

# Little Hadham Parish Council

Minutes of the eighth meeting of the Little Hadham Parish Council (2011 – 2015 Session) held on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2012 at 8.46 p.m. in the Village Hall, Little Hadham.

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

Mr B Evans – Clerk, and 8 member of the public.

**8.1. Absent.** none.

**8.2. Declarations of interest.** None.

**8.3. Public session.**

A resident said that his daughter's car had slid on the icy road south of Bridge Foot Farm and collided with a gas control box resulting in the gas for the village being cut for several days. The police had agreed that the car was not speeding. The resident thought the ice formed in ruts left in the road by agricultural vehicles. He understood the insurers were making a claims against Herts Highways and the farm owner. He asked the Council to write to National Grid asking that the control box be protected by an Armco barrier. The Chairman said that he had emailed the company but had yet to receive a reply. He noted that a lorry had skidded at the same place several days earlier but, fortunately, had caused no damage.

A resident said that car parts, particularly salvaged catalytic converters, would likely attract thieves to Church End Farm.

A resident said that he thought work on road vehicles required a special classification of planning permission.

A resident said that, if the Albury Road entrance to Church End Farm were used for access, this would partially cancel the benefit of a bypass when it was eventually built.

**8.4. Minutes of the Parish Council meeting** held on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2011 had been previously circulated. The minutes were agreed as accurate. Proposed by Cllr Mrs Wilkinson and seconded by Cllr Wells.

**8.5. Matters arising from the minutes.**

**8.5.1. Wadesmill incinerator.** The Chairman said that Biffa had yet to make a planning application though the prospect was continuing to blight house prices nearby. He noted that HCC had said that the Wadesmill landfill site was being underused and HCC might apply to extend the period of its use.

**8.6. Playgrounds.**

**8.6.1.** Repairs following the inspection. Cllr Williamson said the work was best left to the spring.

Action  
GW

**8.6.2.** Installation of 'No Dogs' signs at the playgrounds. The Chairman said he had received a verbal quotation for the signs though he needed to measure the required size.

Action  
JF

**8.7. Road matters.**

**8.7.1.** Outstanding matters. The Chairman said he had reported damage to the Cradle End to Bury Green road but Herts Highways was still discussing ownership.

**8.7.2.** Road signs for Westland Green and Bury Green. Cllr Mrs Piccolo proposed that the Council pay £873.50 to Herts Highways for the installation of two village signs at both Westland Green and Bury green. Agreed.

Action  
Clerk

**8.7.3.** Protecting the Hadham Ford bus shelter from damage by road vehicles. Cllr Mrs Piccolo said that Mr Noades, Herts Highways, advised that installing a bollard could be expensive as it was likely to be damaged by vehicles and the repair would be at the Council's cost. Cllr Mrs Piccolo proposed that safety reflectors be fixed to the corners of the shelter. Agreed.

Action  
CP

**8.7.4.** Hedge partially blocking the Albury Road pavement. Cllr Wilkinson said that he had spoken to the owner and would allow a few weeks for him to get the work done.

Action  
GW

**8.7.5.** Traffic speed indicator equipment. Cllr Mrs Piccolo said that Police were checking traffic speed at a number of sites around the parish.

**8.8. Westland Green**

**8.8.1.** Making good the fire damage at the green. The Chairman said that he had visited the site and some work had been done. Cllr Mrs Piccolo said that she had yet to receive a reply to her email to the residents enquiring when the work would be completed.

**8.8.2.** Local concern about 'off-roaders' using the Green. The Chairman said that the matter was in the hands of HCC footpaths department.

**8.8.3.** Valley Fields. Concern about unapproved developments and noisy guard dogs. The Chairman said that there had been complaints, including from the golf course, about the barking of huge dogs chained up at the site. He thought development was going on at the site and had spoken to EHC enforcement. It was agreed that the chairman would write to EHC to confirm the report.

Action  
JF**8.9. Bury Green**

**8.10.** Parking on the Green. Cllr Mrs Piccolo said that a resident of Farm Place continued to park his vehicles on the Green despite notices in the Parish News. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to the resident.

Action  
Clerk

**8.11. NHS report.** Cllr Gregory said there was nothing to report.

**8.12. Westmill incinerator.** The Chairman said that the Council needed to consider its response. A planning application had not yet been submitted.

**8.13. Allotments.**

**8.13.1.** Possible water supply. The Chairman said that the allotment holders had decided a water supply was unnecessary.

**8.13.2.** Use of waste land for extra allotment plots. The Chairman said that a letter had been received from Mr Pyatt of Florence Cottage next to the allotments. He was concerned that his services ran under the land and these might present a risk to the allotment holders. The Chairman asked the Clerk to contact the service companies.

Action  
Clerk

**8.14. Footpaths.** The Chairman said there was no new information.

**8.15. Parish Plan Group.**

**8.15.1.** The Chairman said that a meeting of the group was imminent.

Action  
WW

**8.15.2.** Parish website. Cllr Mrs Piccolo said that she had spoken to Mr Denis O'Regan, who had created and continued to maintain The Hadhams website. He had suggested the parish continue to use the existing site but with improved access. It was agreed that the Clerk should discuss how this might work with Mr O'Regan. Action Clerk

**8.16. Chairman's report.**

**8.16.1.** The Chairman spoke of the 'digital switchover' in April 2012. The parish needed a 'digital champion'. He asked for a volunteer. Action JF

**8.16.2.** Request from Little Hadham PCC to increase the Council donation to the Parish News from £90 to £120. The Chairman proposed that the annual donation be increased to £120. Agreed. Cllr Mrs Piccolo said that the printer used by Mrs Jan Finn was in urgent need of refurbishment. The PCC had asked the Council for a donation of £400 to cover the cost. She was aware that the Council could not make a decision at this meeting as the matter was not on the agenda. However she would like to know if the Council was minded to agree at the March meeting. Cllr Williamson said he had two concerns. First he thought Mrs Finn ran a commercial concern and the Council should not be subsidising a business. Second he understood that Mrs Finn intended to move away from the village and he wondered if she would continue with the Parish News. The Clerk said that he had spoken to Mr Frank Green of the PCC. Mr Green said that the printer was only used for the Parish News. He had also said that Mrs Finn hoped to move to Standon and intended to continue as editor of the Parish News. The Council agreed that it would probably look on the request for a donation favourably at the March meeting.

Cllr Mrs Piccolo said that the Council had received a request for a donation from the Hadhams Historical Society. This would also be considered at the March meeting.

**8.16.3.** Proposal from Albury PC for planting trees. The Chairman said he was still looking into the matter. Action JF

**8.16.4.** Essex CC Waste Development consultation. The Chairman said there was little of relevance to the parish. However he had just received the equivalent document for Hertfordshire which he would study and prepare a response for consideration at the next meeting. Action JF

**8.16.5. Clerk's Report**

**8.16.6. Financial statement**

**Period ending 7<sup>th</sup> February 2012**

Barclay's Bank C/Acc	£14,278.41
StepSaver BP Acc	£5.19
BP Acc	£170.08
Petty cash	£21.38
<b>Total</b>	<b>£14,475.06</b>
<b>Included above</b>	
<b>Received</b>	
HM Revenue & Customs - VAT refund [Received 23/1/12]	£462.89
<b>Paid</b>	
Mrs C Piccolo - meeting refreshments [Paid 19/12/11]	£10.53

**To be considered by the Council**

<b>Received</b>			
EHC - New Homes Bonus			£2,111.00
<b>To be agreed for payment</b>			
Mr B Evans	P/Clerk - (Jan)	£315.61	
	Exp (Jan)	£19.20	£334.81
Karin Green Garden Services	Grass cutting (Jan)		£44.40
Mr A Purvis	Litter picking (Jan)		£106.86
LH Village Hall	Hire of hall Oct to Dec		£54.36
CDA for Herts	Annual subscription		£30.00

- 8.16.7.** Proposed to accept payment of accounts. Agreed.
- 8.16.8.** Proposed to accept the accuracy of the financial statement. Proposed Cllr Ms Woodgate seconded Cllr Wells. Agreed.
- 8.16.9.** To consider the Council Risk Assessment for 2012/13. The Chairman proposed that the Risk Assessment, that had been previously circulated, be adopted for the next financial year. Agreed.
- 8.16.10.** To appoint a work party to carry out an internal audit. The Chairman proposed that a working party consisting of himself, and Cllrs Mrs Piccolo and Mrs Wilkinson meet at the Clerk's home, at a date to be arranged, to carry out an internal audit. Agreed.
- 8.17. Democratic 10 minutes.**  
There were no questions or comments.
- 8.18. Planning matters.** The transactions of the Planning Committee were noted.
- 8.19. Correspondence.** The Clerk distributed items of correspondence to relevant members.
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| CPRE 3 guides to dealing with planning applications | <b>JF/CP</b> |
| Clerks & Councils Direct magazine                   | <b>JF</b>    |
| HAPTC newsletters                                   | <b>JF</b>    |
- 8.20. Date of the next meeting Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2012.**
- 8.21. The Chairman closed the meeting to the Public and the Press at 9:36 p.m.**