

Little Hadham Parish Council

Minutes of the 20th meeting of the **Little Hadham Parish Council** (2015 – 2019 Session) held on Tuesday 2nd May 2017 at 8:09 p.m. in the Village Hall, Little Hadham.

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

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

20.1. Absent. None.

20.2. Declarations of interest by councillors on any items below. None.

20.3. Democratic ten minutes.

A resident noted that an EHC van had visited Acremore Street. Possibly to investigate the water leak.

20.4. Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 4th April 2017 to be agreed and signed as a true record. Agreed.

20.5. Matters arising from the minutes. None.

20.6. Strategic matters

20.6.1. Neighbourhood Plan. Cllr Wright said the committee were at a critical juncture about whether to allocate sites for development. This would have a significant financial effect on landowners. The current view was that it was probably better to allocate sites. If sites were not allocated in the Plan then EHC would have to show a 5 year supply of sites but if the Plan allocated site only a 3 year supply was required. This would protect the parish from excessive development for many years. Cllr Wright said that there would have to be a ‘call for sites’ in which landowners and residents could suggest building sites for up to 10 houses, though the number would not be specified in the survey. The Chair asked if building on the allocated sites would be inevitable. Cllr Wright said probably although fewer homes might be built than developers asked for. He said the Plan would have to be assessed by EHC and agreed by a local referendum. The site allocation would follow a call for sites which would be conducted by a company whose fee was included with the current grant. Cllr Wright proposed that the Council agree to a call for sites. Agreed.

20.7. Highways

20.7.1. 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 scheduled a meeting with the informal work group. She said she thought the Council should seek volunteers willing to carry out speed checks through the parish. Cllr Tooke asked about speeding on the C15. The Chair said the police could ask Herts Highways to carry out a speed survey. Cllr Tooke said the Police had said at the Assembly that, as there had been no accidents, it was not a safety priority.

Action
ELW

- 20.7.2.** Vehicles jumping the A120 lights. The Chair said the police would continue to conduct random checks. Cllr Pearson said it would only be for side roads.
- 20.7.3.** Outstanding road repairs including potholes. The Chair said there had been nothing new. Cllr Pearson said that he would check that the running water at Acremore Street was on the Herts Highways rolling programme of repairs. Action
GP
- 20.7.4.** Bypass. The Chair said formal planning consent had been granted – the Government had not called the decision in. There were productive discussions with landowners though a formal application for compulsory purchase of the land was being sought. HCC expected to appoint a contractor by early 2018 with the work completed by 2020. The drainage scheme for Lloyd Taylor Close would not be in effect until completion of the bypass. The Chair said residents would be consulted on parish enhancements and there would be traffic surveys after completion. Plans for improved cycle and pedestrian access should be ready in the next 2 months. She noted that new schools opening in Bishop’s Stortford would likely generate more traffic.
- 20.8. Environment affairs**
- 20.8.1.** Condition of footpaths. Cllr Hoodless said some way markers had been restored and the footpath off Acremore Street that had been ploughed was being investigated.
- 20.8.2.** Painting of the bus shelter opposite the Nag’s Head. The Clerk said that Mr Joel Hammond had agreed to carry out the work.
- 20.8.3.** Inspection of trees for which the Council is responsible. The Clerk said he had just received the report which included a number of recommendations. It was agreed that Cllr Hoodless would obtain some quotations for the work and the Clerk would ask the company who carried out the survey for a quote. Action
TH &
Clerk
- 20.8.4.** Safety of trees between the Ridgeway Playground and the C15 road. Cllr Pearson said Herts Highways were waiting for a report. He noted that residents were concerned about trees on land owned by the housing association who thought the trees were safe. Action
GP
- 20.8.5.** Maintenance of the C15 planters. Cllr Pearson said he would thank those maintaining the planters in the Parish News. Action
GP
- 20.8.6.** Noise from aircraft using Stansted Airport. Cllr Wright thought more residents were aware of greater plane noise and he was in contact with Stop Stansted Expansion. The Chair said there was a link on the SSE website to a site where residents could report and get information about particularly noisy flights. Cllr Pearson agreed to include this in the Parish News. Action
GP
- 20.9. Groups and Amenities**
- 20.9.1.** The Chair said she was pleased to see that the Brownies and Beavers had set up displays at the Assembly.
- 20.10. Community**
- 20.10.1.** Report on the campaign to improve broadband speeds within the parish. The Chair said that Mr Geoffrey Pratt had obtained some assurance that there was a real possibility of Super-Fast broadband being supplied to Westland Green.

- 20.10.2.** The maintenance of Bury Green. The Chair noted the green had been cut again. It was agreed to remove the item from the agenda.
- 20.10.3.** Millennium Wood. The Chair said the Wood was now fully in the ownership of Romehold. The owners were still keen to sell to the community though they were aware that the original asking price was unlikely to be raised. She noted that Mr Jonathan Forgham was busy on the maintenance of the trees.
- 20.10.4.** Repairs to Westland Green byway. Cllr Wilkinson said that Mr Maddex, the HCC public rights of way officer, had appointed a contractor for the work..
- 20.10.5.** Playgrounds. Cllr Tooke said he was disappointed to see that the new gate catch had been broken. He noted that money from the Tesco scheme might be available in July but he thought repairs were needed before then because of child safety. He wondered if significant sums should be spent on stronger gates not on more replacement latches. There was discussion on possible designs. It was agreed that Cllr Hoodless would investigate the provision of a stronger catch. Action TH
- 20.10.6.** Allotments. Cllr Wilkinson said there was nothing to report.
- 20.11. Consultation and Public Relations**
- 20.12. Flooding.** There had been no recent issues.
- 20.13. Security Matters**
- 20.13.1.** Cllr Hoodless said he would investigate the Police OWL system for passing information to residents. He spoke of a website that enabled near neighbours to keep in contact with each other. Action TH
- 20.14. Parish Council matters.**
- 20.14.1.** Consideration of scrapping/sale of the council laptop and printer and payment for use of the Clerk's printer. Possible purchase of a new laptop. Cllr Tooke said that the Council owned a laptop, printer, scanner and router purchased in 2007. The printer no longer worked, the router had been replaced by the ISP and the laptop was unable to run Windows and the battery had failed. He proposed that the Council wrote them off as valueless. Agreed. The scanner still worked and might have a value and he proposed it be offered to the school. Agreed. The Clerk said that he used his own laptop to take notes at meetings and his own PC at home for most Council work. He had no need for a new laptop. However, he was in the process of replacing his PC and would need a new copy of MS Office. Cllr Tooke proposed that the Clerk use his printer for Council documents at a cost of 2.5p per side of text. Agreed.
- 20.14.2.** To consider a meeting to appraise the work of the Clerk and to consider the local government pay award. It was agreed that the Chair and Cllr Tooke would meet the Clerk in June each year. Cllr Tooke proposed that the Clerk's salary be increased by 1% in line with the national pay agreement. Agreed. Action GT/ELW
- 20.15. Parish Assembly – Tuesday 25th April 2017**
- 20.15.1.** The Chair thought the Assembly a success with about 72 residents in attendance. It was good to hear the presentations about local matters.
- 20.16. Chair's report.** The Chair said she had no further matters to report.

20.17. Clerk's Report**20.18. Financial statement****Period ending 2nd May 2017**

Unity Trust Bank		£24,901.38
Petty cash		£21.94

Total	£24,923.32
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Included Above Received

EHC	First half precept		£6,645.00
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Agreed but yet to be paid

Maydencroft	Parish Council tree inspection		£768.00
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To be agreed**To Pay**

Staff Salaries			£514.78
Clerk's expenses			£13.40
P Knott (Mower Services)	2 cuts playing fields in April		£242.00
M A Foskett	Repair Village Hall playground gate		£45.00
Little Hadham Village Hall	Hire Hall Council meetings	£50.00	
	Disposal of rubbish	£58.50	
	Neighbourhood Plan meetings	£192.00	£300.50
Mrs E Lloyd-Williams	Assembly refreshments		£38.76

Total payments	£1,154.44
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Total in all accounts and petty cash after payment of this month's bills £23,000.88

- 20.18.1.** Proposed to accept payment of accounts. Agreed
- 20.18.2.** Proposed to accept the accuracy of the financial statement. Agreed.
- 20.18.3.** To agree the Annual Financial Statement. The Chair proposed the statement be accepted. Agreed.
- 20.18.4.** To agree the Annual Governance Statement. The Chair read through the statement and proposed it be accepted. Agreed.
- 20.18.5.** To agree to Annual Audit statement. The Chair proposed she sign the document. Agreed.
- 20.18.6.** To consider who to appoint as Council insurers. The Chair said the Council had agreed a three year deal with Hiscocks Insurers through Came & Co. Former councillor Chris Bhatt had considered the policy satisfactory and the increase in premium was in line with the increase in insurance tax. The Chair proposed the Council accept the quotation at a premium of £660.22. Agreed. Action Clerk
- 20.19. Planning matters.** The transactions of the Planning Committee were noted.
- 20.20. Date of next ordinary Council meeting – Tuesday 6th June 2017.**
- 20.21. The Chair closed the meeting to the Public and the Press at 8:58 p.m.**