

Little Hadham Parish Council

Minutes of the 25th meeting of the Little Hadham Parish Council (2011 – 2015 Session) held on Tuesday 1st October 2013 at 8:26 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 7 members of the public.

- 25.1. Absent.** None.
- 25.2. Declarations of interest.** None.
- 25.3. Public session.** There were no comments or questions on agenda items.
- 25.4. Minutes of the Parish Council meeting** held on Tuesday 3rd September 2013 had been previously circulated. The minutes were agreed as accurate.
- 25.5. Matters arising from the minutes.** None.
- 25.6. Playgrounds.**
- 25.6.1.** Broken gate post at north end of Village Hall playground. The Clerk said Mr Foskett had completed the repair. Cllr Ms Woodgate said that a concrete fence post at the Ridgeway playground had been broken. She thought that the remaining concrete posts might also need replacing. Cllr Williamson said he would inspect them. The Council agreed the Clerk could authorise work up to a total cost of £200. Action
GW
- 25.6.2.** Repairs required following the latest playground inspection. Cllr Williamson said that he would inspect both playgrounds and discuss repairs with Mr Foskett. Action
GW
- 25.7. Road matters.**
- 25.7.1.** Little Hadham Bypass – issues arising. The Chairman said he had received thanks from a resident concerning the Council letter asking for the matter to be expedited. Cllr Gregory raised a number of issues: on likely timing Cllr Mrs Piccolo said she was in contact with a junior government minister who had promised to keep her informed; on flooding measures in the bypass plans Cllr Pearson said that the plans included flood alleviation measures recommended by consultant engineers; on the fact that the bypass will be partially in plain view from Hadham Hall the Chairman said that the plans included measures to ameliorate noise and visual disturbance; on whether the bypass might encourage new housing Cllr Williamson said that EHC and HCC were opposed to new building as it would be on Green Belt land. Action
JF
- 25.7.2.** Consultation on HCC 20mph strategy. The Chairman said he would prepare a response for discussion at the November meeting. Cllr Pearson said 20 mph zones could be dangerous if cyclists tried to overtake other vehicles.
- 25.7.3.** Potholes. The Chairman said he was struggling to get some holes repaired such as those on Acremore Street. Cllr Mrs Wilkinson mentioned two holes in Chapel Lane near Valley Fields. The Chairman said he had reported them.

- 25.7.4.** Reflective posts on Chapel Lane. The Chairman said they had not yet been installed.
- 25.7.5.** 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. HCC said that they had no funding for CCTV cameras – especially with the prospect of a bypass. The police had agreed to patrol the site on six more occasions. On the first they had stopped 4 cars and a school bus jumping the lights. The Chairman agreed to enquire why the money collected from fines could not be used to improve the junction. Action
JF
- 25.7.6.** Litter picking on the A120. Cllr Mrs Piccolo said that EHC had sent her a timetable for when the contractors were due to clear various parts of the A120. She had told EHC that the work did not seem to be carried out as planned. She agreed to monitor the situation. Action
CP
- 25.7.7.** Siting of the village sign outside Ash Valley Golf Course. The Chairman said the sign had still not been installed. Cllr Mrs Piccolo said that she would write to Herts Highways asking about the village sign and the reflective posts on Chapel Lane. Agreed. Action
CP
- 25.8. **Footpaths.**** The Chairman said that he had reported the overgrown footpath near Tomways, Bury Green. Mr Maddex had agreed to contact contractors to clear the area.
- 25.9. **Flooding.****
- 25.9.1.** Preparations for the multi-agency meeting in January 2014. The Chairman said he had yet to receive the minutes of the previous meeting. He said he would contact Mrs Heald who had taken notes of the meeting. Cllr Pearson asked that residents report any flooding incidents so that the agencies were kept aware of the problem. Cllr Mrs Piccolo said she would include a notice in the Parish News. Action
JF
Action
CP
- 25.10. **Bury Green****
- 25.10.1.** Tidying the Millennium Wood. The Chairman said he would lead a group of volunteers on Sunday 12th October. Cllr Mrs Piccolo said a skip would cost £140. The Chairman said he would wait until the work had been done before deciding if a skip was necessary. Action
JF
- 25.10.2.** Tidying the Bury Green pond. The Chairman he had organised a work party for Sunday 6th October. He would need a JCB to remove some of the bull rushes. Action
JF
- 25.11. **Westland Green****
- 25.11.1.** Grass cutting. The Chairman said that Mr Stephen Stigwood had cut the Green. He thought some of the hedges might also need cutting. Action
JF
- 25.11.2.** Repairs to the byroad. The Chairman said he was still waiting to hear from Mr Maddex. The Chairman said he would investigate if the posts donated by McVeigh Parker could be stored at Home Farm. Action
JF
- 25.12. **NHS report.**** There was nothing to report.
- 25.13. **Allotments.****
- 25.13.1.** Collection of rents. The Chairman said Mr Joel Hammond had collected the rents. He noted that there was one empty plot.
- 25.14. **Parish Plan Group.****

25.14.1. The Group had no plans for this year but was working on the event to commemorate the start of the Great War.

25.15. Chairman's report.

25.15.1. Parish Picnic. The Chairman said the picnic had been a great success – over 50 children and 50 adults had attended. He thanked all those involved and hoped the event would be repeated next year.

25.15.2. To consider discussions with the Village Hall Committee to concerning the current provision of sound and lighting facilities. Cllr Gregory thanked Mr Jon Fardell for his email. The sound system in the hall was generally considered as good. Any requests for improvements would have to come from the users – notably the pantomime group. Cllr Gregory said he would consult with the Hall committee and the pantomime group and might prepare a request to the Council for help with the funding of any improvements. When asked, the Clerk said that the Council and the Village Hall were completely separate. The Council had an agreement to use the Village Hall car park to access the playground.

Action
RG

25.15.3. To consider donations to parish charities. Cllr Mrs Piccolo said she would like the Council to give money to local charities rather than just to local groups. The Chairman said he would not like the groups to become dependent on Council funding. Cllr Mrs Piccolo said the charities might not be local but they were charities actively supported by local people. The Clerk said that the Council would have to consider the merits of each charity individually. Cllr Gregory said the Council needed to have specific criteria for which charities it should support. Cllr Mrs Piccolo agreed to draft a list of criteria and to include a request in the Parish News.

Action
CP

25.16. Clerk's Report

25.16.1. Financial statement

Period ending 1st October 2013

Barclay's Bank C/Acc	£13,025.45
StepSaver BP Acc	£5.19
BP Acc	£170.22
Petty cash	£0.41
Total	£13,201.27

To be agreed

Received

East Herts Council	Second half precept	£6,400.00
--------------------	---------------------	-----------

To Pay

Mr B Evans	P/Clerk - September	£318.76	
	Exp September	£13.70	
	Float	£50.00	£382.46
	Grass cutting		
Karin Green Garden Services	September		£50.00
HM Revenue & Customs	PAYE		£241.60
CPRE	Annual subscription		£29.00
CDA for Herts	Annual subscription		£30.00
Mr A Purvis	Litter picking September		£111.80
Herts Air Ambulance	Donation		£20.00
East Herts Council	Allotments rent		£20.00
Mr M A Foskett	Playground repairs		£145.67

Total payments £1,030.53

Total in all accounts and petty cash after payment of this month's bills £18,620.74

25.16.2. Proposed to accept payment of accounts. Agreed.

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

25.17. Democratic 10 minutes.

A resident said that he regularly picked up a bucketful of litter from outside his home on the Standon Road. He asked if car recovery companies could be made to clear up the debris left by vehicle collisions on the road. Cllr Pearson said that if police had attended the scene a report on the rubbish should be sent to them. The Chairman asked that photos of any debris should be sent to him.

Mr Jon Fardell said that the Village Hall was considering installing broadband. As mobile phone reception was so poor it might be a public service for the community. He said the Village Hall Committee might approach the Council for funding.

Mr Fardell noted that Neighbourhood Plans appeared to becoming more powerful and he wondered if the Council should be taking a more active role in creating a plan for the area. Cllr Mrs Piccolo said she was still willing to lead the group – EHC expected to produce the draft Local Plan in spring 2014. Cllr Williamson said the Local Plan would not come into effect for about two years. Cllr Mrs Piccolo said that she would investigate what could usefully be done now – she would keep people informed but not spend significant money.

Action
CP

Mr Fardell said the cost for emptying the Village Hall bin had become prohibitive and the committee was likely to replace it with a single ‘trade waste’ bin. Hall users would be expected to take their recyclable waste away with them. The new bin would probably not be able to take the waste for the Council litter bins. This often included dog waste. He asked what the Council would do to deal with the waste. The Chairman asked for the matter to be on the agenda for the November meeting.

Action
Clerk

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

25.19. Correspondence.

Clerks & Councils Magazine

JF

CPRE Herts Annual Review

MW

CPRE Countryside Voice

JF/CP

NALC LCR magazine

JF

25.20. Date of the next meeting Tuesday 5th November 2013.

25.21. The Chairman closed the meeting to the Public and the Press at 9:42 p.m.