

Little Hadham Parish Council

Minutes of the 7th meeting of the Little Hadham Parish Council (2015 – 2019 Session) held on Tuesday 2nd February 2016 at 8:16 p.m. in the Village Hall, Little Hadham.

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

Mr B Evans – Clerk, and 6 members of the public. [County Cllr Graham McAndrew and District Cllr Geoff Williamson arrived after item 7.6.1]

7.1 **Absent.** Cllr Bhatt [on business].

7.2. **Declarations of interest.** None.

7.3. **Democratic ten minutes.**

PCSO Karen Broad said that a van had been broken into at the Ford and some tools stolen. Otherwise there had been little reported crime in the parish.

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

7.5. **Matters arising from the minutes.**

7.5.1. Report on the Christmas dinner. The Chair thought the dinner had been incredibly successful. She that Mrs Bhatt’s work in the kitchen had been stunning. The kitchen had remained clean and tidy throughout. The Chair noted that the call for grant applications was still open. She wondered about a possible child activity.

7.6. **Strategic matters**

7.6.1. Neighbourhood Plan. Progress on preparing a Neighbourhood Plan including the consequences of The Ashe and The Ford being changed from Category 1 to Category 2. Cllr Wright said the Council had agreed to use a consultant and now needed to recruit residents to the Plan Committee. He proposed a notice be included in the Parish News at a cost of £25. Agreed. After some discussion, it was agreed that a presentation would be given at the Parish Assembly when interested residents would be invited to a meeting – possibly after a Council meeting.

Cllr Tooke asked about the change of category which seemed to propose less development. After the two years needed for the Plan, most of this development would have taken place. There would be a maximum of 5 houses on each site which would have to be within the boundaries of the hamlets. He was worried that the money would be spent for no real benefit. Cllr Wright said the Plan would not just be about housing.

Action
WW/CB

7.7. Highways

7.7.1. Excessive speed of traffic through Cradle End, Bury Green, Acremore Street, Ford Hill, Chapel Lane and C15. From the floor PCSO Broad said she had carried out some speed checks in Cradle End and Bury Green in the last month though the road layout made stopping vehicles difficult. Cllr Wright said vehicles might not be speeding but they were often driving dangerously fast for the narrow, winding lanes. PCSO Broad thought speed checks on the C15 would be easier. She could train local residents to use a portable device. Residents could note the registration numbers of vehicles speeding and they would be sent a letter from the police and possibly invited to a speed awareness course.

7.7.2. Crash on the C15 near South Cottages. The Chair read a report from Cllr Pearson. *It appears a car went straight into the road furniture by the 30mph sign. Hopefully the driver and anyone else involved will be ok. The wooden rails around it along with the safety signs were demolished. I had a look at it and I would guess a little more than 30mph caused this, especially if someone had to be cut out. Don't know yet what else was involved. And the road at this point is fairly straight. Mobile phones & speed is speculation but we don't know yet.* From the floor PCSO Broad said the cause of the accident was still under investigation but it was possible it was not speed related.

7.7.3. Outstanding road repairs including potholes. Cllr Wilkinson said there were numerous potholes in Westland Green. All had been reported. Cllr Hoodless said there were many potholes at Cradle End. Residents felt that nothing was being done. From the floor Cllr McAndrew asked that road damage report numbers be sent to him and he would chase them up. The Chair said it was a good idea to include a photograph of potholes with any report.

Action
GP

7.7.4. Vehicles jumping the A120 traffic lights. From the floor PCSO Broad said one driver had pulled out in front of her to jump the lights. She thought there seemed little time between one set of lights changing red and the next changing green. She had reported the matter.

7.7.5. Damaged reflective post on corner of Chapel Lane and the C15. Cllr Pearson said it had been reported.

7.8. Environment affairs

7.8.1. Footpaths. Cllr Hoodless said there were no outstanding issues. Cllr Wilkinson said the Westland Green byway was very muddy and mud was being carried onto the road. The Chair said she would report the matter to Mr Maddex the HCC footpath officer.

Action
ELW

7.9. Groups and Amenities

7.9.1. To agree donations: Herts Air Ambulance £100, Little Hadham Brownies £200, Little Hadham Mothers and Toddlers £100, Little Hadham School £250, Little Hadham Karate Club £200, Parish News £290 and Millennium Wood maintenance £200. The Chair said she had spoken to the leaders of the local groups and they had been very appreciative of the Council's help. She proposed the donations be made. Agreed.

7.10. Community

7.10.1. Playground repairs. Cllr Tooke said contracts had been awarded for repairs at the playgrounds.

7.10.2. Playground signs. The Chair proposed that Cllr Tooke be reimbursed for the cost of the signs. Agreed.

7.10.3. Allotments. Cllr Wilkinson said there was nothing to report.

7.11. Consultation and Public Relations

7.12. Flooding. The Chair read a report from Cllr Pearson. *The fields are completely saturated which means that any rainfall just runs off the fields into the highway drains and causes the ditches and River Ash to fill quite quickly. Since New Year's Day there have been three occasions of the highway flooding between the Village Hall and Ford End, five weather warnings, and two flood alerts issued for the River Ash. The Environment Agency attended and assisted the Flood Warden to remove debris blocking the exit of the drainage ditch into the River Ash. The highway drains were blocked with silt and Highways attended, put out a sign and drove away. Highways then updated their report that the site had been inspected and no further action is required. A complaint was lodged and a Highways Inspector attended and identified the ones that are to be cleared. The clearance is still awaited.*

Green Street and Cradle End experienced further highway flooding several times and this was also referred to highways to inspect and clear. They are still awaiting clearance of blocked culverts and areas where the silt has encroached on the highway restricting the width.

The drains on the A120 northbound from the traffic lights to just north of Church End were blocked causing water to flow along the top of the road again. Also reported to Highways.

All the above has also been reported to County Councillor Graham McAndrew who has also been liaising with highways.

The Highways Inspector from Ringway has again attended at The Ford and updated that gully cleaners did attend and started to clear the silt but as they were near the end of their shift despite having travelled all this way, they stopped work and went back to the depot. He has also been further advised re the issues at Green Street and Cradle End.

From the floor Cllr McAndrew said he had received emails from Cllr Pearson concerning blocked drains on the A120 and at Green Street. He said he would follow the matter up.

Cllr Williamson said the C15 would be closed near north of Spindle Bridge from 7th to 11th March 2016. He hoped that a shuttle for the 351 bus would be arranged. He said that the change of category for the Ashe and the Ford would mean many fewer new houses. He thought a Neighbourhood Plan could still be very useful. He expected the new District Plan to be signed off next year though he did not expect any change to the parish categories.

7.13. Chair's report. The Chair had nothing extra to report.

7.14. Clerk's Report

7.14.1. Financial statement

Period ending 2nd February 2016

Barclay's Bank C/Acc	£0.00
High Interest Acc	£0.00
Business Savings Acc	£0.00

Barclays Bank Accounts closed - 26/1/2016

Unity Trust Bank	£17,991.31
Petty cash	£17.27

Total £18,008.58

Included above

Received

Winters & Co	Processing easement	£100.00
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Outgoings

Mr C Bhatt	Christmas dinner costs	£456.99
Mrs J Finn	Distribution extra-ordinary meeting leaflet	£25.00

To be agreed

To Pay

Staff salaries	January	£504.55
Petty cash	Float	£50.00
Clerk's expenses	December & January	£26.92
Little Hadham Village Hall	Hire of Hall Oct to Dec	£57.90
	Use rubbish bin Oct to Dec	£58.50
	Hire of Hall Christmas Dinner	£37.12
Mr G Tooke	Playground notices	£417.19

Donations

Little Hadham PCC	Donation to Parish News	£290.00
Herts Air Ambulance		£100.00
Little Hadham Brownies		£200.00
Little Hadham Mothers & Toddlers		£100.00
Little Hadham School		£250.00
Little Hadham Karate Club		£200.00
Mr J Forgham	Millennium Wood maintenance	£200.00

Total payments £2,492.18

Total in all accounts and petty cash after payment of this month's bills £15,566.40

7.14.2. Proposed to accept payment of accounts. Agreed.

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

7.14.4. Progress on setting up an Account with the Unity Trust Bank. The Clerk said the Barclays Bank account was now closed.

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

7.16. Correspondence

CPRE Hertfordshire Newsletter	MW
HCC Traffic and Transport Data Report	GP
Council 7 Clerks Direct magazine	ELW

7.17. **Date of next ordinary Council meeting – Tuesday 1st March 2016.**

7.18. **The Chair closed the meeting to the Public and the Press at 9:17 p.m.**