

# Little Hadham Parish Council

Minutes of the 34<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Little Hadham Parish Council (2011 – 2015 Session) held on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2014 at 8:10 p.m. in the Village Hall, Little Hadham.

**Present:**

<b>Mr J Forgham</b>	<b>Chairman</b>
<b>Mr C Bhatt</b>	)
<b>Mrs E Lloyd-Williams</b>	)
<b>Mr G Pearson</b>	) <b>Councillors</b>
<b>Mrs M Wilkinson</b>	)
<b>Mr G Williamson</b>	)

Mr B Evans – Clerk, and **21** members of the public.

**34.1. Absent.** Cllr Ms Woodgate.

**34.2. Declarations of interest.** None.

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

A resident reported a number of deep potholes in and around Bury Green.

**34.4. Minutes of the Parish Council meeting** held on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2014 had been previously circulated. The minutes were agreed as accurate.

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

**34.6. Allotments**

**34.6.1.** Cllr Mrs Wilkinson said that Mr Mick Foskett hoped to install the picnic area by the end of October.

Action  
Clerk

**34.7. Playgrounds.**

**34.7.1.** Report from the safety inspections of the playgrounds. Cllr Williamson all the items reported at both playgrounds were rated either low or very low risks. He thought no extra work needed to be done.

**34.7.2.** Damage to Ridgeway hedge, gate and fence. The Clerk reported that Mr Foskett had given a quotation of £405 to replace the gate. It was agreed to accept the quotation.

**34.8. Road matters.**

Action  
JF

**34.8.1.** The Chairman said that HCC would hold an exhibition and consultation in the Village Hall on 16<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> October 2012. This would give those with concerns an opportunity to ask questions and to raise any objections. The details could also be seen at County Hall and on the HCC bypass website. From the floor a resident said that the Council appeared to have ignored his email detailing his objections to the new route. The Chairman said the matter had been discussed at earlier meetings. The Council had agreed to help the anti-route 5b group but would do nothing that would put the bypass at risk. Cllr Williamson said the Council had tried to be open with Albury Road residents. The time to raise objections would be in few weeks' time. He said the Council had little real influence and objectors should target HCC. The Chairman noted that the objectors had proposed a flood alleviation scheme that would not need a bypass. However, he said that Environment Agency would not accept any private scheme that was not linked with the bypass.

Action  
Clerk

**34.8.2.** Potholes. The Chairman said a number of holes had been reported to Herts Highways. He encouraged residents to report road damage using the HCC website.

**34.8.3.** Hedges outside 'Houghtons'. The Chairman said the bottom of the hedge had been cut but the top was still obstructing tall vehicles. The hedge for which the

owners of Houghtons were responsible had been cut. The Chairman said he had spoken the Mr Patmore of Herts Highways who agreed to cut the top of the hedge and cut back the verge where it had encroached onto the road. He noted that the hedge on the other side of the road was in need of cutting. He would approach the owners.

- 34.8.4.** Installing two extra planters. The Chairman said that flowers had been stolen from the planter nearest Lloyd Taylor Close. One of the culprits had been spoken to by the police. He and Cllr Ms Woodgate were looking for alternative sites for the new planters. Action WW/JF
- 34.8.5.** Damage to the verge at Ford Field. The Chairman said Mr Patmore had agreed to raise the curb stones and add some more stones on top in an effort to stop the damage caused by the refuse truck.
- 34.8.6.** To consider the state of repair of the car park opposite the Nag's Head. The Chairman said the Mr Patmore had agreed the surface was in a poor state and pub clients were choosing to park in Chapel Lane. He agreed to level the area and install a shale surface.
- 34.8.7.** 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
- 34.8.8.** Road sweeping – especially at The Ford. The Chairman said that the flooding earlier in the year had brought down a lot of sand and gravel. This had now been cleared though several of the rainwater gullies in Chapel Lane had been reported as being blocked.
- 34.9. Footpaths.**
- 34.9.1.** Condition of footpaths. The chairman said most paths were in good condition.
- 34.9.2.** Footpath between Albury Road and the church – hand rail on the bridge and overgrown hedge on Albury Road reducing visibility. The chairman said he was still waiting for repairs to be made. Action JF
- 34.10. Flooding.**
- 34.10.1.** Multi-agency meeting. Cllr Pearson said the meeting would be on 7<sup>th</sup> November 2014. Oliver Heald MP would chair the meeting. Action GP
- 34.10.2.** Cllr Pearson said that the recent heavy rain had caused some flooding at Green Street, Chapel Lane and near the Village Hall.
- 34.11. Bury Green**
- 34.11.1.** Dog fouling on the Green. Cllr Mrs Lloyd-Williams said she had been investigating the cost of siting and emptying a dog waste bin. Cllr Bhatt said he had doubts that many residents would use it. He noted that dog waste was frequently left on the verge near the bin outside the Village Hall. The Chairman said he preferred to use education and he would write an article for the Parish News. Action JF
- 34.11.2.** Millennium Wood. The Chairman said he was trying to discover who the new owner was. He said he had cleared the path through the wood and was organising a work party for Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> November to cut back some of the excessive growth and the self-seeded elders.
- 34.12. Westland Green**
- 34.12.1.** Repairs to the byroad. Cllr Mrs Wilkinson no work had been done. The Chairman said he would chase the matter. Action JF
- 34.12.2.** Cllr Mrs Wilkinson said the grass on the green needed cutting. The Clerk agreed to contact Mr Stigwood. Action Clerk
- 34.13. Chairman's report.**

- 34.13.1.** Review of Hadfest 2014. The Chairman said Hadfest had been a great success with two or three hundred local people attending. Money had been raised for the Essex Air Ambulance and for the Isobel Hospice.
- 34.13.2.** To consider a response to the HCC consultation on bus subsidies. Cllr Williamson said HCC hoped to save money by cutting subsidised bus services on Sundays and after 6:30 p.m. This meant the 351 and 700 locally. He said that many residents used the 351 to reach jobs in Bishop's Stortford or to commute to London. The last bus was already too early for most commuters – the 5:10 p.m. was far too early. The 700 bus was used by residents seven days a week to get to jobs at Stansted Airport and Bishop's Stortford. Cllr Mrs Lloyd-Williams said many young residents used the late buses to visit friends or the cinema. Cllr Williamson agreed to include all the points raised in making the Council's response.
- 34.13.3.** Living Rivers Project. The Chairman said he had been on a course to train how to monitor the quality of river water. The Ash was a rare example of a chalk stream and he had identified 6 sampling sites for checking river invertebrates. He said he would hold a meeting in the Village Hall on 10<sup>th</sup> September. He hoped to get children from the village school involved.
- 34.13.4.** Area representatives. The new area representatives were agreed. [Appendix 1].
- 34.13.5.** The Chairman congratulated the Village School for the result of its recent OFSTED inspection. It was classed as Good with some Outstanding elements. This was a very good result given the new, more stringent, measurement criteria.
- 34.13.6.** To consider making a donation to the Little Hadham Karate Club. The Chairman said 5 club members were attending the World Championships in Birmingham. They needed funding for kit, travel and hotels. They had applied for local sponsorship. Cllr Mrs Wilkinson proposed that the Council make a donation of £350. Agreed.
- 34.13.7.** To consider the appointment of a replacement litter picker. The Chairman said the Adam Purvis, the litter picker for four years, was resigning at the end of September. The Clerk said he had advertised the post in the Parish News and had received a number of applications. It was agreed that The Chairman, Cllr Bhatt and Cllr Mrs Wilkinson would form an Employment Committee to make an appointment. Action Clerk
- 34.13.8.** Playground hedges. The Clerk said that Greenman Conservation were having difficulty with their sub-contractor and did not wish to continue cutting the hedges. Mower Services, who had cut the hedges in the past, had made a quotation on £290. This was more than Greenman had charged in the past but less than the second quotation obtained in 2011 when Greenman was given the contract. It was agreed to accept the quotation from Mower Services. Action Clerk

**34.14. Clerk's Report****34.15. Financial statement****Period ending 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2014**

Barclay's Bank C/Acc	£17,265.99
StepSaver BP Acc	£5.19
BP Acc	£170.26
Petty cash	-£47.06
<b>Total</b>	<b>£17,394.38</b>

**Included above****Paid**

Sargies	Bury Green grass (paid 9/7/14)	£75.00
Sargies	Bury Green grass (paid 7/8/14)	£75.00
Mower Services	3 cuts July (paid 7/8/14)	£435.60

**Received**

EHC	New Homes Bonus (received 25/7/14)	£4,177.00
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**To be agreed****To Pay**

Mr B Evans	P/Clerk - August	£318.96	
	Exp August	£26.92	
	Float	£50.00	£395.88
Mr Joel Hammond	Grass, bins & allotments - August		£70.00
Mower Services	2 cuts August		£290.40
EHC	Playground inspections		£111.72
Ms Wendy Woodgate	Flowering plants		£57.49
Sargies	Bury Green grass		£75.00
Kyokujitsu Kyokushin Karate Club	Donation		£350.00
Mr A Purvis	Litter picker August		£114.57
	<b>Total payments</b>		<b>£1,465.06</b>

**Total in all accounts and petty cash after payment of this month's bills £15,979.32**

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

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

**34.16. Democratic 10 minutes.**

The resident who spoke earlier said he still thought the Council should have discussed his submission. He asked about a second submission about the path outside his home on the Standon Road. Cllr Bhatt said he had reported the matter to HCC and was awaiting a reply.

A resident reported that he had made numerous reports to Herts Highways about blocked rainwater gullies but nothing appeared to get done. The Chairman said he would report the matter. It was said that Herts Highways had a plan clearly showing the blocked drains but special machinery was needed to clear those most seriously blocked.

A resident said the chain fence round the Village Pump had been damaged. The Chairman said Cllr Ms Woodgate planned to refurbish the pump area and would look into the matter.

A resident said people flooded in January 2014 were entitled to a grant but they had to apply before the end of September 2014.

**34.17. Planning matters.** The transactions of the Planning Committee were noted.

**34.17.1. Correspondence**

CPRE Fieldwork magazine	<b>MW</b>
CPRE Countryside Voice magazine	<b>MW/ELW</b>
CPRE Herts magazine	<b>MW</b>
Clerk & Councils Direct magazine	<b>JF</b>
HAPTC Annual Report	<b>JF</b>
Harlow Council consultation on Local Development Plan	
HCC Waste Development Framework CD	<b>JF</b>

**34.18. Date of the next meeting Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2014.**

**34.19. The Chairman closed the meeting to the Public and the Press at 9:36 p.m.**

**Appendix 1 Revised areas of responsibilities.**

Bury Green, Cradle End and Green Street	Cllr Mrs Lloyd-Williams
The Ash Traffic Lights, Albury Road and Standon Road	Cllr Pearson
The Ford: Half Way House to South Cottages, Chapel Lane, Ford Hill and Acremore Street	Cllr Williamson
Hadham Hall, Stortford Road [east of the Ash] and Church End	Cllr Bhatt
Westland Green and New Road	Cllr Mrs Wilkinson
The Ridgeway, The Smithy and Lloyd Taylor Close	Cllr Ms Woodgate