

Little Hadham Parish Council

Minutes of the 28th meeting of the **Little Hadham Parish Council** (2015 – 2019 Session) held on Tuesday 6th February 2018 at 8:48 p.m. in the Village Hall, Little Hadham.

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

Mr B Evans – Clerk, and 12 members of the public.

28.1. Absent. Cllr Pearson [family matter].

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

28.3. Democratic ten minutes.

A resident said that Council reports, blaming road flooding on runoff from farmers' fields, was unfair to land owners. He thought the real problem was due to the property owners, between the road and the river, not clearing their ditch to allow water to drain quickly enough to the river. The Chair said the reports were not intended to place any blame on the farmers but were to differentiate water from the fields from that from the overflowing river.

A resident said that he had given up his allotment plot since when fruit trees had been planted on it contrary to the allotment rules.

28.4. Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 5th December 2017 to be agreed and signed as a true record.

28.5. Matters arising from the minutes. None.

28.6. Strategic matters

28.6.1. Neighbourhood Plan. Cllr Wright said the report on the character of the parish was nearing completion. Cllr Wright said AECOM's report on possible building sites had been confirmed. A public meeting in the Village Hall was planned at which owners of the sites would explain their plans and seek the views of residents. Members of the steering committee had met the EHC Neighbourhood Planning Officer. He had said that the council had identified 6.2 years of future housing, however, the Annual Monitoring Report was apparently unavailable and the calculations were unclear suggesting the number might be unreliable. The revised Local Plan, which was open for consultation, proposed that only category 1 villages would have the assigned housing. The 6.2 year housing might make the GSK site development less likely though the steering group planned to have informal talks with the developers. There was a question about whether possible parish development sites should be included in the report although Neighbourhood Plans with allocated sites would carry more weight with the planning office. Cllr Wright said he was fairly certain that allocating sites would bring advantages to the community such as help towards improving community facilities. He thought the success of the plan needed more involvement from the community. Cllr Hoodless thought that it should be made clear that the Neighbourhood Plan was not yet official.

28.7. Highways

- 28.7.1.** Drive Safe scheme. The Chair said the completed forms had been returned and the volunteers were being DBS checked. The leading members would have an induction course. Action
ELW
- 28.7.2.** Flashing speed warning lights. Cllr Hoodless said cost and the lack of a suitable power supply made the lights impactable. He proposed that the matter not be pursued. Agreed.
- 28.7.3.** Outstanding road repairs including potholes. The Chair read a report from Cllr Pearson: *Various gullies on the C15 are full of silt and have been reported to Highways for clearance. Gate to road drains into River Ash at A120 traffic lights has a missing bolt and swinging free allowing children access to the river and drain. EA say it is owned by Highways. Reported to Highways who have secured it. Fence rail A120 outside Spindle Hill damaged during the snow on 10th Dec by an HGV towed away by Lanterns recovery. Highways have been asked to make the repair and replied that they have inspected, consider it to be safe and have added it to the 18mth rolling programme.*
- 28.7.4.** Bypass. The Chair said the public enquiry into objections to the compulsory purchase orders and the realignment of public rights of way was planned for 17th to 20th July 2018. The bypass was planned to open in 2021.

28.8. Environment affairs

- 28.8.1.** Condition of footpaths. Cllr Hoodless said that all paths were very muddy. He noted that the Council could apply for P3 grants and he would speak to Mr Maddex about possible projects. Action
TH
- 28.8.2.** Inspection of trees for which the Council is responsible. Cllr Hoodless said he was waiting to hear from Gascoyne Cecil Estates. Action
TH
- 28.8.3.** Damage to the Cradle End bus shelter. Cllr Hoodless said he had spoken to Connect Scaffolding who had agreed to take responsibility for the repair as community project.
- 28.8.4.** Damage to the war memorial wall. The Chair asked the Clerk to talk to Mr Foskett about when he would be able to complete the work. Action
Clerk
- 28.8.5.** Noise from aircraft using Stansted Airport. Cllr Wright said he was waiting for SSE to comment on the recent noise survey in the parish. He said that there had been few reports from Little Hadham residents about noisy or low flying aircraft. He said he would speak to Cllr Pearson about encouraging more reports in the Parish News. Action
WW

28.9. Groups and Amenities

- 28.9.1.** The Chair said that the Mothers and Toddlers group, that had planned to close, had found a new leader and so would be able to continue.
- 28.9.2.** The Chair said that Mrs Jan Williamson and her husband Geoff had been elected Chair and Vice Chair of the Village Hall Committee. The Hall was in urgent need of expensive refurbishment or replacement. Cllr Wardrop said it was unclear who the new trustees of the charitable trust might be. A new booking clerk would soon be appointed.

28.10. Community

28.10.1. Playgrounds. Cllr Tooke said the playgrounds were in generally good condition though the Ridgeway litter bin needed replacement. It was agreed the Clerk would obtain a quotation. Action Clerk

28.10.2. 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. Action GT

28.10.3. Allotments. Cllr Wilkinson said trees had been planted on an unused plot which was looking neat and tidy. She said she would check if this complied with the rules. It was agreed to add this item to the agenda for the next meeting. Action MW

28.11. Consultation and Public Relations**28.12. Security matters**

28.12.1. The Chair said there had been a number of pickpocket incidents in Bishop's Stortford. She said she would put a warning in the Parish News. Action ELW

28.13. Flooding. The Chair read a report from Cllr Pearson. [Appendix 1]. Cllr Wardrop said that a number of gullies on the A120 were blocked.

28.14. Parish Council matters.**28.15. Chair's report.**

28.15.1. The Chair said two young brothers had been appointed to serve two hours a week each. They would start work on the following Sunday.

28.15.2. Easter meal. The Chair said the Council had received £500 from Cllr McAndrew's locality budget. The lunch would be on Saturday 31st March and would be organised by Chris and Gillian Bhatt.

28.15.3. The Chair said the Parish Assembly would be at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday 19th March in the Village Hall.

28.16. Clerk's Report**28.16.1. Financial statement****Period ending 5th February 2018**

Unity Trust Bank	£28,969.06
Petty cash	£15.49
Total	£28,984.55

Included above**Received**

Herts CC	Easter senior residents lunch	£500.00
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Paid

Unity Trust Bank	Service charge Oct to Dec	£18.00
Community Heartbeat Trust	Replacement pads	£75.60
Soc. Local Council Clerks	Annual subscription	£100.00

To be agreed**Received**

Home Farm	Rent for Westland Green	£300.00
Eastern Power Networks	Easement	£41.58

To Pay

Staff Salaries	January	£531.62
Clerk's expenses	January	£13.40
Little Hadham Village Hall	Hire Hall for Council meetings	£75.00
	Oct-Dec	
	Disposal of rubbish	£58.50
Sargies	Fix goal posts and sign in Village Hall playground	£102.00
Mrs Wendy Woodgate	Bedding flower plants	£26.69
	Total payments	£807.21

Total in all accounts and petty cash after payment of this month's bills £28,518.92

- 28.16.2.** Proposed to accept payment of accounts. Agreed
- 28.16.3.** Proposed to accept the accuracy of the financial statement. Agreed.
- 28.17.** **Planning matters.** The transactions of the Planning Committee were noted.
- 28.18.** **Date of next ordinary Council meeting – Tuesday 6th March 2018.**
- 28.19.** **The Chair closed the meeting to the Public and the Press at 10:05 p.m.**

Appendix 1 Report from Cllr Pearson on flooding issues.

A Yellow warning of rain on 13th Dec resulted in significant water runoff from fields that blocked the C15 from the Village Hall to Ford End even though the River Ash was empty. This is the scenario often seen that the proposed flood alleviation scheme will not be able to resolve in the same way that they are doing for the Lloyd Taylor Drain, due to lack of funding. The drains, the pipes under the road, and the additional silt trap fitted into the footpath are blocked with silt.

Further yellow warning of rain on Boxing Day and also a flood alert for the River Ash. The C15 from the Village Hall to Ford End has been blocked by floodwater from water runoff on 10 occasions since 13th Dec resulting in inconsiderate and dangerous driving by motorists, soaking of pedestrians who are unable to safely use the footpath, nor able to walk on the opposite side of the road due to the blocked drain outside Pathway Cottages spraying water in a jet across the road.

Dec 27, 30,31. Jan 4,5,15,21,24.

The water runoff flood of 21 Dec reached the doors of homes and completely blocked the whole of the C15 and the entrance to Ridgeway preventing people getting home.

To date highways have been made aware of the problem on each flood occasion, including Herts County Councillor and EHDC Drainage Officer however highways keep updating that no action is necessary, and the Drainage Officer is off sick until further notice with no other staff from EHDC picking up the work.

On 24th Jan Highways attended on the request of the County Councillor and saw the problems and tested the drains for silt and established that they were full and not draining well. They saw how the land drain from the Old Post Office side was by passing the ditch and exiting in the road by Pathway Cottages thus adding to the problem. However, they say

they have no money in this year's budget and are hoping to do a clearance of the silt in April and the disruption will continue until at least then. This date is still subject to confirmation. The Bury Green reoccurring flooding by the pond has now seemingly been solved by the ditch leading to the pond/ stream being re dug.

There is a new standing water problem now by Bushes Croft and Oak lodge (between Bury Green and Cradle end on the corner). Highways to be notified by the resident affected at the next time it floods and send a photo to their website so they can make an assessment.

Of interest is the water leak outside the school that has been running down the road since last year. Apparently, affinity water and highways have looked and said it is caused by water runoff from the fields having found an exit point by the front of the school as it is no longer draining across the field at the back. Once it is resolved it may be that the run off is pushed back to the field at the back of the school. Should the planner that decided flood runoff is an acceptable risk be asked to have another look.