

# Little Hadham Parish Council

Minutes of the 14<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Little Hadham Parish Council (2015 – 2019 Session) held on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2016 at 8:40 p.m. in the Village Hall, Little Hadham.

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

Mr B Evans – Clerk, and 24 members of the public.

**14.1**        **Absent.** Cllr Bhatt [unwell].

**14.2.**        Declarations of interest. None.

**14.3.**        **Democratic ten minutes.**

A resident asked about the broken handrail on the foot bridge opposite the Nag's Head. She thought it dangerous and was concerned that someone might fall onto the concrete river bed. Cllr Hoodless said he had reported it to HCC but he would call them again.

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Mr Jon Fardell, Chair of the Village Hall Committee, said he was concerned about the cost of running the Post Office. The committee was looking at ways of raising funding and had asked the Council to consider making a contribution. Cllr Tooke asked what the cost of the PO was. Mr Fardell said he was unsure but the space could be hired out to other users and might raise £40 a week.

**14.4.**        **Minutes of the Parish Council meeting** held on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2016 to be agreed and signed as a true record. Agreed.

**14.5.**        **Matters arising from the minutes.**

**14.5.1.**      Excessive road closures. The Chair said she would make enquires.

Action  
ELW

**14.6.**        **Strategic matters**

**14.6.1.**      Neighbourhood Plan. Cllr Wright said a grant for £7000 had been received. Branding for the Plan had been designed for use on all publications. The Chair asked if notices should include acknowledgement of the support of the Parish Council. Cllr Wright asked residents to complete the questionnaire – either online or on paper. A public workshop had been arranged for Saturday 10th December to take place during the day and into the evening. This would create a character assessment of the parish. It was planned for groups to walk around the parish to photograph its main aspects. There would be training on 12<sup>th</sup> November. Cllr Wright said there was the question of site allocations. The Plan could not say no to everything – affordable housing could be included if residents wanted it. Cllr Wright asked if the Council and/or the steering committee should recommend sites – the list could not be exclusive. Alternatively sites could be allocated and others refused. The Chair asked if such decisions should be delayed until the committee had more experience. Cllr Hoodless asked about the time scale. Cllr Wright said he preferred to take time before deciding. He said the consultant's view was that sites should be allocated to make the Plan stronger. Cllr Hoodless said that, without strong guidance developers were always looking for sites. Cllr Wright said there was technical support to access possible sites. The Chair said

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she would like more time to consider the options and to hear the steering group's ideas. It was agreed to consider the alternatives at the November meeting.

- 14.6.2.** Draft East Herts District Plan. Meeting with the Head of Planning Policy. The Chair said she had arranged a meeting but asked if any councillors would like to attend. Cllrs Wright and Wilkinson asked to attend and the Chair agreed to arrange a suitable time. Action  
ELW
- 14.7. Highways**
- 14.8.** Consultation with residents on traffic matters including: traffic calming measures; the Drive Safe Scheme and parking near the village pump. The Chair said she had had tour of the parish with the police considering the Drive Safe scheme. It was agreed to defer the meeting until Cllr Bhatt could attend. Action  
CB
- 14.8.1.** Vehicles jumping the A120 lights. Cllr Pearson said he had asked the police if vehicles on the A120 had been checked and had been told only those on the side roads. He said many residents thought this unfairly targeted local drivers. Many drivers on the A120 drove at excessive speed past the school in an attempt to beat the lights. The Chair agreed to talk to Sgt Wallace. Action  
ELW
- 14.9.** Outstanding road repairs including potholes. Cllr Pearson said the list was little changed though the side road at Green Street had been repaired.
- 14.9.1.** Damage to the war memorial and the A120 bus shelter. From the Floor, Mr Mick Foskett said he planned to carry out the work on 14<sup>th</sup> October.
- 14.9.2.** Water leak at Bury Green. The Chair said the matter had been resolved. She thanked a number of residence for their help.
- 14.9.3.** Bypass – works surveying fields and regular inclusion in Council agenda. Cllr Pearson said that, as a decision was near, the bypass should be a regular item on the agenda. Agreed. The Chair said there should be a closer contact with the bypass steering group and it was agreed that she should contact the group leader. Action  
ELW
- 14.10. Environment affairs**
- 14.10.1.** Condition of footpaths. Cllr Hoodless said that all footpaths had been mowed. He said Mr Maddex was still asking who owned the land between Church End and Hadham Hall.
- 14.10.2.** Application for a P3 grant. Cllr Hoodless said he would apply next year for funding for kissing gates. He said the Mr Jonathan Forgham was seeking to make the path through the Millennium Wood a public footpath. The path needed to have been open to the public for 20 years. Action  
TH
- 14.11. Groups and Amenities**
- 14.11.1.** Request from the Village Hall Committee for a regular donation towards the upkeep of the hall. The Chair said that the Hall was an important amenity and the Council should support it where possible. Cllr Pearson agreed to take Mr Geoff Williamson's place as the Council representative on the Hall Committee. Cllr Pearson asked the Clerk to research the Council minutes from the 1990s to find what the Council agreed at the time the PO was set up. The Clerk said that the Council's funds were in surplus as a consequence of the New Homes Bonus. However, this would soon end and the Council would have to live within its precept. He said the Council could afford a one off payment but should consider Action  
ELW

its budget carefully before making a long term commitment. Cllr Pearson agreed to discuss the Hall's finances with the Hall Committee in order to present their ideas during the discussion of the Council budget. The Clerk agreed to prepare a draft budget for 2017/18 for consideration at the next meeting.

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Clerk

#### **14.12. Community**

**14.12.1.** Millennium Wood. The Chair said pledges were still being received.

**14.12.2.** Reports from the playground inspections. Cllr Tooke said that the report only listed items that were low or very low risk. Most items needed no action except the Ridgeway Gate and the zipwire. He proposed that the Council accept a quotation of £175 from Mr Foskett. Agreed.

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**14.12.3.** 6-a-side football nets. The Chair agreed to speak to the Scouts.

**14.12.4.** Cllr Tooke said that a fire at the Ridgeway playground had been reported to the police.

**14.12.5.** Allotments. Cllr Wilkinson said there was nothing to report.

**14.12.6.** Reports of excessive numbers of power cuts. The Chair said that she would ask in the Parish News to report any places where trees were affecting power lines.

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#### **14.13. Consultation and Public Relations**

**14.13.1.** Parish website. The Clerk said he had registered an application for a .gov.uk site.

**14.14. Flooding.** The Chair read Cllr Pearson's report: Since New Year's Day there have been five occasions of the highway flooding between the Village Hall and Ford End, 28 severe weather warnings, 11 during June, the last being 15th and 16th Sept. Each weather warning was of potential sufficient rainfall to cause flooding issues, and did cause flooding to other towns and villages in reasonable proximity. There have been three flood alerts issued for the River Ash - the last being on 27th March 2016 The Chair said she had attended the local flood risk management group. She thought it important to keep links open so that the voice of local parishes could be heard.

#### **14.15. Security Matters**

**14.15.1.** Cllr Hoodless said he had invited the local PCSOs to attend Council meetings. The Chair suggested they might also attend Neighbourhood Plan meetings. Cllr Wright said he would supply the dates.

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**14.16. Parish Council matters.** None.

**14.16.1. Chair's report.** None.

**14.17. Clerk's Report****14.17.1. Financial statement****Period ending 4<sup>th</sup> October 2016****Unity Trust Bank**

£31,364.47

Petty cash

£39.65

**Total £31,404.12****Included above****Received**

Groundwork UK	Neighbourhood Plan grant	£7,000.00
EHC	Litter picker salary	£1,389.44
EHC	Second half precept	£6,521.50

**Paid**

Modicum Planning	Neighbourhood Plan	£845.00
Little Hadham PCC	Neighbourhood Plan delivery	£25.00

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

Staff salaries	September	£514.58
Clerk's expenses	September	£13.70
Anne Wright Graphic Design	Neighbourhood Plan Logo and stationary design	£540.64
Personalise Your World	Neighbourhood Plan questionnaire	£70.00
EHC	Playground inspections	£99.60
EHC	Allotment rent	£20.00
HM Revenue & Customs	PAYE	£246.80
Seiretto Ltd	Initial registration with web host	£48.00
P Knott [Mower Services]	2 playground grass cuts September	£242.00
Little Hadham PCC	Graveyard upkeep	£250.00
Unity Trust Bank	Bank charges	£18.00

**Total payments £2,063.32****Total in all accounts and petty cash after payment of this month's bills £29,340.80****14.17.2.** Proposed to accept payment of accounts. Agreed.**14.17.3.** Proposed to accept the accuracy of the financial statement. Agreed.**14.18. Planning matters.** The transactions of the Planning Committee were noted.**14.19. Correspondence**

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**ELW****14.20. Date of next ordinary Council meeting – Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2016.****14.21. The Chair closed the meeting to the Public and the Press at 10:01 p.m.**