

# Little Hadham Parish Council

Minutes of the 30<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Little Hadham Parish Council (2011 – 2015 Session) held on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2014 at 8:21 p.m. in the Village Hall, Little Hadham.

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

Mr B Evans – Clerk, and 15 members of the public.

**30.1. Absent.** Cllr Mrs Wilkinson [unwell].

**30.2. Declarations of interest.** None.

**30.3. Public session on matters on the agenda.**

A resident spoke about extra trees planted at the ‘Community Orchard’. The subject had been on the agenda for the March Council meeting but the Chairman had said he knew nothing about the trees and the matter was not reported in the minutes. The resident asked why the Council had not investigated the three extra trees planted. Was consent requested? Was it given? Could anyone plant trees in the orchard? Cllr Ms Woodgate said she knew nothing about the trees. No request had been made and no permission had been granted. The Chairman said he would investigate where any trees had been planted. No permission had been given and he would make sure that the person concerned understood he did not own the land. The Council will ask that the trees be removed.

Action  
JF

**30.4. Minutes of the Parish Council meeting** held on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2014 had been previously circulated. The minutes were agreed as accurate.

**30.5. Matters arising from the minutes.** None.

**30.5.1. Co-opting councillors.** Arrangements for appointing two new councillors. The Chairman said that there had been three applications for the two vacancies. He expected to call a meeting to select the councillors for co-option within two weeks.

Action  
JF

**30.6. Neighbourhood Plan**

**30.6.1.** To reaffirm the policy of producing a Neighbourhood Plan – including the pros and cons. Cllr Williamson said he had attended a meeting in Stansted Abbots. A Neighbourhood Plan would become, in effect, part of the District Local Plan. It would enable residents to plan how their community would develop. However, no Neighbourhood Plan had yet been tested against planning applications. The Chairman said a Neighbourhood Plan was a big undertaking involving three year’s work. There would have to be a referendum, costing over £1,000, in which over 50% of voters would have to support the plan. There was a need to get residents enthused before deciding if it was worth doing. The Chairman said that the Council planned to object to any new housing in the parish.

**30.6.2.** To agree the process by which the Plan will be produced including the member to lead the production of the Plan. The Chairman said it was difficult to keep to a strict agenda. He noted that parishes that were well advanced with their plans were not getting much response from their communities. He suggested that a public meeting, led by the Council, should be called to decide whether to go ahead. The Chairman said that the Councillor to lead the Plan should be named at a meeting with the full council.

Action  
JF

- 30.7. Allotments**
- 30.7.1.** The Chairman said that a revised tenancy agreement, together with a covering letter, had been prepared for allotment holders to sign. Action  
JF
- 30.7.2.** The Chairman said he would investigate whether any new trees had been planted at the Community Orchard. Any new trees would be removed. Action  
JF
- 30.8. Playgrounds.**
- 30.8.1.** General repair of the playgrounds. Cllr Ms Woodgate said the fence and gate at the Ridgeway had been repaired. Cllr Williamson said the repairs had been made at the Village Hall – including a new fence at the northern end.
- 30.8.2.** Hedge cutting. The Clerk said Greenman had cut the hedges at the two playgrounds.
- 30.9. Road matters.**
- 30.9.1.** Potholes. The Chairman said £140 million had been allocated to HCC for road repairs. He thought the local roads were in a very poor condition and many vehicles were being damaged by potholes.
- 30.9.2.** Hedges outside ‘Houghtons’. The Chairman said PCSO Karen Broad had been told that the cut had been approved and would be carried out soon.
- 30.9.3.** Installing two extra planters on the road between The Ashe and The Ford. Cllr Ms Woodgate said Herts Highways had asked for the exact sites for the planters so as to ensure that they did not restrict the view of vehicles leaving the Village Hall. Action  
WW
- 30.10. Footpaths.**
- 30.11.** Condition of footpaths. The chairman said most of the footpaths were in good condition. He reported that many trees had been cut on Nut Walk. He had reported the matter to Mr Maddex on HCC.
- 30.12.** Footpath between Albury Road and the church – hand rail on the bridge and overgrown hedge on Albury Road reducing visibility. The chairman Mr Maddex, HCC Footpaths officer, was aware and contractors would deal with the matter soon.
- 30.13. Flooding.**
- 30.13.1.** Multi-agency meeting 21st March 2014. 3pm in the Village Hall. The Chairman said the meeting had been well attended. It had been difficult to get anything done but he intended to follow up all the matters raised. The EHC officer responsible for flood prevention had invited him, together with Cllr Pearson, to inspect proposed flood prevention measures. A new multi-agency meeting would be arranged for September 2014. The Chairman said that the Environment Agency would be holding a Flooding Surgery in the Village Hall on 24<sup>th</sup> April from 4 to 7 p.m. The Chairman encouraged residents to report their experiences of the flooding to him. Cllr Pearson recommended residents to visit the flood support website. He noted that funding was available for flood alleviation schemes.
- 30.14. Bury Green**
- 30.14.1.** Tidying the Bury Green pond. The Chairman said it was late in the season though some tidying could be carried out. He was still awaiting permission from the owners before tidying the Millennium Wood. Action  
JF
- 30.15. Westland Green**
- 30.15.1.** Repairs to the byroad. The Chairman said he would chase Mr Maddex to get the work completed. Action  
JF

**30.16. Chairman's report.**

**30.16.1.** Parish Assembly Thursday 10th April 2014. The Clerk said he had sent invitations to give presentations to those named at the March meeting. Cllr Ms Woodgate said eight organisations and businesses had agreed to present displays. She agreed to organise the refreshments. Action  
WW/  
Clerk

**30.16.2.** JF request for repair to the printer used for News Letter. The Chairman said that the PCC had made a request for a contribution of £320. He said that the News Letter was the Council's main method of communication with residents – including distributing flyers. He proposed a payment of £320. Agreed. Action  
Clerk

**30.16.3.** The Chairman said the Mrs Karin Green had stood down from her post of maintaining the war memorial and village pump and emptying the bins. He thanked her for her hard work. He said he hoped to talk to a possible replacement very soon. Action  
JF

**30.17. Clerk's Report****30.17.1. Financial statement****Period ending 1<sup>st</sup> April 2014**

Barclay's Bank C/Acc	£14,102.86
StepSaver BP Acc	£5.19
BP Acc	£170.26
Petty cash	£8.46
<b>Total</b>	<b>£14,286.77</b>

**To be agreed****To Pay**

Mr B Evans	P/Clerk - March	£318.96	
	Exp March	£40.75	£359.71
Karin Green Garden Services	Grass & bins - March		£50.00
LH Parish Plan Group	Towards 'LH at War' production		£250.00
Little Hadham Village Hall	Hall rent Feb & Mar	£26.24	
	Use rubbish bin Jan to Mar	£58.50	£84.74
HAPTC	Annual subscription	£546.24	
	Clerk training	£35.00	£581.24
HM Revenue & Customs	PAYE		£239.20
Little Hadham Primary School	Use of school copier		£58.87
M A Foskett	Playground repairs		£780.00
Green Man Conservation	Cutting playground hedges		£320.00
Little Hadham PCC	Printer repairs		£320.00
Gascoyne Cecil Estate	BG & WG rent		£3.13
Mr A Purvis	Litter picker March		£111.80
	<b>Total payments</b>		<b>£3,158.69</b>

**Total in all accounts and petty cash after payment of this month's bills £11,128.08**

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

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

**30.17.4.** Report from work party to consider the internal control of the Council. The Chairman said he and Cllr Pearson had met the Clerk and they were content that the finances, council risks and general Council business were being carried out correctly.

- 30.17.5.** To confirm that donations to Herts Air Ambulance [£20], Royal British Legion [£25], LH Brownies [£200], LH School [£250] and LH Mothers & Toddlers [£100] [£595 total out of £1,360 allowed] were in the interests of the parish, or of its inhabitants, and will benefit them in a manner commensurate with the expenditure incurred. In accordance with its powers under section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972. Agreed
- 30.18.** To agree that donations agreed in the budget for 2014/15 also conform to the powers in section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972. Namely: Royal British Legion [£30], LH Brownies [£200], LH School [£250], LH Mothers & Toddlers [£100] [£580 total]. Agreed.
- 30.19. Democratic 10 minutes.**  
 A resident asked about new furniture for the Community Orchard. The Chairman said this would be agreed by the Allotment Management Committee when it was set up.  
 A resident asked why all three candidates for could not be co-opted. The Chairman said the number of councillors was decided by EHC and this could not be changed by the Council.  
 Cllr Williamson asked if anyone had received a booklet from EHC concerning the Draft Local Plan. No-one had.
- 30.20. Planning matters.** The transactions of the Planning Committee were noted.
- 30.21. Correspondence.**  
 CPRE Herts Fieldwork magazine **WW**  
 CPRE “Speak Out Now” campaign letter **WW**  
 Clerks and Councils Direct magazine **JF**
- 30.22. Date of the next meeting Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2014.**
- 30.23. The Chairman closed the meeting to the Public and the Press at 9:21 p.m.**