

Little Hadham Parish Council

Minutes of the 20th meeting of the Little Hadham Parish Council (2011 – 2015 Session) held on Tuesday 2nd April 2013 at 8:22 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 9 members of the public.

20.1. Absent. None.

20.2. Declarations of interest. None.

20.3. Public session.

A resident said the Chapel and Chapel Hall were to be sold by auction within the next two weeks. He asked if the Council was interested in obtaining them for the community. He thought the hall could be used for a meeting room or possibly a museum. The Chairman thought there was too little time to prepare a realistic business plan. Cllr Mrs Wilkinson said that it would be possible to have the chapel listed as a ‘community asset’ with EHC. This would give a six month delay during which the Council could create a plan. It was agreed that the Clerk would investigate.

20.4. Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 5th March 2013 had been previously circulated. The minutes were agreed as accurate.

20.5. Minutes of the Parish Assembly held on Thursday 28th April 2012 had been previously circulated. The minutes were agreed as accurate.

20.6. Matters arising from the minutes. None.

20.7. Playgrounds.

20.7.1. Repairs to the Ridgeway playground. From the floor Mr Foskett said that most of the work had been completed with only three items left including replacing a gate post and painting the cross bar of the swings.

20.8. Road matters.

20.8.1. Potholes. The Chairman said a hole on Chapel lane had been filled although not very well. Cllr Mrs Wilkinson said a fence had been knocked over near Westland Green. The matter had been reported to Herts Highways.

Action
JF

20.8.2. Vehicles from the side roads jumping the A120 lights. The Chairman said he was contacting the relevant authorities to arrange a meeting. He had emailed Mr David Lloyd, the Police Commissioner, Herts Highways and Oliver Heald MP. He understood that Herts Highways thought that CCTV cameras were not suitable. The Chairman said that he was receiving reports that vehicles were jumping the lights again. He asked people to report the incidents to Mr Lloyd.

Action
JF

20.8.3. Blocked drain under the road at Westland Green. The Chairman said that, as there had been little rain lately, it was unclear if the recent work had been effective.

- 20.8.4.** Update on protection of the gas control box south of Bridge Foot Farm. Cllr Pearson said National Grid had installed safety barriers round the box. The Chairman congratulated Hannah Pearson for the successful conclusion to her campaign.
- 20.8.5.** Installation of recycled plastic planters. Cllr Ms Woodgate said the planters had arrived and would be installed shortly. The Chairman thanked Mr Stephen Stigwood for storing the planters and agreeing to help with their installation. Action
WW
- 20.8.6.** Little Hadham sign. Cllr Mrs Piccolo said she was waiting to hear from Herts Highways when they received a quotation for the work.
- 20.9. Flooding.**
- 20.9.1.** Pollution in the River Ash. Cllr Pearson said the river from the Nag's Head to Bridgefoot Farm had an unpleasant smell. The pump had been tested and was said to be OK. The Chairman said an Affinity Water engineer had recently been overcome by fumes at the pump. The pump had recently become very noisy. Cllr Pearson said he would make enquiries. Action
GP
- 20.9.2.** Overflowing sewage at the Nag's Head. Cllr Pearson said Affinity Water was using dye tracers to investigate whether road drains had been diverted into the sewer.
- 20.9.3.** Arrangements for a meeting with the agencies involved to consider flood prevention measures in the parish. The Chairman said he had been in contact with Oliver Heald MP who now said he would attend but not organise a meeting. The Chairman said he was trying to organise a meeting with all the relevant agencies. Action
JF
- 20.10. Westland Green.**
- 20.10.1.** Repairs to the byroad across the green. The Chairman said he had still not heard from Mr Maddex, the HCC footpaths officer.
- 20.10.2.** Grass cutting of the green. The Chairman said Mr Stigwood was busy with farming and the green was unlikely to be cut this year.
- 20.11. NHS report.** There was nothing to report.
- 20.12. Allotments.** Collection of rents. The Chairman said he so far not received any rents. Action
JF
- 20.13. Parish Plan Group.**
- 20.13.1.** From the floor Mr Mike Smith said there would be a meeting next week.
- 20.14. Parish Assembly**
- 20.14.1.** To conform the arrangements and speakers. The Clerk said he had received positive replies from Mrs Liz Stockley [Village School], Insp Hunt [Police], Mr Colin Street [Environment Agency], Cllr Gregory [Pantomime] and Mr Mike Smith [Parish Plan Group]. The Chairman said he would invite a number of young people who had been successful in various sporting and cultural events in the past year. Cllr Ms Woodgate had asked a number of organisations who had received donations from the Council to present static displays. It was agreed that the Clerk should invite the new rector, Rev Giles Tulk to the Assembly. Action
Clerk

20.15. Chairman's report.

20.15.1. Local business directory. Progress on creating a leaflet detailing local businesses. The Chairman said he had decided to drop the proposal as there had been too little local interest.

20.15.2. Possible use of Bishop's Stortford Minibus Trust Community Transport. The Chairman said that he had heard from the trust. He thought that the proposal was unlikely to be suitable for the parish as at least six passengers would have to be available for each trip. He said he would bring up the matter at the Assembly.

Action
JF**20.16. Clerk's Report****20.16.1. Financial statement****Period ending 2nd April 2013**

Barclay's Bank C/Acc	£10,433.05	
StepSaver BP Acc	£5.19	
BP Acc	£170.18	
Petty cash	£34.02	
Total	£10,642.44	

Uncleared cheques

Isobel Hospice - in memory Mr Michael Hurford	£10.00	
CDA for Herts - annual subscription	£30.00	
Kyokujitsu Kyokushin Karate Club - Donation	£150.00	
Total uncleared	£190.00	

To be agreed for payment

Mr B Evans	P/Clerk - March	£315.61	
	Exp March	£19.11	£334.72
Karin Green Garden Services	Grass cutting March		£50.00
Mr A Purvis	Litter picking March		£108.66
HM Revenue & Customs	PAYE		£236.80
Gascoyne Cecil Estates	BG & WG rent		£3.13
Mrs C Piccolo - refreshments for February meeting			£4.07
Little Hadham School	Printing		£58.05
Total payments			£795.43

Total in all accounts and petty cash after payment of this month's bills £9,657.01

20.16.2. Proposed to accept payment of accounts. Agreed.

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

20.16.4. Report from the working party asked to review the work of the Clerk. The Chairman said that the working party had met the Clerk and had been satisfied that he was carrying out his responsibilities, including the keeping of the Council accounts, in a satisfactory manner.

20.16.5. To accept the Council risk assessment. The Clerk referred to the draft risk assessment that he had previously circulated to councillors. The Chairman proposed that the risk assessment be accepted by the Council for the new financial year. Agreed.

20.17. Democratic 10 minutes.

The Chairman said that a long term local resident wished to move to a smaller housing association home. However he had been offered a home outside the village in which he had lived most of his life. The Chairman asked the Council for agreement to write to the housing association in support of the resident's request to be rehoused in the village. Agreed.

A resident said that the EHC Local Plan had lapsed and that currently the planning office was working to the Government's framework which encouraged building wherever possible. He wondered what might happen if the developers resubmitted the application for houses in Chapel Lane that had been rejected by the inspectors. Cllr Mrs Piccolo said she would speak to the planning team.

Action
CP

20.18. Planning matters. The transactions of the Planning Committee were noted.**20.19. Correspondence.**

The Clerk distributed correspondence to the relevant councillors.

LRC Magazine

CP

CPRE Fieldwork Magazine

JF

CPRE Countryside Voice magazine

JF

20.20. Date of the next meeting Tuesday 7th May 2013.**20.21. The Chairman closed the meeting to the Public and the Press at 9:20 p.m.**