

Little Hadham Parish Council

Minutes of the 24th meeting of the **Little Hadham Parish Council** (2015 – 2019 Session) held on Tuesday 5th September 2017 at 8:10 p.m. in the Village Hall, Little Hadham.

Present:	Mrs M Wilkinson	Vice Chair
	Mr T Hoodless)
	Mr G Pearson) Councillors
	Mr G Tooke)
	Mr N Wardrop)

Mr B Evans – Clerk, and 13 members of the public.

- 24.1. Absent.** Cllr Lloyd-Williams [family matter], Cllr Wright [on business].
- 24.2. Declarations of interest by councillors on any items below.** None.
- 24.3. Democratic ten minutes.**
 A resident asked about the phone kiosk near the A120 traffic lights. The phone had been removed. Cllr Pearson said the kiosk was listed for removal.
 A resident suggested that the parish planters be moved close together at one site which would make maintenance easier. The resident also said that he thought villagers measuring vehicle speeds was poor neighbourliness in a small community. Cllr Hoodless said there were discussions about residents of nearby villages carrying out speed surveys in Little Hadham.
 A resident asked that consideration of traffic problems include Chapel Lane. Users of the pub often parked badly making it difficult for residents to access their drives. Vehicles often speeded along the lane.
- 24.4. Minutes of the Parish Council meeting** held on Tuesday 4th July 2017 to be agreed and signed as a true record. Agreed.
- 24.5.** Matters arising from the minutes. None.
- 24.6. Strategic matters**
- 24.6.1.** Neighbourhood Plan. Cllr Wardrop said the character assessment of the parish was still in draft and help was being obtained from the local designer. AECOM was assessing the viability of building sites suggested in the 'call for sites' and they should report in the next few weeks.
- 24.7. Highways**
- 24.7.1.** Consultation with residents on traffic matters including: traffic calming measures, the Drive Safe Scheme and parking near the village pump. Action
ELW
 Cllr Wilkinson said she had received no feedback from Cllr Lloyd-Williams.
- 24.7.2.** Vehicles jumping the A120 lights. Cllr Wilkinson said she had nothing new.
- 24.7.3.** Outstanding road repairs including potholes. Cllr Pearson said a noisy drain cover at the Ford had been reported. He said that the resurfacing of Albury Road had stopped short of the traffic lights leaving a number of potholes. He said he would report this. Action
GP
- 24.7.4.** Bypass. To consider a response to the HCC consultation on side roads and the compulsory purchase of land. Cllr Hoodless said the plans seemed very sensible and uncontentious. He thought no resident would be particularly affected.

24.8. Environment affairs

- 24.8.1.** Condition of footpaths. Cllr Hoodless said no issues had been reported.
- 24.8.2.** Painting of the bus shelter opposite the Nag's Head. The Clerk said that Mr Joel Hammond had painted the shelter. Cllr Hoodless agreed to resource some new shingles for the roof. Action TH
- 24.8.3.** Inspection of trees for which the Council is responsible. Cllr Hoodless said he had met the surveyor who had produced a revised estimate of £2,500. Cllr Hoodless said he had emailed Gascoyne Cecil Estates but had received no reply. He would try again. Action TH
- 24.8.4.** Maintenance of the C15 planters. Cllr Wilkinson said two planters were maintained and two not. She noted that some residents wanted the planters grouped together while others wanted them removed. She asked that this be added to the October agenda. Action Clerk
- 24.8.5.** Noise from aircraft using Stansted Airport. Cllr Wilkinson said Cllr Wright had left no report.
- 24.9. Groups and Amenities** No new information.
- 24.10. Community**
- 24.10.1.** Report on the campaign to improve broadband speeds within the parish. Cllr Wilkinson said that Mr Geoffrey Pratt was to have a meeting with Oliver Heald MP. Cllr Pearson said the BT timetable showed Superfast Broadband being available in four months.
- 24.10.2.** Millennium Wood. Cllr Wilkinson said she had no news.
- 24.10.3.** Playgrounds. Cllr Tooke said there had been new vandalism. The newly repaired gate catches had been broken, a length of barbed wire had been left hidden in the grass – an obvious danger – and a fire had been started on one of the picnic tables. He said that the matter had been reported to the police who thought there was little they could do. They thought CCTV cameras were not suitable for a children's playground. Cllr Tooke said he would try to talk to the EHC antisocial behaviour management officer. Cllr Tooke showed pictures of 'anti-vandal' playground gates that could be installed using the Tesco £2,000. The gates cost £1,500 installed and four were required. Cllr Wardrop suggested that the Council seek advice from other councils. Action GT
- 24.10.4.** Playground inspection reports. Cllr Tooke said the only issues were low or very low risk. No work was required.
- 24.10.5.** Allotments. Cllr Wilkinson said there was nothing to report.
- 24.11. Consultation and Public Relations**
- 24.11.1.** Council website. Cllr Wardrop said he and the Clerk were working on designs for the front page. He would consider adding Council news to the Council Facebook site. Action NW
- 24.12. Flooding.** Cllr Pearson said there were six yellow warnings of rain and potential flood on 6th, 7th, 11th, 18th, 19th, 30th July 8th, 9th Aug. Each capable of delivering more rainfall in an hour than was received at the flood in Feb 2014. On the 18th July, overnight into the early hours of the 19th, 38mm of rain fell causing severe water runoff flooding blocking the A120 near the traffic lights, the C15 from the

Village Hall to Ford End, and at Chapel Lane by the Nags Head and Ford Cottages. It was of the level that needed deployment of flood defences due to the bow waves caused by traffic. If this had been at rush hour the bow waves would most likely have caused problems directly to homes.

24.13. Security Matters Cllr Hoodless said he had emailed the local PCSO but had not yet received a reply. Cllr Hoodless said there had been a number of thefts from garden sheds in Bishop's Stortford and he asked residents to keep a careful watch. Cllr Wilkinson said residents could take a photograph of anything suspicious.

24.14. Parish Council matters.

24.14.1. To consider the report from the external audit of the Council. The Clerk said he had received the completed Audit document for 2016/17 from the external auditors who had made no comment. He asked that the Council acknowledge the completion of the audit. Agreed

24.15. Chair's report.

24.15.1. Cllr Wilkinson said a number of applications had been received for the post of litter picker. She proposed that she and Cllr Tooke should consider the applications and call likely candidates for interview. She said she wanted appointment made by the next meeting and she did not mind being involved in the interview. Agreed.

Action
MW

24.16. Clerk's Report**24.16.1. Financial statement****Period ending 5th September 2017**

Unity Trust Bank			£26,394.02
Petty cash			£29.26
		Total	£26,423.28
Included above			
Received			
Groundwork East	Footpath kissing gates		£1,000.00
EHC	New Homes Bonus		£3,348.00
Groundworks East	Tesco grant for playground gates		£2,000.00
Paid			
Unity Trust Bank	Service charge April to June		£18.00
To be agreed			
Received			
Eastern Power Networks	Easement Bury Green		£7.61
Allotment rents			£60.00
To Pay			
Staff Salaries	August		£517.21
Clerk's expenses	August		£13.40
Mr J Hammond	Paint bus shelter	£250.00	
	Strim and spay nettles	£50.00	£300.00
NALC	Subscription to LCR magazine		£17.00
EHC	Playground inspections		£102.10
P Knott (Mower Services)	2 cuts playing fields in July & 2 cuts August		£484.00
Mr M A Foskett	Playground repairs		£320.00
HAPTC	Neighbourhood Plan training		£95.00
BDO	External audit		£240.00
CPRE	Annual subscription		£36.00
		Total payments	£2,124.71

Total in all accounts and petty cash after payment of this month's bills £24,366.18**24.16.2.** Proposed to accept payment of accounts. Agreed**24.16.3.** Proposed to accept the accuracy of the financial statement. Agreed.**24.17. Planning matters.** The transactions of the Planning Committee were noted.**24.18. Date of next ordinary Council meeting – Tuesday 3rd October 2017.****24.19. The Chair closed the meeting to the Public and the Press at 9:05 p.m.**