

Little Hadham Parish Council

Minutes of the sixth meeting of the Little Hadham Parish Council (2011 – 2015 Session) held on Tuesday 1st November 2011 at 8.26 p.m. in the Village Hall, Little Hadham.

Present:

Mr J Forgham	Chairman
Mr R Gregory)
Mrs C Piccolo)
Mrs M Wilkinson) Councillors
Mr G Williamson)
Ms W Woodgate)

Mr B Evans – Clerk, and 11 member of the public.

6.1. Absent. Cllr Wells [holiday].

6.2. Declarations of interest. None.

6.3. Public session.

A resident said that he had spoken to a resident of Farm Place asking why he parked his car on the Green. He was told that he did not have space near his house and residents were not allowed to park on the road through the new estate.

6.4. Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 4th October 2011 had been previously circulated. The minutes were agreed as accurate. Proposed by Cllr Mrs Piccolo and seconded by Cllr Ms Woodgate.

6.5. Matters arising from the minutes.

6.5.1. Bury Green seat. The Chairman reported that Cllr Wells had received replies from two local contractors.

Action
PW

6.5.2. Hedge partially blocking the Albury Road pavement. Cllr Williamson said that he would have a word with the owner.

Action
GW

6.5.3. Refurbishment of the bus shelters. Progress report. Cllr Mrs Piccolo said that the two shelters on the A120 had been completed and work had started on the one opposite the Nag's Head. Mr Foskett, the contractor, had reported that the Nag's Head shelter had been hit by a lorry. He had repaired the damage and suggested that a bollard be set in front to prevent further damage. It was decided that this would not be necessary. Cllr Williamson said that a resident had noted that the shelter at the Ash had a decorative bracket on one side but the other was missing. The resident would like a new one to be forged. It was agreed that this would be an unnecessary expense. Mr Foskett had asked about the old notice board fixed to the side of the Nag's Head shelter. The board was badly rotten. It was agreed that the board should be removed as there was another Council notice board next to the shelter.

6.6. Playgrounds.

6.6.1. The Chairman said that the latest playground inspections had revealed no urgent problems. Most issues were marked as low or very low risk. Mr Trevor Waldock had suggested a relatively easy way of solving the excessive gap under the roundabout by building up the ground with top soil and turf. It was agreed that Cllr Williamson would organise a work party to carry out the work.

Action
GW

6.7. Road matters.

6.7.1. Outstanding matters. Cllr Mrs Wilkinson asked about the speeding traffic endangering children walking to and from the school bus in Westland Green. The Clerk said that he had circulated the reply from Herts Highways that essentially said

- that little would be done as it was not seen as a serious risk. The Clerk said that he had sent his original letter and the reply to County Cllr Mrs Newlyn as county councillors had been allocated small sums for safety measures in their wards.
- 6.7.2.** Blocked Bury Green ditch. The Chairman said that Cllr Wells was waiting for the polo ponies to return in the spring before talking to their owners. Action PW
- 6.7.3.** Potholes outside Acremans, Acreman Street. The Chairman said that it was still not clear who owned the overgrown pond that the drain emptied into. The matter had been reported many times. Action JF
- 6.7.4.** Road signs for Westland Green and Bury Green. Cllr Mrs Piccolo said the Cllr Mrs Wilkinson had asked for signs to mark Westland Green. Cllr Mrs Piccolo proposed that the Council pay for one sign at Westland Green and another at Bury Green. After some discussion about whether the signs were required, it was agreed that Cllr Mrs Piccolo would discuss siting and costs with Mr Robin Noades area engineer with Herts Highways. Action CP
- 6.7.5.** Traffic speed indicator equipment. Cllr Mrs Piccolo there had been three exercises using the equipment and numerous people had been found to be exceeding the speed limit. Several people had been spoken to by the police and a number had received written warnings. One driver, recorded as travelling at 58 mph in a 30 mph zone, said that he was local and so knew when it was safe to speed. The police officers were not impressed.
- 6.7.6.** Parking on Bury Green. Cllr Mrs Piccolo said that she had received a complaint about someone parking their car on Bury Green. The Clerk said that the Green was private land rented by the Council and people were not allowed to park on it. It was agreed that Cllr Mrs Piccolo would include a notice in the Parish News. Action CP
- 6.8. Contract negotiations at the Much Hadham Health Surgery.** Cllr Gregory said that he had little to say at the moment save that Dr Haines had told him that he would welcome support from the Council should the matter be taken to court.
- 6.9. Westmill incinerator.** The Chairman that he was waiting to hear from ‘Burning Issues’ the group campaigning against the incinerator. He hoped they would make a presentation before the December Council meeting. Action JF
- 6.10. Allotments.**
- 6.10.1.** The Chairman said that the new allotment rep., Mrs Brenda Kain, had received five requests for allotments and that two new plots would be required. The Clerk said that he had it in writing from EHC that the unused land near the entrance to the site could be used. The Chairman said that this might require the removal of a hazel stool. Agreed that two new plots be created and the hazel removed.
- 6.10.2.** Possible water supply. Mrs Kain had received requests for a water supply for the allotments to be in use from March to November. There would be an installation cost and the water would be metered. It was agreed that Mrs Kain would investigate costs and whether the allotment holders would be willing to pay an increased rent.
- 6.10.3.** Security at the gateway to the allotments. The Chairman said that concern had been expressed about vehicles driving on to the allotment site and some fly-tipping. It was agreed that Cllr Mrs Piccolo would seek agreement with the conservation officer for concrete bollards to be installed. It was noted that the owners of property next to the unused land at the allotments were concerned about the services that ran under the land. This would have to be investigated before the land was allocated.
- 6.11. Possible ‘Drop In’ after-school club – for 12 to 16 year old residents.** Cllr Ms Woodgate said that she wanted to look into the feasibility of an informal ‘drop in’

centre for local 12 to 16 year old children in the village hall. She said that she would have to investigate the legal issues and talk to children to see what they required. Cllr Mrs Piccolo said that she thought it should be a community lead project. She noted that HCC would be able to offer a lot of practical help. The Clerk asked Cllr Ms Woodgate what role she saw the Council taking in the project. She thought that she might ask for some funding though it might be set up through the Parish Plan Group. It was agreed that Cllr Ms Woodgate would write an article for the Parish News.

Action
WW

6.12. Footpaths. Partially blocked stile at Bury Green. The Chairman said that he had spoken to the owner who had agreed to modify the stile to enable dogs to cross it.

6.13. Telephone kiosks. Stock control of the libraries. Cllr Ms Woodgate said that the stock of books in the kiosks was a useful community resource but there were now too many books. It was agreed that Cllrs Mrs Woodgate and Mrs Piccolo would remove and dispose of excessive stock from the kiosks at the Ford and Bury Green as required.

Action
CP/WW

6.14. Parish Plan Group.

6.14.1. The Chairman said consideration of the business plan and welcome pack had been put off until the next meeting.

6.14.2. It had been agreed to move the Fun Run to the same date as the Queen's Jubilee. The run would be shortened and made fancy dress. The event would be mainly directed at local people.

6.14.3. A request had been made for old photographs of the parish for an exhibition in the Village Hall in January 2011.

6.14.4. Parish website. Possible creation on a new website. Cllr Mrs Piccolo said that she thought there was a need for a parish website. It was agreed that she should make enquiries about how this might be done – including costs.

Action
CP

6.15. Chairman's report.

6.15.1. Remembrance Sunday. The Chairman invited all parishioners to attend the service at the war memorial at 10:50 on Sunday 13th November. He thought there at been an increase in numbers attending over the past few years. There would be wreaths laid from The Council, the British Legion, the Village School, the Church and the Brownies.

Action
JF

6.16. Clerk's Report**6.16.1. Financial statement****Period ending 1st November 2011**

Barclay's Bank C/Acc	£19,672.62
StepSaver BP Acc	£5.19
BP Acc	£170.06
Petty cash	£43.02

Total	£19,890.89
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Included above

EHC	Playground inspections - paid 6/10/11	£111.72
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Uncleared cheques

RNLI donation		£25.00
Mrs C Piccolo	Gift [bottle of wine]	£3.99

To be agreed for payment

Mr B Evans	P/Clerk - (October)	£315.61	
	Exp (October)	£19.20	£334.81
Karin Green Garden Services	Grass cutting (October)		£44.40
Mr A Purvis	Litter picking (October)		£106.86
Little Hadham PCC	Upkeep of the graveyard		£250.00
Little Hadham Brownies	Donation		£100.00
Royal British Legion	Donation		£25.00
Little Hadham Village Hall	Use of hall for meetings		£34.99
Mower Services	1 cut October		£145.20

Total payments	£1,041.26
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Total in all accounts and petty cash after payment of this month's bills £18,820.64

6.16.2. Proposed to accept payment of accounts. Agreed.

6.16.3. Proposed to accept the accuracy of the financial statement. Proposed Cllr Ms Woodgate seconded Cllr Gregory. Agreed.

6.16.4. The Chairman proposed that a working party should meet the Clerk to discuss the Council budget for 2012/13 and present proposals to the December meeting. He proposed that the working party consist of Cllrs Forgham, Mrs Piccolo, Mrs Wilkinson and Williamson. Agreed.

Action
Clerk

6.17. Democratic 10 minutes.

A resident asked if there would be more use of the speed display equipment. Cllr Mrs Piccolo said that the display would not be used but the police might make random tests with their speed guns. The resident said that he had seen a police video showing accidents caused by speeding drivers. Cllr Mrs Piccolo said that she would consult with the police.

Action
CP

A resident said that no action had been taken about the board fence outside Ashcroft Farm on the A120. The Council had written in the past to the Environment Agency asking that it take measures to reduce the effects of flooding but had received no reply. The Clerk said he would chase up the matter.

Action
Clerk

A resident said the hedge outside Ford House was overgrown and partially blocking the pavement. The Chairman said he would talk to the owner.

Action
JF

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

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

Clerks & Councils Direct magazine

JF

Queen's Diamond Jubilee Beacons guide

JF

CDA Newsletter

CP

6.20. Date of the next meeting Tuesday 6th December 2011.

6.21. The Chairman closed the meeting to the Public and the Press at 9:33 p.m.