

# Little Hadham Parish Council

Minutes of the 27<sup>th</sup> meeting of the **Little Hadham Parish Council** (2015 – 2019 Session) held on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2017 at 8:26 p.m. in the Village Hall, Little Hadham.

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

Mr B Evans – Clerk, and 3 members of the public including Ms Penny Taylor – Chair of Much Hadham Parish Council.

- 26.1. Absent.** Cllr Tooke [on business].
- 26.2. Declarations of interest by councillors on any items below.** None.
- 26.3. Democratic ten minutes.**  
There were no questions or comments on parish matters
- 26.4. Minutes of the Parish Council meeting** held on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2017 to be agreed and signed as a true record.
- 26.5.** Matters arising from the minutes. None.
- 26.6. Financial matters** Councillors had been circulated documents following a meeting of a work party that considered the accounts and budget for 2018/19.
- 26.6.1.** To consider the financial review for the rest of 2017/18.  
The Chair said the £500 from the contingency for the Christmas meal should be removed as she had received a promise of a grant from Cllr McAndrew. The £5,000 promised for the Millennium Wood should remain in the budget. Cllr Hoodless said he was waiting to hear from Gascoyn Cecil Estates as to whether their budget would pay for work on dangerous trees. He would inform councillors when he had a decision. Cllr Wardrop asked that organisations not receiving donations be removed from the document. The Chair proposed that the review be accepted. Agreed.
- 26.6.2.** To consider the budget for 2018/19. The Chair reported an email from Cllr Tooke - *At the budget meeting on 26th November spending in 2018/2019 was agreed while the emphasis has to remain on keeping costs down where possible to avoid running into deficit in future years and to use grants much more efficiently to address the deficit issue.* The Chair proposed the budget be accepted. Agreed.
- 26.6.3.** To agree the precept for 2018/19 and sign the precept request form. The Chair proposed the Council set the precept for 2018/19 at £13,540. Agreed. The precept form from EHC was signed.
- 26.7. Strategic matters**
- 26.7.1.** Neighbourhood Plan. Cllr Wright said ACOM's report on possible building sites had yet to be confirmed. The steering group had met the owners of the six sites named as possible in the draft report. He noted a late site – the owner of

Action  
TH

the Millennium Wood wanted to build on a site near the Grove at Bury Green. Cllr Wright said the Plan did not have to recommend development sites but not to do so would leave the parish open to homes being imposed if EHC could not show a five year supply of sites. Only a three year supply would be needed if the Plan included sites. There was the potential of doing a deal such as developing a new Village Hall in return for allowing building. Cllr Wright said there would be public consultation on the sites at a meeting in the Village Hall. The seven sites under consideration were: SW of Appleby, Cradle End; S of Ashmeads, opposite the war memorial, The Ford; the former GlaxoSmithKline site at Bury Green; The Grove, Bury Green; N of Stanmede, Albury Road; Ashcroft Farm, the Ash.

Cllr Wright said the steering group planned to discuss the sites with EHC planners and with the Plan's consultant. He expected the Plan to be completed in about a year.

## **26.8. Highways**

**26.8.1.** Consultation with residents on traffic matters including: traffic calming measures, the Drive Safe Scheme and parking near the village pump. The Chair said the approved speed checking sites for the Drive Safe scheme were near the Smithy, A120 outside the school when the school was closed and at Bury Green. She said that she was one of the named leads and proposed that the scheme go ahead. Agreed. The Chair said she would talk to Much Hadham and Standon and Puckeridge parish councils to consider monitoring each other's roads so as not to embarrass local residents.

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**26.8.2.** Flashing speed warning lights. Cllr Hoodless said he had circulated possible sources of funding though the lack of street lights meant a lack of a power source. The Chair thought the signs quickly lost their effectiveness.

**26.8.3.** Outstanding road repairs including potholes. Cllr Pearson said she had no new information.

**26.8.4.** Bypass. The Chair read a report from the HCC bypass team [appendix 1]

## **26.9. Environment affairs**

**26.9.1.** Condition of footpaths. Cllr Hoodless said that broken stiles had been replaced by kissing gates on footpaths 10 and 14. HCC were to deal with a very slippery footbridge opposite the Nag's Head.

**26.9.2.** Inspection of trees for which the Council is responsible. Cllr Hoodless referred to what he had said earlier.

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**26.9.3.** Damage to the Cradle End bus shelter. Cllr Hoodless said he had a quote for £520. The Chair said she would obtain another quote. Cllr Wilkinson asked that a window be cut in the side of the shelter so that the approaching bus could be seen. Cllr Hoodless said the vegetation around the shelter needed to be cut back. It was agreed that the Clerk would ask Mr Joel Hammond.

Action  
ELW

Action  
Clerk

**26.9.4.** Damage to the war memorial wall. The Chair asked the Council to accept the quote for £490 from Mr Mick Foskett. Agreed.

**26.9.5.** Noise from aircraft using Stansted Airport. Cllr Wright said he had yet to send the report to SSE for consideration.

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- 26.10. Groups and Amenities** Cllr Wright said more participation was needed. He would encourage residents at the Neighbourhood Plan meeting.
- 26.11. Community**
- 26.11.1.** Antisocial behaviour in the Parish following the meeting of a number of residents. The Chair said the behaviour seemed to have dropped off recently. She said she had spoken to man from 1<sup>st</sup> Café in Stortford. This had been set up by the church and supported by the Town Council. He had offered to visit the parish and chat to residents. He thought a youth club would likely lead to damage to the Village Hall. I might be possible to set up a multi-use games area – possibly something for the Neighbourhood Plan to consider.
- 26.11.2.** Replacing/repairs playground gates including use of Tesco grant. The Chair said that Cllr Tooke hoped to talk to the resident about replacing all the playground gates. Cllr Hoodless said there was a time limit on using the grant. Action  
GT
- 26.11.3.** To consider a quotation for repairs to the bench and table in the Village Hall. Playground. The Chair said she was waiting for a second quote. Cllr Wardrop agreed to investigate the possibility of obtaining some picnic tables being disposed of by the Catherine Wheel public house Action  
NW
- 26.11.4.** Extra football posts for the Village Hall playground. The Chair said Sargies had quoted £102 for fixing the posts and refixing the playground notice. She proposed the quote be accepted. Agreed. The Chair said that she would investigate the possibility of some village boys helping with the installation. Action  
ELW
- 26.11.5.** Allotments. Cllr Wilkinson said there was nothing to report.
- 26.12. Consultation and Public Relations**
- 26.12.1.** Council website. Cllr Wardrop said the work was ongoing. Action  
NW
- 26.13. Security matters**
- 26.13.1.** Cllr Hoodless said this had been covered in Sgt Wallace’s presentation. The Chair said she would consult Sgt Wallace about the best location for some police advice signs concerning rural crime. Action  
ELW
- 26.14. Flooding.** Cllr Pearson had reported no issues in November.
- 26.15. Parish Council matters.**
- 26.16. Chair’s report.**
- 26.16.1.** The Chair said there were two applications for the post of litter picker. Interviews would have to be arranged. She proposed that the Clerk purchase three litter pickers for use by residents. Agreed. Action  
Clerk
- 26.16.2.** Christmas meal. The Chair said the Village Hall was not available. She hoped the money from Cllr McAndrew’s locality budget could be carried forward for a dinner – possibly at easter.
- 26.16.3.** Future plans for the Village Hall. Cllr Pearson said the AGM in November had agreed to meet in January to elect three new trustees. The trustees are responsible for the hall and the post carries some legal risk. As the hall is private land, the police can only enter if a trustee is there first. He said the hall was in poor condition. Patching up would cost £100,000 – money that was not available.

**26.17. Clerk's Report****26.17.1. Financial statement**

**Period ending 5<sup>th</sup> December 2017**

<b>Unity Trust Bank</b>		£30,845.30
Petty cash		£43.37
	<b>Total</b>	<b>£30,888.67</b>
<b>Included above</b>		
<b>To be agreed</b>		
<b>To Pay</b>		
Staff Salaries	November	£401.82
Staff Salaries	December	£401.62
Clerk's expenses	November and December	£30.40
Mr J Hammond	Bulbs and plants	£60.00
HAPTC	Councillor training	£40.00
HM Revenue & Customs	PAYE Oct to Dec	£248.80
Herts CC	Kissing gates FP 10 &14	£1,000.00
	<b>Total payments</b>	<b>£2,182.64</b>

**Total in all accounts and petty cash after payment of this month's bills £28,706.03**

**26.17.2.** Proposed to accept payment of accounts. Agreed

**26.17.3.** Proposed to accept the accuracy of the financial statement. Agreed.  
Cllr Hoodless said that there were a number of grants that the Council could apply for. The Chair said that she planned to make councillors responsible for applying for grants for their particular area of responsibility rather than making one councillor responsible for all grant applications.

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**26.18. Planning matters.** The transactions of the Planning Committee were noted.

**26.19. Date of next ordinary Council meeting – Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2018.**

**26.20. The Chair closed the meeting to the Public and the Press at 9:47 p.m.**

**Appendix 1 Latest HCC report on the bypass**

Thank you for your call earlier today outlining that you have a Little Hadham Parish Council meeting tonight. Please find below an update, which I trust is adequate.

In August 2017 Hertfordshire County Council published a Compulsory Purchase Order and Side Roads Order for the land required to build the bypass, and any alterations needed to surrounding roads. This coincided with the Environment Agency's publication of a Compulsory Purchase Order for land required for the flood alleviation scheme.

Following statutory objection periods, HCC and the Environment Agency have reviewed any responses received and are now in discussions with the Department for Transport (DfT) and the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (Defra) regarding the next steps. DfT and Defra have outlined that, unless all statutory objections are withdrawn, Public Local Inquiries will be held. Discussions with landowners are ongoing, and both the Council and Environment Agency are confident that a number of matters raised as points of objection can be addressed. A number of objections have already been withdrawn.

A Public Inquiry, should one be held, would likely happen after Easter 2018 however dates are not yet confirmed. An inspector will be appointed to hold local Public Inquiries.

Following a Public Inquiry, the inspector prepares a report and submits it to the relevant Secretary of State, who will then determine if the Orders are to be confirmed. The Council and the Environment Agency would coordinate arrangements for an Inquiry.

Subject to the outcome of the legal process for the CPOs and SRO, the construction of the scheme is expected to start in 2019 and complete in 2021. Some early works are planned to take place throughout 2018, including early environmental mitigation and utility diversion works, subject to appropriate agreements being in place.

If you have any queries or need further information, please do not hesitate to contact me. Otherwise I wish you a safe and peaceful Christmas period.

Kind Regards

Helen McCormick MEng (Hons)

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