

Little Hadham Parish Council

Minutes of the 29th meeting of the Little Hadham Parish Council (2011 – 2015 Session) held on Tuesday 4th February 2014 at 8:24 p.m. in the Village Hall, Little Hadham.

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

Mr B Evans – Clerk, and **31** members of the public.

29.1. Absent. None.

29.2. Declarations of interest. None.

29.3. Public session on matters on the agenda.

A resident said that part of Bury Green green was still under water and a ditch in Millfield Lane was still blocked. The Chairman said the ditch had been reported. A resident questioned whether new planters should be bought for the C15 verge as the existing ones often had few flowers. Cllr Ms Woodgate said that some plants had been stolen. She hoped to recruit volunteers to maintain the planters. New flowers would be planted early in the spring.

29.4. Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 4th February 2014 had been previously circulated. The minutes were agreed as accurate.

29.5. Matters arising from the minutes. None.

29.6. Co-opting councillors. Arrangements for appointing two new councillors. The Clerk said posters inviting applications to be co-opted had been posted round the parish. The closing date was 24th March 2014.

29.7. Allotments

29.7.1. To agree the revised rules for allotment holders. The Chairman said that the workparty had met and agreed a list of rules based on those for Bishop's Stortford allotments. Allotment holders would be invited to sign an agreement to obey the rules. The Chairman proposed that the rules be adopted. Agreed.

Action
MW/JF

29.7.2. To consider the election of an Allotment Management Committee. The Chairman proposed that the Management Committee consist of Cllr Mrs Wilkinson, two allotment holders elected by all allotment holders and the Clerk. Agreed.

Action
MW/JF

29.8. Playgrounds.

29.8.1. General repair of the playgrounds. Cllr Williamson said that repairs were still waiting for good weather. Cllr Ms Woodgate said that the gate spring at the Ridgeway was hanging off.

29.8.2. Hedge cutting. The Clerk said Greenman were waiting for dry weather as the tractor would churn up the wet ground.

Action
Clerk

29.9. Road matters.

29.9.1. Potholes. The Chairman said he still working to get some holes repaired – particularly the sunken manhole cover on Acremore Street. He encouraged residents to report road damage to Herts Highways even if it had been reported before.

Action
JF

29.9.2. Vehicles from the side roads jumping the A120 lights. The Chairman said the police had visited the site again and six people had been fined and had points added to their licence for jumping the lights.

- 29.9.3.** Hedges outside ‘Houghtons’. From the floor, PCSO Karen Broad said she was still dealing with the matter. It had been ‘put on the list’ but progress was very slow.
- 29.9.4.** Siting of the reflective posts in Chapel Lane. The Chairman said he was still waiting after 14 months for them to be installed.
- 29.9.5.** Installing two extra planters on the road between The Ashe and The Ford. Cllr Ms Woodgate said she was waiting for a reply from Herts Highways following her request for permission. Action
WW
- 29.9.6.** Damage to the Chapel Lane verge near the Ford Field car park. The Chairman said he had talked to Herts Highways. They were unable to give consent for residents to repair the verge themselves.
- 29.10. Footpaths.**
- 29.11.** Condition of footpaths. The chairman said most of the footpaths were clear – though very muddy.
- 29.12.** Footpath between Albury Road and the church – hand rail on the bridge and overgrown hedge on Albury Road reducing visibility. The chairman said he had reported the matter to Mr Maddex, HCC Footpaths officer and sent him a number of photographs. Action
JF
- 29.13. Flooding.**
- 29.13.1.** Flooding incidents during February. Cllr Pearson reported on the flooding of 7th February when many properties were flooded at the A120 crossroads and through the Ford. He said he Environment Agency had not issued an early flood warning. The situation had been made worse by vehicles driving through the water at speed and creating a bow wave – this included a fire engine. Cllr Pearson said that plans for the bypass included significant plans for flood prevention measures. He noted that some homes on higher ground away from the river had been affected.
- 29.13.2.** Creating a record of incidents of flooding. The Chairman said he had collected forty pages of information so far including from Green Street, the A120, Lloyd Taylor and the Ford. He said the flooding was caused by more than just the Ash overflowing. He thought there was a clear pattern of where water had come from. Oliver Heald MP had visited the parish to inspect the flooding. The Chairman said the government was trying to get insurance companies to agree to continue to cover homes in flood risk areas.
- 29.13.3.** Multi-agency meeting 21st March 2014. 3pm in the Village Hall. The Chairman said it would be a public meeting including a question and answer session. He asked residents to give him any information they might have before the meeting. He noted that the Police had given advice on driving through flood water. Several 4x4s had tried to drive through in excess of 40 MPH. The Chairman said he had been impressed by the community spirit shown by many residents. He noted that Thames Water had claimed that the flooding had damaged its pump at the Bridgefoot Farm pumping station although he understood it had broken down several days before the flood.
- 29.14. Bury Green**
- 29.14.1.** Tidying the Bury Green pond. The Chairman said the work party was on hold until Gascoyne Cecil Estates had cleared the mess they had left after tree cutting. Action
JF
- 29.14.2.** Flooding from ditch in front of Bury Green Farm Cottages. The Chairman said a partially blocked culvert had caused water to overflow into one of the cottages. He said that the resident had agreed to replace the pipe at his own cost.

29.14.3. Cutting the grass on the green. The Chairman said that a number of residents had agreed to contribute towards the cutting of the Green. He proposed that the Council's contribution be limited to £500 p.a. Agreed.

29.15. Westland Green

29.15.1. Repairs to the byroad. Cllr Mrs Wilkinson said nothing had been done recently. She still thought the repair would be ineffective as the materials used were too fine to make a strong enough base. She praised Mr Maddex, HCC Footpaths Officer, for speedily removing a tree that had fallen over a footpath near her home.

29.16. NHS report. There was nothing to report.

29.17. Chairman's report.

29.17.1. To consider cleaning the parish war memorial as part of the commemoration of the start of the 1st world war. The Chairman thanked Mr Tony Skidmore for obtaining a quotation for cleaning the memorial for £600. Cllr Williamson said he was uneasy about cleaning the memorial. He thought it should gain a certain patina as time passed. He thought 2018 might be a more suitable date for cleaning it. Cllr Ms Woodgate thought that any cleaning would damage the stone – even the copper brushes mentioned in the quotation. The Chairman proposed that the memorial be cleaned and that possible sources of funding be sought. It was agreed not to clean the memorial for the time being.

29.17.2. Parish Assembly Thursday 10th April 2014. To consider: who to invite to give presentations; static displays; catering; other arrangements. It was agreed to invite the following to give presentations: The Chairman; the Police; Mrs Liz Stockley, Head of Little Hadham School; Mr Richard Beckett of Little Hadham Charities; the Parish Plan Group; District Cllr Tindale; County Cllr McAndrew; Mr Don Gibson of the Little Hadham Conservation Society. Cllr Ms Woodgate agreed to organise the static displays with local organisations and businesses. Cllr Ms Woodgate also agreed to organise the catering.

Action
WW/
Clerk

29.17.3. Council response to EHC Consultation on Gypsy and Traveller sites. The Chairman said that he and Mr Don Gibson had completed and sent in the EHC questionnaire.

29.18. Clerk's Report**29.18.1. Financial statement****Period ending 4th March 2014**

Barclay's Bank C/Acc		£14,628.43
StepSaver BP Acc		£5.19
BP Acc		£170.24
Petty cash		£44.41
	Total	£14,848.27

Uncleared cheque

Little Hadham Village Hall	Rent for hall	£39.37
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To be agreed**Received**

UK Power Networks	Wayleave Village Hall playground	£38.06
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To Pay

Mr B Evans	P/Clerk - February	£318.76	
	Exp February	£13.70	£332.46
Karin Green Garden Services	Grass & bins - February		£50.00
Mr J Forgham	Paid to J Hammond for clearing Bury Green		£30.00
Mr A Purvis	Litter picker February		£111.80
	Total payments		£524.26

Total in all accounts and petty cash after payment of this month's bills £14,322.70

29.18.2. Proposed to accept payment of accounts. Agreed.

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

29.18.4. To agree a work party to consider the internal control of the Council. The Chairman and Cllr Pearson agreed to meet the Clerk.

Action
JF/GP/
Clerk

29.18.5. To review and agree documents previously circulated to councillors: Council Standing Orders; Council Financial Regulations; Internal Audit arrangements; Council asset list; Council Risk Assessment. The Chairman proposed the updated document be approved. Agreed.

29.19. Democratic 10 minutes.

A resident asked if anything had been done about the local district councillor. The Chairman said only the local Conservative Party or the electorate at the next election could unseat him. The Council could write a letter to the leader of EHC. Former Chairman Mr Andy Morris said flood protection relied on funding. He noted that the Environment Agency were only responsible for three water courses through the parish. EHC were responsible for the many smaller ditches. He encouraged residents to join the Little Hadham Flood Forum.

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

29.21. Correspondence.

CPRE Herts Newsletter

MW

29.22. Date of the next meeting Tuesday 1st April 2014.

29.23. The Chairman closed the meeting to the Public and the Press at 9:38 p.m.