

Little Hadham Parish Council

Minutes of the 23rd meeting of the Little Hadham Parish Council (2011 – 2015 Session) held on Tuesday 2nd July 2013 at 8:15 p.m. in the Village Hall, Little Hadham.

Present: **Mr J Forgham** **Chairman**
 Mr R Gregory)
 Mr G Pearson) **Councillors**
 Mrs C Piccolo)
 Mrs M Wilkinson)

Mr B Evans – Clerk, and 11 members of the public.

23.1. Absent. Cllr Williamson [attending EHC meeting], Cllr Ms Woodgate [family matter].

23.2. Declarations of interest. None.

23.3. Public session.

A resident noted that many road white lines had worn away – particularly near the A120 traffic lights, at the Tesco roundabout and on several country lanes.

A resident asked why the Armco barrier, at the gas control box near Bridgefoot Farm, had been extended. He thought it was a danger to motor cyclists. The Chairman said the original barrier had been unsafe and Cllr Pearson's daughter had campaigned to have it improved. The Chairman thought the new barrier was a bit 'over the top' but the Council had not been consulted.

23.4. Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 4th June 2013 had been previously circulated. The minutes were agreed as accurate.

23.5. Matters arising from the minutes. None.

23.6. Playgrounds.

23.6.1. Cllr Williamson said he and Cllr Ms Woodgate were carrying out weekly inspections. They had nothing to report.

23.7. Road matters.

23.7.1. Potholes. The Chairman said potholes near Bridgefoot Farm had been repaired though rather poorly. He said he would report the sunken manhole covers near the Village Hall and in Acremore Street.

Action
JF

23.7.2. 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 that he had asked the Police to carry out another check at the lights. He noted that the Police announced the days they would attend on Twitter.

Action
JF

23.7.3. The Chairman thanked Cllr Pearson for circulating the HCC information about applying for government funding for the bypass. HCC had made the bypass high priority though it would cost about £28 million. A government grant would be for a maximum of £27 million – probably less – so HCC would have to find some of the funding. The Chairman reported a letter he had received from Standon concerned that a Little Hadham bypass would make it difficult to turn out onto the A120 at Standon. Standon PC wanted a bypass for Standon to follow immediately after the Little Hadham bypass.

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

23.9. Flooding.

23.9.1. Cllr Pearson said that the multi-agency meeting concerning flooding took place on 14th June 2013 and was chaired by Oliver Heald MP. It had been attended by all the responsible agencies including Affinity Water, The Environment Agency, Herts Highways and the Parish Council. Cllr Pearson said that the various agencies tried to explain which parts of the problem were their responsibility. Mr Heald said that they had to work together to come up with a solution. He had arranged a new meeting for January 2014 when they would have to present their joint plan.

23.10. Bury Green

23.10.1. Cllr Mrs Piccolo said the Council had paid £60 for the second cut of the green. She had collected £300 from residents which would be enough for the rest of the year.

23.11. Westland Green

23.11.1. The Chairman said that he had arranged with Mr Stephen Stigwood that the green would be cut in August when it would do least damage to the wild plants.

23.11.2. Repairs to the byroad. Cllr Mrs Wilkinson said she and PCSO Karen Broad had met Mr Nicholas Maddex, HCC footpaths officer, at the green. Mr Maddex had agreed to repair the ruts and would consult with DEFRA on marking the byroad with posts so that off-roaders could not trespass onto the rest of the green. Cllr Mrs Wilkinson thanked PCSO Broad for her help.

23.12. NHS report. There was nothing to report.

23.13. Allotments.

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

23.13.2. The Chairman said that Mr Sitton had donated and planted some fruit trees on the unused part of the allotment site. Cllr Mrs Piccolo said she would include thanks in the Parish News.

23.14. Parish Plan Group.

23.14.1. The Chairman said a small music festival, HadFest, would be held in the field opposite the Nag's Head. The festival would be free but donations would be collected for the Princess Alexandra Fund for breast cancer research.

23.14.2. Cllr Mrs Piccolo said that the Parish Plan Group intended to stage a production, 'Little Hadham goes to war', to commemorate the starting of the First World War. The Group needed to raise about £1,000. Cllr Mrs Piccolo proposed that the Council make a donation of £250. Agreed.

23.15. Chairman's report.

23.15.1. The Chairman said he was planning a Village Celebration evening in the Village Hall in September or October. He said he was discussing the matter with Mrs Liz Stockley of the village school. The Clerk said the Chairman would have to agree a budget for the evening.

23.16. Clerk's Report**23.16.1. Financial statement****Period ending 2nd July 2013**

| | |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| Barclay's Bank C/Acc | £13,193.70 |
| StepSaver BP Acc | £5.19 |
| BP Acc | £170.20 |
| Petty cash | £27.91 |
| Total | £13,397.00 |

Included above

| | |
|---------------------|-----------|
| EHC - Litter picker | £1,341.60 |
|---------------------|-----------|

Uncleared cheques

| | |
|---|--------|
| Isobel Hospice - in memory Mr Michael Hurford | £10.00 |
|---|--------|

To be agreed for payment

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|------------------|---------|
| Mr B Evans | P/Clerk - June & July | £631.62 | |
| | Exp June & July | £26.20 | £657.82 |
| Karin Green Garden Services | Grass cutting June & July | | £100.00 |
| Mr A Purvis | Litter picking June | | £118.08 |
| Mr A Purvis | Litter picking July | | £111.80 |
| Mower Services | Grass cutting playgrounds | | £290.40 |
| Sargies | Grass cutting Bury Green | | £60.00 |
| HM Revenue & Customs | PAYE | | £236.60 |
| BDO LLB | Audit | | £120.00 |
| Mrs C Piccolo | Gift for internal auditor | | £9.99 |
| | Total payments | £1,704.69 | |

Total in all accounts and petty cash after payment of this month's bills £11,682.31

23.16.2. Proposed to accept payment of accounts. Agreed.

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

23.17. Proposed to accept the completed audit document and to note that no recommendations had been made by the auditor. Agreed.

23.18. Democratic 10 minutes.

A resident asked why the police were investigating a car parked on the pavement near his home when it was causing no obstruction. PCSO Broad said that she had received a complaint so she had to investigate. The resident noted that a motorist parked his car relatively near the traffic lights in Albury Road every day. The car remained all day and caused a continual obstruction to other vehicles. PCSO Broad said that it appeared no offence was being committed but she would investigate.

A resident asked for more support from the community for the bypass. Those living at the Ash and The Ford needed protection from flooding and rat running through the hamlets was a continual problem. The Chairman said the Council was neutral on the issue because it was aware of the pros and cons for residents in different parts of the parish. The Council would want to consult residents when plans were further advanced.

PCSO Broad reported heating oil and gardening equipment thefts from homes and the theft of ICT equipment from local schools and colleges. She also warned

residents about a company of tree surgeons, 'Acorn Tree Surgery', who had been harassing elderly people on Much Hadham into having unnecessary work done.

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

23.20. Correspondence.

Clerks and Councils Direct magazine

JF

HAPTC Annual Report

JF

NALC – LCR magazine

JF

J Parker Dutch bulb catalogue

WW

23.21. Date of the next meeting Tuesday 3rd September 2013.

23.22. The Chairman closed the meeting to the Public and the Press at 9:23 p.m.