

Little Hadham Parish Council

Minutes of the 33rd meeting of the Little Hadham Parish Council (2011 – 2015 Session) held on Tuesday 1st July 2014 at 8:08 p.m. in the Village Hall, Little Hadham.

Present:

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

Mr B Evans – Clerk, and 32 members of the public.

- 33.1. Absent.** Cllr Mrs Lloyd-Williams [on holiday].
- 33.2. Declarations of interest.** None.
- 33.3. Public session on matters on the agenda.**
 Dr Graeme Holland read a paper concerning the Campaign Against Route 5b – the revised route for the bypass. [Appendix 1]. He thanked the Chairman and Cllr Williamson for visiting the proposed site and visiting local residents. He encouraged other councillors to visit the site.
 A resident said he was in favour of the bypass to reduce traffic congestion and lower the flood risk. He was unconcerned about which route. He was concerned that the campaign was about a decision that had already been made six years ago rather than about practical measures to improve the situation for Albury Road residents.
- 33.4. Minutes of the Parish Council meeting** held on Tuesday 3rd June 2014 had been previously circulated. The minutes were agreed as accurate.
- 33.5. Matters arising from the minutes.** None.
- 33.6. Allotments**
- 33.6.1.** Cllr Mrs Wilkinson said that Mr Mick Foskett had submitted a quotation for supplying and installing a collapsable bollard, a picnic table, a notice board and litter bin for £920. This was a little more than had been agreed earlier. She proposed the quotation be accepted. Agreed. Action Clerk
- 33.6.2.** The Chairman said the resident had agreed to remove the new fruit trees planted on the allotment site in the winter when they were dormant.
- 33.7. Playgrounds.**
- 33.7.1.** Cllr Williamson said the Village Hall playground was in good condition.
- 33.7.2.** Cllr Ms Woodgate said she had planted a thorny rose in the hole in the hedge. She thought this, together with the nettles, would discourage children from getting through. She said she had spoken to some of the children. The fence had been damaged where children had climbed on it to climb into a tree. She thought the fence was dangerous and the tree needed trimming. The Chairman said he would organise a work party to deal with the tree. Cllr Ms Woodgate said the large gates into the playground had been almost completely destroyed – possibly by a reversing car. She proposed that the Clerk get the gates and fence repaired with a total cost not exceeding £800. Agreed. Action JF
Action Clerk
- 33.7.3.** Plans for Hadfest including arrangements to ensure protection of the playground. Cllr Bhatt said he had checked the insurance taken out by the organisers and that held by the Council and advised that the cover was sufficient, including that for the play equipment. He had spoken to the organisers who agreed to keep dogs

and glass away from the event. There would be a voluntary ticket fee for charity. The police and St John's Ambulance were involved in organising traffic and 1st Aid.

33.8. Road matters.

- 33.8.1.** Bypass. To consider the concerns of Albury Road residents. The Chairman said he and Cllr Williamson had met the Albury Road residents at the site of the bypass. He said the Council was willing to work with the campaign group but would not do anything to jeopardise the building of the bypass. The Chairman said he had emailed Mr Damian Higgins, the responsible HCC engineer, and had pressed him for answers to the points raised by the Albury Road residents. He read an email he had just received from Mr Higgins [Appendix 2]. The Chairman said he had received an email from Cllr McAndrew saying that he would be happy for the campaign group to organise a public meeting with himself and Mr Higgins to discuss their concerns. This would not be organised by the Council. The Chairman said he hoped arrange a meeting with Mr Higgins.
- 33.8.2.** Potholes. The Chairman said a number of smaller holes had been filled. He encouraged residents to report road damage using the HCC website.
- 33.8.3.** Damage to the junction of Millfield Land with Bury Green. The Chairman said this had been reported. He had arranged to meet Mr Paul Patmore to discuss the matter together with the damage to the verge at Ford Field caused by the Refuse trucks. Action JF
- 33.8.4.** Hedges outside 'Houghtons'. The Chairman said the bottom of the hedge had been cut but the top was still obstructing tall vehicles. Part of the hedge was the responsibility of the owners and this still needed to be cut. Action JF
- 33.8.5.** Installing two extra planters on the road between The Ashe and The Ford. Cllr Ms Woodgate said the planters would be installed with the help of Mr Stephen Stigwood, a local farmer. Action WW
- 33.8.6.** Damage to the footway near the Thames Water pump opposite South Cottages. The Chairman said he was waiting for a reply to his email from Thames Water. Action JF
- ### **33.9. Footpaths.**
- 33.9.1.** Condition of footpaths. The chairman said he had been in contact with Mr Maddex concerning some overgrown footpaths. Action JF
- 33.9.2.** Footpath between Albury Road and the church – hand rail on the bridge and overgrown hedge on Albury Road reducing visibility. The chairman said some work had been done. A single handrail had been put on one side of the bridge but it was too thick to hold on to. The hedge near the road had still not been cleared. He said he would talk to Mr Maddex. Action JF
- ### **33.10. Flooding.**
- 33.10.1.** Cllr Pearson said had some empty sand bags should any residents want them. The Chairman asked Cllr Pearson to contact Oliver Heald MP and others in order to organise a multi-agency meeting for late September to review progress on flood alleviation measures.
- ### **33.11. Bury Green**
- 33.11.1.** Tidying the Bury Green pond. The Chairman said it was decided to cancel the work party as most of the area had been cleared and poppy seeds had been sown.
- 33.11.2.** Dog fouling on the Green. The Chairman said Cllr Mrs Lloyd-Williams had been putting up stickers. She was researching the installation of a dog waste bin. Action ELW

33.12. Westland Green

33.12.1. Repairs to the byroad. Cllr Mrs Wilkinson no work had been done. The Chairman said he would chase the matter.

Action
JF

33.13. Chairman's report.

33.13.1. To consider whether councillor contact details should be made publically available. The Chairman said that only the his and the Clerk's email address had been public. He proposed that, with individual councillors agreement, councillor email addresses should be shown on the Parish noticeboard and in the Paish News but not on the website. Agreed. Cllr Pearson said that all emails sent to the Clerk had always been forwarded to councillors.

Action
Clerk

33.13.2. Area representatives. The Chairman said the area representatives had originally been for considering planning applications. It had not been intended that a councillor would represent the views of a particular area. He noted that Cllr Williamson represented Albury Road and the Ford and some residents might see a possible conflict when considering the bypass. He proposed the area allocation be reorganised. Cllr Williamson said other councils did not have area reps as all councillors represented the whole parish. However, if the reps were to be kept they should be reorganised. It was agreed that the Chairman would circulate a revised list of areas and consult over how they should be distributed among the councillors.

Action
JF

33.13.3. To consider a response to the HCC consultation on changes to opening times for Hertfordshire's household waste recycling centres. The Chairman said HCC had to save £147 million and it had decided to save £6 million over 8 years on council tips. It had been proposed to close sites at Hoddesdon and Elstree, change to a 5 day week and only open tips from 9 a.m. to 4.p.m. Cllr Pearson said the weekends and evenings were the most popular times. He was against the changes as they would cause an increase in flytipping. Cllr Mrs Wilkinson asked who unwanted items could not be sold at the sites to raise revenue. The Chairman said he would circulate his response before posting it on the HCC website.

Action
JF

33.13.4. To consider setting up a 'Friends of the River Ash Partnership'. The Chairman said this was to work towards improving the ecology of the river from the Pelhams to the Lea. They would be looking for a 'River Ash Champion' to lead the campaign. He would organise a meeting in the Village Hall for local people and hoped to get children from the local school involved.

Action
JF

33.14. Clerk's Report**33.15. Financial statement****Period ending 1st July 2014**

Barclay's Bank C/Acc		£14,258.11
StepSaver BP Acc		£5.19
BP Acc		£170.26
Petty cash		£9.16
	Total	£14,442.72

Uncleared cheque

Sargies	Bury Green grass cutting	£75.00
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Paid

Francis Carne Associates	Dog fouling stickers	£19.98
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To be agreed**Received**

EHC	Litter picker salary	£1,374.88
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To Pay

Mr B Evans	P/Clerk - June & July	£637.72	
	Exp June & July	£26.20	£663.92
Mr Joel Hammond	Grass, bins & allotments - June		£70.00
Mr Joel Hammond	Grass, bins & allotments - July		£70.00
Mr Joel Hammond	Mower & strimmer fuel		£7.00
BDO LLP	Annual audit		£120.00
Mower Services	2 cuts June		£290.40
HM Revenue & Customs	PAYE		£238.80
HAPTC	Councillor training		£70.00
HAPTC	10 copies Good Councillors Guide		£25.60
Little Hadham Village Hall	Hall hire Apr to Jun	£34.50	
	Use rubbish bin Apr to Jun	£58.50	£93.00
Mr A Purvis	Litter picker June		£120.11
Mr A Purvis	Litter picker July		£114.57
	Total payments		£1,883.40

Total in all accounts and petty cash after payment of this month's bills £13,859.20

- 33.15.1.** Proposed to accept payment of accounts. Agreed.
- 33.15.2.** Proposed to accept the accuracy of the financial statement. Agreed.
- 33.15.3.** To accept the approved annual audit return – there were no comments made by the auditor. Agreed.
- 33.16. Democratic 10 minutes.**
 A resident asked about the verges and safety barrier on the Standon Road. Cllr Bhatt said he would be speaking to Mr Noads of Herts Highways.
 Dr Holland welcomed the Council's offer of help to the campaign against route 5b. Route 5b was near to route 2 that only 7% of residents had voted for.
 A resident thought the bypass should take precedence over footpaths although another resident disagreed as footpaths had existed far longer than the bypass.
- 33.17. Planning matters.** The transactions of the Planning Committee were noted.
- 33.18. Correspondence** There was no correspondence to circulate
- 33.19. Date of the next meeting Tuesday 2nd September 2014.**
- 33.20. The Chairman closed the meeting to the Public and the Press at 9:29 p.m.**

Appendix 1 Presentation by Dr Graeme Holland of the '5b Opposition Group'

1. Mr Chairman and Parish Cllrs I noticed agenda item 33.7.1 refers to the bypass concerns of the Albury Residents; I would like to point out that the cohort of residents concerned about the proximity of the revised bypass (Route 5b) include many local residents from across the village – concerns about the bypass are not solely the preserve of Albury Road residents. Without wishing to pre-empt those discussions I thought this might be the most appropriate timing to publically announce the start of a campaign to object to this route revision known as Route 5b.

As some in the audience may be aware many Little Hadham residents are collectively objecting to the revised bypass Route 5b; specifically due to the unilateral decision by Hertfordshire County Council to bring the Standon Road western tie-in an additional **~700metres (approx. 0.5 mile) closer to Little Hadham**, a distance previously described as having an “unacceptable disruption to the affected residents.” [Little Hadham Parish Council response to A120 Bypass route option consultation; Paragraph 7, April 2007] The '5b Opposition Group' representing nearly 80 residents in campaigning against this proposed revision, and are calling for the original Route 5 to be re-instated.

Last week we took the first important step to raise awareness of our objection by lodging a petition with Hertfordshire Country Council, and in the interests of transparency we have brought along a hard copy of the documentation already sent to LH Parish Council to have this exchange witnessed in a public forum.

2. On behalf of the 5b Opposition Group we'd like to thank both the Chairman and Cllr Williamson for accepting our invitation to walk the section of the 5b route bypass which is causing concern for many residents. Those accompanying you on the walk last Wednesday understood you found the proximity of the revised bypass route both surprising and shocking, and they appreciated your honest and pragmatic discussions.

If, following this walk, either of you felt it would be valuable for all LH Parish Councillors to gain first-hand experience of the proximity of the 5b revised route, we would be delighted to host another evening walk for a larger group of Councillors who may understandably feel geographically removed from their decision making with regard to this issue.

Regarding the representation of Albury Road at Parish Council meetings; although we appreciate the efforts of the Parish Council to enhance integration of disparate geographies within Little Hadham by calling upon Cllrs to represent the views of more than one locality – we also understand the insurmountable challenge this poses when an issue is by definition having an unequal geographical impact.

Our witnessing of Cllr Williamson's difficulties in representing our views have brought into question the need for the Parish Council to seek an alternative model of representation. In this regard we would like to call for a Cllr to volunteer to represent Albury Road and the other localities we might broadly refer to as the Northern Territories! We feel this might be a good interim solution prior to the May 2015 Council elections where upon we will take the advice of the Chairman and nominate a candidate from within our area.

3. We are delighted the issue of flooding has been included on the agenda as it provides the opportunity to clarify a matter that has been misinterpreted and continues to be misrepresented, and that is the belief by many that flood alleviation measures are somehow inextricably linked to the bypass Route 5b. As we know flood alleviation measures are a promised benefit of any Northern Route bypass...the original Route 5 which we are calling to be re-instated has always carried such provision.

In addition to these measures there is also capacity for flood alleviation work to be conducted quite independently from any bypass, as the Parish Council and particularly the Flood Committee are aware. Having recently met with the local landowner he has made it plain that works to alleviate flooding can be managed effectively by him with supervision from the Environmental Agency, and these measures could be in place before this winter.

As an opposition group we have endeavoured to listen to and understand the concerns of those who were recently flooded...it is worth noting that the majority of those households who experienced flooding who live in Standon or Albury Road have all been willing signatories to the petition; suggesting that the potential daily impact caused by having the revised route 5b, on their doorstep, is more objectionable to these people than the significant inconveniences caused by flooding.

Clearly those who are geographically further removed from the impact of this bypass may direct their emotions almost entirely to the issue of flooding, but I would suggest even these people would wish to support their village neighbours in objecting to a “bypass at any cost” being dictated to Little Hadham Parish by HCC.

Appendix 2

From: Damian Higgins Damian.Higgins@hertfordshire.gov.uk

To: Jonathan Forgham

Date: Tue, 1 Jul 2014 16:32

Subject: Little Hadham bypass

Jonathan

Apologies, I was on leave yesterday, but hopefully the contents of this email should provide you with answers, ahead of this evening!

Following review of recent and continued correspondence with the public, HCC have reviewed and updated the Frequently Asked Questions for the A120 Bypass (Little Hadham) and I would encourage LHPC to promote this with their residents. Using these updates, I hope to be able to guide residents through towards answers to their concerns.

In response to your points in number order:

- The formalised route for the proposed scheme is as per the following link: <http://www.hertsdirect.org/docs/pdf/g/gamm14.pdf> This shows the embankment to the west of the village on which the carriageway will sit. Until environmental modelling is concluded, we will be unable to effectively comments on those variable factors, but I would refer residents to FAQ 6.
- As part of the design for the scheme we have to assess and then mitigate any impacts to non-motorised users that are caused by the scheme. This will include assessing the impacts to existing footpaths, bridleways etc. There will be proposals in due course, during final design,
- The safety of any crossings that go near the road will be assessed as part of the formal road safety audit process that is required as part of the design process. This happens at preliminary design, detailed design and post construction. So the first safety audit stage will happen as part of the design phase we are currently doing.
- Again, we will need to refer to the forthcoming environmental studies before final design of any required measures can be identified. Any need for noise abatement would be decided based on modelling using existing noise level monitoring data, to be collected in July. Any mitigation would then be presented at the public consultation event in October.
- We do still anticipate the decision on funding to come through around October. For further timeline information, I refer you to the project timing & processes FAQs online - <http://www.hertsdirect.org/services/transtreets/mts/ltbA120BP/faqA120bpasslh/projtiming/> with specific reference to FAQ 6, item 2 regarding consultation.

Regards,

Damian Higgins

Highway Locality Manager (Eastern Herts), Highway Operations and Strategy