

Little Hadham Parish Council

Minutes of the seventh meeting of the Little Hadham Parish Council (2011 – 2015 Session) held on Tuesday 1st November 2011 at 8.53 p.m. in the Village Hall, Little Hadham.

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

Mr B Evans – Clerk, and 62 member of the public.

7.1. Absent. none.

7.2. Declarations of interest. None.

7.3. Public session.

A resident said that cars parking on Bury Green near Farm Place had worn away the grass and vehicles parking on the other side of the Green had created deep ruts.

7.4. Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 1st November 2011 had been previously circulated. The minutes were agreed as accurate. Proposed by Cllr Mrs Wilkinson and seconded by Cllr Ms Woodgate.

7.5. Matters arising from the minutes.

7.5.1. Parking on Bury Green. Cllr Mrs Piccolo said things had not improved. She would place another notice in the Parish News.

Action
CP

7.5.2. Bury Green seat. Cllr Wells said he had received 4 proposals – a seat made of recycled plastic (£250), a wooden bench with no back (£250), a conventional wooden bench made by a local carpenter (£770) and a wooden bench with wrought iron fittings created by the Much Hadham blacksmith. Cllr Wells showed pictures of the benches and, following a show of hands by the audience, the Council agreed to recommend the plastic bench. Cllr Wells said that he would raise funding from local residents to add to the £50 agreed by the Council.

Action
PW

7.5.3. Hedge partially blocking the Albury Road pavement. Cllr Williamson asked that the item be moved to the next meeting.

Action
GW

7.6. Budget for 2012/13

7.6.1. To consider the budget for 2012/13 prepared by the Council working party. The Chairman referred to the budget that had been circulated to councillors. He proposed that the Council make a £200 donation this year to the Little Hadham Social Club. Agreed. The Chairman proposed that the budget for 2012/13 be accepted. Agreed.

7.6.2. To agree the precept for 2012/13. The Chairman proposed that the Council precept for 2012/13 be unchanged at £13,500. Agreed. The EHC precept forms were signed and witnessed.

7.7. Bus shelters

7.7.1. Completion of refurbishment. Cllr Mrs Piccolo thanked Mr Foskett for his good work in completing the refurbishment.

7.7.2. Possible installation of a bollard to protect the shelter at The Ford. Cllr Mrs Piccolo said that a lorry turning at Chapel Lane had mounted the pavement and damaged the

- bus shelter. She had spoken to Mr Noades, Herts Highways area engineer, about installing a bollard. He thought it was low priority but it would be considered if the Council sent a letter of justification. It was agreed to write a letter including an offer of Council funding. Action
CP
- 7.8. Playgrounds.**
- 7.8.1.** Repairs following the inspection. Cllr Williamson said the work was best left to the spring. Action
GW
- 7.8.2.** Installation of ‘No Dogs’ signs at the playgrounds. The Chairman said a resident had reported that the ‘No Dogs’ signs had disappeared. It was agreed that the Chairman would get three quotes for two signs. Action
JF
- 7.8.3.** Hedge cutting at the playgrounds. The Chairman said that the hedges had recently been cut. Some residents had asked for the hedges to be cut at least twice a year. However, this would affect nesting birds. He proposed that the hedges be cut once a year in the autumn. Agreed.
- 7.9. Road matters.**
- 7.9.1.** Outstanding matters. The Chairman said he had reported damage to the Cradle End to Bury Green road but only a temporary repair had been made. He encouraged residents to use the online and telephone systems to report road problems.
- 7.9.2.** Road signs for Westland Green and Bury Green. Cllr Mrs Piccolo said she had spoken to Herts Highways who asked for a letter of Justification. The Council would have to pay the cost in full – about £400 for two signs. She said the location for the Westland Green sign had been agreed. It was agreed that Cllr Mrs Piccolo would write to Herts Highways. Action
CP
- 7.9.3.** Traffic speed indicator equipment. Cllr Mrs Piccolo said that she had spoken to the local police and they would be carrying out speed checks in the parish when time and budget allowed.
- 7.10. Westland Green**
- 7.10.1.** Fire on the Green. Cllr Mrs Piccolo said she had spoken to the resident concerned was aware her responsibility to make good the damage – repairs were in hand. The Council needed to discuss with her the best shrubs to replace the destroyed ones – possible mixed thorns. Action
CP
- 7.10.2.** The Chairman said that the Hertfordshire Mercury had spoken to him about a resident being injured by the ruts on Westland Green. He had referred them to HCC who were planning to make repairs. He noted that a website suggested that off-roaders were coming to the Green from a wide area.
- 7.10.3.** Cutting of the Green. The Chairman thanked Mr Stephen Stigwood for cutting the grass at the Green.
- 7.11. NHS report.** Cllr Gregory said there was nothing to report.
- 7.12. Westmill incinerator.** The Chairman said that the Council needed to consider its response. A planning application had not yet been submitted. Action
JF
- 7.13. Allotments.**
- 7.13.1.** Possible water supply. The Chairman said that a meeting had been arranged at the Nag’s Head for current and future allotment holders and the immediate neighbours in order to discuss complaints. The supply of a water supply would also be discussed.

7.13.2. Security at the gateway to the allotments. Cllr Mrs Piccolo said she spoken to HCC about installing a bollard at the entrance. Apparently there were right of way issues. It was agreed to send a letter of justification to HCC. **Action CP**

7.14. Footpaths. The Chairman said he had offered to repair a stile at Bury Green but the offer was turned down because of insurance issues. Mr Maddex, the HCC footpaths officer would arrange for a repair. The Chairman said that Mr Harvey of Clinton's Farm, Bury Green was concerned that people kept control of their dogs when using paths across his land – especially near the horse paddocks.

7.15. Parish Plan Group.

7.15.1. The Chairman said that plans for the Jubilee were in hand.

7.15.2. Parish website. Cllr Mrs Piccolo said that plans for a website were at a very early stage. However, she agreed to talk to Mr Denis O'Regan, who had created and continued to maintain The Hadhams website. She would thank him for his help so far and to seek his advice for the future. **Action CP**

7.16. Chairman's report.

7.16.1. The Chairman spoke of the 'digital switchover' in April 2012. Analogue TVs would stop working unless fitted with a set top box. Details would appear in the Parish News and help was available for the aged and disabled.

7.16.2. Veolia Water Central Draft Drought Management Plan 2011 - Public Consultation. The Chairman said there was nothing of importance to the parish.

7.16.3. Proposal from Albury PC for planting trees. The Chairman said Albury PC wanted to share 120 or 60 trees. He was looking for possible sites such as near the new Bury Green bench and gaps between the oak trees at Westland Green. **Action JF**

7.16.4. Essex CC Waste Development consultation. The Chairman said he would consider the document. **Action JF**

7.17. Clerk's Report

7.17.1. Financial statement

Period ending 6th December 2011

Barclay's Bank C/Acc		£18,308.99
StepSaver BP Acc		£5.19
BP Acc		£170.06
Petty cash		£31.22
	Total	£18,515.46

Included above

Green Man Conservation Hedge cutting (paid 14/11/11) £300.00

To be agreed for payment

Mr B Evans	P/Clerk - (Nov & Dec)	£631.42	
	Exp (Nov & Dec)	£37.20	£668.62
Karin Green Garden Services	Grass cutting (Nov & Dec)		£88.80
Mr A Purvis	Litter picking (Nov)		£106.86
Mr A Purvis	Litter picking (Dec)		£106.86
Society of Local Council Clerks	Subscription		£97.00
HM Revenue & Customs	PAYE		£236.80
Mr M A Foskett	Bus shelter repairs		£3,178.00
Little Hadham Social Club	Donation		£200.00
SSE	Donation		£100.00
	Total payments		£4,782.94

Total in all accounts and petty cash after payment of this month's bills £13,732.52

7.17.2. Proposed to accept payment of accounts. Agreed.

7.17.3. Proposed to accept the accuracy of the financial statement. Proposed Cllr Ms Piccolo seconded Cllr Wells. Agreed.

7.18. Democratic 10 minutes.

A resident said that he objected to the donation to SSE. He thought the money should be reserved for causes within the parish. He asked about the bollard to protect the Nag's Head bus shelter. He was concerned that it might restrict parking at the pub. The Chairman said it would be close to the shelter – away from the parking spaces. The resident, a local farmer, asked that people keep their dogs under control on farm land and to avoid walking on the environmental strips planted at the edge of many fields.

A resident complained that the newly installed dog bin was close to his home. The Chairman said that the Council had no say on where the bin was sited. EHC chose the site after considering underground pipes and cables as well as land ownership.

A resident asked about the village bypass. Cllr Mrs Piccolo said it was further away than the back burner.

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

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

NALC LCR magazine

CPRE Countryside Voice magazine

CPRE Herts Newsletter

JF

CP

CP

7.20. Date of the next meeting Tuesday 7th February 2012.

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