

Little Hadham Parish Council

Minutes of the twenty-seventh meeting of the Little Hadham Parish Council (2007 – 2011 Session) held on Tuesday 3rd November 2009 at 8.25 p.m. in the Village Hall, Little Hadham.

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

Mr B Evans – Clerk, and 17 members of the public.

27.1 Public session.

Mr Jonathon Forgeham spoke of the bio-diversity survey of the parish he had been conducting for the Parish Plan. The survey was near complete after two years work and he was investigating ways of funding its publication. He expected to print 200 copies of a 60 to 80 page booklet. He had applied to the Stansted Community Trust and he hoped to hear by mid-April 2010 whether they would give a matched funding grant toward the £600 cost. He said that he would be approaching the community for the second half of the cost.

The Chairman mentioned the red phone boxes and said that there had been little response to the Parish News request for ideas of how they might be used. Mr Forgeham suggested they might be used for swapping surplus garden produce.

27.2 Absent. None.

27.3 Declarations of interest. None.

27.4 Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 3rd November 2009 had been previously circulated. The minutes were agreed as accurate. Proposed by Cllr Williamson and seconded by Cllr Purvis.

27.5 Election of new Council Chairman and Vice Chairman and the Chairman of the Planning Committee.

The Chairman proposed that Cllr Morris be elected as Chairman, Cllr Purvis as Vice Chairman and Cllr Mrs Piccolo as Chairman of the Planning Committee. Seconded by Cllr Skidmore. Agreed. It was agreed that the new posts should come into effect after the meeting. The Chairman said that the resignations of himself and Cllr Skidmore would leave two vacancies. He said the Mr Jonathon Forgeham has expressed an interest in being considered and that Cllr Skidmore was in contact with another possible candidate at Hadham Hall. The Clerk said that the Council had to display a notice inviting residents to request an election. If no requests were received within the statutory period the Council needed to advertise for residents willing to be considered for co-option. Councillors would then chose replacement councillors by a secret ballot.

Action
BE

27.6 Road matters. List of outstanding repairs. Cllr Purvis said that he had not yet received the details of outstanding road repairs from Cllr Morris. He noted that during the recent heavy rain there had been considerable flooding on the A120 between Hadham Hall and the Tesco roundabout.

Action
AM JP

- 27.7 Bus shelters.** Plans for repair and maintenance. Cllr Williamson said that the bus shelters near the A120 traffic lights and the Nag's Head pub were in need of repair. Cllr Skidmore said that the budget to be proposed later in the meeting included some funds for repairs. It was proposed that the Clerk should obtain a quotation for the repairs. Action
BE
- 27.8 Donations for the war memorial cleaning.** Cllr Skidmore reported that the war memorial had been cleaned in time for the Remembrance Day service. He noted that parishioners' generosity had left a surplus in the fund to pay for the cleaning. He proposed that the surplus be donated to the Royal British Legion. Agreed. Action
BE
- 27.9 EHC Emergency Planning seminar.** Cllr Morris reported a seminar held by EHC asking the question 'what would the Parish Council do if there were a major incident in the parish?' He had been given an Emergency Plan template to complete though this would not be legally binding. Cllr Morris agreed to complete the form in consultation with EHC. The Chairman said that the Council would more likely to be involved in what happened after a major incident rather than during it. He thought a parish wide email system would be a good idea. He proposed that plans for such a system be considered at the February meeting. Agreed. Action
AM
- 27.10 Waste disposal**
- 27.10.1 HCC Waste Core Strategy and Development Policies Consultation.** Cllrs Mrs Piccolo and Mrs Wilkinson agreed to study the documentation and circulate a proposed response to the consultation. Action
MW CP
- 27.10.2 Proposed plans for a BIFFA waste incinerator at Westmill.** Cllr Mrs Wilkinson reported on an email from the 'Burning Issues Group' who were campaigning against a possible waste incinerator at Westmill near the parish. Cllr Mrs Wilkinson said that burning the waste would produce useful electricity and would restrict the quantity of waste going to landfill. She said that modern incinerators removed dangerous pollutants. She proposed that the Council take no further action. Agreed.
- 27.11 Red telephone kiosks.** Possible adoption. Cllr Williamson thought that there was a strong case for adopting the kiosks – a show of hands among the members of the public present showed near unanimous support. Cllr Williamson said he needed a little more time to consider alternatives. He asked for volunteers from the public to help prepare a plan for the use and maintenance of the kiosks. Cllr Mrs Wilkinson was afraid that the kiosks would become derelict. Cllr Skidmore said the Council had many, more important things to do. The Chairman proposed that Cllr Williamson put together a proposal to circulate to councillors before the January 2nd 2010 deadline and that the Clerk was to make a decision on the adoption based on councillors' comments. Agreed. Action
GW BE
- 27.12 Police matters.** Cllr Mrs Wilkinson detailed the opening times for the Bishop's Stortford police station and said they would be published in the Parish News. She said that the percentage of reported offences listed as 'no further action' was 8.7% in 2006, 7.7% in 2007 and 5.4% in 2008. Action
MW
- 27.13 Parish Plan.** The Chairman said that the Parish Plan Group was working on plans for the future.
- 27.14 Stansted Airport** The Chairman said there was little new to report except that passenger numbers continued to decline.

27.15 Chairman's report.

27.15.1 Council Business Plan. The Chairman urged the Council to keep the Business Plan up to date. In particular he hoped that the local Business Fair would be held as it would give a platform for local businesses to make their work known. The Fair would be an opportunity to create a Parish Business Directory.

27.16 Clerk's Report**27.16.1 Financial statement****Period ending 1st December 2009**

Barclay's Bank C/Acc		£11,145.93
StepSaver BP Acc		£5.19
BP Acc		£169.90
Petty cash		£44.51
	Total	£11,365.53

Included above**Received**

Memorial donations		£325.00
Sale of fence and bin to Mr M Fairchild		£20.00

Uncleared cheque

Little Hadham PCC	Graveyard maintenance		£250.00
-------------------	-----------------------	--	---------

To be approved by the Council**Received**

Mr J Jordan	Memorial donation		£100.00
-------------	-------------------	--	---------

To be paid

Mr B Evans	P/Clerk - (Nov & Dec)	£750.32	
	Exp (Nov & Dec)	£43.21	£793.53
Mrs K Green	Grass & bins (Nov & Dec)		£88.80
Miss A Windmill	Litter picking (Nov & Dec)		£195.06
SSE	Donation		£100.00
J Day & Son - War memorial	Cleaning		£523.25
Mrs T Northcote - plaque in memory late Mr E Hounsell			£25.00
SLCC - annual subscription			£95.00
PAYE			£265.60
Parish Plan Group	Part refund of donation		£75.00
Mr M Fairchild	Printing Business Plan		£19.64
	Total payments		£2,180.88

Total in all accounts and petty cash after payment of this month's bills £9,034.65

27.16.2 Proposed to accept payment of accounts. Agreed.

27.16.3 Proposed to accept the accuracy of the financial statement. Proposed Cllr Williamson, seconded Cllr Mrs Piccolo. Agreed.

27.16.4 Budget for 2010/11 The Chairman proposed that the budget that had been agreed by the Council working party and circulated to councillors be adopted for the financial year 2010/11. Agreed.

27.16.5 Precept for 2010/11. The Chairman proposed that the Council set a precept for the financial year 2010/11 of £13,500 which was unchanged from the precept for the year 2009/10. Agreed. The official precept request document was signed ready to be sent to EHC.

Action
BE

27.16.6 Clerk's salary. The Chairman said that the method for calculating the Clerk's salary had changed about three years ago though the old system had been mistakenly continued to be used. He proposed that the Clerk be paid for 8 hours per week on Spinal Point 24 to which should be added the 5% bonus awarded from April 2009. This would result in an increase of £60.86 p.a. which the Chairman said should be back dated for two years. Agreed.

27.16.7 Signatories for Council cheques. Cllr Morris and Cllr Mrs Piccolo agreed to act as signatories in place of Cllrs Fairchild and Skidmore. Cllr Williamson would continue as a signatory. Any two of the three councillors were needed to sign Council cheques.

27.17 Democratic 10 minutes.

A resident reported a pothole, in which exposed wires could be seen, on the C15 near the traffic lights. Cllr Morris said that he would report it.

A resident thanked Cllrs Fairchild and Skidmore for looking after the parish in their time on the Council – a sentiment with which all present concurred.

The Chairman thanked parishioners for their support during his time on the Council.

Action
AM

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

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

CPRE Herts Newsletter

CP

SSE newsletters

MF

Clerk's and Council's Direct magazine

AM

27.20 Any other business.

27.20.1 Cllr Morris presented engraved tankards to Cllrs Fairchild and Skidmore in thanks for all their time and work for the Council and Cllr Mrs Piccolo presented flowers to Mrs Pat Fairchild in thanks for all her work for the Council.

27.21 Date of the next meeting Tuesday 2nd February 2010.

27.22 The Chairman closed the meeting to the Public and the Press at 9:38 p.m.