

Little Hadham Parish Council

Minutes of the 16th meeting of the Little Hadham Parish Council (2015 – 2019 Session) held on Tuesday 6th December 2016 at 8:07 p.m. in the Village Hall, Little Hadham.

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

Mr B Evans – Clerk, and 4 members of the public.

- 16.1** **Absent.** Cllr Bhatt [on business], Cllr Hoodless [unwell].
- 16.2.** Declarations of interest. None.
- 16.3.** **Democratic ten minutes.**
 A resident reported some fly-tipped garden waste near the garage on the A120
- 16.4.** **Minutes of the Parish Council meeting** held on Tuesday 1st November 2016 to be agreed and signed as a true record. Agreed.
- 16.5.** **Matters arising from the minutes.**
- 16.5.1.** Cars parked on Bury Green. The Chair said she had spoken to the residents concerned who had agreed to remove their cars.
- 16.6.** **Financial Review and Budget for 2017/18**
- 16.6.1.** To agree the Financial Review and planned expenditure for the rest of 2016/17. The Chair proposed that the financial statement that had been circulated to councillors be accepted for the rest of 2016/17. Agreed.
- 16.6.2.** To consider the draft budget for 2017/18. The Chair referred to the draft budget that had been circulated to councillors. She said that, for some time, Council expenditure had been greater than the precept because of the New Home Bonus which was due to disappear. She said less could be afforded for donations which should be concentrated on local issues. She said £500 p.a. had been budgeted for the Village Hall for this and next year though no commitment could be made for future years. Cllr Tooke said the Council would run out of money if it did not cut expenditure. The Chair thought the Council would have to make more use of grants. Cllr Wilkinson proposed that expenditure on Westland Green and Bury Green should be removed as she thought the Council could not afford to cut the grass on a regular basis. Perhaps it could be cut by a rota of volunteers. Agreed. The Chair said £2,000 had been budgeted for tree safety. She said Cllr Hoodless was getting quotations. The Chair proposed that, with the removal of expenditure on Westland and Bury Greens, the budget for 2017/18 be accepted. Agreed.
- 16.6.3.** To agree the precept for 2017/18. The Chair proposed the budget for 2017/18 be £13,290 – an increase of 1.9%. Agreed. The Chair, two other councillors and the Clerk signed the official form.
- 16.7.** **Strategic matters**
- 16.7.1.** Neighbourhood Plan. Cllr Wright said the questionnaires had been evaluated. There would be a drop-in session in the Village Hall on Saturday 10th December when residents would be able to express their views on such matters as the

Action
 WW

location of any future developments.

Cllr Wright said the steering group had received training on making character assessments of the parish. Small groups would tour the parish over a number of weekends making notes and taking photographs. He said that the Housing Needs survey of the parish was several years out of date. The steering group planned to carry out a new survey.

- 16.7.2.** East Herts District Plan Pre-Submission consultation. The Chair said that a significant number of homes had to be built in the district though relatively few in the parish as the hamlets had been placed in categories 2 or 3. She said there was a need to raise the general standard of housing. The count of houses related to the plan would start in April 2017. Cllr Wright said the plan gave scope to adjust housing allocations after five years if developments were not progressing as planned. He thought that, in general, it was a sensible plan.

- 16.7.3.** Meeting with the Head of Planning Policy. The Chair said she and Cllr Wright had had a cordial meeting with members of the group. The naming of the hamlets was brought up. The Chair proposed that the Clerk write in response to the consultation giving general support and asking that the names of the hamlets be made clearer. Agreed. [Appendix 1]

Action
Clerk

16.8. Highways

- 16.9.** 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 no update from Cllr Bhatt. She said she would talk to him and perhaps call a meeting with a number of volunteers.

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ELW/CB

- 16.9.1.** Vehicles jumping the A120 lights. The Chair had no new news.

- 16.10.** Outstanding road repairs including potholes. The Chair read a report from Cllr Pearson:

Blocked drains on A120. 21/11/16 Update from Highways that CCTV checks will be done throughout the A120 between 5th-12th Dec overnight to identify how the drainage systems work, what issues are present, and what will be included in their rolling 18mths programme of works. In theory should be in operation during the next meeting.

This followed by a further two days 19-20 Dec focusing on the drainage problems encircling the traffic lights and the four access roads/drains at the lights that contribute to the flooding and will form part of the flood alleviation improvements. This will then move along the C15 to include the drainage affecting the flooding from the Village Hall to Ford End. CCTV assessments and some drain jetting where required.

Chapel Lane thru to Wellpond Green will have closures from 7-13 Dec whilst works are conducted on the ditches.

Traffic signs need cleaning. Highways have updated that they are on a rolling programme of 86000 signs through Herts being cleaned by Spring 2017 and are over half way through.

Multiple Roadworks: County Councillor Graham McAndrew had made representations from our previous requests as to whether all works involving road closures could be done at the same time. 'What we are faced with are works that need to be done but it is not possible to do all at the same time as the companies involved also have other jobs that need completion elsewhere some of which are of a higher priority. The message I have been given from Highways is they will do what they can in one closure wherever possible as this costs them less in their

budget, but cannot always achieve that. They remind us that alternative routes are published in advance to help reduce the impact and help people plan ahead.’

- 16.10.1.** Bypass. The Chair said the planning application would be considered by HCC Development Control Committee on Wednesday 21st December 2016 and there would be a tour of the site for committee members on Monday 12th December. A member of Little Hadham and a member of Albury Parish Councils were invited to attend. The Chair proposed that she ask Cllr Hoodless but if he was unable to attend she would go. Agreed. Action
ELW
- 16.11. Environment affairs**
- 16.11.1.** Condition of footpaths. The Chair read an email from Mr Maddex the local HCC rights of way officer. [Appendix 2]
- 16.12. Groups and Amenities**
- 16.13. Community**
- 16.13.1.** Millennium Wood. The Chair said she had spoken to Mr James Fallen. Apparently the sale had been paused though the wood should be back on the market in March 2017. Money raising continued.
- 16.13.2.** Playgrounds. Cllr Tooke said there was little to report though the catches on the gates had been damaged.
- 16.13.3.** Playground hedges. The Clerk said he was waiting to hear from the contractor. Action
Clerk
- 16.13.4.** Allotments. Cllr Wilkinson said there was nothing to report.
- 16.13.5.** Reports of excessive numbers of power cuts. The Chair read a letter from UK Power Networks. [Appendix 3]
- 16.13.6.** Christmas Dinner for senior residents. The Chair said that Cllr Bhatt had received a grant and the Dinner would be on 22nd December.
- 16.13.7.** To consider inspection of trees for which the Council is responsible. The Chair said Cllr Hoodless was making enquiries. Action
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- 16.13.8.** Grass cutting Westland Green. Cllr Wilkinson said Mr Stephen Stigwood had carried out the work.
- 16.14. Consultation and Public Relations**
- 16.14.1.** Parish website. The Chair said the site was live and required material from residents and councillors.
- 16.15. Flooding.** The Chair read a report from Cllr Pearson:
Since New Year’s Day there have been five occasions of the highway flooding between the Village Hall and Ford End, 29 severe weather warnings, 11 during June, the last being 20th Nov. 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.
The recent extreme rainfall from Storm Angus mainly bypassed Hertfordshire and flooded counties to the south, west, and north of us.
- 16.16. Security Matters**
- 16.16.1.** The Chair read a report from the local police. [Appendix 4]

16.17. Parish Council matters.

16.17.1. To consider whether councillors should be able to claim travel expenses. The Chair said Cllr Bhatt was considering the matter. She said that she would withdraw her claim for expenses as it would make things simpler. Action CB

16.17.2. Chair's report.

The Chair said that the Remembrance Day service had been very well attended. She thanked the many residents who voluntarily picked up litter.

She pointed out a website that supplied warnings of traffic holdups. She said a link would be placed on the website. The Chair welcomed the EHC 'Put it Away' campaign which encouraged people not to use their mobile phones while driving. Action Clerk

Finally, the Chair wished everyone a happy Christmas.

16.18. Clerk's Report**16.18.1. Financial statement****Period ending 6th December 2016****Unity Trust Bank**

£28,280.52

Petty cash

£15.25

Total £28,295.77**Included Above****Received**

HAPTC Transparency fund for website £565.32

VAT refund £1,103.28

EHC Grant for Christmas dinner £500.00

Paid

Carroll Planning & Design Neighbourhood Plan £1,352.03

To be agreed**Received**

Mr S Stigwood, Home Farm Westland Green rent £300.00

To Pay

Staff salaries November and December £1,029.36

Clerk's expenses October £25.00

HMRC PAYE Oct to Dec £246.80

Anne Wright Graphic Design Neighbourhood Plan leaflets £525.00

Soc Local Council Clerks Annual subscription £93.00

Royal British Legion Remembrance Day wreath £30.00

Total payments £1,949.16**Total in all accounts and petty cash after payment of this month's bills £26,646.61**

16.18.2. Proposed to accept payment of accounts. Agreed.

16.18.3. Proposed to accept the accuracy of the financial statement. Agreed. Cllr Wright asked that councillors agree payment of about £150 for Neighbourhood Plan printing. Agreed.

16.19. Planning matters. The transactions of the Planning Committee were noted.

16.20. Date of next ordinary Council meeting – Tuesday 7th February 2017.

16.21. The Chair closed the meeting to the Public and the Press at 9:29 p.m.

Appendix 1 Response to consultation of Pre-Submission version of the Local Plan

The Plan was discussed at the Council meeting held on Tuesday 6th December 2016. This was following a meeting between members of the Planning Policy Team and two councillors – including the Chair. The Council were generally in favour of the Plan considering it to be carefully written.

The Council was pleased to see that The Ashe and The Ford had been returned to Category 2 villages rather than the Category 1 originally proposed. Both these villages are in the Ash Valley and very prone to flooding from the overflowing of the river or from runoff from the fields. Councillors were pleased to see that risk of flooding would be a criterion for refusing planning applications.

The Council were disappointed to see that The Ashe continues to be called Little Hadham and The Ford continues to be called Hadham Ford. Little Hadham should be used to refer to the whole parish not just one hamlet. We understand it is late in the day, but the Council would appreciate changes to ‘The Ashe, Little Hadham’ or possibly ‘Little Hadham (The Ashe)’ and ‘The Ford, Little Hadham’ or possibly ‘Little Hadham (The Ford)’.

Appendix 2 Email from Mr Nicholas Maddex concerning parish rights of way

It is good to be able to report plenty of progress.

Bridleway 37: the new owner, on being approached by our Enforcement Officer, has restored this path through the mound of subsoil, using crushed concrete and fines in a similar way to how we would have done it.

Footpath 34: the farmer, after an approach by our Enforcement Officer, has unlocked and opened the field gate (he has also opened the gate next to the stile. It will be interesting to see, however, what he does if and when he reintroduces stock to this field.

Footpath 34: adjacent to the above site: I have placed an order with one of my contractors to clear vegetation from the path just beyond the gate mentioned above.

Footpath 34: crops starting to obstruct the path. I will identify the new owner (same as BR37?) and require him to clear them.

Footpath 44: handrail to footbridge replaced by my contractor.

Footpath 14: renewed concerns about the 2 stiles. Parish Council to apply to P3 for funding for kissing gate kits for new year.

Footpath 10: Collapsed stile replaced using volunteer labour and a kissing gate kit paid for by Rambler Holidays. Parish Council to apply to P3 for funding for kissing gate kit for other site for new year.

I think that these are all the cases which I am currently involved in, but please remind me if there should be others.

Appendix 3 Email from Peter Kocen, UK Power Networks concerning power cuts.

UK Power Networks delivers the electricity to homes and businesses across London the East and South East of England, including Little Hadham, and it's our job to make sure that the lights stay on.

Since 2010 we have reduced the frequency of power cuts by 42%, however we recognise that while power cuts are less frequent, when they do still occur they can be very worrying, especially to older people, people with chronic medical conditions or parents of very young

children. That's why we have set up a 'Priority Services Register' to enable us to identify vulnerable people quickly in the event of a power cut and get them the help they need. You can find more about our free Priority Service Register, including information about who is eligible to register at: ukpowernetworks.co.uk/internet/en/power-cuts/priority-services-during-a-power-cut/

This winter we are keen to increase the number of people who are registered for help so we can provide the support they need quicker in case of a power cut. We are therefore asking for the help of local councillors to encourage constituents, who may be eligible for help, to join the Priority Services Register.

How you can help:

Encourage people to register using Social Media.

Suggested text:

Do you or someone you know need extra help if there's a power cut?

Join the Priority Services Register today ukpowernetworks.co.uk/prioritysupport Include information about the Register in your next ward newsletter.

Suggested text:

Do you or someone you know need extra support during a power cut?

Although power cuts don't happen very often when they do they can be worrying. UK Power Networks is the electricity network and it provides a 'Priority Services Register' for people who might need extra help in a power cut. Older people, families with very young children, and people with specific medical conditions are among the many people who are eligible to register for free support. You can find more details and register by visiting ukpowernetworks.co.uk/prioritysupport or calling 0800 169 9970.

I hope you will help us to help your constituents get the support they need and please do send me a copy of your newsletter if you include information about the Register, so we can share it as an example of good practice.

In the meantime, if you would like any further information about the Register or about UK Power Networks please do not hesitate to contact me.

Appendix 4 Report from local police.

Little Hadham Parish Council update 06/12/2016

Crime Figures

06/09/2015 to 06/12/2015

We had 13 reported crimes in the Parish

06/09/2016 to 06/12/2016

We had 9 reported crimes in the Parish

Other News

During this period, we have had 9 reported crimes within the Parish compared to last year when we had 13 crimes which is a decrease of 30%. We are currently having issues with off road motor vehicles driving across fields and damaging crops within the East Herts rural area, this has been happening along the B1368 corridor from Braughing towards Barkway, thankfully this has not happened within the Parish. Yesterday 05/12/3016 we held a very successful Rural Barn meeting where farmers from within the Parish and East Herts rural district came together in company of the new Chief Constable CHARLIE HALL. We continue to conduct high visibility intelligence led patrols across the district.

With regards PC Nicky HUNT and PCSO Steve Blanks.