

Little Hadham Parish Council

Minutes of the Thirty-first meeting of the Little Hadham Parish Council (2007 – 2011 Session) held on Tuesday 4th May 2010 at 8.53 p.m. in the Village Hall, Little Hadham.

Present: **Mr A Morris** **Chairman**
 Mr J Forgham **)**
 Mr R Gregory **)**
 Mrs C Piccolo **) Councillors**
 Mrs M Wilkinson **)**
 Mr G Williamson **)**

Mr B Evans – Clerk, and 7 members of the public.

31.1 Public session.

There were no questions or comments on agenda items.

31.2 Absent. Cllr Purvis [family matter].

31.3 Declarations of interest. None.

31.4 Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 6th April 2010 had been previously circulated. The minutes were agreed as accurate. Proposed by Cllr Mrs Piccolo and seconded by Cllr Williamson.

31.5 Matters arising from the minutes

31.5.1 Westland Green noticeboard. Cllr Williamson said that the noticeboard was now in place.

31.5.2 Verges damaged by builders at Bury Green. Cllr Mrs Piccolo had spoken to the site manager who assured her that the verge would be repaired when the work was completed in about four weeks time.

Action
CP

31.6 Playgrounds.

31.6.1 Plans for addressing the matters raised by the inspection report.

Cllr Williamson referred to his email circulated to councillors in which repairs had been listed. The old goal post hole had been filled in and he had fitted blocks of wood to remove the finger trap danger at the gates. He would make the other repairs as time allowed.

Action
GW

31.6.2 Ridgeway playground seesaw – should it be repaired? Cllr Williamson said that the basic structure of the seesaw was sound though the wooden beam was badly rotten. He said that he would take advice from Mr Trevor Waldock at EHC as to whether it could be safely repaired.

Action
GW

31.7 Road matters.

31.7.1 List of outstanding repairs. The Chairman reminded councillors and residents of the need to report potholes.

31.7.2 Status of the bypass. The Chairman summarised the report from Herts Highways. [Appendix 1]. He said that HCC was not spending scarce resources on the bypass as there was no realistic prospect of funding in the near future.

31.8 Bury Green wedding. Cllr Mrs Piccolo said that the couple had agreed to pay a deposit to the Council and to take out third party insurance. The wedding would be advertised in the June Parish News.

Action
CP

31.9 Arrangements for the use and maintenance of the telephone kiosks.

Cllr Forgham said that the Bury Green kiosk had been painted. Replacement of the windows would be part of the maintenance plan. Shelves would have to be installed so that the kiosk could be used as a book exchange.

Action
JF

31.10 Parish Plan Group

31.10.1 Cllr Forgham said that a Fun Run was being organised for Sunday 13th June 2010. The run would be followed by a Fun Day to be held at the village hall playground. Cllr Forgham said that he was in consultation with Mrs Stockley, Head of the village school, about the display of children's artwork in the kiosks and the creation of fliers for the Fun Run. An orienteering event was still being planned as was a nature trail for the new parcel of land for the school.

Action
JF

31.11 Chairman's report.

31.11.1 Parish Assembly Thursday 22nd April 2010. The Chairman said that the assembly had been very successful – almost 100 residents had attended. He thanked Cllr Mrs Piccolo and the Clerk for their efforts.

31.11.2 Council Business Plan. The Chairman said that the Council needed to consider its future plans. He proposed that the Council have an informal meeting – perhaps for half an hour before a Council meeting.

Action
AM

31.11.3 Clerk's Report**31.11.4 Financial statement****Period ending 4th May 2010**

Barclay's Bank C/Acc		£6,470.95
StepSaver BP Acc		£5.19
BP Acc		£169.94
Petty cash		£43.20
	Total	£6,689.28

To be paid

Mr B Evans	P/Clerk - (Apr)	£315.81	
	Exp (Apr)	£20.40	£336.21
Mrs K Green	Grass cutting and bins		£44.40
Miss A Windmill	Litter picking (Apr)		£97.53
Mower Services	1 cut Mar; 2 cuts Apr		£426.53
Little Hadham Village Hall	Hall rent	£33.74	
	PO fire extinguisher	£64.63	£98.37
Herts CC	Office supplies		£17.68
Mrs C Piccolo	Assembly refreshments		£92.09
	Total payments		£1,112.81

Total in all accounts and petty cash after payment of this month's bills £5,576.47

31.11.5 Proposed to accept payment of accounts. Agreed.

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

31.11.7 Proposed to accept the financial statement for the financial year 2009/10. Agreed.

31.11.8 Insurance. Propose: to accept the insurance proposal from Aviva for £982.29 for the year 2010/11. Cllr Mrs Wilkinson asked that an alternative quote be obtained from NFU Mutual. Agreed.

Action
Clerk

31.11.9 Request for payment of £55 [inc VAT] for a fire extinguisher for the village hall post office. The Council agreed to make the payment.

31.12 Democratic 10 minutes.

There were no questions or comments.

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

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

HAPTC newsletter

AM/CP

NALC LCR magazine

AM

CPRE Fieldwork magazine

CP

SSE newsletter

RG

31.15 Any other business.

31.15.1 Cllr Forgham reported that children had told him the roundabout was very stiff. Cllr Williamson said that this was being taken up with the manufacturers.

Action
GW

31.15.2 Cllr Williamson asked who was responsible for clearing scrub from Westland Green. The Clerk said that the Council rented the common land.

31.16 Date of the next meeting Tuesday 1st June 2010.

31.17 The Chairman closed the meeting to the Public and the Press at 9:20 p.m.

Appendix 1 – A120 Little Hadham Bypass – Update April 2010

Introduction

The County Council is continuing in its development of a bypass for Little Hadham on the A120, based on the preferred route (endorsed by Cabinet in June 2008).

The current economic climate and resultant pressures on public expenditure mean that the likelihood of Government funding for the project in the shorter term are not great. This and other funding opportunities are discussed in more detail below.

Progress over 2009/10

The scheme remains a priority Major Project for the County Council in order to address the congestion issues on this important principal route and to improve the environment for the residents of Little Hadham.

Investment in project is continuing. Expenditure is currently focussed on the key elements of the design that have the highest probability of remaining unchanged over time. Thus, elements such as the general vertical and horizontal alignment of the bypass, outline design of structures, junctions and the like, and gathering of survey data such as geological and topographic information can all be progressed to maintain momentum on the project.

Areas such as traffic modelling and environmental surveys need more careful consideration before funding is invested. The information they provide is required both for the design development and for the completion of a Major Scheme Business Case (MSBC) for eventual submission to Department for Transport to secure funding.

DfT generally are only willing to accept submission of a MSBC when the project has a likelihood of being funded and implemented within 3 years of submission. At present, preparation of a full and final MSBC is not appropriate, as DfT would simply not accept the submission without a clear method of funding, be that via Government or other opportunities.

Information within the MSBC needs to be accurate and relevant to the time of submission, So we will wait to do the necessary detailed traffic and environmental surveys until nearer the time.

Update on Design Development Works (for the Year 09/10)

Much of the base environmental assessment has been carried out, or data collected. There has been a 'walkover' survey of possible wildlife habitats. This helps identify the potential of the area for wildlife, and will be followed in by a full ecological survey nearer the time of MSBC submission.

An archaeological desk study has been carried out and the next step will be a site investigation along the route. The County Council will review the urgency of this work against the overall programme for the project - this survey could potentially be undertaken in 2010/11, dependant on both the funding available for the project and the anticipated overall timescale for its potential construction. Should this survey be progressed, all relevant land owners will be contacted well in advance for discussions to plan any survey work.

A preliminary soil survey has been completed, and as with archaeology, a full geotechnical study will be required in due course and is the next step in the process.

Indicative designs have been completed for the structures. The exact size and precise location of the structures could be influenced by the Environment Agency's (EA's) flood alleviation scheme and the detailed traffic modelling for the scheme. As the regional traffic model comes available in 2010/11, more detailed design of junctions and structures can be considered.

The design of flood control measures is ongoing, with HCC liaising with the EA on these issues. The EA have supplied retention levels and the road alignment design has been developed to enable the road to sit on embankment at the appropriate level.

There is an ongoing consultation with the HCC Rights of Way Unit to establish footpath and bridleway diversions and if any additional links will be feasible.

Funding & Programme

As previously reported, funding for the bypass is planned from two principal sources - Regional Funding Allocation and Developer Contributions.

Regional Funding Allocation

In the update given in April 2009, it was noted that due to limited funds from Government no new schemes were added to the programme regionally in early 2009. The Region had proposed setting up a Challenge Fund for smaller scale schemes and it was possible that a bid for Little Hadham Bypass could be made from that fund if and when it was finally agreed

The economic situation is altered considerably even from April 2009, and there are now even greater pressures on Government funding nationally.

This means that even the previously identified Regional Funding Programme for infrastructure schemes is now under review. Little Hadham bypass did not have a significant level of priority in that programme, and hence funding opportunity through this route has now decreased further.

The pressures on funding also mean that proposed 'Challenge Fund' has yet to be developed.

The DfT have indicated that, looking ahead, there is a need to think more broadly about options for the period to 2019 and beyond, and have set out their current thinking regarding transport provision in the UK in a document entitled "Delivering a Sustainable Transport System" (DaSTS).

This document outlines five goals for transport, focusing on the challenge of delivering strong economic growth while at the same time reducing greenhouse gas emissions. It discusses the difficulties of planning over the long term in the context of uncertain future demand. It does bring to the fore measures that encourage modal shift to public transport, cycling and walking in the context that these are likely to make a positive contribution to economic growth (by tackling congestion), reducing greenhouse gas emissions and enhancing the local environment, as well as improving public and personal health.

Given the DfT comments regarding DaSTS, it is clear that the development of the Little Hadham scheme will need to carefully consider how well it can deliver against the DaSTS criteria if it is to successful bid for government funding in some form in the future.

Developer Contributions

In the April 2009 update, it was reported that contributions toward improvements at Little Hadham have been sought from BAA in relation to the impact of the expansion of Stansted Airport. The planning obligations for the G1 proposals include a contribution of £250,000 towards the cost of the bypass.

In the planning application for the G2 (second runway) proposals BAA accept that the proposals will have an impact at Little Hadham and had agreed to discuss appropriate mitigation measures with the County Council. County Council Members have asked officers to seek a contribution towards the bypass from BAA and discussions with BAA were planned but they have been delayed by the delay in the programme for the G2 proposals. Indeed, there is now increased uncertainty over the timescale for the development of a second runway

at Stansted, and thus the potential for funding opportunity toward the scheme from this arena is currently uncertain.

These current difficulties in relation to identifying and securing funding do not lessen the County Council's commitment to the project. Opportunities continue to be taken to ensure that the scheme has the highest profile in the appropriate forums, be that the Regional Assembly, with DfT or through other government sources.

Development of the project continues to ensue that as and when opportunities for funding are identified or arise, the scheme is sufficiently advanced and has the appropriate level of relevant and current information to ensure that it can be brought forward rapidly to secure the funding opportunity.

R J Boutal

On behalf of HCC Major Projects

April 2010