

Little Hadham Parish Council

Minutes of the first meeting of the Little Hadham Parish Council (2011 – 2015 Session) held on Tuesday 3rd May 2011 at 8.15 p.m. in the Village Hall, Little Hadham.

Present: **Mr C Piccolo** **Chairman**
 Mr J Forgham)
 Mrs C Piccolo)
 Mr J Purvis) **Councillors**
 Mrs M Wilkinson)
 Mr G Williamson)

Mr B Evans – Clerk, and 5 member of the public.

1.1. Public session.

There were no questions or comments.

1.2. Absent. Cllr Gregory.

1.3. Declarations of interest. Cllr Williamson said that he had a prejudicial interest in the HCC consultation on buses as he worked in the HCC department responsible.

1.4. Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 5th April 2011 had been previously circulated. The minutes were agreed as accurate. Proposed by Cllr Mrs Wilkinson and seconded by Cllr Williamson.

1.5. Matters arising from the minutes.

1.5.1. Possible EHC funding from Cllr Tindale. The Clerk said that the Council would have to prepare a bid for funding. There some discussion about suitable projects including providing signs for Westland Green and providing a paid leader for ‘The Young Ones’. It was agreed that councillors would send ideas to the Clerk so that a bid could be prepared for agreement at the June meeting.

Action
All
councillors

1.5.2. Dog bins. The Chairman said there was nothing to add until EHC had made a decision.

1.5.3. Oil purchasing syndicate. The Chairman said that about twenty people had expressed an interest. She stressed that the Council would not be directly involved.

Action
CP

1.6. Co-option of councillors. The Clerk said that standing orders showed that the vacancies should be advertised for a month. A notice had appeared in the Parish News and notices would be placed on the parish noticeboards. The closing date was shown as Wednesday 25th May. This should give enough time for the new members to be selected before the next Council meeting.

Action
Clerk

1.7. Playgrounds.

1.7.1. Cllr Williamson said that the Clerk had obtained a quotation from Matta, the company who had installed the safety matting at the village hall, for raising the level of the ground under the roundabout in order to conform to safety standards. The cost would be £325 + VAT – much less than SMP had quoted. He proposed that the Council accept the quote. Agreed. There was some discussion about when the work would be carried out as it should not coincide with the Fun Run.

Action
Clerk

1.7.2. Repairs to the SMP apparatus. The Clerk said that Mr Trevor Waldock had returned to work and he hoped to discuss with him whether repairs to the aerial runway were necessary.

Action
Clerk

1.8. Road matters.

1.8.1. List of outstanding repairs. Cllr Purvis said that most pot holes had been filled though there was extensive damage to the edge of some lanes. Cllr Mrs Wilkinson said that repair of the direction sign in Westland Green was now on the Herts Highways job list.

1.9. Flooding matters

1.9.1. Flooding of gardens at Lloyd Taylor Close and Standon Road. The Chairman said there had been no progress on the matter.

1.9.2. Flooding at Pigs Green. The Clerk said that he was still waiting to hear from Gascoyne Cecil Estates.

1.9.3. New fence at Ashcroft Farm possibly restricting the free flow of flood water from the A120. The Clerk said he had not yet received a reply from the Environment Agency.

1.10. Repairs to the bus shelters. The Chairman said that she had received a quotation for repairing and staining the three bus shelters for £1,400 labour plus £600 materials. It was agreed that the Chairman would obtain two more quotations.

Action
CP

1.11. Police matters. Cllr Mrs Wilkinson said she had been unable to attend the Locality meeting held on 27th April. From the floor a resident said he had attended. He thought nothing significant had happened though he had asked the police to monitor the speed of traffic through the parish.

1.12. Parish Plan Group.

1.12.1. Cllr Mrs Piccolo reminded residents of the Fun Run on Sunday 12th June 2011.

1.12.2. Little Hadham Ecology Survey. Cllr Forgham said that he had sold 125 copies of the survey and had raised £625 for the Parish Plan Group.

1.12.3. Telephone kiosk. Progress with the art exhibition. The Chairman said that Ms Connie Flynn was still planning to stage an exhibition of her textile art works on the day of the Fun Run.

1.13. Chairman's report.

1.13.1. Parish Assembly. The Chairman said the Assembly had been very successful and had been attended by about 70 residents.

1.13.2. HCC consultation on the County Council Bus and Intalink strategies. The Chairman said the Cllr Gregory had not prepared a response to the consultation.

1.14. New Council. The new councillors submitted their 'Declaration of Acceptance of Office' forms.

1.15. Clerk's Report

1.15.1. Financial statement

Period ending 3rd May 2011

Barclay's Bank C/Acc	£9,653.96
StepSaver BP Acc	£5.19
BP Acc	£170.02
Petty cash	£14.65

Total £9,843.82

Uncleared cheque

Little Hadham School - printing costs	£34.03
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Received

EHC - first half of precept	£6,750.00
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To be agreed for payment

Mr B Evans	P/Clerk - (April)	£315.81	
	Exp (April)	£21.61	£337.42
Mrs K Green	Grass cutting & bins (April)		£44.40
Mr A Purvis	Litter picking (April)		£101.59
Mrs C Piccolo	Assembly refreshments		£83.48
AON Insurance	Annual Insurance		£858.49
Mower Services	2 cuts in April		£290.40
Little Hadham Village Hall - hire of hall for Feb & Mar			£33.74

Total pay-ments £1,749.52

Total in all accounts and petty cash after payment of this month's bills £14,810.27

1.15.2. Proposed to accept payment of accounts. Agreed.

1.15.3. Proposed to accept the accuracy of the financial statement. Proposed Cllr Mrs Piccolo, seconded Cllr Purvis. Agreed.

1.15.4. To accept the accuracy of the financial statement for 2010/11 that had been previously circulated to councillors. Agreed.

1.15.5. **Council Insurance.** The Clerk said that he had obtained three quotations for the annual insurance: Zurich - £1,065.75; Aviva - £1,018.84; AON - £853.49. He proposed that the quotation from AON be accepted. Agreed.

1.15.6. Democratic 10 minutes.

A resident said that the Council could ask for funding for repairs to the playground apparatus.

A resident suggested that the Council could make a bid for a speed indicator sign for the A120.

A resident asked that it be noted that District Councillor Tindale no longer lived at the address in the parish quoted in his election material.

1.16. **Planning matters.** The transactions of the Planning Committee were noted.

1.17. **Correspondence.** The Clerk distributed items of correspondence to relevant members.

CPRE Fieldwork magazine

MW

1.18. **Date of the next meeting Tuesday 7th June 2011.**

1.19. **The Chairman closed the meeting to the Public and the Press at 9:05 p.m.**