

Little Hadham Parish Council

Minutes of the tenth meeting of the Little Hadham Parish Council (2011 – 2015 Session) held on Tuesday 3rd April 2012 at 9:00 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 10 member of the public.

10.1. Absent. None.

10.2. Declarations of interest. The Chairman declared a prejudicial interest in a donation to Little Hadham Cricket Club as he ran the youth team. The Chairman left the meeting when this was discussed.

10.3. Public session.
There were no questions or comments.

10.4. Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 6th March 2012 had been previously circulated. The minutes were agreed as accurate. Proposed by Cllr Mrs Wilkinson and seconded by Cllr Ms Woodgate.

10.5. Matters arising from the minutes. None.

10.6. Donations.

10.6.1. The Chairman referred to a form that he had previously circulated to councillors [appendix 1]. Cllr Mrs Wilkinson asked that the form include a requirement that the Clerk see the accounts of the organisation. The Chairman asked that the form, with this addition, be adopted by the Council. Agreed.

10.6.2. To consider a donation of £125 to Little Hadham Cricket Club. Cllr Mrs Wilkinson proposed that the donation, for cricket equipment for the youth team, be made. Agreed.

10.7. Playgrounds.

10.7.1. Repairs following the inspection. Cllr Williamson said that he would not be available to carry out the work for the foreseeable future. Cllr Mrs Wilkinson proposed that a contractor be employed to carry out the work. Agreed. The Clerk said that he would have to draw up a specification.

Action
Clerk

10.7.2. Installation of ‘No Dogs’ signs at the playgrounds. The Chairman said that a local resident had offered to make and install the signs for the cost of materials. He proposed the offer be accepted. Agreed.

10.8. Road matters.

10.8.1. Outstanding matters. The Chairman said the pot holes in the road south of Bridge Foot Farm would be repaired when the gas repairs had been completed.

10.8.2. Protection of the gas control box south of Bridge Foot Farm. The Chairman said he hoped to meet the gas company on site very soon. A resident asked if his daughter, whose car had been in collision with the box, could be present. Agreed.

10.9. Westland Green

10.9.1. Making good the fire damage at the green. The Chairman said he had left a note at the home of the residents concerned. Some clearing work had been done but there were still piles of charred timbers needing to be removed.

10.10. Bury Green

10.10.1. Parking on the Green. The Chairman said that he still intended to talk to the resident parking on the green. He hoped that he would be able to persuade him to act responsibly. Action JF

10.10.2. Bury Green seat. Cllr Mrs Piccolo said that £200 had been raised so far. She agreed to include a request for the remaining £50 in the Parish News. Action CP

10.10.3. Renovation of Bury Green pond and fence. The Chairman said that he would draw up a specification for the work before asking for quotations. Action JF

10.11. NHS report. Cllr Gregory said there was nothing to report.

10.12. Allotments.

10.12.1. Use of waste land for extra allotment plots. The Chairman said that it was difficult to get utilities companies to show the location of services on the site. He asked the Clerk to get a quote for a workman to dig a suitable trench. Action Clerk

10.13. Footpaths. There were no comments.

10.14. Parish Plan Group.

10.14.1. Plans for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. The Chairman said the plans had been published in the Parish News. Cllr Mrs Woodgate agreed to prepare a flyer for distribution with the Parish News. Action WW

10.14.2. Parish website. Cllr Mrs Piccolo said that she and the Clerk had met Mr Dragazis and they were considering various options. She assured the Council that there would be little cost to Council funds. Action Clerk/CP

10.14.3. Welcome pack. The Clerk reported that Mrs Barbara Evans had updated the information. She was waiting for the PP Group to decide how it wanted to distribute the pack. The Clerk agreed to circulate the information to councillors. Action Clerk

10.15. Chairman's report.

10.15.1. Parish Assembly. The Chairman said the date had now been confirmed as Thursday 24th May at 7:00 p.m. for 7:30. It was agreed to invite the following to give presentations: Mrs Liz Stockly [Head of the village school], Mr Richard Beckett [Little Hadham Charities], Insp Chris Hunt [local police], Mr Mick Smith [Parish Plan Group], Mr Paul Cole [Chair Albury PC], Mr Michael Tindale [district councillor], Rev Chris Boulton, Cllr Mike Carver [neighbourhood planning] and Cllr Leanda Newlyn. Cllr Ms Woodgate agreed to contact local organisations and businesses to invite them to set up a display for the Assembly. Cllr Mrs Piccolo agreed to organise the refreshments. Action Clerk

10.15.2. Youth representative to the Council. The Chairman said that he would like teenagers to make representations to the Council. He would raise the matter at the Assembly. Action JF

10.15.3. Local business directory. The Chairman said that he would like to produce a directory of local businesses similar to that for Much Hadham. It was agreed that Cllr Mrs Piccolo would invite local businesses to send details to the Chairman. Action CP

10.15.4. Digital switchover in April 2012. The Chairman said the analogue TV service would start to be turned off on 4th April. He asked people to help any vulnerable neighbours.

10.15.5. To consider a major project for the Council. Left to the May meeting.

10.15.6. Proposal from Albury PC for planting trees. The Chairman said he was meeting the Albury Chairman on the 24th April.

10.15.7. Hertfordshire CC Waste Development consultation. The Chairman said that there was no need for a response.

Action
JF

10.15.8. Bishop's Stortford Areas of Special Restraint. Cllr Mrs Piccolo read a letter, previously circulated to councillors, concerning proposed house building sites to the north of Bishop's Stortford [appendix 2]. She proposed the letter be sent to EHC. Agreed.

Action
JF

10.15.9. Clerk's Report

10.15.10. Financial statement

Period ending 3rd April 2012

Barclay's Bank C/Acc		£14,093.04
StepSaver BP Acc		£5.19
BP Acc		£170.10
Petty cash		-£20.72
	Total	£14,247.61

Included above

Received

Mrs V E Jones	Donation to BG village seat	£50.00
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Paid

Mrs C Piccolo	Refreshments (paid 6/3/12)	£5.92
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Uncleared cheques

Little Hadham Village Hall	Pantomime backdrop	£100.00
The Hadhams History Society	Donation	£200.00

	Total uncleared	£300.00
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To be considered by the Council

To be agreed for payment

Mr B Evans	P/Clerk - (Mar)	£315.61	
	Exp (Mar)	£19.20	
	Float	£50.00	£384.81
HM Revenue & Customs	PAYE		£236.80
Karin Green Garden Services	Grass cutting (Mar)		£44.40
Mr A Purvis	Litter picking (Mar)		£106.86
Gascoyne Cecil Estates	BG and WG rent		£3.13
Mower Services [Mr L Knott]	Mowing play-grounds		£145.20
HAPTC	Annual subscription		£558.50
Little Hadham Primary School	Use of printer		£50.05
EHC	Cost of 2011 election		£72.63
Little Hadham Cricket Club	Donation		£125.00
	Total payments		£1,727.38

Total in all accounts and petty cash after payment of this month's bills £12,270.23

10.15.11. Proposed to accept payment of accounts. Agreed.

10.15.12. Proposed to accept the accuracy of the financial statement. Proposed Cllr Ms Woodgate seconded Cllr Mrs Piccolo. Agreed.

10.15.13. Work party to carry out an internal audit. The Chairman said that he, and Cllrs Mrs Piccolo and Mrs Wilkinson and met the Clerk at his home and had satisfied themselves that the Clerk was keeping satisfactory accounts and records and was taking effective steps to protect the Council from risk.

10.16. Democratic 10 minutes.

There were no questions or comments.

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

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

CPRE for Herts newsletter

JF

HAPTC newsletter

JF

10.19. Date of the next meeting Tuesday 1st May 2012.

10.20. The Chairman closed the meeting to the Public and the Press at 9:55 p.m.

Appendix 1 Donations form.

Little Hadham Parish Council Donations Policy

Name of Club/Society seeking donation.....

Name of proposer (treasurer)..... Name of seconder (club member).....

Email contact

Mobile Contact

Details of what the donation will be used for. Please give a breakdown of costs. It will help your application if quotes of costs are included (if applicable.) If the donation is to help with running costs of the club or society then please include a recent bank statement from the treasurer of the club.

How will this grant be used to aid the parish and its residents? Please give details of how this grant may help more members to be involved with your club.

If purchase of equipment etc. is applied for please give a deadline as to when the donation will be spent. The Parish Council will expect that the Clerk be shown the accounts of the club/society including the expenditure of the donation.

Signed (treasurer).....
signed (seconder)..... Date.....

Appendix 2

Re. Future Development of ASR's in Bishop's Stortford

We write in connection with recently updated news we have received from Bishop's Stortford Civic Federation in relation to the future development of the land known as ASR's.

We understand from Mr Michael Hurford (President of BSCF) that housing developers Bovis and Countryside Properties are in the process of carrying out preliminary preparatory work in relation to this land prior to submitting planning applications in due course.

Little Hadham Parish Council discussed the above matter at a recent parish council meeting and would like to make its objections known to East Herts District Council Officers by way of this letter.

The development of this land would have serious implications for our village bringing more traffic and pollution along the A120 which is already operating at over capacity, with congestion being a major problem. We are extremely concerned over the detrimental effect more traffic would bring on rat-running through the hamlets of Cradle End, Bury Green, Acremore Street, Ford Hill and Chapel Lane; the overspill speeding traffic is already causing damage to verges & banks and danger to walkers, cyclists, horse-riders and other road users.

We feel the wider local community would also suffer the loss of what is essentially the last remaining area of visually beautiful open countryside in Bishop's Stortford.

We urge East Herts District Council to consider very carefully the serious detrimental implications yet another local housing estate would have on an already overstretched & underfunded town and on the surrounding village communities.

Yours sincerely