

Little Hadham Parish Council

Minutes of the 32nd meeting of the Little Hadham Parish Council (2011 – 2015 Session) held on Tuesday 3rd June 2014 at 8:08 p.m. in the Village Hall, Little Hadham.

Present:

Mr J Forgham	Chairman
Mr C Bhatt)
Mrs E Lloyd-Williams)
Mr G Pearson) Councillors
Mrs M Wilkinson)
Mr G Williamson)
Ms W Woodgate)

Mr B Evans – Clerk, and **29** members of the public.

32.1. Absent. None.

32.2. Declarations of interest. None.

32.3. Public session on matters on the agenda.

A resident said that she had emailed Oliver Heald MP concerning the damage caused by flooding, vehicles and horses at the junction of Millfield Lane with Bury Green.

32.4. Minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 6th May 2014 had been previously circulated. The minutes were agreed as accurate.

32.5. Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 6th May 2014 had been previously circulated. The minutes were agreed as accurate.

32.6. Matters arising from the minutes. None.

32.7. Neighbourhood Plan

32.8. The Chairman said he had emailed five local parishes and received a reply from one. That parish was waiting until the District Plan came into force in 2016. However, this would leave only one year to prepare a neighbourhood plan which was said to take three years. The Chairman said there seemed little enthusiasm in other councils for making neighbourhood plans. Cllr Williamson said that his view was unchanged – it was too early to decide. He thought a plan for a small parish might take less than three years. He proposed the Council's position be considered every three months. Agreed.

32.9. Allotments

32.9.1. Cllr Mrs Wilkinson said the Management Committee had met. The unused plots would be allocated. The Committee had agreed the water tap could stay as long as all allotment holders could use it. The Clerk said that a plan for the picnic area would have to be agreed before any furniture was ordered. Action MW

32.9.2. The Chairman said any new fruit trees planted would be removed and he would talk to the resident concerned. Action JF

32.9.3. The Chairman proposed that Mr Joel Hammond be paid £10 a month from 1st June 2014 to strim the footpaths on the allotments and maintain the picnic area. Agreed.

32.10. Playgrounds.

32.10.1. Cllr Ms Woodgate said a resident at the Ridgeway had complained that children were entering the playground through a hole in the hedge and this was spoiling her view. Cllr Ms Woodgate said children were also damaging the fence to the

playground which they were using to climb a tree. After some discussion, it was agreed that Cllr Ms Woodgate would talk to the children's parents.

32.10.2. Cllr Williamson said the Village Hall playground was in good condition.

32.11. Road matters.

32.11.1. Bypass. The Chairman said he had spent some time studying the paperwork concerning the bypass route. The Council had received some letters from residents concerned about changes to the route – primarily from residents living in or near the Albury Road. In the consultation in 2007, residents had chosen the north-western route furthest from Albury Road. Later in 2008, HCC agreed to change the route nearer to Albury Road and this change had been agreed by the Council in September 2008. HCC said that a document detailing the new route had been sent to residents though many said they had not received it. The Chairman said he could understand the residents' concerns. He said he had had a meeting with Mr Higgins of HCC who had made it clear that any changes to the route now would put the scheme back two years and any funding would be lost. The bypass would remain HCC's major road scheme with a Standon bypass to follow. The Chairman read an email he had written to resident Mr John Jordan and circulated to councillors [appendix 1].

Cllr Williamson proposed that the Council's position on the bypass remain as agreed in September 2008 with the reservation that the Council might make comments at any consultation or enquiry. Agreed. The Chairman said residents would have the opportunity to raise objections should the funding be arranged. Residents could post their objections now on the HCC website.

32.11.2. Potholes. The Chairman said he would contact the appropriate authorities about the blocked ditch at Millfield Lane. He was in contact with EHC about refuse lorries damaging verges at a number of places in the parish. Affinity Water would mend a water leak before fixing the manhole cover on Acremore Street.

Action
JF

32.11.3. Hedges outside 'Houghtons'. The Chairman said EHC and the police were aware that the road had become significantly narrowed. He said he would press to get the hedge cut.

Action
JF

32.11.4. Installing two extra planters on the road between The Ashe and The Ford. Cllr Ms Woodgate said the new planters had arrived. She was disappointed to see that some plants had been stolen. She said she would decide if new, more secure locations for the new planters should be found. The Chairman said some residents had taken responsibility to water the plants.

Action
WW

32.11.5. Cllr Pearson said he had walked most of the parish with Mr Noads of Herts Highways. Blocked gullies had been marked in red including some on the C15 that had become covered over. Drains would be cleared on an 18 month rolling programme. Cllr Mrs Lloyd-Williams asked that a blocked drain at Cradle End be cleared.

Action
GP

32.11.6. Damage to the footway near the Thames Water pump opposite South Cottages. The Chairman said Thames Water had agreed to repair the damage. He would chase up the matter.

Action
JF

32.12. Footpaths.

32.12.1. Condition of footpaths. The chairman said most of the footpaths were fairly clear. He noted footpaths should be 1.5m wide and many were narrower. He would report them to Mr Maddex.

Action
JF

32.12.2. Footpath between Albury Road and the church – hand rail on the bridge and overgrown hedge on Albury Road reducing visibility. The chairman said the path

	had become very dangerous and he would encourage Mr Maddex to make repairs urgently.	Action JF	
32.13.	Flooding.		
32.13.1.	Cllr Pearson reiterated the fact that the electricity supply to the village might be turned off for up to 10 days if the transformer box were to be flooded. He said had some empty sand bags should any residents want them.		
32.14.	Bury Green		
32.14.1.	Tidying the Bury Green pond. The Chairman said a work party would meet at 10 a.m. Sunday 8 th June though little work needed doing. Cllr Mrs Lloyd-Williams said she had an email from a resident asking that care be taken not to damage the newly seeded areas of the Green.	Action JF	
32.14.2.	Dog fouling on the green. Cllr Mrs Lloyd-Williams said this had become a problem on and around the Green. She proposed buying 50 stickers at a cost of £20. Agreed. She said she would contact EHC to ask if a dog waste bin could be installed near the Green.	Action ELW	
32.15.	Westland Green		
32.15.1.	Repairs to the byroad. Cllr Mrs Wilkinson said the contractors would complete the work when the ground was dry. Mr Maddex had agreed to inspect the site when the work was done and to consider any extra work required.	Action MW	
32.16.	Chairman's report.		
32.16.1.	Proposed Hadfest at the Village Hall playground. The Chairman said Cllr Bhatt had been in consultation with the organisers over insurance. The Clerk said he was concerned that dogs, glasses and glass bottles should not be taken onto what was a children's playground. Cllr Bhatt agreed to make this clear to the organisers and to ensure that the field was completely cleared after the event.	Action CB	
32.17.	Clerk's Report		
32.18.	Financial statement		
	Period ending 3rd June 2014		
	Barclay's Bank C/Acc	£16,491.39	
	StepSaver BP Acc	£5.19	
	BP Acc	£170.26	
	Petty cash	£21.28	
	Total	£16,688.12	
	To be agreed		
	Paid		
	Broker Network Ltd (paid 19/5/14)	Annual insurance	£574.25
	Kacey Distributors (paid 23/5/14) Planters		£744.00
	To Pay		
	Mr B Evans	P/Clerk - May	£318.76
		Exp May	£13.70
	Mr Joel Hammond	Grass & bins - May	£60.00
	Little Hadham Mothers & Toddlers	Donation	£100.00
	Mower Services	1 cut May	£145.20
		Assembly	
	Mr J Forgham	refreshments	£145.59
	Sargies	1 cut Bury Green	£75.00
	Mr A Purvis	Litter picker May	£111.80
		Total payments	£2,288.30
	Total in all accounts and petty cash after payment of this month's bills		£14,399.82

- 32.18.1.** Proposed to accept payment of accounts. Agreed.
- 32.18.2.** Proposed to accept the accuracy of the financial statement. Agreed.
- 32.18.3.** Proposed to accept the financial statement for 2013/14. Agreed.
- 32.19. Democratic 10 minutes.**
 A resident thought the Council was dragging its heels over the picnic area on the allotment site. The Chairman said three quotes for the furniture would be required by the Committee. They could go ahead with the purchase which had been agreed by the Council.
 A resident asked that councillors' email addresses and phone numbers be posted on the Parish website. The Clerk said doing so was very unwise. Councillors could always be contacted through him.
 A resident said the footpath from the church to Albury Road had become exceptionally dangerous especially for dog walkers. The Chairman said he would chase Mr Maddex. The resident complained about emergency vehicles sounding their sirens late at night when passing through the traffic lights. The resident noted that the windmill was just a pile of bricks that was beyond reconstruction. A resident noted the importance of the bypass to flood prevention. Another resident said that in 2008 the Council had not discussed the changes to the route but had merely accepted what HCC had already decided. A resident referred to a petition to the Council that an Albury Road resident had been circulating. The Chairman said he had not heard about it.
- 32.20. Planning matters.** The transactions of the Planning Committee were noted.
- 32.21. Correspondence** There was no correspondence to circulate
- 32.22. Date of the next meeting Tuesday 1st July 2014.**
- 32.23. The Chairman closed the meeting to the Public and the Press at 9:31 p.m.**

Appendix 1 Email sent to Mr John Jordan 30th May 2014

Hi John,

Eventually tracked down Damian Higgins at Herts Highways and put to him your concerns and issues regarding the proposed bypass.

Basically, once I got passed his line on no changes are feasible as the funding will be lost, I wanted to find out a little of the history regarding the scheme back in 2007/2008.

The route decided upon was route 5. This was following consultation with land owners and the meeting in the village hall. This was part of the consultation process and not, as Mr Bickel, implies a referendum on actual route. Once this had been decided upon Highways then looked further into the proposal, settling on Route 5b over route 5a in June 2008. EHDC cabinet were consulted but their input was just part of the process and their preferred route i.e. 5, was not accepted for environmental and financial reasons. The full council then favoured the route known as 5B. Following these changes the document that was delivered to all residents in 2008 outlined these changes.

Regarding fill in of houses between the old A120 and proposed bypass there are strict guidelines as to the proximity of houses to the new road construction and Mr Higgins thought that this would make it not possible for houses to be built in this area.

To deal with other concerns raised; due to environmental issues, the bypass cannot go straight on to the A120 bypass between Tesco's roundabout and Stansted Road and also it is not feasible to have it join the roundabout at Tesco's as this will create a 5th arm on to the roundabout. It is for this reason that there has to be a new roundabout for the houses to be built around Wickham Hall, some 200 yards along the Hadham Road from the roundabout

travelling east. Other reasons given for these 2 possibilities not being feasible were the cost benefit, historical buildings and the basic buildability preference.

The discussion on having the most common sense option A10 -M11 link is that it is just plain unaffordable. "Way out of our league," as Mr Higgins put it. Also, the best option for Standon to receive their bypass would be for the Hadham bypass to be completed as then the Standon option will become the next preferential construction. If the Hadham bypass doesn't happen, then it will still remain the number 1 priority for the area, with the Standon plan still second on the priority list.

Regarding the traffic lights at Hadham Ash, there is no plan to remove these at present but a survey will be carried out once the bypass is completed. However, due to this junction being a pinch point with poor sight lines it is unlikely that any survey will recommend anything other than leaving them in place.

As you are probably aware, the future is now to get funding into place. This is now anticipated as October 2014 and then planning permission will be sought in 2015. At this point the residents of the village will be engaged in discussions and objections can be/will be lodged as with any planning permission.

Please have a look at Herts Direct website where frequently asked questions pertaining to this proposed scheme are published. I shall endeavour to find out more about the proximity of building houses etc. adjacent to the bypass. I need to look at the Waltham Cross bypass scheme which outlines the regulations on such issues.

These facts will be made clear at our PCM next Tuesday and at present, there is little LHPC can do apart from advise residents of these facts and how to go about registering objections in the future.

Hope that helps somewhat.

best regards,

Jono