

# Little Hadham Parish Council

Minutes of the 11<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Little Hadham Parish Council (2015 – 2019 Session) held on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2016 at 8:08 p.m. in the Village Hall, Little Hadham.

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

Mr B Evans – Clerk, and 8 members of the public.

**11.1**        **Absent.** Cllr Bhatt [business]. Cllr Wright arrived at 8:40 p.m.

**11.2.**        Declarations of interest. None.

**11.3.**        **Democratic ten minutes.**

A resident said he thought the cutting of parish verges had been poorly carried out with no strimming around trees, etc. It appeared that no one had checked that the work had been carried out correctly. The resident said that the wooden barrier on the Stortford Road was in need of repair. Cllr Hoodless said that many pavements needed to be cleared. The Chair said she would contact Cllr McAndrew.

Action  
ELW

A resident asked about the law concerning bonfires. The Chair said that bonfires were allowed at reasonable times provided they did not cause unreasonable inconvenience to neighbours. She asked Cllr Pearson to write an article for the Parish News asking residents to be considerate of others.

Action  
GP

Two residents spoke about changes to bridleways 17 and 49. New gates had been constructed in order to keep cattle in the fields. However, the gates had been constructed in such a way that it was impossible for a mounted horse rider to open them. The gates made it impossible for horse riders to use the only safe, off road route north from Much Hadham. The HCC footpaths officer, Mr Nicholas Maddex had been informed though he had not yet been able to speak to the owner. The Chair agreed to contact Mr Maddex.

Action  
ELW

**11.4.**        **Minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting** held on Tuesday 3rd May 2016 to be agreed and signed as a true record. Agreed.

**11.5.**        **Minutes of the Parish Council meeting** held on Tuesday 3rd May 2016 to be agreed and signed as a true record. Agreed.

**11.6.**        **Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly** held on Thursday 21st April 2016 to be agreed and signed as a true record. Agreed.

**11.7.**        **Matters arising from the minutes.**

**11.7.1.**      Church End to Hadham Hall bridle path. Cllr Hoodless said he had no new update.

**11.8.**        **Strategic matters**

**11.8.1.**      Neighbourhood Plan. Cllr Wright said that the first meeting of the planning group had met with 12 members. They had agreed to meet on the second Monday of each month. Cllr Wright circulated copies of a letter applying for

Action  
WW/CB

consent to prepare a plan. It was agreed to send the letter to EHC. Cllr Wright said the group would need terms of reference. He distributed copies of the draft proposed document to councillors. Cllr Wright said that the group would soon be making applications for grants.

- 11.8.2.** Proposed changes to the Draft East Herts District Plan. The Chair said that many responses to the draft plan had shown dissatisfaction with the classification of villages into three bands. EHC planned to remove the classifications and instead define village boundaries. Each proposed development would be considered on its merits – particularly sustainability. The District Plan should be finalised by September 2016. EHC assumed that all parishes were developing Neighbourhood Plans as these would be of great help to the planners. The Chair proposed that two councillors should meet the head of planning policy to discuss the possible options. Agreed.

**11.9. Highways**

- 11.9.1.** Excessive speed of traffic through Cradle End, Bury Green, Acremore Street, Ford Hill, Chapel Lane and C15. The Chair said had spoken to some local residents. Speeding was not a matter for the Neighbourhood Plan though the plan could consider road safety.
- 11.9.2.** Outstanding road repairs including potholes. Cllr Pearson had circulated a list of outstanding repairs that had been reported to HCC. [Appendix 1]
- 11.9.3.** Vehicles jumping the A120 traffic lights. Cllr Pearson said there had been little change.
- 11.9.4.** Overgrown hedge on the C15 near the A120 traffic lights. Cllr Pearson said it had been added to HCCs list.

**11.10. Environment affairs**

- 11.10.1.** Footpaths. Cllr Hoodless said all footpaths seemed passable with the exception of horses using bridleways 17 and 49.
- 11.10.2.** Application for a P3 grant. Cllr Hoodless said he had sent an application to Mr Maddex. He agreed to copy the Chair and Clerk into future correspondence.

**11.11. Groups and Amenities** There were no reports.

**11.12. Community**

- 11.12.1.** To consider allowing the Village Hall playground to be used for Hedfest on Saturday 16th July 2016. It was agreed that the playground would be closed for the three days before the concert. It was agreed that Cllr Bhatt would liaise with Mr Martin Hallmark to confirm the arrangements and ensure that appropriate insurance was in place.
- 11.12.2.** Millennium Wood. Application for listing as a Community Asset and progress on raising funds to buy the site. The Chair said fund raising was proceeding. She expected that more local publicity would be used by the action group. They were in talks with GSK and with the site owner who would prefer to sell to the community and seemed willing to wait while funds were raised. The application to have the wood listed as a Community Asset would be considered by EHC on 8<sup>th</sup> June.
- 11.12.3.** Damage to the War Memorial. The Chair said that Mr Foskett had carried out the repair.

Action  
CB

- 11.12.4.** 6-a-side football nets. The Chair said she had spoken to the school and would speak to the Scouts to find out if anyone would like them. Action  
ELW
- 11.12.5.** Replacement toddler swing seats for the Ridgeway playground and gate for the Ridgeway playground. It was agreed to buy two seats at £126+£12.60 delivery each. Cllr Tooke said that the gate needed replacement at a cost of £140. Agreed. Action  
Clerk
- 11.12.6.** Knott in zip wire. Cllr Tooke said he had a quote for £85 to restore and tighten the wire. Agreed. Action  
GT
- 11.12.7.** Patio heaters. The Clerk said that the church warden had offered the Council a patio heater. It was agreed not to accept the offer.
- 11.12.8.** Planters. The Chair said that the planters were in need of maintenance. It was agreed that Cllr Wilkinson would contact Ms Wendy Woodgate. The Chair said that, if she was unable to help the Council should seek a volunteer – perhaps from the Gardening Club. Action  
MW
- 11.12.9.** Allotments. Cllr Wilkinson said there was nothing to report.
- 11.13. Consultation and Public Relations**
- 11.13.1.** Parish website. The Chair said the website still awaited content. Cllr Pearson said he would advertise for an editor in the Parish News. Action  
GP
- 11.14. Flooding.** Cllr Pearson said there had been no recent problems although storms were expected.
- 11.15. Security Matters**
- 11.15.1.** Security around the Village Hall and Village Hall playground. Cllr Pearson asked that this not be included in the future. Agreed.
- 11.16. Parish Council matters.**
- 11.16.1.** Storage of historical Council documents. The Chair said that she would contact Mrs Fardell to arrange collection of the documents. Action  
ELW
- 11.16.2.** To consider an increase in the Clerk’s salary in line with the recent pay agreement from the National Joint Council for Local Government Services. The Chair said that, following a period of pay freeze, there had been a 1% rise in pay each year from April 2013. The Clerk had received only the 2013 rise so she proposed the Clerk’s salary be increased from April 2016 by 3.22%. Agreed.
- 11.16.3.** Broadband. It was agreed that Cllr Bhatt would investigate a proposal from an Albury resident to try to accelerate the installation of Super-Fast Broadband to the Albury exchange. Action  
CB
- 11.17. Chair’s report.**
- 11.17.1.** The Chair said that she had accompanied some Albury residents round the route of the proposed bypass. She could understand some of their concerns. She proposed that she arrange a walk round the site for councillors. Agreed. Action  
ELW

**11.18. Clerk's Report****11.18.1. Financial statement****Period ending 7<sup>th</sup> June 2016****Unity Trust Bank**

£17,498.67

Petty cash

£40.75

**Total****£17,539.42****Included above**

Sargies

Bury Green grass cut April

£85.00

Ridgeway playground repairs

£146.00

£231.00

Mr &amp; Mrs C Bhatt

Assembly refreshments

£118.85

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

Staff salaries

May

£504.35

Clerk's expenses

May

£13.70

Sargies

Bury Green grass cut May

£85.00

Came &amp; Co

Annual insurance

£632.83

CDA for Herts

Annual subscription

£30.00

M A Foskett

War memorial repair

£480.00

P Knott [Mower Services]

2 playground grass cuts May

£242.00

**Total payments****£1,987.88****Total in all accounts and petty cash after payment of this month's bills £15,551.54****11.18.2.** Proposed to accept payment of accounts. Agreed.**11.18.3.** Proposed to accept the accuracy of the financial statement. Agreed.**11.18.4.** The Clerk asked that Council signatories react promptly to requests to authorise bank payments. Several payments such as staff salaries and insurance had been paid several days late.**11.19. Planning matters.** The transactions of the Planning Committee were noted.**11.20. Correspondence**

None

**11.21. Date of next ordinary Council meeting – Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2016.****11.22. The Chair closed the meeting to the Public and the Press at 9:17 p.m.**

### Appendix 1 Outstanding road reports

Date	Issue	Location	Done	Details	Highway Ref
21/05/2016	Roadside Furniture	Chapel Lane J/W C15	NO	Road markings worn out – cars now parking and obscuring view for cars exiting Chapel Lane. 27/05/16 Highways update that on 18mth rolling programme of works,	201011973571
18/02/2016	Vegetation	Albury Road, first 3 houses from the A120	NO	Hedge & trees overgrown affecting highway. Causing farm vehicles and lorries to have to queue in the centre of the road to get past it which causes problems for traffic at the traffic lights who then cannot get into the junction from the lights. 15/05/16 Highways replied that a tree specialist will assess.	201011957210
08/02/2016	Vegetation	Green Street near j/w Millfield Lane	NO	Overhanging vegetation 04/02/16 Highways update that on 18mth rolling programme of works, 13/02/16 Referred again to County Councillor Graham McAndrew 01/04/16 No Progress 01/05/16 No Progress 01/06/16 No Progress	201006780771
04/02/2016	Drainage	C15 j/w The Smithy	NO	Blocked gulley causing road to flood regularly. 04/02/16 Highways website says sent back for a manual response. 13/02/16 Referred again to County Councillor Graham McAndrew 01/04/16 No Progress 01/05/16 No Progress 01/06/16 No Progress	201006460306
02/02/2016	Vegetation	Ford Hill near to Hogs Bog	NO	Overhanging vegetation 04/02/16 Highways update that on 18mth rolling programme of works, 13/02/16 Referred again to County Councillor Graham McAndrew 01/04/16 No Progress 01/05/16 No Progress 01/06/16 No Progress	201007700526
29/01/2016	Roadside Furniture	C15 by South Cottages	NO	A car crashed into roadside furniture demolishing the wooden rails which form a gateway entry to the village that was installed to slow down traffic, along with safety signs that were attached to it. The driver was injured and was cut out of the car by the emergency services and taken to hospital. The Parish Council wish the driver a speedy recovery and have asked Highways to inspect the site with a view to re instating the village gateway. 02/02/16 Highways update that on 18mth rolling programme of works, 13/02/16 Referred again to County Councillor Graham McAndrew 01/04/16 No Progress 01/05/16 No Progress 01/06/16 No Progress	201007695481
25/01/2016	Vegetation	Green Street near j/w Cradle End	NO	Hedge overgrown affecting highway. 04/02/16 Highways update that on 18mth rolling programme of works, 13/02/16 Referred again to County Councillor Graham McAndrew 01/04/16 No Progress 01/05/16 No Progress 01/06/16 No Progress	201007678870
25/01/2016	Potholes	Green Street near j/w Cradle End	NO	04/02/16 Highways update that ready for assessment. 22/02/16 Highways updated that no further action needed and area was safe. Councillors report that a couple of verge side potholes were filled but the mud on the existing tarmac has been left restricting the width of the road, along with overhanging trees. Further reported to highways and Cllr McAndrew. 24/04/16 Further reported to highways and County Cllr McAndrew by Cllr Hoodless with photos. 03/05/16 Email from HCC to Cllr Hoodless – remedial works to be done within 20 days.	201007678868 201007746674 201011909586

12/01/2016	Drainage	A120 from Church End through to the traffic lights.	NO	Regular issue with drains blocked causing water to back up and run on the road surface reducing the available road space, and making difficult conditions for cyclists. This water on the surface regularly freezes in icy conditions causing additional skid hazards. 04/02/16 Highways website says work scheduled. 13/02/16 Referred again to County Councillor Graham McAndrew 01/04/16 No Progress 01/05/16 No Progress 01/06/16 No Progress	2O1007644901
26/10/2015	Roadside Furniture	Albury Road, Little Hadham	NO	Street light not working. 04/02/16 Highways update that on 18mth rolling programme of works, 13/02/16 Referred again to County Councillor Graham McAndrew 01/04/16 No Progress 01/05/16 No Progress 01/06/16 No Progress	2O1007459881
07/09/2015	Roadside Furniture	A120 Stortford Road, near traffic lights.	NO	Road markings worn out. 04/02/16 Highways update that on 18mth rolling programme of works, 13/02/16 Referred again to County Councillor Graham McAndrew 01/04/16 No Progress 01/05/16 No Progress 01/06/16 No Progress	2O1007321611
02/04/2015	Vegetation	Cradle End, near to Appleby.	NO	Mud on road 04/02/16 Highways update that on 18mth rolling programme of works, 13/02/16 Referred again to County Councillor Graham McAndrew 01/04/16 No Progress 01/05/16 No Progress 01/06/16 No Progress	Ref: 2O1006930226
27/01/2014	Drainage	Green Street	NO	Regular extensive highway flooding that is also subject of the Multi Agency Flood Forum. Drainage works were conducted. However there were further floods during Jan 2016 and the drains and ditches are blocked with silt and debris. Highways have visited the site during Jan 2016 but action is awaited. 04/02/16 Highways website says ready for assessment. 13/02/16 Referred again to County Councillor Graham McAndrew 01/04/16 No Progress 01/05/16 No Progress 01/06/16 No Progress	2O1005937767
11/01/1999	Drainage	C15 between Little Hadham Village Hall & Ford End	NO	Regular extensive road flooding since 1999 blocking the highway and silting up the drains on that stretch of road that is also subject of the Multi Agency Flood Forum as the construction of the drainage is not fit for purpose. 11/01/16 The drains are currently blocked and need clearing. The Highways Insp Robin Noades has checked the drains and has requested their clearance. 13/02/16 Referred again to County Councillor Graham McAndrew as the highways reply contradicts the inspection done by the Highways Insp. 01/04/16 No Progress 01/05/16 No Progress 01/06/16 No Progress	2O1007638091