

# Little Hadham Parish Council

Minutes of the 24<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Little Hadham Parish Council (2011 – 2015 Session) held on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2013 at 8:26 p.m. in the Village Hall, Little Hadham.

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

Mr B Evans – Clerk, and 12 members of the public.

- 24.1. Absent.** Cllr Williamson, Cllr Mrs Wilkinson [holiday], Cllr Gregory [holiday].
- 24.2. Declarations of interest.** None.
- 24.3. Public session.** There were no comments or questions on agenda items.
- 24.4. Minutes of the Parish Council meeting** held on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2013 had been previously circulated. The minutes were agreed as accurate.
- 24.5. Matters arising from the minutes.** None.
- 24.6. Playgrounds.**
- 24.6.1.** Broken gate post at north end of Village Hall playground. The Clerk said he had received a quote for £146 to replace the post. It was agreed to accept the quote        Action Clerk
- 24.6.2.** Repairs required following the latest playground inspection. The Chairman said he would ask Cllr Williamson to prepare a list of work to be done.        Action JF
- 24.6.3.** Hedge cutting. It was agreed that the Clerk should ask ‘Green Man’ to cut the hedges at the two playgrounds.        Action Clerk
- 24.7. Road matters.**
- 24.7.1.** Potholes. The Chairman said potholes had generally been filled though not to a good standard. He said he would report the sunken manhole cover and water leak in Acremore Street.        Action JF
- 24.7.2.** Reflective posts on Chapel Lane. The Chairman said Herts Highways had agreed to install posts where there were concealed ditches by the edge of the road.
- 24.7.3.** Vehicles from the side roads jumping the A120 lights. The Chairman said Herts Highways and the Police had been in discussions about how to deal with the problem. He said the Police would carry out another check at the lights in the next two weeks. He noted that the Police announced the days they would attend on Twitter. The Chairman said that he had not received any recent reports of dangerous incidents.
- 24.7.4.** Repainting the Village Pump. Cllr Ms Woodgate said she was willing to clean and repaint the pump. Agreed.        Action WW
- 24.7.5.** Siting of the village sign outside Ash Valley Golf Course. The Chairman said he had spoken to the owner of the golf course and had agreed a position for the sign away from the entrance. Herts Highways would install the sign soon.
- 24.8. Footpaths.** The Chairman thanked Mr Rogers of Cradle End for keeping Mr Maddex, HCC footpaths officer, informed of any problems.

- 24.9. Flooding.**
- 24.9.1.** Cllr Pearson said the Environment Agency was planning to remove the concrete cill from the river bed near the Village Hall playground. They needed the formal consent of the local farmer. The Chairman asked Cllr Pearson to chase up the various agencies so that they were prepared for the meeting to address village flooding to be held in January 2014. Action GP
- 24.10. Bury Green**
- 24.10.1.** Cllr Mrs Piccolo said she had used money collected from the residents for the latest cut of the green.
- 24.10.2.** Tidying the Millennium Wood. The Chairman said the path through the wood had become overgrown and some trees needed to be cut back or coppiced. He had organised a work party for Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> October. He might include a barbeque if the weather was suitable. Cllr Mrs Piccolo said she would get a quote for a skip. Action CP/JF
- 24.10.3.** Tidying the Bury Green pond. The Chairman said the work had started last year. He had organised a work party for Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> October. He would need a tractor to remove some of the bull rushes. Action JF
- 24.11. Westland Green**
- 24.11.1.** The Chairman said that he would arrange with Mr Stephen Stigwood to get the grass cut while it was still relatively dry. Action JF
- 24.11.2.** Repairs to the byroad. The Chairman said he was still waiting to hear from Mr Maddex. Cllr Ms Woodgate said that McVeigh Parker were still storing the posts they had kindly donated. The Chairman said he would investigate if they could be stored at Home Farm. Action JF
- 24.12. NHS report.** There was nothing to report.
- 24.13. Allotments.**
- 24.13.1.** Collection of rents. The Chairman said Mr Joel Hammond had agreed to collect the rents.
- 24.14. Parish Plan Group.**
- 24.14.1.** The Chairman said the HadFest had been very successful and £1,300 had been donated to the Princess Alexandra Fund for breast cancer research. He thanked the many people who had helped – including Connect Scaffolding for the staging, Mr Stephen Stigwood for the use of his field and St John’s Ambulance.
- 24.15. Chairman’s report.**
- 24.15.1.** September award ceremony. The Chairman said it had been moved to October. He was still in discussion with Mrs Stockley from the village school.
- 24.15.2.** To consider making a donation to the Air Ambulance Service. Cllr Mrs Piccolo proposed making a donation of £20. Cllr Pearson thought money should be restricted to more local organisations. The Chairman thought it was a worthy cause though he realised £20 would be a very small contribution towards the total cost. Agreed to donate £20.
- 24.15.3.** To consider discussions with the Village Hall Committee to consider the current provision of sound and lighting facilities. The chairman said he would ask Cllr Gregory to discuss the matter with Mr Jon Fardell of the Village Hall committee. Action RG

**24.16. Clerk's Report****24.16.1. Financial statement****Period ending 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2013**

Barclay's Bank C/Acc	£13,934.38
StepSaver BP Acc	£5.19
BP Acc	£170.20
Petty cash	£12.91
<b>Total</b>	<b>£14,122.68</b>

**Included above****Received**

New Homes Bonus	£2,911.00
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**Paid**

Little Hadham Village Hall	Hire of Hall.[paid 16/7/13]	£115.23
Sargies	Cutting Bury Green [paid 28/7/13]	£60.00
Mower services	Grass cutting playgrounds [paid 6/8/13]	£290.40

**To be agreed****Received**

UK Power Networks	Bury Green wayleave	£7.10
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**To Pay**

Mr B Evans	P/Clerk - August	£331.56
	Exp August	£13.70
Karin Green Garden Services	Grass cutting August	£50.00
Karin Green Garden Services	Mower fuel	£6.85
Mr A Purvis	Litter picking August	£111.80
Mower Services	Grass cutting playgrounds	£290.40
EHC	Playground inspections	£111.72
	<b>Total payments</b>	<b>£916.03</b>

**Total in all accounts and petty cash after payment of this month's bills £13,213.75**

**24.16.2.** Proposed to accept payment of accounts. Agreed.

**24.16.3.** Proposed to accept the accuracy of the financial statement. Agreed.

**24.16.4.** To consider the Clerk's salary. The Clerk said that The National Association of Local councils and the Society of Local Council Clerks had agreed new pay scales for local council clerks – an increase of 1% back dated to April 2013. This would be the first increase since April 2009. It was agreed to accept the increase.

**24.17. Democratic 10 minutes.**

A resident raised the matter of the Council's policy on the bypass. The Chairman apologised for saying that the Council was neutral on the matter. Having read the documents from 2007 and 2009 circulated by the Clerk, he realised the Council had made its position in support of the bypass clear in 2009. All of the relevant authorities supported the bypass – HCC had made it the priority road project. It now needed government funding.

Cllr Mrs Piccolo said she was aware that people near the proposed route had concerns but most parish residents wanted a bypass. She said she would reiterate the Council's policy in the Newsletter and asked the Clerk to add the relevant documents to TheHadhams website.

The Chairman said he thought the Council should write to all the relevant authorities encouraging them to proceed with the bypass. It was agreed that Cllr

Mrs Piccolo would draft a letter.

The Chairman said a resident had complained about the size of the barrier round the gas box near Bridgefoot Farm. The Chairman said he had advised him to contact Herts Highways.

A resident asked about Folly Cottage, Bury Green, that appeared to have been trebled in size. Cllr Mrs Piccolo said that, as far as she could tell, the building conformed to the planning conditions.

**24.18. Planning matters.** The transactions of the Planning Committee were noted.

**24.19. Correspondence.**

There was no correspondence to distribute

**24.20. Date of the next meeting Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> October 2013.**

**24.21. The Chairman closed the meeting to the Public and the Press at 9:20 p.m.**