

Little Hadham Parish Council

Minutes of the 5th meeting of the Little Hadham Parish Council (2015 – 2019 Session) held on Tuesday 3rd November 2015 at 8:15 p.m. in the Village Hall, Little Hadham.

Present: **Mrs E Lloyd-Williams** **Chair**
 Mr C Bhatt)
 Mr A Hoodless)
 Mr G Pearson) **Councillors**
 Mr G Tooke)
 Mr W Wright)

Mr B Evans – Clerk, and 7 members of the public.

5.1 **Absent.** Cllr Wilkinson [unwell].

5.2. **Declarations of interest.** None.

5.3. **Democratic ten minutes.**

A resident asked that the C15 road through the Ford to the Ashe be added to the item concerning speeding on parish roads.

5.4. **Minutes of the Parish Council meeting** held on Tuesday 6th October 2015 had been previously circulated. The minutes were agreed as accurate.

5.5. **Matters arising from the minutes.**

5.5.1. Concerning the amplification of speech at Council meetings, the Chair said the Council would continue with the current system.

5.5.2. The Chair said the document showing the proposed bypass had been laminated and she would ask if it could be displayed in the Village Hall.

Action
ELW

5.6. **Neighbourhood Plan.**

5.6.1. Cllr Wright said he had spoken to a representative of Standon Council and to their consultant. He thought the Council should prepare its own plan. EHC was completing its District Plan with which any Neighbourhood Plan would have to comply. However, EHC had little real insight into parish needs and the Neighbourhood Plan could specify such things as building sites, general house design and size and outside lighting. Cllr Wright said he thought the Plan might cost £10,000 to £15,000 depending on how much local, volunteer help would be available. A grant for £8,000 would be available and he thought there was the possibility of other funding. The Council would have to supply some funding to kick-start the process. He thought external consultants would be required and he could obtain a number of quotes. Cllr Tooke thought the Plan might take several years and would be too late if houses had been built already. Cllr Wright thought it was never too late as there were bound to be new plans for developments in the future. The Chair noted that few of the smaller parishes were making a plan. Cllr Bhatt asked if some outline costings could be obtained. Cllr Wright said it could

be made clear that quotations would have to stand for at least 6 months. The Chair asked what the Community Group would have to do first. Cllr Wright said that it would have to prepare a questionnaire for residents. He thought an advisor might address the group. Cllr Bhatt said initial quotations would have to be obtained before a public meeting. The Clerk said that, as the person responsible for the Council accounts, he was concerned that a business plan be drawn up. Cllr Wright proposed that he should apply for quotations from suitable advisors. He thought councillors might have an informal meeting to discuss the best way to proceed. Agreed.

Action
WW/CB

5.7. Highways

5.7.1. Excessive speed of traffic through Cradle End, Bury Green, Acremore Street, Ford Hill, Chapel Lane and C15. The Chair said she needed to investigate the neighbourhood speed control schemes.

Action
ELW

5.7.2. Outstanding road repairs including potholes. Cllr Pearson said there were still a number of potholes needing repair. The Chair said the water leak and damaged manhole cover on Acremore Street had finally been mended.

5.7.3. Vehicles jumping the A120 traffic lights. Cllr Pearson said the problem continued. Cars jumping the lights made crossing the road especially dangerous.

5.8. Environment affairs

5.8.1. Footpaths. Cllr Hoodless said there were no outstanding issues.

5.9. **Groups and Amenities** The Chair had asked about the ethics of using grants from Stansted Airport. She understood the money was for fines imposed on airlines for making excessive noise so she could see no reason why local groups could not apply.

5.10. Community

5.10.1. Playground repairs. Cllr Tooke said he was waiting for an itemised quotation for the repairs.

5.10.2. Christmas dinner for senior residents. Cllr Bhatt said he had applied for a grant from EHC. He did not know the result of the application but he had been told the application would be used as a model for other organisations. A maximum of £500 was available though not all of this would be needed. Cllr Bhatt thought up to 50 people might be catered for. There was some discussion as to who might qualify as a 'senior citizen or elderly and vulnerable'. Cllr Bhatt said he would circulate a leaflet asking for applications. Cllr Pearson wondered if it might be better to hold the dinner in the long 'flat' period after Christmas when there were few events.

Action
CB

5.10.3. Bury Green. The Chair said the pond at the north end of the green had become clogged with weeds. Mrs Carmela Piccolo and Mr Jonathan Forgham both thought it needed to be cleared. The Chair said she thought the pond was part of the sewage system on the former GSK site. She would talk to the Farm Place Committee about the matter.

Action
ELW

The Chair noted that Mr Forgham had organised a work party to clear some of the scrub at the Millennium Wood. The next work day would be Sunday 15th November at 10 a.m.

- 5.10.4.** Westland Green. The Chair said the damaged posts on the green had been repaired and access for a tractor to cut the grass had been resolved.
- 5.10.5.** Westland Green building work at Valley Fields. The Chair said the large hole had been filled in though Planning Enforcement said that the large area covered in tarmac would require planning consent.
- 5.10.6.** Allotments. The Chair said there was nothing to report.
- 5.11. Consultation and Public Relations**
- 5.11.1.** To consider the creation of a new Council website. The Chair said the cost of setting up a site was over £200. Cllr Bhatt thought the Council needed to engage with younger people in the parish and they were not attracted to websites. Most young people had moved on from Facebook. Cllr Tooke thought the current site was very disappointing. The Chair thought the current site fulfilled the Councils legal requirements for ‘transparency’. She proposed that the Council set up a Facebook page to act as a noticeboard for the Council. The Clerk said that he thought the site should be protected so that items would only appear once they had been vetted. Agreed.
- 5.12. Flooding.** The Chair read a report on the multi-agency flood meeting prepared by Cllr Pearson. [Appendix 1]
- 5.13. Chair’s report.**
- 5.13.1.** Positions of responsibility. The Chair said the agenda had been laid out to reflect the new areas of responsibilities.
- 5.13.2.** The Chair reminded councillors and members of the public of the Remembrance service that would be held on Sunday 8th November at the war memorial.
- 5.13.3.** The Chair said that the last visits of the mobile library had been reported in the Independent on Sunday newspaper.
- 5.14. Clerk’s Report**
- 5.14.1. Financial statement**

Action
Clerk**Period ending 3rd November 2015**

Barclay's Bank C/Acc	£20,221.45
High Interest Acc	£5.19
Business Savings Acc	£170.38
Petty cash	£21.64
Total	£20,418.66
Uncleared cheques	
CPRE subscription	£36.00
HAPTC councillor training	£70.00
Mrs E Lloyd-Williams travel expenses	£30.00
Total uncleared	£136.00
Unity Bank stating deposit	£5,000.00

To be agreed**To Pay**

Staff salaries	October		£504.55
Clerk's expenses	October		£13.70
Little Hadham Village Hall	Hire of Hall	£38.60	
	Use rubbish bin	£58.50	£97.10
Little Hadham PCC	Graveyard maintenance		£250.00
Royal British Legion	Remembrance Sunday wreath		£30.00
HAPTC	Councillor training		£125.00
L Knott, Mower Services	2 grass cuts playing fields		£242.00
Total payments			£1,262.35

Total in all accounts and petty cash after payment of this month's bills £19,020.31

- 5.14.2.** Proposed to accept payment of accounts. Agreed.
- 5.14.3.** Proposed to accept the accuracy of the financial statement. Agreed.
- 5.14.4.** Progress on setting up an Account with the Unity Trust Bank. The Clerk said he had spoken to the bank and that he expected the account to be active in the near future.
- 5.14.5.** Preparation of the budget for 2015/16. To appoint a work party to prepare a draft budget for consideration at the December Council meeting. It was agreed that Cllrs Bhatt, Lloyd-Williams and Wright would hold a meeting with the Clerk. Action Clerk CB/ELW /WW
- 5.15. Planning matters.** The transactions of the Planning Committee were noted.
- 5.16. Correspondence**
Clerks & Councils Direct magazine ELW
- 5.17. Date of next Council meeting – Tuesday 1st December 2015.**
- 5.18. The Chair closed the meeting to the Public and the Press at 9:29 p.m.**

Appendix 1

Report on the multi-agency flood meeting held on 3rd November 2015

The Multi Agency Flood Prevention Meeting was held on Friday 30th Oct 2015.

Attendees:

Little Hadham Parish Council - Cllr Graham Pearson, and Chair Liz Lloyd-Williams.
District Councillor Geoff Williamson,
County Councillor Graham McAndrew,
Sir Oliver Heald QC MP,
Thames Water,

Hertfordshire Highways,
EHDC Land Drainage,
HCC Land Drainage,
Environment Agency,
Fire Service,

There was a brief presentation from Herts Highways in relation to the proposed By Pass and Flood Alleviation Scheme focussing on how it will assist the various areas of Little Hadham affected by flooding. They updated that the formal plan will be published during November for an 8 week consultation period.

Each agency gave a brief update of the current position. The main points discussed were:

1. Thames Water updated that they had installed two new pumps into the South Cottages Pumping Station in February this year, and that they had monitored the sewer flow during the summer storms, and had not seen any issues at this time. Residents to be advised to still keep reporting any surcharging should it occur. There is no surface water drainage in the Parish and the surcharging is caused by the volume of rainwater getting into the sewer system. EHDC Land Drainage has requested Thames Water to work with them in relation to identifying unauthorised connections to the sewer such as homes draining gutters etc into the sewer instead of into soakaways. EHDC will then review enforcement action to help prevent future surcharging of the sewer.
2. EHDC gave a brief update re the Repair and Renew Grant that 5 homes in Little Hadham had benefitted from through installing flood prevention products. Also updated that the work had been done at Green Street on the drainage system and seemed to have improved the flow during storm conditions.
3. It was noted that household flood insurance is becoming harder to obtain with some households being refused cover, and some being charged over £2,000 along with an excess of £15,000 which renders the cover worthless.
4. The agencies were asked to consider improving the drainage system outside the Village Hall by taking the field drainage opposite directly under the road and straight into the River Ash, instead of the current system that does not work and is likely to continue flooding the area even with the Flood Alleviation Scheme benefits. HCC said the volume of water from the fields is simply too great for the current drainage system and therefore overwhelms it flooding the flood nearby homes and business.
5. The Fire Service offered to send flood advice leaflets to homes. They were also asked to remind their drivers to drive slowly through flood water as during the last two floods, the bow wave from a fire tender had flooded a home and broken a garage door.