

Little Hadham Parish Council

Minutes of the twenty-fifth meeting of the Little Hadham Parish Council (2007 – 2011 Session) held on Tuesday 6th October 2009 at 8.37 p.m. in the Village Hall, Little Hadham.

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| Present: | Mr M Fairchild | Chairman |
| | Mr A Morris |) |
| | Mrs C Piccolo |) Councillors |
| | Mr J Purvis |) |
| | Mr T Skidmore |) |

Mr B Evans – Clerk, and 6 members of the public.

25.1 Public session.

Two residents supported the cleaning of the war memorial and offered to make a contribution.

A resident complained of some boarding erected by developers working next to her home. She asked if the Council could contact the planning office. The Clerk advised that it would not be reasonable without discussing the matter with the owner. The Chairman said that he would talk to the owner.

25.2 Absent. Cllr Mrs Wilkinson [attending a police meeting on behalf of the Council] and Cllr Williamson [holiday].

25.3 Declarations of interest. None.

25.4 Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 1st September 2009 had been previously circulated. The minutes were agreed as accurate. Proposed by Cllr Mrs Piccolo and seconded by Cllr Morris.

25.5 Matters arising from the Council minutes. None.

25.6 Road matters

25.6.1 Cllr Morris said that there was some concern that the culverts near the traffic lights might be blocked. He said he would contact Herts Highways.

25.6.2 Referring to an article in The Observer and a letter from Oliver Heald MP, Cllr Morris said that funding for the bypass was still not in place. The East of England Authority had allocated all its available funding for transport developments. Herts CC was continuing to prepare its detailed business plan so that it would be ready should any funding for small schemes come available.

25.6.3 The Chairman noted that a post outside the Nag's Head had been knocked over again.

25.6.4 The Chairman said that the willow trees, between the river and the bridle path near the road bridge over the river at the Ford, were in need of trimming. It appeared that no one owned the land. The Clerk said that the Environment Agency would clear any trees that fell into the river while Herts CC would trim any trees that were a danger to people using the bridle path. The Chairman said that he would continue to monitor the situation.

25.6.5 War memorial.

25.6.6 Repairs to the surround wall. The Chairman said that repairs to the wall had been completed resulting in the much improved appearance of the memorial.

25.6.7 Refurbishment of the war memorial. Cllr Skidmore said that there had been two responses to the consultation on whether the memorial should be cleaned. One was in favour and offered to make a contribution. The other, from the relative of a person named on the memorial, was generally neutral on whether it should be cleaned.

He proposed: The Council should seek funding for cleaning the war memorial including the use of pressure washing and chemicals for cleaning and sterilizing. Cllr Mrs Piccolo said that she was against cleaning though she realised she was in a minority. It was agreed in principle that the memorial should be cleaned. Cllr Skidmore was to obtain a second quotation and to continue to seek funding.

25.7 Parish Plan.

25.7.1 The Chairman invited all present to the barn dance on 24th October 2009 - £10 a ticket.

25.8 Stansted Airport The Chairman noted that passenger numbers in August were down 8% on the previous year. He offered SSE Christmas cards and calendars for sale.

25.9 Chairman's report.

25.9.1 The Chairman reported that John Baker of Ford Hill had died on the 8th October.

25.9.2 Police matters. Reporting on a meeting with local police, the Chairman said that Insp Kennedy was keen for residents to know that local police would be stepping up local patrols – particularly involving speeding on the parish roads. The Chairman said that he had raised the matter that few people knew when the Bishop's Stortford police station was open. The police would try to publish the times more widely. Cllr Mrs Wilkinson was attending a meeting with the local PCSOs instead of the Council meeting. The Chairman noted that crime rates were generally low in the parish though there had been a slight increase in thefts from outbuildings.

25.9.3 EHC emergency planning workshop. The Chairman thought someone from the Council should attend the workshop on either 2nd or 8th November 2009.

25.9.4 Council Business Plan. The Chairman said he had received a number of responses to the draft plan and he would present the final version for acceptance at the November meeting.

25.9.5 Car sharing. The Chairman said that Cllr Mrs Wilkinson had attended a meeting on car sharing. HCC was sponsoring a scheme in which there would be a number for potential drivers and passengers to ring. Drivers would be paid 10p/mile.

25.9.6 Public consultation on the East of England Plan to 2031. Cllr Morris said that he had attended a consultation meeting in Stevenage. The current plan was to run to 2021 and the plan to 2031 was being prepared. The East of England covered a very wide area – ½ million homes were planned to be built by 2031. Cllr Morris said that anyone, including the Council, could respond to the consultation. The Chairman said that the Council could seek advice from Cllr Tindale, Cllr Carver and Mr Oliver Heald MP. He would include guidelines in the Parish News to help residents respond. Cllr Morris agreed to draft the guidelines.

25.9.7 Clerk's Report**25.9.8 Financial statement****Period ending 6th October 2009**

| | | |
|----------------------|--------------|-------------------|
| Barclay's Bank C/Acc | | £15,297.01 |
| StepSaver BP Acc | | £5.19 |
| BP Acc | | £169.90 |
| Petty cash | | £17.21 |
| | Total | £15,489.31 |

Included above**Received**

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| EDF Energy - wayleave Received 14/9/09 | | £6.17 |
| EHC - Second half Received 25/9/09 precept | | £6,793.71 |

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| Uncleared cheque | £200 donation to Young Ones | £200.00 |
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To be approved by the Council**To be paid**

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| Mr B Evans | P/Clerk - (September) | £311.74 | |
| | Exp (September) | £19.20 | £330.94 |
| Mrs K Green | Grass & bins (September) | | £44.40 |
| Miss A Windmill | Litter picking (September) | | £97.53 |
| Mower Services | Grass cutting September | | £257.60 |
| HM Revenue & Customs | PAYE | | £148.80 |
| EHC | Allotment rent | | £20.00 |
| CPRE | Annual subscription | | £29.00 |
| George Folly Builder | War memorial repairs | | £2,532.00 |

Total payments £3,460.27

Total in all accounts and petty cash after payment of this month's bills £11,829.04

25.9.9 Proposed to accept payment of accounts. Agreed.

25.9.10 Proposed to accept the accuracy of the financial statement. Proposed Cllr Morris, seconded Cllr Skidmore. Agreed.

25.9.11 The Clerk said that the Council owned a redundant printer. The printer was over two years old though little used. He proposed that it be sold to the Chairman for £30. Agreed.

25.10 Democratic 10 minutes.

A resident said that the Council should use some of the money given as donations to pay for the war memorial cleaning. He thought the Council should organise a door-to-door collection, as he was sure that many residents would want to donate.

A resident said that few people knew the opening times of the Bishop's Stortford police station. On some days it was closed. The phone near the station door connected you to Welwyn.

A resident reported that Mr Earnest Hounsell of The Ridgeway had recently died aged 98. The Ridgeway residents were making a collection for a bench in his memory. They asked the Council to make donation of about £30 to pay for a plaque. The Chairman said there might be issues with setting a precedent but he thought the Council should agree in principle and asked that a quotation be presented for the November meeting.

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

- 25.12 Correspondence.** The Clerk distributed items of correspondence to relevant members.
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| NHS Consultation on merger of Primary Care Trusts | TS |
| SSE Newsletter | MF |
| HAPTC newsletter | MF/AM |
| CPRE Herts Yearbook | MF |
| LCR magazine | MF |
- 25.13 Any other business.**
- 25.14 Date of the next meeting Tuesday 3rd November 2009.**
- 25.15 The Chairman closed the meeting to the Public and the Press at 9:30 p.m.**