

# Little Hadham Parish Council

Minutes of the 18<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Little Hadham Parish Council (2015 – 2019 Session) held on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2017 at 8:12 p.m. in the Village Hall, Little Hadham.

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

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

- 18.1**        **Absent.** Cllr Wright.
- 19.1**        **Declarations of interest.** None.
- 19.1.**        **Democratic ten minutes.**  
 There were no questions or comments.
- 19.2.**        **Minutes of the Parish Council meeting** held on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2017 to be agreed and signed as a true record. Agreed.
- 19.3.**        **Matters arising from the minutes.**
- 19.3.1.**      The Chair said that EHC Cllr Geoff Williamson had spoken to Cllr Wilkinson concerning broadband speed and had invited BT to talk to Westland Green residents.
- 19.4.**        **Strategic matters**
- 19.4.1.**      Neighbourhood Plan. The Chair read an email from Cllr Wright.  
*We are in a little hiatus on the NP as we await discussions with East Herts(booked in late March) so that we can understand if we need a Housing Needs Survey and also whether we should / could allocate sites for development and if so do we need a 'Call for Sites'.*
- 19.5.**        **Highways**
- 19.6.**        Consultation with residents on traffic matters including: traffic calming measures, the Drive Safe Scheme and parking near the village pump. Action  
ELW  
 The Chair said she spoken to Mr Chris Bhatt and would call a meeting of the informal work group.
- 19.6.1.**      Vehicles jumping the A120 lights. The Chair said she had spoken to Sgt Wallace about the PCSOs attending Council meeting. She thought to essential that they attend the Assembly.
- 19.7.**        Outstanding road repairs including potholes. Cllr Pearson said the drains in Albury Road had been cleared.
- 19.7.1.**      Bypass. The Chair said she had spoken to the project leader who had made a note of the Council's wish to have the Lloyd Taylor drain dealt with early. Final designs for foot and cycle ways for the bypass were not yet complete. The Chair said she had stressed the importance of Council involvement in the design of traffic calming measures once the bypass was open. Action  
ELW

**19.8. Environment affairs**

- 19.8.1.** Condition of footpaths. The Clerk was asked to contact Mr Maddex to ask for the BOAT across Westland Green to be repaired. Cllr Hoodless said that Mr Maddex had invited the Council to apply for grants to construct three kissing gates to replace failing stiles on a number of footpaths. He agreed to make an application. Action Clerk  
Action TH
- 19.8.2.** To consider consultation on changes to night flights at Stansted Airport. The Chair said that Cllr Wright had investigated the matter and proposed that the Council agree retrospectively the letter sent in response to the consultation. Agreed. [Appendix 1]

**19.9. Groups and Amenities****19.10. Community**

- 19.10.1.** The maintenance of Bury Green. The Chair said she had written an article for the Parish News and had received a number of offers from volunteers. She proposed that the overpayment made in 2016 be carried forward to pay for the one cut agreed by the Council. Agreed. Action ELT
- 19.10.2.** Millennium Wood. The Chair said she expected the wood to be back on the market soon. She understood the owners were still keen on selling the wood to the community. She noted that Mr Jonathan Forgham had organised a bonfire party at the wood for local residents.
- 19.10.3.** Playgrounds. Cllr Tooke said there was little to report though he had discussed firmer gate catches with Mr Mick Foskett who had proposed a solution costing £45 per gate. It was agreed that Mr Foskett should be asked to fix one gate in order to test its effectiveness. Action GT
- 19.10.4.** Bus shelter. Cllr Took said the bus shelter near the Village Pump was in need of a paint. The Clerk was asked to obtain a quotation from Mr Joel Hammond. Action Clerk
- 19.10.5.** Village sign. The Chair said the village sign had been damaged in the recent storm. She thought the sign was unlikely to last much longer. It was agreed to ask Mr Jon Fardell to make a report on possible solutions. Action ELW
- 19.10.6.** Trees between the Ridgeway Playground and the main road. Cllr Pearson said there had been concerns about the movement of some trees during the storm. Herts Highways said they were not responsible. The Clerk referred to plans, he had circulated to councillors, that appeared to show Highways to be responsible. The Chair asked Cllr Pearson to discuss the matter with Cllr McAndrew. Action GP
- 19.10.7.** Allotments. Cllr Wilkinson said there was nothing to report.
- 19.10.8.** To consider the inspection of trees for which the Council is responsible. The Clerk said he had spoken to Meadowcroft Ltd who he expected to arrange a visit. The Clerk said that Mr Joel Hammond had pollarded the willow trees by the Ash at Ford Fields. It had taken a day's work and he had still to dispose of the timber. The Clerk thought Mr Hammond should be paid for this work. He thought £130 was fair. The Chair proposed this be paid but asked that, in future, Mr Hammond agree payment before carrying out the work. Agreed. Action Clerk
- 19.11. Consultation and Public Relations**
- 19.11.1.** Parish website. The Chair said the site was moving up the Google search list.
- 19.12. Flooding.** Cllr Pearson said there had been no recent issues.

**19.13. Security Matters**

**19.13.1.** Cllr Hoodless said he had again invited the local PCSO to the Council meeting. There had been only one crime reported in the parish last month – a theft. There had been three crimes in the same period last year. He noted that there had been an increase in car crime over the past months in surrounding parishes. Police asked residents to be vigilant about this and also hare coursing.

**19.14. Parish Council matters.**

**19.14.1.** Progress on finding a replacement Councillor. The Chair said that as no-one had called for an election the Council could go ahead with co-opting a member. She proposed that nominations close on the Monday after the Assembly so that residents could be encourage to apply. Agreed.

**19.14.2.** To consider changes to councillor responsibilities. The Chair said the responsibilities of former Cllr Bhatt had to be covered. She proposed that Cllr Pearson take responsibility for Highways and Cllr Tooke responsibility for Council Matters. Agreed.

**19.14.3.** To review and agree: Council Standing Orders; Council Financial Regulations; Internal Audit arrangements; Council asset list Clerk. ; Council Risk Assessment. The Chair noted that Standing Orders said Council work should be equally shared by councillors. This was something she would like to review at the Annual meeting. She noted the budget should include a three year forecast and asked the Clerk to extent the budget document. She proposed the documents be accepted. Agreed.

Action  
Clerk**19.15. Parish Assembly – Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2017**

**19.15.1.** To consider who to invite. The Chair proposed invitations be sent to the Police, Cllr Graham McAndrew (HCC), Cllr Geoff Williamson (EHC), Mrs Liz Stockley (Little Hadham School), a supporter of The Millenium Wood project, Mr Jonathan Forgham, Mr Richard Beckett (Little Hadham Charities), the Neighbourhood Plan, the bypass team and a councillor to talk about joining the Council.

The Clerk said that HCC councillors would be up for election this year and, in the past, the Council has chosen not to invite standing councillors in order to be fair to all candidates. It was agreed to invite the people on the list with the exception on Cllr McAndrew.

**19.15.2.** To consider static displays. The Chair proposed the Gardening Club, Book phone boxes, other clubs including the Mothers and Toddlers, the Police, the Neighbourhood Plan and possibly a ‘volunteers needed’ stand. Agreed.

**19.15.3.** To consider arrangements for catering. The Chair agreed to make arrangements.

**19.15.4.** Cllr Pearson said flyers would be needed by 18<sup>th</sup> March for distribution in the Parish News at a cost of £25. Agreed.

**19.15.5. Chair’s report.** The Chair said that a representative of Gascoyne Cecil Estates would visit Bury Green to investigate the hedge cut down by the developers of redundant farm buildings on Millfield Lane.

**19.16. Clerk's Report****Period ending 7<sup>th</sup> March 2017****Unity Trust Bank**

£23,669.29

Petty cash

-£6.95

**Total** **£23,662.34****Included Above****Paid**

Carroll Planning &amp; Design      Preparation of Settlement maps      £600.00

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

Staff salaries      February      £514.58

Clerk's expenses      January      £17.59

Petty cash float      £50.00

Carroll Planning &amp; Design      Neighbourhood Plan Character Assessment support      £240.00

Maydencroft      Parish Council tree inspection      £768.00

Modicum      Assistance with Neighbourhood Plan      £800.00

Travel expenses      £45.00      £845.00

Gascoyne Cecil Estates      Rents Bury Green &amp; Westland Green      £6.41

**Total payments** **£2,441.58****Total in all accounts and petty cash after payment of this month's bills £21,270.76****19.16.1. Financial statement****19.16.2.** Proposed to accept payment of accounts. Agreed.**19.16.3.** Proposed to accept the accuracy of the financial statement.**19.17. Planning matters.** The transactions of the Planning Committee were noted.**19.18. Date of next ordinary Council meeting – Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2017.****19.19. The Chair closed the meeting to the Public and the Press at 9:09 p.m.****Appendix 1 Response to consultation on changes to Stansted Airport night flights.**

The Council is only too aware that residents are particularly affected by aircraft noise as Little Hadham is a rural area with very limited background noise. Recent changes have already detrimentally affected our Parish and we are concerned that the proposals for night flights will make things even worse for residents.

We agree with the Stop Stansted Expansion campaign which is calling for:

- An unequivocal Government commitment to phase out all night flights at Stansted by 2030, except in the case of genuine emergencies;
- In the meantime, for the annual limit on Stansted night flights to apply, not just from 11.30pm to 6.00am, but from 11.00pm to 7.00am, so that 'night' truly means 'night', as defined by the World Health Organisation (WHO)'s Guidelines on Community Noise;
- A radical overhaul of the current 'averaging' method for measuring aircraft noise so that the official Government noise statistics start to represent what people actually have to endure;
- An immediate ban on all night time aircraft landings at Stansted from using reverse thrust, except in the case of genuine emergencies.

The Council asks that the Government reconsider their proposals in order to preserve the night time tranquillity of those who live beneath the flight paths.