

Little Hadham Parish Council

Minutes of the 35th meeting of the Little Hadham Parish Council (2011 – 2015 Session) held on Tuesday 7th October 2014 at 8:45 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)
Ms W Woodgate)

Mr B Evans – Clerk, and **18** members of the public.

35.1. Absent. Cllr Williamson [on holiday].

35.2. Declarations of interest. None.

35.3. Public session on matters on the agenda.

A resident expressed his concern that an email he had sent to councillors concerning the bypass had not been included on the agenda. The Clerk said it had been received after the agenda had been published. The agendas had been distributed to councillors and posted on the website on the same day. The resident wondered why the Clerk had not told him this. The Chairman said items could not be added to a published agenda although he planned to address the resident's comments during the meeting.

35.4. Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 2nd September 2014 had been previously circulated. The minutes were agreed as accurate with the correction that Cllr Ms Woodgate was absent from the meeting and not present as shown.

35.5. Matters arising from the minutes. None.

35.6. Allotments

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

35.7. Playgrounds.

35.7.1. Damage to Ridgeway hedge, gate and fence. Cllr Ms Woodgate said the repair was still awaited. She proposed that the Clerk ask Mr Foskett to expedite the repairs. Agreed. Action Clerk

35.7.2. Hedges. The Clerk said that the hedges had been cut by Mower Services.

35.8. Road matters.

35.8.1. Bypass. Consultation and Exhibition in the Village Hall. The Chairman said that all residents should have received a letter informing them of an exhibition and consultation in the Village Hall on 16th, 18th and 20th 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. The Chairman said the councillors had met the HCC and agreed what should be included in the exhibition. HCC had agreed to a separate meeting with members of the 'No to 5b' group. All of the matters raised by the group had been discussed by the councillors with HCC.

Referring to the email from a resident, the Chairman said that the resident wanted the Council to write to HCC saying that it refused route 5b and insisting that the original route 5 be adopted. The Chairman said that in practice such a letter would make no difference – HCC would go ahead with the existing plans. He

encouraged all residents to attend the exhibition and raise any objections they might have. He accepted that most of those making comments would be those objecting to route 5b. However, he hoped those in favour of the scheme would also make their views known.

The Chairman said that the Council accepted HCC's view that changing the route now would result in loss of the funding. He listed some possible dates for a meeting between the objectors and HCC. The Chairman said that the Council had been diligent in representing the views of all residents – including the objectors. He was aware of the petition which had been forwarded to HCC. The resident's email had also been forwarded and HCC promised to reply within a few days. From the floor, a resident, a member of the group of objectors, said he thought a meeting with HCC would be a waste of time because they would not discuss changes to the route. The Chairman said the meeting might clarify some mistaken views on the bypass such as its height behind the bund. There would be pictures showing views of the bypass from different sites in the parish. Cllr Bhatt thought a meeting for objectors would allow a focus on the detailed concerns raised by the objectors. The Chairman encouraged all residents to attend the exhibition. The Council had asked for all residents in the Little Hadham and surrounding parishes to be sent notice of the exhibition.

- 35.8.2.** Potholes. Cllr Bhatt said that he had spoken the Mr Nodes of Herts Highways about the verge outside homes on Standon Road. The grass was programmed to be cut twice a year. Mr Nodes agreed to ask HCC for a change in this specification but warned that the agreement of the county council would not be quick.
- 35.8.3.** Installing two extra planters. The Chairman thanked Mr Stephen Stigwood for storing the planters. He and Cllr Ms Woodgate were looking for alternative sites. Action WW/JF
- 35.8.4.** To consider repairs to the fence surrounding the village pump. Cllr Ms Woodgate said that all four posts needed to be replaced as they were rotten. The Chairman agreed to obtain a quotation. Action JF
- 35.9. Footpaths.**
- 35.9.1.** Condition of footpaths. The chairman said most paths were in good condition.
- 35.9.2.** 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
- 35.9.3.** Willow trees next to the river near Ford Fields. The Chairman said the willow trees had become overgrown and potentially dangerous. Ownership of the land was unclear. He proposed that he and a group of volunteers should cut the trees back. Agreed. Action JF
- 35.10. Flooding.**
- 35.10.1.** Multi-agency meeting. Cllr Pearson said the meeting would be at 2 p.m. on 7th November 2014. The meeting would be for a number of councillors and the responsible agencies. It would not be open to the public. Action GP
- 35.10.2.** Cllr Pearson said a land drain in Millfield Lane had been repaired and the drains in Green Street had been cleared. The ditch damaged by horses in Millfield Lane had been reported.
- 35.11. Bury Green**
- 35.11.1.** Dog fouling on the Green. Cllr Mrs Lloyd-Williams said she had spoken to EHC. The fouling problem continued.

- 35.11.2.** Millennium Wood. The Chairman said that he and Mr Mick Wheeler had spent some time clearing the paths. He was seeking advice from the Small Woods Association on thinning some trees and coppicing others. Action JF
- 35.12. Westland Green**
- 35.12.1.** Repairs to the byroad. Cllr Mrs Wilkinson said the work on the byroad had been finished. She understood PCSO Karen Broad was arranging for the posts to be erected to keep vehicles off the rest of the green. Cllr Mrs Wilkinson thanked PCSO Broad and also Mr Stephen Stigwood for cutting the green.
- 35.13. Chairman's report.**
- 35.13.1.** Living Rivers Project. The Chairman said he had held a meeting with about 10 local people. They were waiting for the project managers to agree to suitable sampling sites. Action JF
- 35.13.2.** To welcome the new Parish Little Picker. Cllr Bhatt said that the Employment Committee had met the three applicants and had agree to appoint Mr Ben Petch from the Smithy. Ben had already started work.
- 35.13.3.** Health Watch Report. Cllr Mrs Lloyd-Williams reported on a meeting held on 24th September. The report was based on a survey of local users and providers of local health services. She noted that there were issues at the local health centre concerning getting appointments and privacy at reception.
- 35.13.4.** Councillor recruitment. This was deferred to the next meeting.
- 35.13.5.** Defibrillator. To consider purchasing a defibrillator for use in the parish. Cllr Mrs Lloyd-Williams said that prompt use of a defibrillator could save lives. Some councils had installed them in local phone boxes. The Chairman thought that there were concerns about siting, training and cost. Cllr Bhatt said a defibrillator was potentially dangerous and risks were unlikely to be covered by insurance. It was agreed that Cllr Mrs Lloyd-Williams would investigate what other local parishes were doing. Action ELW
- 35.13.6.** Broadband. To consider ways of improving the speed of broadband in the parish. Cllr Bhatt said that broadband from the Albury exchange was very slow and BT had said it was not in the current plans for fibre. The Chairman agreed to raise the matter with Mr Oliver Heald MP. Action JF

35.14. Clerk's Report

35.15. Financial statement

Period ending 7th October 2014

Barclay's Bank C/Acc	£15,811.28
StepSaver BP Acc	£5.19
BP Acc	£170.26
Petty cash	-£9.18
Total	£15,977.55

To be agreed

Received

EHC	2nd half precept	£6,400.00
Barclay's Bank	Interest	£0.02
Total		£6,400.02

To Pay

Mr B Evans	P/Clerk - September	£318.76	
	Exp September	£13.70	
	Float	£50.00	£382.46
Mr Joel Hammond	Grass, bins & allotments - September		£70.00
Mower Services	2 cuts September		£290.40
Mower Services	Hedge cutting		£456.00
EHC	Allotment rents		£20.00
HM Revenue & Customs	PAYE		£239.20
Sargies	Bury Green grass		£50.00
Little Hadham Village Hall	Hire of Hall & use of bins		£81.50
CPRE	Annual subscription		£36.00
Hert CC County Supplies	Stationary		£14.03
Mr A Purvis	Litter picker September		£114.57
	Total payments		£1,754.16

Total in all accounts and petty cash after payment of this month's bills £20,673.41

35.15.1. Proposed to accept payment of accounts. Agreed.

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

35.16. Democratic 10 minutes.

A resident asked who would pay for cutting the willow trees. The Chairman said it would be done by unpaid volunteers.

A resident asked about the Council's views on bus cuts. The Chairman said that the Council had objected to the removal of the 700 on Sundays and the 351 late service as they were used by workers in Bishop's Stortford, Stansted Airport and in London.

A resident asked if an 'Unsuitable for HGVs' sign could be sited at the Bury Green end of Acremore Street similar to that at the war memorial. The Chairman said he would contact Herts Highways.

Action
JF

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

35.18. Correspondence

Local Government Boundary Commission

Electoral Review of Hertfordshire

JF

Clerk & Councils Direct magazine

JF

NALC LCR magazine

JF

SSE Newsletter

WW

35.19. Date of the next meeting Tuesday 4th November 2014.

35.20. The Chairman closed the meeting to the Public and the Press at 9:45 p.m.