

Little Hadham Parish Council

Minutes of the 22nd meeting of the Little Hadham Parish Council (2011 – 2015 Session) held on Tuesday 4th June 2013 at 8:15 p.m. in the Village Hall, Little Hadham.

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

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

22.1. Absent. Cllr Gregory [unwell].

22.2. Declarations of interest. Cllr Mrs Piccolo said she had a personal interest in grass cutting at Bury Green as she lived on the Green.

22.3. Public session.

A resident of Bury Green said she thought the Council should cut the green as it did the playgrounds.

PCSO Karen Broad spoke about Westland Green. She thought the green looked untidy and the deep ruts on the byroad were a danger to pedestrians and horses. She said she had spoken the Mr Nicholas Maddex, the HCC footpaths officer, and would meet him again on site. Mr Maddex had told her he was willing to deal with the byroad. She thought the byroad should be clearly marked with posts that would prevent vehicles driving onto the rest of the green. The posts would require funding. PCSO Broad thought sheep might be used to keep down vegetation on the green. Any measures would need the agreement of ‘Natural England’. The Chairman said he would investigate making the green a ‘Special Area of Conservation’. PCSO Broad said she was trying to talk to some of the drivers who had used the byroad and had been abusive to residents. She said anyone damaging posts would be committing criminal damage and could be prosecuted. The Chairman asked PCSO Broad to return when she had more details of what was needed. Cllrs Mrs Piccolo and Mrs Wilkinson agreed to attend the site meeting with Mr Maddex.

PCSO Broad warned residents that there had been a number of burglaries into homes and sheds in Much Hadham. Entry had been at night using fields behind the homes.

22.4. Minutes of the Parish Council Annual meeting held on Tuesday 7th May 2013 had been previously circulated. The minutes were agreed as accurate.

22.5. Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 7th May 2013 had been previously circulated. The minutes were agreed as accurate.

22.6. Matters arising from the minutes. None.

22.7. Playgrounds.

22.7.1. Cllr Williamson said that Mr Foskett had completed the repair work on the playgrounds. Cllr Ms Woodgate reported that a fence post was loose at the Ridgeway playground. Cllr Williamson said he thought it was not dangerous and would be included in the next repair list.

22.7.2. Playground inspections. The Clerk said he had booked inspections for the two playgrounds with EHC at a cost of about £100. Agreed.

22.8. Road matters.

22.8.1. Potholes. The Chairman said potholes in Chapel Lane had been poorly repaired and were now almost as bad as before. He would report the pothole near Bridgefoot Farm and the loose manhole cover near the Village Hall. Action JF

22.8.2. Vehicles from the side roads jumping the A120 lights. The Chairman said he was still waiting to hear from Herts Highways about a meeting with the relevant authorities. He said he was still getting complaints of bad driving near the traffic lights though not so many as before. Action JF

22.8.3. Installation of recycled plastic planters. Cllr Ms Woodgate said the planters had been installed and stocked. She hoped passers-by would help with watering.

22.8.4. Changes to the 351 bus service. Cllr Williamson said that Roadrunner has decided to drop the service. The new contract had been given to Trusty Bus who had bought two second hand buses. The contract would be up for renewal in September 2013.

22.9. Footpaths. The Chairman said a Nature Wander had been arranged for 7th July going to Standon via Westland Green and back.

22.10. Flooding.

22.10.1. Cllr said that the multi-agency meeting concerning flooding would take place on 14th June 2013 and he would report its conclusions to the Council. Action GP

22.11. Bury Green

22.11.1. To confirm payment of about £100 for one cut of the Green. Cllr Piccolo said Romehold were unwilling to continue cutting the green and she asked the Council to confirm payment of £100 for one cut. Agreed. Cllr Mrs Piccolo said she had written to all the residents asking for a contribution and so far had collected £210 – about 30% of the residents had paid. She thought local residents should make a contribution and not expect other residents of the parish to pay. After some discussion, it was agreed that the Council would pay £240 each year towards cutting the green at £60 a cut. This would leave £140 for further cuts this year. Any further cuts would be paid for by the residents. Action CP

22.12. NHS report. There was nothing to report.

22.13. Allotments. Collection of rents. The Chairman said Mr Joel Hammond had agreed to collect the rents.

22.14. Little Hadham Mothers and Toddlers.

22.14.1. To consider making a donation of £100. Cllr Mrs Piccolo said the group was having trouble paying the rent. The numbers had reduced in the summer and she thought it supplied a valuable service. Agreed to pay a £100 donation.

22.15. Parish Plan Group.

22.15.1. The Chairman said he understood a small music festival in the field opposite the Nag's Head was being planned for 17th August 2013.

22.16. Chairman's report.

- 22.16.1.** New Homes Bonus. How best to use the money. The Chairman said the money had been used to enhance the parish – new play apparatus, planters, village seats, etc.
- 22.16.2.** The Chairman said he had been asked by the village school to help children with problem solving exercises. He showed several posters and letters dealing with cars jumping the traffic lights and keeping the planters and playgrounds in good condition.
- 22.16.3.** The Chairman said he would like to hold a Village Youth Celebration evening in the Village Hall. He would send round a flyer asking for nominations and would discuss the matter with Mrs Liz Stockley of the village school. Agreed.

22.17. Clerk's Report**22.17.1. Financial statement****Period ending 4th June 2013**

Barclay's Bank C/Acc	£14,641.43	
StepSaver BP Acc	£5.19	
BP Acc	£170.18	
Petty cash	£50.51	
		Total £14,867.31

Included above

EHC - half precept	£6,400.00
EHC - Council tax grant	£708.57

Uncleared cheques

Isobel Hospice - in memory Mr Michael Hurford	£10.00
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To be agreed for payment

Mr B Evans	P/Clerk - May	£315.61	
	Exp May	£19.11	£334.72
Karin Green Garden Services - Grass cutting May			£50.00
Mr A Purvis	Litter picking May		£108.66
Mower Services	Grass cutting playgrounds		£290.40
Sargies	Grass cutting Bury Green		£100.00
Little Hadham Mothers & Toddlers - Donation			£100.00
Ms W Woodgate	Flowers for planters		£77.25
Mr M A Foskett	Playground repairs		£1,120.00
Broker Network Ltd.	Insurance		£608.30
		Total payments	£2,789.33

Total in all accounts and petty cash after payment of this month's bills £12,067.98

- 22.17.2.** Proposed to accept payment of accounts. Agreed.
- 22.17.3.** Proposed to accept the accuracy of the financial statement. Agreed.
- 22.17.4.** To accept the year-end Financial Statement. Agreed.
- 22.17.5.** To accept the Governance Statement. Agreed. The Chairman signed the audit statement for 2012/13.

22.18. Democratic 10 minutes.

A resident asked about the removal of gravestones at Chapel Lane. The Chairman said the developers had permission to remove some stones but no more would be removed. The chapel had been sold with a 999 year lease on the graveyard with a condition that it be maintained. He did not know if any new funerals would be allowed.

A resident asked about the allotments. He would like the rules to be displayed on a noticeboard.

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

22.20. Correspondence.

Affinity Water – consultation on draft Water Resources Management Plan **GP**

22.21. Date of the next meeting Tuesday 2nd July 2013.

22.22. The Chairman closed the meeting to the Public and the Press at 9:33 p.m.