

Little Hadham Parish Council

Minutes of the 21st meeting of the Little Hadham Parish Council (2011 – 2015 Session) held on Tuesday 7th May 2013 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
Mr G Williamson)
Ms W Woodgate)

Mr B Evans – Clerk, and 14 members of the public.

21.1. Absent. Cllr Mrs Wilkinson [unwell].

21.2. Declarations of interest. None.

21.3. Public session.

A resident said that a pothole on the A120 had been repaired three times over a short time as the repairs were so poor.

21.4. Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 2nd April 2013 had been previously circulated. The minutes were agreed as accurate.

21.5. Minutes of the Parish Assembly held on Thursday 18th April 2013 had been previously circulated. The minutes were agreed as accurate.

21.6. Matters arising from the minutes.

21.6.1. Sale of Chapel and hall. The Chairman said the hall had been sold for over £190,000. The developers had already moved some gravestones but he thought these were included in the planning consent. He expected that no more gravestones would be moved. The chapel failed to reach its reserve price of £100,000. The highest bid was for £94,000. He said the chapel had planning consent for D1 use – non-residential institutions.

21.7. Playgrounds.

21.7.1. From the floor Mr Foskett said that most of the work had been completed with only three items left including replacing a gate post, fitting a spring on the gate and painting the cross bar of the swings.

21.7.2. Insurance. The Clerk said that the current insurers were to impose a new condition that the playgrounds must be inspected by a competent person at least once a week. A quote from a second insurer did not include this condition although a legal opinion in the Clerk Magazine said that an inspection at least once a month was sufficient. After some discussion, the Chairman said he thought the playgrounds should be inspected once a week. Cllr Williamson and Cllr Ms Woodgate agreed to take turns. The Clerk said that a record should be kept as evidence of each inspection – possibly a text or email sent to the Clerk. Agreed.

Action
GW/WW
/Clerk

21.8. Road matters.

21.8.1. Potholes. The Chairman said potholes in Chapel Lane and on the A120 had been poorly repaired and were now as bad as before. He would continue to report them.

Action
JF

21.8.2. Vehicles from the side roads jumping the A120 lights. The Chairman said he was contacting the relevant authorities to arrange a meeting. The police were keen to

- attend though Herts Highways seems more reluctant. The police planned to monitor the site in the near future and would give a warning on Twitter and Facebook. Action
JF
- 21.8.3.** Blocked drain under the road at Westland Green. The Chairman said that the A120 appeared to have been fixed though he was waiting to hear from Herts Highways about Westland Green.
- 21.8.4.** Letter in the H&E Observer concerning the bypass. Cllr Gregory was surprised by the letter. He thought there was fair unanimity about the need for a bypass. He thought the complaints of councillors unfair. Cllr Gregory wondered if the views represented more general feeling among public – particularly about warnings on the effect of the bypass such as possible infill. Cllr Mrs Piccolo said she had asked Stephen Tapper about potential development. He thought it inevitable. However, Cllr Williamson referred to other local bypasses which had not attracted development. Cllr Gregory referred to document from HCC about the bypass. The Clerk said it followed a standard form dictated by the government. HCC would use the document in its bid for funding. Cllr Gregory said he was surprised no-one had replied to the letter.
- 21.8.5.** Installation of recycled plastic planters. Cllr Ms Woodgate said the planters had been installed and stocked. She thanked Mr Stephen Stigwood who had stored the planters, helped move them into position and supplied soil and shingle. Cllr Ms Woodgate said she was planning a system for maintaining the planters. In future she planned to clean up the village pump and possibly, with Herts Highways permission, plant a flower bed round the seat near Halfway House. Action
WW
- 21.8.6.** Little Hadham sign. Cllr Mrs Piccolo said the sign had been paid for and should be installed soon.
- 21.9. Flooding.**
- 21.9.1.** Pollution in the River Ash. Cllr Pearson said, despite Affinity Water saying there was no problem, both pumps at the station near Bridge Foot Farm had needed extensive servicing. Oliver Heald MP was trying to get a more powerful pump installed but this was significantly more expensive. Affinity Water were continuing to investigate whether rainwater was being drained into the sewer.
- 21.9.2.** 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 and hoped to arrange the meeting for 14th or 28th of June 2013. Action
JF
- 21.10. Westland Green.**
- 21.10.1.** Repairs to the byroad across the green. The Chairman said Mr Maddex had no budget to carry out any work.
- 21.11. NHS report.** There was nothing to report.
- 21.12. Allotments.** Collection of rents. The Chairman said a resident had agreed to collect the rents. He required a receipt form. Action
Clerk
- 21.13. Parish Plan Group.**
- 21.13.1.** From the floor Mr Mike Smith said plans were being made to mark the start of World War I.

21.14. Chairman's report.

- 21.14.1.** Review of the Parish Assembly. The Chairman thought the Assembly had been very successful with about 60 residents present. The local PCSO expected to attend the Farmers' Market to tell people about cheap or free burglar alarms that she had available. He noted that the two members of the junior cricket club he had introduced had had their first successful games with the senior team.
- 21.14.2.** New Homes Bonus. How best to use the money. The Chairman asked that this be deferred until the next meeting. Agreed.
- 21.14.3.** Council Insurance. It was agreed to accept the quotation from the current insurer – Aviva.
- 21.14.4.** Cllr Williamson said HCC was concerned about the operation of the 351 bus service that was considered unreliable. The bus had failed to turn up to take children to school on three occasions in one week. The Head of a local school was concerned about students missing exams and of others returning home to empty homes.

21.15. Clerk's Report**21.15.1. Financial statement****Period ending 7th May 2013**

Barclay's Bank C/Acc	£8,939.80
StepSaver BP Acc	£5.19
BP Acc	£170.18
Petty cash	-£2.49
Total	£9,112.68

Included above

HAPTC - annual subscription	£559.87
NACL - magazine subscription	£16.00

Uncleared cheques

Isobel Hospice - in memory Mr Michael Hurford	£10.00
Little Hadham School - use of copier	£58.05
Little Hadham Village Hall	£25.00
Total uncleared	£93.05

To be agreed for payment

Mr B Evans	P/Clerk - April	£315.81	
	Float	£50.00	
	Exp April	£13.70	£379.51
Karin Green Garden Services	Grass cutting April		£50.00
Mr A Purvis	Litter picking April		£108.66
Mower Services	Grass cutting playgrounds		£290.40
Mrs C Piccolo - Xmas and Assembly food & wine. Flyer delivery.			£88.48
Herts CC - village sign			£407.04
Total payments			£1,324.09

Total in all accounts and petty cash after payment of this month's bills £7,745.54

- 21.15.2.** Proposed to accept payment of accounts. Agreed.
- 21.15.3.** Proposed to accept the accuracy of the financial statement. Agreed.
- 21.16.** Proposed to accept the financial report for 2012/13 that had previously been circulated to councillors. Agreed.
- 21.17. Democratic 10 minutes.**
 A resident thought it a good idea to get children to report problems at the playgrounds along with the councillors' inspections.
 A resident reported that most gullies on the Stortford road were blocked.
 A resident reported that the layby opposite Hadham Hall was full of litter. The Chairman said he would report the matter to HCC.
- 21.18. Planning matters.** The transactions of the Planning Committee were noted.
- 21.19. Correspondence.**
 The Clerk distributed correspondence to the relevant councillors.
 Clerks & Councils Magazine
 CPRE Herts Newsletter
 CPRE Travel toolkit
 EHC Draft Parks & Open Spaces Strategy
- 21.20. Date of the next meeting Tuesday 4th June 2013.**
- 21.21. The Chairman closed the meeting to the Public and the Press at 9:25 p.m.**

Action
JF

JF
CP
JF/CP
JF