

Little Hadham Parish Council

Minutes of the 36th meeting of the Little Hadham Parish Council (2011 – 2015 Session) held on Tuesday 4th November 2014 at 8:05 p.m. in the Village Hall, Little Hadham.

Present: **Mrs M Wilkinson** **Vice Chairman**
 Mrs E Lloyd-Williams)
 Mr G Williamson) **Councillors**
 Ms W Woodgate)

Mr B Evans – Clerk, and **14** members of the public.

36.1. Absent. Cllr Forgham [on holiday], Cllr Bhatt [on holiday] and Cllr Pearson [unwell].

36.2. Declarations of interest. None.

36.3. Public session on matters on the agenda.

Mr Don Gibson reported on an EHC meeting he had attended concerning new Gypsy and Traveller sites in East Herts. A presentation had been given by a company charged with investigating legal requirements and possible sites. 20 extra pitches had to be found by 2020 with a further 15 by 2030. The sites proposed were located in the west of the district. Mr Gibson said Little Hadham had not been mentioned though it was possible this could change. EHC councillors had approved the presentation and a sub-committee would consider the possible sites. The sub-committee would report in March 2015 at a meeting that both he and Cllr Williamson would attend. The Vice Chairman thanked Mr Gibson.

Cllr Mrs Lloyd-Williams reported that the report on the survey of users of Much Hadham Health Centre was now available for residents to study.

36.4. Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 5th October 2014 had been previously circulated. The minutes were agreed as accurate.

36.5. Matters arising from the minutes. None.

36.6. Allotments

36.6.1. Cllr Mrs Wilkinson said that work on the picnic area would start in the new year.

36.7. Playgrounds.

36.7.1. Damage to Ridgeway hedge, gate and fence. The Clerk said the gates had been repaired and Mr Foskett had submitted a quotation of £95 to repair the fence near the gate. Cllr Mrs Woodgate asked that he also quote for repairs to the fence nearest the main road that children had used to climb into a tree. It was agreed that the Clerk could accept a quotation of up to £200 for the repair of both fences.

Action
Clerk

36.8. Road matters.

36.8.1. Bypass. Report on the Consultation and Exhibition held in the Village Hall. The Vice Chairman read an email from Cllr Forgham [Appendix 1]. Cllr Mrs Lloyd-Williams said she had some extra copies of the response form. Cllr Williamson thought the Council should thank HCC for the exhibition which he thought gave a clear view of all aspects of the scheme. Cllr Williamson said that the proposed crossing of the footpath to the west of Albury Road was too dangerous. He thought the Council should ask HCC to provide a footbridge. Cllr Williamson said that, despite reinsurances from HCC before the exhibition, he was disappointed that there had been no full explanation for the change of route from Route 5 to 5b. He welcomed the plans for flood alleviation which would give real help to many residents. From the floor a resident asked why there was no

- slip road from the bypass for traffic going to and from the Pelhams. Several heavy, articulated lorries passed along Albury Road every day creating noise and danger for residents. Cllr Williamson said the Council should ask HCC to give further consideration to slip roads. Cllr Williamson said that the Council should send a formal response to the consultation giving broad support to the scheme but asking that HCC reconsider the footpath, Albury Road slip roads and the explanations for the change of route. It was agreed that the Clerk should draft a response for consideration by councillors. Action Clerk
- 36.8.2.** Maintenance of the verge outside homes on Standon Road. Left to the December meeting.
- 36.8.3.** Installing two extra planters. Cllr Mrs Woodgate said the matter was being progressed. Action WW
- 36.8.4.** To consider repairs to the fence surrounding the village pump. Cllr Ms Woodgate asked Mr Foskett to give a quotation.
- 36.8.5.** The Vice Chairman reported that the curb stones near Ford Fields car park had been renewed.
- 36.8.6.** Excessive speed of traffic on the Cradle End, Bury Green, Ford Hill road. Cllr Mrs Lloyd-Williams said she was in consultation with Herts Highways. Cllr Williamson said that what was needed was a bypass.
- 36.9. Footpaths.**
- 36.9.1.** Condition of footpaths. The Vice Chairman said she had no reports.
- 36.9.2.** Footpath between Albury Road and the church – hand rail on the bridge and overgrown hedge on Albury Road reducing visibility. A resident said only some of required hand rails had been installed. The Vice Chairman said she would discuss the matter with Cllr Forgham. Action JF
- 36.9.3.** Willow trees next to the river near Ford Fields. The Vice Chairman said Cllr Forgham planned to organise a volunteer work party for Sunday 16th November. Action JF
- 36.10. Flooding.**
- 36.10.1.** Multi-agency meeting. The Vice Chairman read part of an email from Cllr Pearson. “The Council is continuing to work with the Multi Agency group and Oliver Heald MP on the continuing flood issues in the village, at the A120 traffic lights, The Ford, Chapel Lane, Green Street, Millfield Lane, and the new report at Ashcroft Lane. There is to be a Review of progress meeting to held on Fri 7th Nov for the Agencies and Council only to attend.” Action GP
- 36.11. Bury Green**
- 36.11.1.** Dog fouling on the Green. Cllr Mrs Lloyd-Williams said an article had appeared in the last edition of the Parish News and a new article would appear in the December edition. Action ELW
- 36.12. Westland Green**
- 36.12.1.** Repairs to the byroad. The Vice Chairman said that the posts marking the edge of the byroad were waiting installation.
- 36.13. Chairman’s report.**
- 36.13.1.** Councillor recruitment. This was deferred to the next meeting.
- 36.13.2.** Defibrillator. To consider purchasing a defibrillator for use in the parish. Cllr Mrs Lloyd-Williams said that the defibrillator would have a phone number to call for a code number to release the device for use. She said it was possible to get a grant for £500 but the Council would have to find £2,000. The local Ambulance Trust would need to approve any plans. Cllr Mrs Lloyd-Williams said she would continue to find out what other councils were doing. Action ELW

36.13.3. Neighbourhood Plan. To consider whether to create a plan. Cllr Williamson said that little had changed. He thought preparing a Plan would be difficult, time consuming and expensive. The Council would have to buy in professional help. He proposed the Council defer the matter for a further four months. Agreed.

36.14. Clerk's Report

36.15. Financial statement

Period ending 4th November 2014

Barclay's Bank C/Acc	£20,491.12
StepSaver BP Acc	£5.19
BP Acc	£170.30
Petty cash	£28.70
Total	£20,695.31

Uncleared cheque

CPRE	Annual subscription	£36.00
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To be agreed

To Pay

Mr B Evans	P/Clerk - October	£318.96	
	Exp September	£19.71	£338.67
Mr Joel Hammond	Grass, bins & allotments - October		£70.00
Little Hadham PCC	Donation towards upkeep of graveyard		£250.00
Royal British Legion	Remembrance Sunday wreath		£30.00
Little Hadham Primary School	Donation		£250.00
Little Hadham Brownies	Donation		£200.00
Mr M A Foskett	Ridgeway gates		£405.00
Mr Ben Petch	Litter picker October		£91.77
	Total payments		£1,635.44

Total in all accounts and petty cash after payment of this month's bills £19,023.87

36.15.1. Proposed to accept payment of accounts. Agreed.

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

36.15.3. To agree a work party to prepare a draft budget for 2015/16. It was agreed that the Clerk would organise a meeting for the Chairman, and any other councillors who wished to attend, to prepare a draft budget for 2015/16.

36.16. Democratic 10 minutes.

A resident thought that a bypass would not affect the speed of cars passing through the village on the way to and from Much Hadham. Cllr Mrs Lloyd-Williams said that HCC would use traffic modelling of the parish in order to find the most effective ways of moderating traffic speed after the bypass.

A resident asked why the planned closure of the road through The Ford had not happened. Cllr Williamson said there had been confusion because the gas company was not aware that the road through Much Hadham had already been closed. The work in Little Hadham had been postponed although local residents had not been informed of this.

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

36.18. Correspondence

Clerk & Councils Direct magazine	JF
Active East Herts leaflet	WW

36.19. Date of the next meeting Tuesday 2nd December 2014.

36.20. The Chairman closed the meeting to the Public and the Press at 8:55 p.m.

Appendix 1 Extract from email sent by Cllr Forgham 13th October 2014.

If it could be emphasised as strongly as possible that all residents should endeavour to fill out the form and make comments appropriate. I, personally, am not at all impressed with the footpath provision to the north west of the parish and that either a tunnel or footbridge will need to be constructed. The suggestion from Mr Boutal is that they will put in an island with fencing around it. This is clearly not good enough as local dog walkers etc are frequently out at times when the road will be at its busiest. Personally, I shall be contacting the Ramblers Organisation to get their team on to making official moves to have a better system in place. The island method is used on the A10 bypass south of Puckeridge and you never see anyone daft enough to try to cross. Likewise on the Stortford bypass between Tesco's and Stansted Road.

Otherwise, I heard as many positive comments regarding the exhibition as I did negative ones and the overall feeling from the staff present was that it had been a successful and worthwhile exercise, with the video being frequently commented upon as most useful. However, several of the older residents complained that the diction on the soundtrack was poor and too fast for them to comprehend it all. These notes have, as previous email, been forwarded to Mr Boutal and the team.