

Little Hadham Parish Council

Minutes of the 117th meeting of the Annual Parish Assembly held on Thursday 21st April 2011 at 7:30pm in the Village Hall, Little Hadham.

Present: **Mr A Morris** **Chairman**
 Mr J Forgham **)**
 Mrs C Piccolo **) Councillors**
 Mr J Purvis **)**
 Mr G Williamson **)**

Mr B Evans – Clerk, and 66 members of the public.

1. Apologies None

2. Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 27th April 2010 having been previously agreed and signed by the Parish Council, were placed on the Chairman’s Table for examination by anyone present.

3. Review of the Year: Cllr Andy Morris, Chairman of the Parish Council

The chairman introduced the members of the Council.

He said that it had been a busy year – in particular the Council had responded to many consultation documents. The EHC Local Development Framework – Issues & Options Strategy concerned future housing needs in East Herts in particular as population/housing demands grew. Later this year, he said, we would hear of how many and just where local future housing would be built when EHC launched yet another consultation on the subject. The Chairman said that it had been a busy year with Planning Applications – the Council had considered between 50-60 planning applications – most straight forward but some needing more deliberation including the demolition of the garage on Stortford Road with the land to be developed for in-fill housing. There had also the planning application to change the use of the chapel hall, Chapel Lane to residential in order to house a pastor.

Ashcroft Farm housing development was completed in Sept 2010 – the two affordable houses were occupied almost immediately upon completion. Of the three market value homes one has been sold and two remained on the market.

The Chairman reminded residents that damage to roads should be reported to Hertfordshire highways.

The Council ensured that the playground equipment at Village hall and Ridgeway were maintained and the Council notice board at the entrance to the village hall had been refurbished – only costing the council for materials thanks to the kindness of one parishioner. The War Memorial had been repaired in November following major damage caused when a lorry destroyed one of the brickwork corners. The repairs were carried out by volunteers just ahead of Remembrance Sunday.

The Chairman said that the wedding on the Green at Bury Green had passed off without a hitch in July 2010 – even the weather held out for the happy couple.

The Council had supported the on-going opposition to a proposed traveller site on Millfield Lane. Speaking about Stansted Airport the Chairman said that all main political parties were now saying no to a second runway. The bypass route had been approved and the project was waiting government funding. The Chairman said that, as Regional Assemblies had been abolished, the bypass was a high priority for Hertfordshire.

The Chairman said that the Council was looking for ways to stop the damage to Westland Green caused by ‘off roaders’.

4. **Financial report: Bev Evans, Clerk, Parish Council** [Appendix 1].
5. **Local charities: Richard Beckett, Trustee, Little Hadham Charity** reported on how monies from the local charities had been distributed. The charity had three trustees – Mr Colin Brookbanks, Mrs Eileen Booth and Mr Beckett – Mrs Clayton had stood down after many year’s service. At Christmas, £40 each had been distributed to 27 local residents.
6. **Policing in Little Hadham:** Insp Chris Hunt, introduced the local police team - Sgt Duncan Wallace, PC Tracey Fegan, PCSO Francis Higgins and Specials Sgt Gemma Andrews. He said that East Herts was one of the safest places to live in England – it was the second nicest to live. There had been a 7% reduction in crime.
In Little Hadham there had been 4 dwelling burglaries and a number of thefts of catalytic converters – mainly from vans. There had also been thefts of metals, mainly cable and gullies, and some theft of diesel fuel.
Insp Hunt said that the police encouraged the use of a vehicle speed indicator that could be used by local people to help educate people about excessive speed. He said that the police had made speed checks on the A120 resulting in some drivers gaining 3 points on their licence as well as a £45 fine.
Insp Hunt spoke about Operation Agrarian – operated in co-operation with Cambridgeshire and Essex police. This was aimed at deterring suspect vehicles from entering rural areas. Answering questions, Insp Hunt said that he would investigate vehicle speed at the southern end of the village. He said that a safe place had to be found for the officer to stand to use the speed gun although it was possible to measure traffic speed using rubber strips across the road.
Ms Jill Dockley spoke about Neighbourhood Watch. She thanked people for their help and encouraged residents to report suspicious behaviour using the non-urgent police number.
7. **Parish Plan Group.** Mr Mike Smith said that the Group was looking for ideas for parish events and invited anyone interested to join.
Mr Smith showed the accounts for the previous two years [appendix 2]. He said that £750 had been donated to CazFest. Mr Smith noted that the Group ended 2010 with £2,500 compared with £98 the previous year.
Mr Smith said that the Fun Run would be part of a Fun day with afternoon events organised by local organisations, including the Gardening and Social clubs, who would be allowed to keep any profits made.
8. **Biodiversity Survey.** Mr Jonathan Forgham said that the survey had been published using a grant from the Lottery Fund. Copies were on sale for £8 each and he hoped that it would generate a profit of £700 to £800 for the Parish Plan Group.
Mr Forgham said that he was a cricket coach and he would be running a 12 week junior training course from 8th May 2011. He hoped to organise friendly matches with teams from Bishop’s Stortford and Sawbridgeworth.
9. **Little Hadham Conservation Society – Mr Don Gibson.** Mr Gibson said that he had been Chair of the society for four years. The society had been concerned with gypsy and traveller sites proposed for the parish. He noted that Basildon Council planned to remove 56 travellers from an unauthorised site on green belt land.
The EERA had proposed 15 sites for East Herts – later increased to 20. The new government had scrapped the EERA together with the planned traveller sites. Local councils were now required to create sites based on need and historic demand. He thought that EHC was unofficially making slow progress. There would be no consultation until 2012 and any extra pitches were likely to be created at existing sites.
Speaking of the site at Dale Farm, Basildon Mr Gibson said the site had about 1,000 residents who had used delaying tactics to avoid eviction. Basildon Council had put aside £2,000,000 to pay for the eviction and the government had pledged £1,200,000. He thought the question was, where would the evicted families go? There was no clear idea of what

would happen if the travellers chose to set up camp in East Herts.

From the floor a resident said she had heard that plans for the site on Millfield Lane were still progressing. Another resident was concerned that the owners of a redundant quarry on the road to Much Hadham had suggested they might let the site to travellers.

10. To close the meeting. The Chairman said that the Council would have to co-opt three councillors as only four names had been nominated for the election. The Chairman thanked Cllr Mrs Piccolo, the Clerk and their many helpers for organising the Assembly and setting up the displays.

He closed the meeting at 8:29 p.m.

Appendix 1 Parish Clerk's report – Mr Bev Evans

The Parish Precept for 2010/11 was £13,500 – unchanged from 2009/10. The precept for the current year is again unchanged at £13,500. As the number of homes in the parish has increased, the money paid to the parish by each council taxpayer has slightly fallen.

A detailed breakdown of the accounts is shown over the page and the Council's books will be available for inspection later this year.

At the close of business on 5th April 2011, the end of our financial year, the Parish Council had £9,034.45 in its Bank Accounts and petty cash. This surplus has enabled the Council to keep the precept unchanged and will allow the Council to make a number of outstanding repairs and improvements around the parish.

Our litter picker for several years, Miss Mandy Windmill left us in October and the Council thanks her for her hard work. Our new litter picker is Mr Adam Purvis – I'm sure you will want to greet Adam when you see him at work around the parish. East Herts Council funds our litter picker – £1,219.05 pa. Despite Adam's hard work, it is not possible for him to clear every part of the parish on a regular basis. I would like to see parishioners taking care of the areas around their homes by clearing some of the litter left by the thoughtless and uncaring.

Mrs Karin Green, Karin Green Garden Services, cuts the grass around the Village Pump and at the war memorial and empties the parish litter bins.

Thanks, as usual, are due to the residents of 'Marshalls', opposite the War Memorial, who voluntarily plant out the flowerbeds at the War Memorial and generally keep them in pristine condition.

This Council retires at the start of May. Cllrs Jonathan Forgham, Mrs Carmela Piccolo, Geoffrey Williamson and Mrs Mary Wilkinson were nominated by the deadline and have been appointed as councillors for the new session. Three extra councillors will have to be co-opted onto the Council and residents who would like to be considered should contact the Clerk. Once co-opted, these three councillors will become full members of the Council.

Financial position for the year 2009 to 2010

Credit	To date	Comments
B/F From 2009/10	£5,530.04	
Precept	£13,500.00	Unchanged from 2008/09
Rent	£340.15	Rent from Westland Green and wayleaves for power cables
Interest	£0.08	
VAT refund	£793.71	The Council does not pay VAT
Sales	£55.52	Sale of redundant equipment
EHC Grant	£1,000.00	For repair of the war memorial wall
War memorial cleaning	£550.00	£150 EHC grant and £400 donations for cleaning the war memorial
Parish Plan	£577.00	Part of the cost for printing the updated Parish Plan
Litter picker	£1,170.37	EHC pays the litter picker's salary
Total credit	£23,516.87	

Debit

Pay	£6,625.21	To the Clerk, litter picker and Karen Green Garden Services
Mileage	£48.20	
Telephone	£216.00	
Post	£18.11	
Copying	£54.64	Mainly using the church copier
Office supplies	£153.19	Mainly paper and printer ink
P/News	£95.00	The Council is one of several organisations who fund the Parish News
Donation	£575.00	To the village school, graveyard upkeep, The Young Ones and SSE
Subscriptions	£678.59	Mainly to HATPC for legal and other help and advice
Maintenance	£2,218.35	Mainly grass and hedge cutting for the playgrounds
Repairs	£144.37	Repairs to fencing and equipment at the playgrounds
Rent	£188.46	Mainly Village Hall hire
Chairman	£90.00	For phone, post and travel expenses
Insurance	£952.29	To cover the play equipment as well as general Council risks
Parish Plan	£652.70	Cost of printing the updated Parish Plan
Audit	£155.25	
Training	£108.72	
War Memorial	£3,145.25	Cleaning the war memorial and rebuilding the surround wall.
Misc	£67.53	Mainly refreshments for public meetings
Totals	£16,722.19	
Surplus to carry forward to 2010/11	£7,330.02	

Appendix 2

Little Hadham Parish Plan Group – For 2010

		INCOME	EXPENDITURE
01-Jan-10	Starting Balance	£98.55	
12-Apr-10	Locality Budget Grant	£350.00	
07-May	PVC Banners		£280.00
14-Jun-10	Cash + Cheques from Fun Run	£1,450.00	
16-Jun-10	Community Matters Membership		£22.00
30-Jun-10	Fun Run Petty Cash Expenses		£43.99
10-Jul-10	Band		£100.00
01-Oct-10	Lottery Fund Grant	£1,200.00	
12-Oct-10	Soft Drinks for Fun Runners		£91.37
25-Nov-10	Refreshments for History Society Meeting		£5.98
09-Dec-10	Village Hall Hire for History Meeting		£36.00
	TOTALS	£3,098.55	£579.34
31-Dec-10	Balance at Year End	£2,519.21	
Unpresented cheque as of Year End for CAZFest			£750.00

	2010	2009
Balance B/F on 31 Dec	£98.55	£1,050.29

Income

Grants	£1,550.00	£2,691.00
Fun Run Entries	£1,450.00	£1,210.00
Marquee Hire		£185.00
Donations		£133.50
TOTAL	£3,098.55	£5,479.09

Expenses

Village Guide		£3,678.00
Printing		£164.15
Fun Run	£235.36	£90.15
Insurance		£150.00
Community Matters	£22.00	£22.00
Football costs		£36.74
Football Prizes		£229.50
Barn Dance		£160.00
Donation to CRY		£850.00
Advertising Banners	£280.00	
History Soc Sponsor	£41.98	
TOTAL	£579.34	£5,380.54
Balance at Year End (31 Dec)	£2,519.21	£98.55