

Little Hadham Parish Council

Minutes of the 16th meeting of the Little Hadham Parish Council (2011 – 2015 Session) held on Tuesday 6th November 2012 at 8:18 p.m. in the Village Hall, Little Hadham.

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

Mr B Evans – Clerk, and 13 members of the public.

16.1. Absent. None.

16.2. Declarations of interest. None.

16.3. Public session. A resident asked about funding for the Neighbourhood Plan. He thought it was independent of the Council yet the Council was funding it. Cllr Mrs Piccolo said the Council encouraged the setting up of the group and some councillors were members. However, the group was independent of the Council. The Council had made a small donation, as it had to many other local organisations, to help with day to day expenses.

16.4. Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 2nd October 2012 had been previously circulated. The minutes were agreed as accurate.

16.5. Matters arising from the minutes. None.

16.6. Playgrounds.

16.6.1. Repairs following the playground inspections. The Clerk said he had visited the playgrounds with Mr Mick Foskett who was preparing a quotation for the list of work drawn up by Cllr Williamson.

Action
Clerk

16.6.2. Proposed installation of a Trim Trail in the Village Hall playground. Cllr Mrs Piccolo said that the order had been placed with Caloo Ltd. who planned to carry out the work on 19th November 2012. The Clerk said he was still waiting for plans of the underground electricity cables at the playground from UK Power Networks. Caloo were aware that the plans were not yet available.

Action
Clerk

16.6.3. Damage to the aerial runway. Cllr Williamson said the work had been carried out by SMP (Playgrounds) Ltd. Their engineer had said that cables often needed replacing after 2 years – the Council's had broken after 5 years. Cllr Williamson said that the Council should budget for regular servicing of the Cable Rider.

16.7. Road matters.

16.7.1. Outstanding matters. None.

16.7.2. The Chairman said Mr Stephen Stigwood had dug out part of the ditch near Westland Green. He thought the ditch, as well as an over grown ditch nearby, needed to be marked by posts with warning reflectors. He agreed to contact Herts Highways. From the floor, Mr Stigwood said that the cleared ditch was full of water as the drain under the road was blocked. The Chairman said he would mention this to Herts Highways.

Action
JF

- 16.7.3.** Damage to the war memorial. The Chairman thanked Mr Foskett for completing the repair to the wall. He also thanked Mrs Karin Green for tidying the grass and flower beds ready for Remembrance Sunday.
- 16.7.4.** Update on protection of the gas control box south of Bridge Foot Farm. Cllr Pearson said that his daughter had set up an online petition asking for action to be taken to protect the control box. Over 100 people had signed which qualified for a 3 minute slot to give a presentation to HCC. Cllr Pearson said that protecting the current box with an Armco barrier might cost £2,000. The damage caused in the accident cost about £100,000. His daughter's car had filled with gas and gas could be smelt over 2 miles away. Fortunately the gas did not ignite as it had in similar accidents in other places. Cllr Pearson said that Oliver Heald MP had taken an interest and he was taking the case up with HCC and National Grid.
- 16.7.5.** Possible installation of recycled plastic planters. Cllr Ms Woodgate said Herts Highways had given permission for 2 planters at the pump though she still had to talk to them about planters near the Smithy. Permission had been given for a resident to erect a seat, in memory of his wife, near the pump. Cllr Ms Woodgate said she would present a detailed plan to the Council at the December meeting including costings, locations and details of how the planters would be stocked and maintained. Action
CP/WW
- 16.7.6.** Village sign. Cllr Mrs Piccolo said there was no village sign on the road from Much Hadham. She proposed that she should talk to Herts Highways about cost and a suitable location. Agreed. Action
CP
- 16.8. Bury Green**
- 16.8.1.** Bury Green seat. The Chairman said the seat had been installed and he thanked Mr Mick Foskett who had given his time for nothing.
- 16.8.2.** Renovation of Bury Green pond and fence. The Chairman said that local residents continued to clear the area. He was in consultation about a digger to clear some of the pond. Winter was the best time to do this. Action
JF
- 16.8.3.** Tidying the Millennium Wood. The Chairman said that he has approached a number of people who were willing to help. He said he was seeking permission from Romehold to carry out the work by February/March. Action
JF
- 16.8.4.** Cutting of the green. Cllr Mrs Piccolo said that she had spoken to Mr Roat of Romehold. The company mower had been repaired and the Green would be cut soon. Cllr Mrs Piccolo said that she was uncertain that Romehold would continue to cut the grass into the future.
- 16.9. Westland Green.**
- 16.9.1.** Repairs to the byroad across the green. The Chairman said he had yet to hear from Mr Maddex, HCC Footpaths Officer. Action
JF
- 16.9.2.** Grass cutting of the green. From the floor Mr Stephen Stigwood said he would cut the Green when it was a little drier.
- 16.10. NHS report.** There was nothing to report.
- 16.11. Allotments.** The Chairman said he had not received a reply from the person he had asked to be allotments rep. The matter would have to be resolved by the December meeting as rents needed to be collected. Action
JF

16.12. Footpaths.

16.12.1.Damaged foot bridge opposite the Nag's Head. The Chairman said the bridge had been repaired.

16.12.2.Rutted, overgrown footpaths from Millfield Lane to Green Street and from Cradle End to St James Way, Bishop's Stortford. Cllr Mrs Piccolo said she was reluctant to worry Mr Maddex who she knew was over worked. The Clerk said he thought Mr Maddex had asked if the Council wanted the path levelled by harrowing and reseeded. Cllr Mrs Piccolo agreed to investigate.

Action
CP

16.13. Parish Plan Group.

16.13.1.Parish website. Cllr Mrs Piccolo said she would try to chase Mr O'Reagan in order to discuss the future of the Hadhams website.

Action
CP

16.14. Chairman's report.

16.14.1.Local business directory. Progress on creating a leaflet detailing local businesses. The Chairman said he was waiting for confirmation from 3 companies who had offered funding.

Action
JF

16.14.2.Bulb planting round village signs. The Chairman said the bulbs he had been given turned out to be rotten. He said he would buy some and organise a work party to plant them.

Action
JF

16.14.3.Garden rubbish thrown in the Ash. The Chairman said he had been appalled to discover that some residents had thrown considerable quantities of garden rubbish into the Ash. Following the recent heavy rain the rubbish had been washed down stream where it blocked pipes near the Nag's Head. He said he would write a note for the Parish News. Cllr Pearson said that the river had risen following the heavy rain. The water level was measured by an automatic sensor near the A120 bridge. The sensor appeared to be working but its readings were not appearing on the Environment Agency website. Cllr Pearson said he was in discussion with the Agency to correct the software. He said he would write an article for the Parish News explaining how residents could get information about flood warnings.

Action
JF

Action
GP

16.14.4.Refuse bins – helping vulnerable residents. The Chairman said that he helped a number of vulnerable people with their bins. He said he would write an article for the Parish News inviting people who needed help to phone him so that he could organise helpers.

Action
JF

16.14.5.Refuse bins – obstructing pavements. Cllr Pearson said the bin men were leaving bins obstructing the narrow pavement through the village. This forced pedestrians to walk on the road. Cllr Mrs Piccolo agreed to talk to EHC.

Action
CP

16.14.6.Retirement of Alan Hoy – the local postman. The Chairman said that Mrs Eileen Booth had organised a collection for Mr Hoy who had worked in the village for many years. He asked the Council to confirm the donation of £20 previously agreed by email. Agreed.

16.14.7.Donation in remembrance of the late Michael Hurford. Cllr Mrs Piccolo said that Mr Hurford had worked with Bishop's Stortford Civic Federation for many years and had recently spoken to the Council. She proposed that the Council make a donation of £10 to the Isobel Hospice in his name. Agreed.

16.15. Clerk's Report**16.15.1. Financial statement**

Period ending 6th November 2012			
Barclay's Bank C/Acc			£21,080.33
StepSaver BP Acc			£5.19
BP Acc			£170.14
Petty cash			£6.52
		Total	£21,262.18
To be agreed for payment			
Mr M Foskett	War Memorial repairs	£235.00	
	BG seat materials	£56.00	£291.00
Mr B Evans	P/Clerk - October	£315.61	
	Exp (October)	£13.70	
	Float	£50.00	£379.31
Karin Green Garden Services	Grass cutting (October)		£50.00
Mr A Purvis	Litter picking (October)		£108.66
Mower Services [Mr L Knott]	Mowing playgrounds		£145.20
SMP Playgrounds	Playground repairs		£850.27
Mrs E Booth - towards gift to Mr Alan Hoy retired postman			£20.00
Little Hadham PCC - donation for burial ground maintenance			£250.00
Royal British Legion	Wreath		£25.00
Mrs C Piccolo - refreshments			£5.55
Little Hadham Brownie pack - donation			£200.00
Isobel Hospice - in memory Mr Michael Hurford			£10.00
Herts CC - office stationary			£20.94
Little Hadham Village Hall - hire for meetings			£36.24
		Total payments	£2,392.17
Total in all accounts and petty cash after payment of this month's bills			£18,920.01

16.15.2. Proposed to accept payment of accounts. Agreed.

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

16.15.4. The Clerk said that the Council would have to agree its precept for 2013/14 at the December meeting. He said that he would prepare a document to help with preparing a budget for the coming year. It was agreed that Cllrs Forgham, Mrs Piccolo and Mrs Wilkinson would meet the Clerk to prepare a draft budget for consideration at the December meeting.

16.16. Democratic 10 minutes.

A resident asked if the Council intended to use the police traffic speed indicator equipment in the village. He thought it should not be used as it brought local people into conflict. The Chairman said he did not agree. People who speeded through the village were placing local people's lives at risk. He had no sympathy with a local resident who claimed he knew the roads and knew when it was safe to speed. The speed tests would not result in prosecution though offenders might get a police letter or even a visit for the police.

A resident said EHC would arrange to collect the bins of vulnerable residents if asked. The Chairman said the bin men did not always remember.

A resident spoke of a large 4x4 regularly parked in Albury road for the working day when its owner took a lift to work with a friend. The vehicle caused a dangerous obstruction.

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

16.18. Correspondence.

CPRE Countryside Voice magazine

MW

Affinity Water pre-consultation on Water Resources Management Plan

JF

SSE Government consultation on future of aviation

RG

EHC District Planning Bulletin

CP

Clerks and Councils Direct magazine

JF**16.19. Date of the next meeting Tuesday 4th December 2012.****16.20. The Chairman closed the meeting to the Public and the Press at 9:22 p.m.**