

Little Hadham Parish Council

Minutes of the 14th meeting of the Little Hadham Parish Council (2011 – 2015 Session) held on Tuesday 4th September at 8:18 p.m. in the Village Hall, Little Hadham.

Present: **Mr J Forgham** **Chairman**
 Mrs C Piccolo **)**
 Mr G Williamson **) Councillors**
 Ms W Woodgate **)**

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

- 14.1. Absent.** Cllr Gregory and Cllr Mrs Wilkinson [holiday].
- 14.2. Declarations of interest.** Cllr Mrs Piccolo said she had a pecuniary interest in the war memorial repairs as her husband had submitted a quotation.
- 14.3. Public session.** A resident asked if Herts Highways had approved suggested alterations to the war memorial wall. Cllr Mrs Piccolo said they had agreed to repairs.
- 14.4. Minutes of the Parish Council meeting** held on Tuesday 3rd July 2012 had been previously circulated. The minutes were agreed as accurate.
- 14.5. Matters arising from the minutes.** None.
- 14.6. Replacement councillor.** The Chairman said that the Council would be meeting a resident interested in being co-opted after the Council meeting.
- 14.7. Playgrounds.**
- 14.7.1.** The Chairman reported a rude, anonymous phone call complaining about the broken cable runway. The Clerk said that he had instructed SMP (Playgrounds) to make the repair to the runway though he had not heard when they would carry out the work. Action
Clerk
 The Clerk said that Mr Foskett had completed most of the repairs agreed at the last meeting.
- 14.7.2.** Report from the playground inspections. Cllr Williamson said that no serious problems had been reported – they were all low or very low risk. He said he would prepare a ‘to do’ list. Action
GW
- 14.7.3.** Proposed installation of a Trim Trail in the Village Hall playground. Cllr Mrs Piccolo said that Caloo Ltd. could install 4 pieces of apparatus for about £5,000. The apparatus would be installed opposite the ‘hang-out’ seat. The Clerk said Matta matting was preferable to wood chips and care would have to be taken to ensure that access for the mower was not restricted. Cllr Mrs Piccolo said she would discuss this with the company. The Chairman asked if the trail was suitable for adults as well as children. Cllr Mrs Piccolo said it could be set up to be multipurpose. The apparatus would have a guarantee. It was agreed to install the apparatus subject to agreement on the details. Cllr Mrs Piccolo said that she would arrange a site visit with the suppliers to which other councillors would be very welcome. Action
CP
- 14.7.4.** Playground hedge cutting. The Clerk said that he had booked Green Man Conservation to cut the hedges at both playgrounds – probably in late October. The cost would be about £330 – a little more than last year because of the increased cost of fuel.

14.8. Road matters.

- 14.8.1. Outstanding matters. The Chairman said that pot holes near Halfway House had been reported.
- 14.8.2. Damaged post near the Nag's Head and Concealed ditch on Chapel Lane near to Westland Green. The Chairman said these were still awaiting repair.
- 14.8.3. Overgrown hedges in Chapel Lane. The Chairman said the hedge had been cut.
- 14.8.4. Renewed pavement from the village hall to the Smithy. The Chairman said he was pleased to see the pavement had been completely replaced.
- 14.8.5. Damage to the war memorial. Cllr Mrs Piccolo said the Council had agreed to a quote for £235 for the repair. However, a resident had asked if a more permanent solution could be found. Cllr Mrs Piccolo said that her husband had devised a scheme by which the damaged step would be replaced by a re-enforced concrete corner. This would be strong enough to withstand collision with vehicles. After some discussion it was agreed to go ahead with the original quotations which would retain the existing appearance of the wall. Action Clerk
- 14.8.6. Update on protection of the gas control box south of Bridgefoot Farm. The Chairman said he still was waiting to hear from National Grid. Action JF
- #### 14.9. Bury Green
- 14.9.1. Bury Green seat. The Clerk said the seat had been delivered and awaited installation by Mr Foskett.
- 14.9.2. Renovation of Bury Green pond and fence. The Chairman said that he had arranged for a work party of volunteers to carry out the work at 10 a.m. on 23rd September 2012. Action JF
- 14.10. **Westland Green.** Repairs to the byroad across the green. The Clerk said that Mr Maddex, HCC footpaths officer had emailed saying that a resident had objected to his, and the Council's, plan to strengthen the footings of the byway. Mr Maddex said that he had removed the scheme from his list of planned works. The Chairman said he would make enquiries. Action JF
- 14.11. **Little Hadham Conservation Society update.** Cllr Mrs Piccolo said there had been a meeting of the society. The likelihood of a gypsy and traveller site in the parish had been reduced but had not gone. It was decided to continue with the society and Mr Don Gibson, the chairman, would keep the community abreast of any developments. The society was still holding monies donated by a number of residents.
- 14.12. **NHS report.** There was nothing to report.
- 14.13. **Allotments.** The Chairman said he had approached an allotment holder to act as Council rep. The Chairman said he would keep the Council informed. Action JF
- #### 14.14. Footpaths.
- 14.14.1. The Chairman said that Mr Maddex had put warning tape on the broken footbridge opposite the Nag's Head. The Chairman said he would ask that the bridge be repaired as quickly as possible as it presented a real danger to users of the bridge. Action JF
- #### 14.15. Parish Plan Group.
- 14.15.1. Millennium Wood bioblitz and picnic. The Chairman said he had put the event back to 23rd October because of the late activity of birds and butterflies. He hoped to Action JF

involve children from the school. He would contact Romehold, the owners of the land, to seek permission.

14.15.2. Parish website. The Clerk said he had spoken to Mr O'Regan's son. He had shown him how it would be possible to modify the existing TheHadhams website in order to keep it up to date. It would be possible for the Clerk to become a site administrator though this would involve a training session costing about £55. It was agreed that the Clerk should arrange training. The Clerk said he would talk to Much Hadham Council as they share the site.

Action
Clerk

14.16. Chairman's report.

14.16.1. Local business directory. Progress on creating a leaflet detailing local businesses. The Chairman said he had contacts from 25 businesses. He said he would chase the larger businesses. He expected the directory to be ready in October 2012.

Action
JF

14.16.2. Leaving of Rev Chris Bolton. The Chairman said that Rev Bolton would be leaving the parish by the end of the month. He would be greatly missed by local residents. He proposed the Council agree retrospectively to a donation of £25. Agreed.

14.16.3. Follow up from the Police presentation at the Assembly. The Chairman said the matter of a police commissioner for Herts was covered by the presentation from Kate Belinis given before the meeting.

14.17. Clerk's Report

14.17.1. Financial statement The Clerk apologised that he had not printed copies of the financial statement. He said he would email it to councillors and include it in the minutes.

Period ending 4th September 2012			
Barclay's Bank C/Acc			£17,736.93
StepSaver BP Acc			£5.19
BP Acc			£170.12
Petty cash			-£18.98
		Total	£17,893.26
Included above			
Received			
EHC New homes bonus			£2,302.00
Paid			
Mr B Evans - card purchase	BG seat Keidel Ltd		£426.00
Little Hadham PCC - Leaving gift	for Rev Chis Boulton		£25.00
Little Hadham Village Hall - meetings	rent		£86.49
Mower Services [Mr L Knott]	Mowing playgrounds		£290.40
To be agreed for payment			
Mr B Evans	P/Clerk - August	£315.61	
	Exp (June)	£13.70	
	Float	£50.00	£379.31
Karin Green Garden Services	Grass cutting (August)		£50.00
Mr A Purvis	Litter picking (August)		£108.66
Mower Services [Mr L Knott]	Mowing playgrounds		£290.40
BDO LLP	External audit		£162.00
EHC playground inspections			£111.72
		Total payments	£1,102.09
Total in all accounts and petty cash after payment of this month's bills			£16,841.17

14.17.2.Proposed to accept payment of accounts. Agreed.

14.17.3.Proposed to accept the accuracy of the financial statement. Agreed.

14.17.4. Annual audit. The Clerk said that the external audit had been completed and that no matters had been raised by the auditors. He asked that the Council accept the audit document. Agreed.

14.18. Democratic 10 minutes.

Residents spoke about the grass verge next to the main road near the Smithy. Tyres and other rubbish had been used as play equipment. It was thought not to be safe and made an unsightly mess. The Chairman said that he had spoken to some of the children using the site and found them to be polite and reasonable. He understood that the police had spoken to them about safety. The Chairman thought that things might return to normal after the end of the school holiday.

A resident spoke about the proposed Trim Trail. He thought the Council should check that it was safe for children and adults and check that it was covered by the Council's insurance.

A resident asked if neighbours had any concerns about the planning application for Hogs Bog and Fieldview. Cllr Mrs Piccolo said the plans were relatively trivial and the neighbours would not be affected and had no objection.

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

14.20. Correspondence. There was no correspondence to distribute.

14.21. Date of the next meeting Tuesday 2nd October 2012.

14.22. The Chairman closed the meeting to the Public and the Press at 9:24 p.m.