

Little Hadham Parish Council

Minutes of the 40th meeting of the Little Hadham Parish Council (2011 – 2015 Session) held on Tuesday 3rd March 2015 at 8:24 p.m. in the Village Hall, Little Hadham.

Present: **Mr J Forgham** **Chairman**
 Mr C Bhatt)
 Mr G Pearson) **Councillors**
 Mr G Williamson)
 Ms W Woodgate)

Mr B Evans – Clerk, and 9 members of the public.

39.1. Absent. Cllr Mrs Lloyd-Williams [on Holiday] and Cllr Mrs Wilkinson.

39.2. Declarations of interest. None.

39.3. Public session on matters on the agenda.

A resident thanked the Council for cutting back the willow trees along the Ash at the Ford. He hoped the remaining tree would also be trimmed. He welcomed the new furniture at the allotments and hoped that the newly planted fruit trees would be moved soon.

A resident said that queue jumping at the A120 traffic lights was partly because so little time was allowed for the side roads. The Chairman said HCC had assured the Council that the timings were at the optimum level.

39.4. Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 3rd March 2015 had been previously circulated. The minutes were agreed as accurate.

39.5. Matters arising from the minutes.

39.5.1. New noticeboard for the Village Hall. The Clerk said he had placed the order.

39.6. Allotments

39.6.1. The Chairman said the new furniture was in place. He had asked Mr Joel Hammond to cut back the remaining willow tree and to replant the fruit trees in the hedge.

Action
MW

39.7. Playgrounds.

39.7.1. Cllrs Mrs Woodgate said the Ridgeway was in good order. Cllr Williamson said one of the footrests on the trip wire was missing. Mr Mick Foskett had agreed to make a repair.

39.8. Neighbourhood Plan. To consider whether to initiate the preparation of a plan. Cllr Williams said that, in the past, he had doubts about preparing a plan because of the time, cost and commitment required. A number of councils had prepared plans and he thought it might be time to reconsider whether to prepare a plan. Cllr Bhatt thought it would be wise to wait until the election. A new government might change the rules. It was agreed to reconsider the matter at the first meeting of the new Council.

39.9. Road matters.

39.9.1. Maintenance of the verge outside homes on Standon Road. Cllr Bhatt said nothing had been done for 12 months. He would take it up with Herts Highways. The Chairman asked him to also report an overhanging tree and a loose drain cover.

Action
CB

39.9.2. Potholes. The Chairman listed a number of potholes including those at the bottom of Chapel Lane, Acremore Street, Green Street / Cradle End and Westland Green. He said all had been reported.

- 39.9.3.** Installing two extra planters. Cllr Mrs Woodgate said the planters had been installed and would be stocked with plants very soon. She thanked Mr Stephen Stigwood for his help installing the planters. Action
WW
- 39.9.4.** Vehicles jumping the A120 traffic lights. The Chairman said the police would make occasional visits. He noted that most of the offenders were local residents. Action
ELW
- 39.10.** Excessive speed of traffic on the Cradle End, Bury Green, Ford Hill roads. The Chairman said that Cllr Mrs Lloyd-Williams was in consultation with the police. He thought it was a difficult problem to solve.
- 39.11.** **Cradle End notice board.** To consider quotation. The Clerk said he had a quote for a plastic glazed board for £714.54 + VAT and an unglazed board for £503.33 + VAT. Installation would cost about £100. It was agreed to buy the glazed board. Action
Clerk
- 39.12. Footpaths.**
- 39.12.1.** Condition of footpaths. The Chairman said most paths were in good repair.
- 39.12.2.** Application for a Countryside Management grant. The Chairman said he was still working on the application. Action
JF
- 39.12.3.** Willow trees next to the river near Ford Fields. The Chairman said the trees needed to be trimmed about every two years.
- 39.13. Flooding.**
- 39.13.1.** Cllr Pearson funding for the new sewage pump was still awaited.
- 39.14. Parish Assembly – Thursday April 16th**
- 39.14.1.** To consider who to invite to give presentations. The Clerk said he had received acceptances from The Chairman; the Police; Mrs Stockley, Head of Little Hadham School; Mr Richard Beckett of Little Hadham Charities; Cllr McAndrew and Mr Don Gibson.
- 39.14.2.** To consider static displays. Cllr Mrs Woodgate said she had 3 groups agreeing to attend. She would chase the 5 groups who had not yet replied. Action
WW
- 39.14.3.** To agree arrangements for catering. Cllr Mrs Woodgate arrangements for the catering were in hand. Action
WW
- 39.15. Chairman’s report.**
- 39.15.1.** Councillor recruitment. Cllr Bhatt said he would speak at the Assembly to encourage residents to put their names forward. Action
CB
- 39.15.2.** Defibrillator. Cllr Pearson showed the defibrillator that had been donated. The box had been ordered and the work party was in consultation with the Village Hall and the Doctors’ Surgery over location, power supply and phone line. Action
GP/ELW

39.16. Clerk's Report**39.16.1. Financial statement****Period ending 7th April 2015**

Barclay's Bank C/Acc		£16,493.30	
StepSaver BP Acc		£5.19	
BP Acc		£170.34	
Petty cash		£27.13	
	Total		£16,695.96

Uncleared cheque

East Herts Citizens Advice Service		£250.00	
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To be agreed**To Pay**

Mr B Evans	P/Clerk - March	£318.76	
	Exp February	£19.71	£338.47
Mr Joel Hammond	Grass, bins & allotments - March	£70.00	
	Cutting willow trees	£125.00	£195.00
Community Heartbeat Trust	Box, signs & training		£1,422.00
HM Revenue & Customs	PAYE		£216.20
Little Hadham School	Use copier		£58.12
HAPTC	Annual subscription		£540.10
Gascoyne Cecil Estates	Westland Green & Bury Green rent		£3.13
L Knott, Mower Services	1 grass cut playing fields		£121.00
Mr Ben Petch	Litter picker March		£114.57
	Total payments		£3,008.59

Total in all accounts and petty cash after payment of this month's bills £13,437.37

- 39.16.2.** Proposed to accept payment of accounts. Agreed.
- 39.16.3.** Proposed to accept the accuracy of the financial statement. Agreed.
- 39.16.4.** Report from the work party to considering the internal control of the Council. The Chairman said that he had met the Clerk and had discussed Council book keeping, covering of risks and ensuring that the Council complies with any changes in legislation. He proposed that the Council approve the work of the Clerk. Agreed.
- 39.16.5.** To agree procedures for the Internal Audit. It was agreed that Mr Mike Smith would carry out the internal audit.
- 39.16.6.** The Clerk said that he had followed the previous Clerk in addressing male councillors as Cllr and female councillors as Cllr Mrs, Miss or Ms. He wondered if this was still inappropriate. It was agreed that, in future, all councillors would be referred to as Cllr.
- 39.17. Democratic 10 minutes.**
There were no comments or questions.
- 39.18. Planning matters.** The transactions of the Planning Committee were noted.

39.19. Correspondence

Clerks & Councils Direct magazine
East Herts Citizens' Advice Service
CPRE Countryside Voice magazine
CPRE Field Work magazine
NALC LCR magazine

JF
GP
MW
WW
JF

39.20. Date of the next meeting Tuesday 5th May 2015.

39.21. The Chairman closed the meeting to the Public and the Press at 9.05 p.m.