

Little Hadham Parish Council

Minutes of the ninth meeting of the Little Hadham Parish Council (2011 – 2015 Session) held on Tuesday 6th March 2012 at 8.39 p.m. in the Village Hall, Little Hadham.

Present: **Mr J Forgham** **Chairman**
 Mr R Gregory **)**
 Mrs C Piccolo **) Councillors**
 Mrs M Wilkinson **)**
 Ms W Woodgate **)**

Mr B Evans – Clerk, and 16 member of the public.

9.1. Absent. Cllr Williamson.

9.2. Declarations of interest. None.

9.3. Public session.

A resident said that road vehicles were still driving over the verge at the junction of Millfield Lane and the Cradle End road. The Chairman said that the ownership of the land was still not clear.

9.4. Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 7th February 2012 had been previously circulated. The minutes were agreed as accurate. Proposed by Cllr Mrs Wilkinson and seconded by Cllr Ms Woodgate.

9.5. Minutes of the Parish Assembly held on Thursday 21st April 2011 had been previously circulated. The minutes were agreed as accurate. Proposed by Cllr Mrs Wilkinson and seconded by Cllr Ms Woodgate.

9.6. Matters arising from the minutes. None.

9.7. Playgrounds.

9.7.1. Repairs following the inspection. The Chairman said the work was planned for the spring.

Action
GW

9.7.2. Installation of ‘No Dogs’ signs at the playgrounds. The Chairman said he was still awaiting quotations for the signs. When available, he would circulate them to councillors for their approval.

Action
JF

9.8. Road matters.

9.8.1. Outstanding matters. The Chairman said he had reported pot holes in the road south of South Cottages and the damaged road south of Bridge Foot Farm.

9.8.2. Road signs for Westland Green and Bury Green. Cllr Mrs Piccolo said that Herts Highways had received the Council’s cheque and the signs had been added to their scheme of work. She hoped the signs would be installed by the summer.

9.8.3. Protecting the Hadham Ford bus shelter from damage by road vehicles. Cllr Mrs Piccolo said that the reflectors supplied by Mr Noades had been installed.

9.8.4. Protection of the gas control box south of Bridge Foot Farm. The Chairman said that he had contacted the gas company who were going to visit site and consider whether to install an Armco barrier to protect the box.

Action
JF

9.9. Westland Green

9.9.1. Making good the fire damage at the green. The Chairman said that he had visited the site and most of the work had been completed although the land would be scorched until the new growth in the spring.

- 9.9.2.** Valley Felds. Concern about unapproved developments and noisy guard dogs. The Chairman said that the owners had been contacted by Planning Enforcement and were clear on what they were allowed to do at the site. They were allowed to stay there for a limited number of days each year. The owners ran a security business and were allowed to keep guard dogs at the site though they would not be allowed to build kennels.
- 9.10. Bury Green**
- 9.10.1.** Parking on the Green. The Chairman said that, having discussed the matter with the Clerk, he had decided to visit the resident parking of the Green to try to persuade him not to. Cllr Mrs Wilkinson asked why Romehold could not be asked to allow residents of Farm Place to park near their homes rather than on the Green. She asked whether posts could be placed along the Green to stop parking. Action JF
- 9.10.2.** Bury Green seat. Cllr Mrs Piccolo said that former Cllr Wells had made a donation of £100 towards the seat. With a donation of £50 from the Council, this left about £100 to raise. Mr Wells had given her a list of people who had promised money and she would contact them soon. Action CP
- 9.11. NHS report.** Cllr Gregory said there was nothing to report.
- 9.12. Telephone kiosks.** Cllr Ms Woodgate said that the book loan system continued to work well though she asked people to be a careful not to include damaged books. She continued to take excess stock to the charity shops.
- 9.13. Allotments.**
- 9.13.1.** Use of waste land for extra allotment plots. The Chairman said that the Clerk had written to all the service companies to discover the location of any service pipes or cables. This was proving very difficult and slow but he would continue to pursue the companies concerned. Action Clerk
- 9.14. Footpaths.** The Chairman said that he had visited most parish footpaths and they were in a generally good condition. There were still some stiles awaiting repair by HCC.
- 9.15. Parish Plan Group.**
- 9.15.1.** Plans for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. The Chairman said that the PP group were planning a day of events at the Village Hall including a barbeque and a band. They did not want to clash with events being planned by the Nag's Head in the evening.
- 9.15.2.** Parish website. Cllr Mrs Piccolo said that she had spoken to Mr Dragazis, who had agreed to help create a parish website. He had suggested that the parish use a paid for host and a personal URL. LittleHadham.co.uk had already been registered and she hoped the owner would give it up. Mr Dragazis said that the Council should have one person with overall responsibility for the site. The Clerk reluctantly agreed to take the role. It was agreed that Cllr Mrs Piccolo should continue to set up the site with the help of Mr Dragazis. Action Clerk/CP
- 9.16. Donations**
- 9.16.1.** To consider a donation of £400 to the PCC to pay for the refurbishment of the copier used to print the Parish News. From the floor Mr Frank Green said that the Parish News had been funded by the PCC together advertising and donations from some local organisations such as the Council, and. In the past year it cost the PCC about £400. In February Mrs Jan Finn, the editor, had said that the printer was in need of £400 of repair. The printer was only used for the Parish News and the PCC was

asking the Council for a donation. The Chairman proposed the Council make a donation of £400. Agreed.

- 9.16.2.** To consider a donation of £200 to the Hadhams History Society. The Chairman said the Society intended to conduct a number of mini archaeological digs in the two parishes and needed money for tools, training and technical advice. The Chairman proposed the donation of £200 be paid. Agreed.
- 9.16.3.** To consider a donation of £100 to the Little Hadham pantomime Group. The Chairman said that the Council had been asked for the money to fund the painting of a black background to the Village Hall stage. He said he had some reservations about making the donation as both the hall and the Pantomime Group had significant reserves. However the Group's performances were enjoyed by many people in the parish so he proposed that the donation be made. Agreed.

9.17. Chairman's report.

- 9.17.1. Parish Assembly.** The Chairman said he would be on a plane returning from Portugal on the 19th April 2012 and so would be unable to attend the Assembly. As Vice Chairman Cllr Mrs Wilkinson agreed to Chair the Assembly and give a presentation.

Action
JF

There was some discussion about who to invite to give a presentation. It was agreed to invite Mrs Liz Stockly [Head of the village school], Mr Richard Beckett [Little Hadham Charities], the local police, either Mr Trevor Watkins or Ms Louise Overington from EHC [involved in waste recycling], Mr Mick Smith [Parish Plan Group], Mr Paul Cole [Chair Albury PC] and Mr Michael Tindale [district councillor].

- 9.17.2. Digital switchover** in April 2012. Referring to the presentation given by CDA for Herts, The Chairman asked residents to help any of their neighbours who might not have prepared for the switchover. They risked losing all television stations in just a few weeks.

- 9.17.3.** To consider a major project for the Council. The Chairman said that he was looking for ideas for a major project for the Council to use its resources on for the next year. As an example, he gave the improvement of the pond at Bury Green to create an environmental conservation area. He asked councillors and residents to send him any ideas they may have.

Action
JF

- 9.17.4.** Proposal from Albury PC for planting trees. The Chairman said he was still looking into the matter. Sites for the new trees would have to be identified.

Action
JF

- 9.17.5.** Hertfordshire CC Waste Development consultation. The Chairman said that he was working through a CD full of documents he would prepare a Council response for the next meeting.

Action
JF

9.17.6. Clerk's Report

9.17.7. Financial statement

Period ending 6th March 2012

Barclay's Bank C/Acc	£15,808.73
StepSaver BP Acc	£5.19
BP Acc	£170.08
Petty cash	£10.44
Total	£15,994.44

Included above**Received**

Mr Peter Wells	Donation to village seat	£100.00
UK Power Networks	Wayleave	£35.56

Paid

HCC	Village signs	£873.50
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Uncleared cheque

HCC	Village signs	£873.50
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To be considered by the Council**To be agreed for payment**

Mr B Evans	P/Clerk - (Feb)	£315.81	
	Exp (Feb)	£19.20	£335.01
Karin Green Garden Services	Grass cutting (Feb)		£44.40
Mr A Purvis	Litter picking (Feb)		£106.86
Little Hadham PCC	Newsletter printer repair		£400.00
Little Hadham Village Hall	Pantomime backdrop		£100.00
Mrs C Piccolo	Council meeting refreshments		£5.92
The Hadhams History Society	Donation		£200.00
	Total payments		£1,192.19

Total in all accounts and petty cash after payment of this month's bills £13,928.75

- 9.17.8.** Proposed to accept payment of accounts. Agreed.
- 9.17.9.** Proposed to accept the accuracy of the financial statement. Proposed Cllr Ms Wilkinson seconded Cllr Mrs Piccolo. Agreed.
- 9.17.10.** Work party to carry out an internal audit. The Clerk said that he had been unable to arrange the audit in February. He proposed Tuesday 20th March at 7:00 p.m. Agreed.
- 9.17.11.** The Clerk proposed that he buy a new battery for the Council laptop. Agreed.
- 9.18. Democratic 10 minutes.**
A resident of Hadham Hall spoke of the effect on Hadham Hall residents of the numerous developments at Church End Farm. The noise pollution from the breakers yard was excessively intrusive and there was a continual stream of traffic passing to and from the site at all hours of the day. He said that the Council and Hadham Hall residents must respond quickly and forcibly to object to each separate planning application. Cllr Tindale said that he was against the continued development of the Industrial Estate. He had asked the Development Control Committee to consider the latest application although the committee had to consider each application on its merits and could not consider possible future plans by the owners.
A resident said that he was in favour of the Council making donations to local organisations as they improved the lives of local people. He was not in favour of making donations to outside organisations such as Stop Stansted Expansion.
- 9.19. Planning matters.** The transactions of the Planning Committee were noted.
- 9.20. Correspondence.** The Clerk distributed items of correspondence to relevant members.
SLCC Clerk magazine **CP**
Clerks & Council Direct magazine **JF**
- 9.21. Date of the next meeting Tuesday 3rd April 2012.**
- 9.22. The Chairman closed the meeting to the Public and the Press at 9:43p.m.**