

# Little Hadham Parish Council

Minutes of the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Little Hadham Parish Council (2015 – 2019 Session) held on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> July 2015 at 8:00 p.m. in the Village Hall, Little Hadham.

**Present:**

<b>Mrs E Lloyd-Williams</b>	<b>Chair</b>
<b>Mr C Bhatt</b>	)
<b>Mr A Hoodless</b>	)
<b>Mr G Pearson</b>	) <b>Councillors</b>
<b>Mr G Tooke</b>	)
<b>Mrs M Wilkinson</b>	)
<b>Mr W Wright</b>	)

Mr B Evans – Clerk, and 17 members of the public.

- 2.1 Absent.** None.
- 2.2. Declarations of interest.** None.
- 2.3. Co-option of councillor.** The Chair proposed that Mr Tony Hoodless, Mr Gavin Tooke and Mr Will Wright be co-opted. Agreed.

**The Council meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m. and continued after the Planning Committee at 9:09 p.m.** [Cllr Wilkinson left the meeting during the Planning Committee meeting]

- 2.4. Allocation of posts and responsibilities.** The Chair proposed that there be 10 areas of responsibility with a lead councillor for each. She read through the allocation she had so far and proposed it be adopted. Agreed. [Appendix 1]
- 2.5. Public session on matters on the agenda.**  
 A resident asked that, because there were so many new councillors, the names of councillors should be listed in the Parish News and they should have a sign with their name at Council meetings. She said she was against new homes at Ashcroft Farm because of the lack of affordable homes and the effect on flooding downstream of the site.  
 A resident was concerned about vehicles speeding on Albury Road. Traffic speed and parked cars made visibility very poor for residents leaving their drives. The Chair said police planned to monitor Bury Green traffic. She would ask them to move on to Albury Road.  
 District Cllr Williamson said that EHC would be considering the categories of parishes in the new District Plan in the next few weeks.
- 2.6. Minutes of the Parish Council meeting** held on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2015 had been previously circulated. The minutes were agreed as accurate.
- 2.7. Matters arising from the minutes.**
- 2.7.1.** Legality of warning signs on footpath crossing polo fields. The Chair said Mr Maddex, HCC footpath officer, had told her that the signs were not actually on the footpath and so were legal.

- 2.7.2.** Temporary polo stables and planning law. The Chair said she had been unable to find the stables. If they were on wheels they would not need planning consent. She said she would investigate. Action  
ELW
- 2.8.** **Neighbourhood Plan.** To consider whether the Council should take steps to create a Plan. The Chair said the Council had delayed making a decision on whether to prepare a plan but a decision was urgently needed now. It was agreed that Cllr Wright would prepare a report for the September meeting.
- 2.9.** **Allotments**
- 2.9.1.** There was nothing to report.
- 2.10.** **Playgrounds.**
- 2.10.1.** The Chair said graffiti had been painted on the hang-out shelter and on a table. It was agreed that Mr Mick Foskett would investigate.
- 2.11.** **Road matters.**
- 2.11.1.** Maintenance of the verge outside homes on Standon Road. The matter is ongoing. Action  
CB
- 2.11.2.** Potholes. The Chair said they were as prolific as ever and she encouraged residents to report them to the HCC website.
- 2.11.3.** Vehicles jumping the A120 traffic lights. The Chair said she had no new news.
- 2.11.4.** Excessive speed of traffic on the Cradle End, Bury Green, Ford Hill and Chapel Lane roads. The Chair said she was waiting for confirmation of the traffic monitoring. Action  
ELW
- 2.12.** **Footpaths.**
- 2.12.1.** Condition of footpaths. The Chair read a report on footpath repairs from Mr Maddex. [Appendix 2] She said that the post would soon be installed on the Westland Green byroad. She asked the Clerk to ask Mr Stephen Stigwood to cut the green. Action  
Clerk
- 2.13.** **Bury Green.** Pot hole on the Green. The Chair proposed that the Council buy road chipping at a cost of £60 so that the hole could be filled. Agreed.
- 2.14.** **Flooding.**
- 2.15.** Cllr Pearson said Mr Oliver Heald MP had written to Thames Water concerning a new sewage pump but had yet to receive a reply. Action  
GP
- 2.16.** **Chair's report.**
- 2.16.1.** The Chair said Mr Jonathan Forgham was working on tidying the Millennium Wood. He encouraged residents to use the path through the wood regularly as this was the best way to keep it clear.
- 2.16.2.** Defibrillator. The Chair said the box was in operation. The release code could be obtained by phoning 999. There would be a training day for local residents on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> July at 7:30 in the Village Hall.

**2.17. Clerk's Report****2.17.1. Financial statement****Period ending 7<sup>th</sup> July 2015**

Barclay's Bank C/Acc		£15,018.03
High Interest Acc		£5.19
Business Savings Acc		£170.36
Petty cash		£17.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>£15,210.58</b>

**Uncleared cheques**

Mrs E Lloyd-Williams	Gifts		£34.24
LHPCC	Distributing leaflet		£25.00
	<b>Total uncleared</b>		<b>£59.24</b>

**To be agreed****To Pay**

Staff salaries	June & July		£1,006.86
Clerk's expenses			£61.66
HMRC	PAYE		£238.80
Little Hadham Village Hall	Hire Hall Apr to June	£77.20	
	Disposal of rubbish	£58.50	
	Fixing defib box	£135.00	£270.70
HAPTC	Clerk's Financial briefing	£90.00	
	Chairmanship training	£70.00	£160.00
Sargies	Mowing Bury Green		£80.00
L Knott, Mower Services	2 grass cuts playing fields		£242.00
	<b>Total payments</b>		<b>£2,060.02</b>

**Total in all accounts and petty cash after payment of this month's bills £13,091.32**

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

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

**2.18. Democratic 10 minutes.**

A resident said a fox had taken to pulling out the litter bag. The Chair asked for this to be on the next agenda.

A resident raised concerns about vehicles parked on the verge outside the Little Hadham Service Garage. They obstructed the path to children walking to and from school. There was broken glass from smashed car windscreens on the grass. The Chair said she would ask Cllr Bhatt to investigate. From the floor, District Cllr Williamson said he would raise the matter when he had a site meeting with a representative from Herts Highways in the next few days.

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

**2.20. Correspondence**

Clerks & Councils Direct magazine	<b>ELW</b>
NALC LCR magazine	<b>ELW</b>
EHC Little Hadham Conservation Areas	<b>ELW/MW</b>

**2.21. Date of next Council meeting – Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2015.**

**2.22. The Chair closed the meeting to the Public and the Press at 9:54 p.m.**

## Appendix 1 Areas of responsibilities

	Job Break Down	Lead Cllr	Supporting Cllr
<b>Highways</b>	Road maintenance (potholes, drains, kerbing etc), communication with EHDC on same. Parking issues, Rat Running	CB	
<b>Environment Affairs</b>	Parish Paths, PC owned land maintenance, tree surgery, litter and dog bins, conservation area, river and stream quality issues, Little Hadham Conservation Society Rep.	TH	
<b>Groups and Amenities</b>	Parish groups Liaison, Village hall liaison, School liaison, Church Liaison, MH Health centre (Patient Group and Little Hadham Surgery), NHS Matters, Defibrillator.	GT	
<b>Community</b>	Local events liaison, Little Hadham, Post Office, War memorial, Allotments, Local Businesses, Playing fields, Housing needs, Young Peoples' Needs	MW	ELW
<b>Consultation and Public Relations</b>	LHPC website, Twitter, Facebook, Parish Magazine, papers, TV, improved Broadband provision, mobile phone masts.	ELW	GP
<b>Planning</b>	Planning permissions for dwellings within the parish	MW	WW
<b>Strategic</b>	Neighbourhood plan, Stop Harlow North, Stop Stanstead Expansion, BS North Development (ASR's)	CB	WW
<b>Flooding</b>	Flood plan: Housing at the Ashe, the Ford and Green Street Village Hall. liaison with fire department, flood defence planners and environment agencies.	GP	
<b>Security</b>	Police liaison, Fire brigade liaison, Neighbourhood watch, Rural Watch liaison,	TH	
<b>Parish Council</b>	Insurances, Precept, Clerks salary, legal issues, training, discipline, co-options, minutes.	ELW	

### KEY

ELW	Cllr Mrs Liz Lloyd-Williams [Chair]
CB	Cllr Chris Bhatt
TH	Cllr Tony Hoodless
GP	Cllr Graham Pearson
GT	Cllr Gavin Tooke
WW	Cllr Will Wright
MW	Cllr Mrs Mary Wilkinson

## Appendix 2 Footpath report

I managed to inspect yesterday a number of issues which one or more of you (or other members of the public) have highlighted, and can report as follows:

46FP: the sign warning that polo can be dangerous is of the official line of this path and so cannot be considered intimidatory.

49FP: the farmer has now mown the long grass.

28FP: I would think that the line mown off the footpath has been done by the householder this time, as it looks a very different from the mowing of the true line.

25FP: path blocked by crops. I will require the farmer to clear it.

22FP: path blocked by crops. I will require the farmer to clear it. I noticed that the waymark post on the edge of the wood has rotted through and collapsed. I will get a contractor to replace this and clear bushes from the path here.

22FP: path overgrown at Bury Green end and on the headland section. I will get a contractor to quote to clear both these sections.

28FP: stile and gate near Bury Green end are blocked by nettles. I will ask a contractor to quote to clear these.

24FP: overgrown around two stiles, bridge and steps and at junction with 24aBR. I will ask a contractor to quote to clear these.

1FP: my mowing contractor has reported a few low branches. These are not very numerous and mostly brambles and honeysuckle. I will ask a contractor to quote to clear these.

I have just received two contradictory reports that 37BR has been ploughed up or has had a gully cut across it. I hope to return to Little Hadham in the next week or so to investigate these and the other outstanding complaints.

FP52: I agree that this path is overgrown. I will get a contractor to quote to trim it.

FP53: I spoke on site to the lady who has horses in the field. She apologised for the fact that the two pieces of wire were still across the path. They had been put there temporarily to retain a sick horse who left some while ago. She thought that they had been taken down, and agreed to remove them immediately. I don't think that they can ever have been electrified, and they had rudimentary "bungee hooks" to allow walkers to open them, but I accept that the general public would have been off put by them.

FP53: Apart from the area where this horses had grazed the path it is indeed getting overgrown. I will get a contractor to quote to trim it, and replace the collapsed waymark post.

BR37: As reported by two members of the public, excavations are taking place across this path, and piles of earth dumped next to it. I spotted the farmer in his yard and questioned him about this. He said that he is removing the surfacing from the farm track which shares the route with the public bridleway. He is burying the surfacing and covering it with soil brought from elsewhere. In theory he should have discussed this in advance with us. I pointed out that the new route must be of an acceptable standard and in an acceptable location, and that in the meantime the route needs to be usable by all parties. I accept Robin's comment that it is currently usable with care by walkers, but horse riders are more concerned and I feel that this needs watching.

**Nicholas Maddex, Countryside Access Officer**