week. A new pharmacy in Much Hadham, likely to be within a one mile radius of the health centre, could result in a substantial reduction in dispensing revenue. This could lead to cuts in practice services, including branch surgeries, which are vitally important to Little Hadham and the other communities where they are located. Little Hadham is currently served by a patient focused, friendly and accessible service based in nearby Much Hadham, with a convenient branch surgery in Little Hadham three days a week. We do not want this level and quality of service to be put at risk.
2. There appears to be no evidence of need for a pharmacy in Much Hadham. We note the procedure for all new applications under the NHS (Pharmaceutical Services) Regulations 2005 include the following:

"Herts JPSC consider the application(s) – including the PCT's Pharmaceutical needs assessment for the area." We are not aware that there is a need for a pharmacy in Much Hadham or that the PCT has carried out a needs assessment.

" ... whether the granting of the application would prejudice the proper provision of primary medical services ... in the area"

Our view is that if a pharmacy were to be established in Much Hadham, this would affect the viability of the Much Hadham Health Centre and the branch service in Little Hadham, **putting our primary medical services at risk.**
3. A pharmacy in Much Hadham could have a knock-on affect on other vital village services in Little Hadham, in particular the village Post Office. This is housed in part of the branch surgery in the village hall. Post Office services in Little Hadham were recently reprieved under a government review. If, for economic reasons, the branch surgery were to close, the Post Office is likely to become unviable. The closure of the branch surgery and, with it, the Post Office would also threaten the viability of Little Hadham Village Hall, which relies on income from rental. The village hall is the centre of village life in Little Hadham.

In summary, a pharmacy in Much Hadham could harm primary medical services provided to the residents of Little Hadham and also have a knock-on effect that could affect the commercial viability of other vital community facilities.

Appendix 2 Reports on the EHC Rural Parish Conference

Cllr Skidmore

This was an all day Conference held at Standon and Puckeridge Community Centre. I attended the morning session and I will report on that.

Cllr Carmela Piccolo covered the afternoon session and will report separately on that.

- 1 There were 80 plus names on the attendees list, which included EHC officers and councillors
- 2 Rural Business Development – EEDA have European Commission funds £65M, to deliver benefits to rural businesses and communities in the East of England. EHC as part of a Local Area Group are bidding for £3M of that (market towns not included). This seems to be about reducing carbon footprint, encouraging farm diversification, converting waste to energy, rural tourism etc. ECO Villages?
I don't know if EHC are in touch with our local farmers.
- 3 Alternative Refuse Collection (ARC) - This is already booked for EHC Waste Services people to present this subject at our July LHPC meeting. I will pick out some key points, which I am sure will be covered in depth at the July presentation.
35% of EHC Household waste is recycled target is 50% - penalties if we don't meet?
Environmental impact of recycling – conserves resources, saves energy, reduces landfill.
New service includes brown bin composting.
New scheme goes live from 2nd Nov 09.
EHC will be building with PFI support a £15M treatment plant – Timing?
- 4 Local Development Framework (LDF) Update – this is a repeat of what we already know, the new LDF replacing local plan second review from about mid 2012/2013. EHC are required to build 660 new dwellings pa. Last year 554 were built.
Issues and Options consultation Spring 2010.
Call for sites deadline 12 June, I asked how many “sites” suggested, 50 so far. I may be able to get some information about sites in Little Hadham. I will follow up.
- 5 Sustainable Communities Act – Provides a channel for local people to ask the government to take specific actions which will promote the sustainability of local communities.
First round deadline end July 2009.
What councils and Communities might gain from the Act – raising issues, an opportunity to lobby and remove barriers to sustainability and well being, etc.
More info available; www.communities.gov.uk.
- 6 Parish Charter for East Herts/Better ways of working Parish/District Council.
A lot of discussion including working in groups. The general view seemed to be that we didn't want a Parish Charter – another layer between us (PCs) and the district council?
The feeling emerging from the group was:
 - Communication and consultation – interesting that not everyone is on the email system, including some Parish Clerks!
 - District Councillors to be involved with the Parish Councils in their areas.
 - Hold workshops with EHC, like the one we LHPC had with development control. EHC will “work up an action plan” on this.

Cllr Mrs Piccolo

I attended the afternoon slot. I enjoyed the conference and would recommend the occasion to colleagues.

1. Award of EHC Village Hall Challenge 2009 went to Bennington the prize was £4,000.
2. Environmental Quality – This was arranged as an interactive workshop centred on the visual aspects of different areas of East Herts. Most people agreed that East Herts is an above average place to live however there were some aspects which could do with improvement; graffiti, abandoned vehicles, litter, road dirt, fly tipping, appearance of verges, road repairs, street furniture, etc. The group had to come up with ideas on how such problems could be tackled. From our replies EHC would compile results and endeavour to put things right.
3. Tackling Rural Crime with Technology – Our friend Cllr David Kitching gave a talk on RIGS the pager alert scheme. He said that thankfully East Herts still enjoyed a low crime rate however the continued use of RIGS was proving very worthwhile. Pagers are given to ordinary members of the public, they in turn use them to page other RIGS users and alert them to suspicious behaviour witnessed in their locality. Police act upon these alerts and are able to on occasion successfully apprehend suspects and prosecute them. So all in all a worthwhile system. By the way I now have a pager!
4. The Arts in East Herts – This was a presentation given by a beautiful young lady called Lucy Shaw (Arts Development Office EHC). The presentation was centred on performing arts amongst EH youngsters called Inspirational Arts. There were three teenagers at the meeting who each gave an explanation of how much this venture was helping them with their interest in performing arts. One young lady sang a chart topping song (solo, bless her), which was enjoyed very much by the audience. I think I might refer to Lucy Shaw should an occasion arise where I think we could use some performing arts guidance.
5. Out 2 Play – Gave a speech highlighting their work in the villages and towns in EH. Their Out 2 Play team have proved to be a great success. This is a group which offers FREE games and sports activities to youngsters aged 8-11 during half term and summer holidays. They have visited LH and continue to do so. I have and shall continue to promote this very worthwhile activity.
6. Mobile Meeting Place – This could be one for the future for us – Bernie Talbot (HCC District Manager Integrated Youth Support Services) is the gentleman who runs this scheme. It centres on a double decker bus, which turns up at an arranged locality and entertains teenagers 11-19. It sounds like an interesting project – covering everything from board games to sexual health. I am going to include this particular scheme in the survey next month to see if there is a need in LH. I had a chat with Bernie and he is more than happy to visit LH.