

Little Hadham Parish Council

Minutes of the 13th meeting of the Little Hadham Parish Council (2015 – 2019 Session) held on Tuesday 6th September 2016 at 8:12 p.m. in the Village Hall, Little Hadham.

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

Mr B Evans – Clerk, and 10 members of the public including County Cllr Graham McAndrew.

13.1 **Absent.** Cllr Hoodless [on business]; Cllr Wilkinson [unwell].

13.2. Declarations of interest. None.

13.3. **Democratic ten minutes.**

A resident said the litter bin on the allotments was often misused and was rarely emptied. He also asked that the willow trees on the bridleway along the Ash near the allotments be cut back as they over hung his garden fence. Action
ELW

A resident asked about people apparently surveying the fields behind his home on Standon Road. Cllr McAndrew asked the resident to email him and he would find out if they were working for the bypass. The resident complained about the number of times local roads were closed for repairs or services. He wanted the Council to object and prevent the closures. The Chair said HCC often applied for a road closure licence for a longer period than expected. The resident said that promises made about a bypass for Standon appear to have been dropped. Cllr McAndrew said Standon residents had been consulted on a bypass north of the village, one south of the village and simple improvements to the existing road. Residents had been equally divided on the three schemes. Funding would have to be found if one of the bypass schemes were to be adopted. Cllr McAndrew said that the investigation into bats possibly being disrupted by the Little Hadham bypass was near completion. The planning application should be submitted in November or January. The resident asked why the bypass was not on the agenda. The Clerk said that it would be on the agenda when there was any progress or there was a decision for the Council to make.

A resident spoke about the damage to the grass around the village pump caused by cars parking opposite Chapel Lane. The cars were a danger to vehicles turning out of Chapel Lane, there was a risk the pump fence would be damaged and the damage to the grass was unsightly.

13.4. **Minutes of the Parish Council meeting** held on Tuesday 5th July 2016 to be agreed and signed as a true record. Agreed.

13.5. **Matters arising from the minutes.**

13.6. **Strategic matters**

13.6.1. Neighbourhood Plan. Cllr Wright said that a grant of £7,000 had been received. The steering group would have to create a brand identity for use on leaflets, etc. A questionnaire would be included in the Parish News asking residents for basic information and opinions. Cllr McAndrew said that the HCC executive had agreed to the Council's application to create a plan. The Chair said that she had

Action
WW/CB

attended a meeting of the steering group and was impressed by the enthusiasm of those in attendance.

- 13.6.2.** Draft East Herts District Plan. Meeting with the Head of Planning Policy. The Chair said she had requested a meeting. She noted that the village categories had been retained with The Ashe and The Ford being category 2 and the rest of the parish category 3. Cllr Bhatt wondered why HCC continued to call The Ashe Little Hadham despite several requests to use the correct name. It was agreed that he would write to HCC. Cllr Wright said that the Neighbourhood Plan group would have to be careful not to scare off the better developers when deciding on future home building. **Action CB**
- 13.7. Highways**
- 13.7.1.** Excessive speed of traffic through Cradle End, Bury Green, Acremore Street, Ford Hill, Chapel Lane and C15. Cllr Bhatt said that he had held an informal meeting with some residents – mainly those living on the C15. Residents wanted physical traffic calming measures between the hamlets. The village traffic signs were in poor condition. From the floor, Cllr McAndrew asked that he be sent a list of what the Council would like done and he would add it to his list for next year. Cllr Bhatt agreed to prepare a list of recommendations for the October meeting. **Action CB**
- 13.7.2.** Outstanding road repairs including potholes. Cllr Pearson said the list was little changed though the village gateway opposite South Cottages had been repaired. The Chair said that Albury Road was due to close for a few days for gas main repairs. **Action ELW**
- 13.7.3.** Vehicles jumping the A120 lights. Cllr Pearson said things were little changed. He noted many drivers on the A120 were not paying full attention – using phones, taking shaves and speeding. Cllr Pearson asked if the police ever checked drivers on the A120 as well as on the side roads. The Chair said that she would investigate the Safe Drive Scheme. The Chair asked Cllr McAndrew to send her the name of someone she could talk to about road closures. **Action ELW**
- 13.7.4.** Damage to the war memorial and the A120 bus shelter. Cllr Bhatt proposed that the Council accept the quotations of £285 and £495 respectively. Agreed.
- 13.7.5.** Damage caused by vehicles parking near the village pump. Cllr Pearson said he had spoken to Herts Highways about raising the curb or possibly painting hatching on the road. Cllr Bhatt said that when the pub was busy there was nowhere to park. He proposed that he would investigate and make a proposal to the Council at the next meeting. Agreed. **Action CB**
- 13.8. Environment affairs**
- 13.8.1.** Condition of footpaths. The Chair referred to an email from Mr Nicholas Maddex, HCC Public Rights of Way officer. [Appendix 1]
- 13.8.2.** Application for a P3 grant. It appeared that it was too late for money this year though Cllr Hoodless was asked to check. **Action TH**
- 13.8.3.** Willow trees near the allotment. After some discussion it was agreed that Mr Joel Hammond would work with a resident to cut the trees back.
- 13.9. Groups and Amenities** There were no reports.

13.10. Community

13.10.1. Report on the Hadfest held on Saturday 16th July 2016. Cllr Bhatt said that he had heard that it had been a great success. No damage to the playground had been reported.

13.10.2. Millennium Wood. The Chair said the wood had been listed as a Community Asset and a moratorium had been imposed until January 2017 to give time to raise money to buy it. Cllr Pearson referred to a TV programme concerning woods and encouraged the fund raisers to contact it for publicity.

13.10.3. Playgrounds. Cllr Tooke reported that damage, including some fire damage, had occurred at the Village Hall playground. He understood the police had spoken to the culprits and no damage had occurred in the last two weeks. Cllr Tooke said he would talk to Mr Foskett about tightening the zip wire and repairing the gates. It was agreed that the Clerk should arrange for the playground hedges to be cut. The hedge at the north end of the Village Hall playground to be left high to prevent football flying into the road.

Action
GT
Action
Clerk

13.10.4. 6-a-side football nets. The Chair agreed to speak to the Scouts.

Action
ELW

13.10.5. Replacement toddler swing seats for the Ridgeway playground. Cllr Tooke said the seats had been replaced.

13.10.6. Planters. The Chair said that an unknown person had planted out the planters. She thanked them for their efforts and asked that they come forward.

13.10.7. Allotments. From the floor Mr Hammond agreed to keep the litter bin empty.

13.11. Consultation and Public Relations

13.11.1. Parish website. The Clerk said the Council was encouraged to use a .gov.uk URL. It was agreed that the Clerk would register with Seiretto Webhost at £178 every two years and £49 a year for hosting. Cllr Bhatt said that he would meet the Clerk to consider the development of the site.

Action
Clerk

13.12. Flooding. Cllr Pearson said there had been no new developments.

13.13. Security Matters

13.13.1. It was agreed to ask Cllr Hoodless to invite the local PCSOs to attend a Council meeting.

Action
TH

13.14. Parish Council matters.

13.14.1. Storage of historical Council documents. Cllr Bhatt said that he would contact Mrs Fardell to arrange collection of the documents. A list of documents for the archive would have to be compiled.

Action
CB

13.14.2. Chair's report. The Chair noted the work of the Herts Air Ambulance towards which the Council had made a donation.

13.15. Clerk's Report**13.15.1. Financial statement****Period ending 6th September 2016**

Unity Trust Bank	£18,496.40
Petty cash	£0.20

Total	£18,496.60
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Included above**Received**

East Herts Council	New Homes Bonus	£5,650.00
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Paid

Sutcliffe Play	2 toddler swing seats	£332.64
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Sargies	2 Cuts Bury Green [June]	£170.00
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Sargies	1 Cut Bury Green [July]	£85.00
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Mower Services	2 Cuts playing fields [July]	£242.00
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To be agreed**Received**

UK Power Networks	Easement Millfield Lane	£7.61
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To Pay

Staff salaries	August	£524.78
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Clerk's expenses	June & July	£13.70
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Petty cash float		£50.00
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Sargies	Gate repairs Ridgeway playground	£145.00
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	Bury Green grass cut August	£85.00	£230.00
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BDO	External audit	£120.00
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P Knott [Mower Services]	2 playground grass cuts August	£242.00
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Total payments	£1,180.48
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Total in all accounts and petty cash after payment of this month's bills £17,373.73**13.15.2.** Proposed to accept payment of accounts. Agreed.**13.15.3.** Proposed to accept the accuracy of the financial statement. Agreed.**13.15.4.** To receive the report from the external auditor. The Clerk said the auditors had commented on a number of matters. The Council Assets list should only include the money originally paid for an item and the Clerk should not have included the current value of the land occupied by the Village Hall Playground. The Clerk had corrected a rounding error reported on in last year's audit but this meant that this year's accounts did not agree with last years by £1. It was agreed to accept the Auditor's report**13.16. Planning matters.** The transactions of the Planning Committee were noted.**13.17. Correspondence**

Clerks & Councils Direct magazine	ELW
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CPRE Field Work magazine	WW
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CPRE Annual Review	ELW
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CPRE Countryside Voice magazine	ELW
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13.18. Date of next ordinary Council meeting – Tuesday 4th October 2016.**13.19. The Chair closed the meeting to the Public and the Press at 9:43 p.m.**

Appendix 1 Email from Mr Nicholas Maddex concerning foot paths.

My contractor has replaced the missing/damaged waymark posts on footpath 7, 9, and 57, and I have now added waymarks to these structures.

My colleague, Bob Fenton, is in the process of identifying the new owner of the land crossed by bridleway 37, and will then proceed with whatever action is now necessary there.

I understood from Sarah at Groundwork a couple of months ago that she was unsure whether there was any funding left at that late stage in the year for your P3 application. Have you heard any further since? We do already have funding for one of the kissing gate kits on footpath 10 (the one away from the road) from the Ramblers, provided a structure is still required there by the farmer to retain stock, and I am sure that I can get volunteers to install it. If funding is not available this year for the other three kits (Sarah did say that she would look into the possibility of other funding sources) then you can apply for funding for the next financial year in January.

The second cut of paths on the regular maintenance schedule should take place shortly.

Please let me know if there are any problems with this.

If you have any queries please let me know.