

# Little Hadham Parish Council

Minutes of the eleventh meeting of the Little Hadham Parish Council (2011 – 2015 Session) held on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2012 at 8:47 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**    )

Mr B Evans – Clerk, and 9 member of the public.

**11.1. Absent.** Cllr Ms Woodgate.

**11.2. Declarations of interest.** None.

**11.3. Public session.**

A resident asked when the hole in Albury Road, dug by the electricity company, would be filled. The Chairman said it would be dealt with later in the meeting.

**11.4. Minutes of the Parish Council meeting** held on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2012 had been previously circulated. The minutes were agreed as accurate. Proposed by Cllr Mrs Wilkinson and seconded by Cllr Williamson.

**11.5. Matters arising from the minutes.** None.

**11.6. Replacement councillor.** The Chairman said that advertisements had been placed in the Parish News and on the notice boards asking for people to be considered for co-option to the Council.

**11.7. Playgrounds.**

**11.7.1.** Repairs following the inspection. The Clerk said that he had prepared a specification for the work. It was agreed that he would send it to Mr Foskett for a quotation. Action  
Clerk

**11.7.2.** Installation of ‘No Dogs’ signs at the playgrounds. The Chairman said he was waiting for the signs to be installed.

**11.7.3.** Fitness apparatus for the Village Hall playground. Cllr Mrs Piccolo proposed the Council investigate installing the equipment. Cllr Gregory said he had seen equipment in Leyton and Leytonstone where it was proving very popular. It was agreed that Cllr Mrs Piccolo would investigate a number of companies and obtain some indicative quotations. Action  
CP

**11.8. Road matters.**

**11.8.1.** Outstanding matters. The Chairman said the hole in Albury Road and the post knocked over outside the Nag’s Head had been reported to Herts Highways. He would also report part of Chapel Lane near Westland Green where a car had mistaken a ditch for what looked like a grass verge. Action  
JF

**11.8.2.** Damage to the war memorial. The Chairman thanked Mr Don Gibson, assisted by Cllr Mrs Piccolo and the Clerk, for making the repair.

**11.8.3.** Protection of the gas control box south of Bridge Foot Farm. The Chairman said he was waiting to hear from the gas company. Action  
JF

**11.8.4.** Village signs for Westland and Bury Greens. Cllr Mrs Wilkinson said they were good signs. Herts Highways had decided where to site them and had agreed to move the sign on the western side of Westland Green to more accurately mark the

edge of the hamlet. Cllr Mrs Piccolo said that residents of Bury Green had complained about the size of the signs but she had told them that the Council could not justify the expense of larger signs.

**11.8.5.** Little Hadham village sign for the Much Hadham road. The Chairman said that he had been asked if the Council could pay for a sign opposite South Cottages. After some discussion it was agreed not to install the sign.

**11.8.6.** Bulb planting round new signs at Westland and Bury Green. The Chairman said that he had been given two sacks of spring bulbs. He said he would plant them round the new signs when the weather improved.

## **11.9. Westland Green**

**11.9.1.** Making good the fire damage at the green. The Chairman said the burnt shrubs and other debris had been largely removed. He thought the area would soon green up.

## **11.10. Bury Green**

**11.10.1.** Parking on the Green. The Chairman thought little more could be done.

**11.10.2.** Bury Green seat. Cllr Mrs Piccolo said that a resident had made another generous donation so there was now sufficient money to buy the seat. Mr Foskett had agreed to install the seat for the cost of materials. The Chairman said he would send the details of the seat suppliers to the Clerk. Action JF

**11.10.3.** Renovation of Bury Green pond and fence. The Chairman said that he wanted to make it a community project. He would try to organise a working party to tidy weeds, renovate the fence and cut back vegetation in and around the pond. Action JF

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

## **11.12. Allotments.**

**11.12.1.** Use of waste land for extra allotment plots. The Chairman said that he had spoken to Mr Bob Bayford who would try to identify the location of any services at the allotment site. Action JF

**11.13. Footpaths.** The Chairman said the paths were very muddy but generally in good condition.

## **11.14. Parish Plan Group.**

**11.14.1.** The Chairman said there would be a meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> May. He was disappointed that there had been little response from the notice in the Parish News.

**11.14.2.** Plans for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee including a Gala Diner. The Chairman said the dinner had been organised. There would be a flyer in the Parish News and he asked those attending to write their menu choice on enclosed form.

**11.14.3.** Parish website. The Clerk said that he was waiting to hear from Mr O'Reagan who had created the Hadham website. Action Clerk/CP

**11.14.4.** Welcome pack. It was agreed to make the pack available on the Council website. A limited number of copies would be made available for residents who asked for them.. Action Clerk

## **11.15. Chairman's report.**

**11.15.1. Parish Assembly.** The Clerk said he had received confirmation from Mrs Liz Stockly [Head of the village school], Insp Chris Hunt [local police], Mr Mick Smith [Parish Plan Group], Rev Chris Boulton, Cllr Mike Carver [neighbourhood planning] and Mr Michael Tindale [district councillor]. He awaited replies from Action Clerk

Mr Richard Beckett [Little Hadham Charities], and Cllr Leanda Newlyn [county councillor]. The Chairman said that the school captains and members of the junior cricket club would take part. He said Cllr Ms Woodgate had contacted local organisations and businesses to invite them to set up a display for the Assembly. Cllr Mrs Piccolo agreed to organise the refreshments.

**11.15.2. East Herts Association of Parish and Town Councils.** Report from meeting held on 24th April 2012. The Chairman said the meeting had dealt with Neighbourhood Planning. The plan would allocate land for development – without a plan communities would have little say in planning decisions. He noted that Brickendon has a 21 member work party that had met weekly since November. The plan could not be prepared by councils but it required local residents who had a number of skills. Cllr Mike Carver would give a presentation on the subject at the Assembly.

**11.15.3. Youth representative to the Council.** The Chairman said that he would raise the matter at the Assembly. Action JF

**11.15.4. Local business directory.** The Chairman said that he had already received expressions of interest. Action CP

**11.15.5. Digital switchover** in April 2012. The Chairman said that this had appeared to pass with few problems.

**11.15.6. To consider a major project for the Council.** The Chairman referred to the suggestion of a fitness centre.

**11.15.7. Proposal from Albury PC for planting trees.** The Chairman said he hoped to meet the Albury chairman soon. Action JF

## 11.16. Clerk's Report

### 11.16.1. Financial statement

**Period ending 1<sup>st</sup> May 2012** Barclay's Bank C/Acc £12,490.71 StepSaver BP Acc £5.19 BP Acc £170.10 Petty cash £23.43 **Total £12,689.43** Included above Received Mrs V E Jones Donation to BG village seat £50.00 **Uncleared cheques** Little Hadham Cricket Club Donation £125.00 Little Hadham School Copying £50.05 The Hadhams History Society Donation £200.00 **Total uncleared £375.05** **To be considered by the Council To be agreed for payment** Mr B Evans P/Clerk - (Apr) £315.81 Exp (Apr) £13.70 £329.51 Karin Green Garden Services Grass cutting (Apr) £50.00 Mr A Purvis Litter picking (Apr) £106.86 Little Hadham Village Hall Feb & Mar meetings £36.24 Mower Services [Mr L Knott] Mowing playgrounds £290.40 Broker Network Ltd Annual insurance £662.60 **Total payments £1,475.61** **Total in all accounts and petty cash after payment of this month's bills £10,838.77**

- 11.16.2.** Proposed to accept payment of accounts. Agreed.
- 11.16.3.** Proposed to accept the accuracy of the financial statement. Proposed Cllr Ms Wilkinson seconded Cllr Mrs Piccolo. Agreed.
- 11.16.4.** Accounting statements for 2011/12. The Chairman proposed that the Council agree the audit accounting statement. Agreed. The Chairman signed the statement.
- 11.16.5.** Internal audit. The Chairman proposed that the Council accept the report of the internal auditor. Agreed. The Chairman thanked Mr Mike Smith for carrying out the audit
- 11.16.6.** Governance statement. The Chairman proposed that the Council accept the Annual Governance Statement for 2011/12. Agreed.
- 11.16.7.** Annual insurance. The Clerk said he had obtained three quotations for the annual insurance to run from 1<sup>st</sup> June 2012 – Zurich Insurance £901.61, AON Insurance £880.02 and Aviva Insurance £662.60. The Chairman said that all three were covering the same risks and proposed that the Council accept the proposal from Aviva. Agreed.
- 11.17. Democratic 10 minutes.**  
There were no questions or comments.
- 11.18. Planning matters.** The transactions of the Planning Committee were noted.
- 11.19. Correspondence.** The Clerk distributed items of correspondence to relevant members.
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| Herts Police Policing Priorities booklet        | <b>All</b> |
| CPRE Countryside Voice magazine                 | <b>MW</b>  |
| CPRE Members Guide                              | <b>MW</b>  |
| NALC LCR magazine                               | <b>JF</b>  |
| HCC Draft Rural Transport Strategy Consultation | <b>JF</b>  |
| SSE newsletters                                 | <b>JF</b>  |
- 11.20. Date of the next meeting Monday 11<sup>th</sup> June 2012.**
- 11.21. The Chairman closed the meeting to the Public and the Press at 9:41 p.m.**