



Little Hadham Parish Council

Minutes of the 2nd meeting of **Little Hadham Parish Council** (2019 – 2023 Session) held on Tuesday 4th June 2019 at 8.00 in the Village Hall, Little Hadham.

Present: Cllr L Lloyd-Williams - Chair
Cllr M Wilkinson
Cllr M Attwell
Cllr R Mardell

Also: Clerk Ms C Page, Cllr Williamson and 8 members of the public

1. To receive and accept apologies for absence. Cllr Tony Hoodless has a family commitment. The councillors accepted and received them.
2. To co-opt new councillor. Richard Mardell has put himself forward to become a councillor. Cllr Lloyd-Williams proposed him and Cllr Attwell seconded the proposal. All agreed.
3. Declaration of interest and dispensations – to receive Declaration of Interest from councillors on items on the agenda. No declarations received.
4. Approval of minutes held on May 14th, 2019. Minutes agreed and signed as a true copy. Minutes were accepted as accurate
5. Matters arising from the minutes - None
6. Reports from members representing the Parish Council on Outside organisations and attending meetings on behalf of the Council
 - a. Update from Cllr Williamson. The district and parish elections were held on 2nd May. The political make-up of East Herts Council has now changed, with 40 Conservative, 6 Liberal Democrat, 2 Labour and 2 Green candidates making up the Membership (the Labour and Green Members have formed one political group within the Council). We now have this new Administration for the next four years, but our intention is to continue to develop the projects and policies which we started during the last four years.

We have also had a change of Chief Executive Officer (the most senior officer within the council) - Liz Watts who attended the Parish Meeting last month has now left us and our new CEO Richard Cassidy started yesterday (3rd June). Richard was previously a director at Fenland District Council.

Regarding the traveller's site in Westland Green, as many residents are now aware, we have a date when our application to the courts following the breach of the injunction is being heard at the Royal Courts of Justice in The Strand next Monday (10th June). Meanwhile the planning application process continues as this is an entirely separate process. I do not yet have a date when the application will be considered by the Development Management Committee.

- b. Highways – Cllr Attwell. Nothing to report
- c. Bypass – Chair - Project update – See Appendix 1. Contract hold info drop in event on 13th June with a second date to be arranged. Local residents will be advised by letter
- d. Police Liaison – PCSO De Bruyn. Nothing to report. Have the police liaison meeting on the 18th June, to which Cllr Richard Mardell will be invited.
- e. Village Hall – Jan Williamson. Not a huge amount has happened. Post office broken into and has taken £220 to repair the damage. Talking about CCTV for the VH and had a quote £550 installation, Mike has liaised with the CCTV company and the police. Parish Council to link in with a CCTV for the VH for the playing field. Cinema launch on Saturday, great attendance. 50 people joined and people still ringing up for forms. Filling in grant forms to get the equipment. CCTV- Mike Smith commented the Police were not impressed with the security of the Village Hall – some windows open and some don't have locks. Suggested reducing the height of the hedge – a good security measure. Outside CCTV on the back door and the front door would be ideal positions. 2 cameras with lights mounted together and adjust the detection zone, have a warning from the system to mobile phones and facility to question the person what they are doing. Can be accessed by more than one person. Suggestion from Mike to playground. Cut the hedge back for safety,

maybe castellated hedge. Mike impressed by the lights at Much Hadham. **Action Cllr Attwell to get more information about the cameras.** Cllr Lloyd-Williams suggested lowering the hedge, Cllr Attwell wondered if it would make a difference. Cllr Wilkinson asked if emails could be sent out to remind people. Jan said sending out emails would be possible All notifications for the hall are in the VH entrance noticeboard. Social Prescribing is now set up across the four villages. 27 people at the last coffee morning. Westland Green residents attended. Katherine Foy is up for an award for social prescribing. Meal around Easter and Christmas this year - we will struggle to fund as our meal won't qualify anymore. Liz was advised last year that reminiscent events are more likely to receiving funding. i.e. History society. **Action: Clerk to ask Chris Bhatt if he would continue to host.**

- f. Footpaths – Cllr Hoodless – No report. Liz spoken with Nicholas Maddex, the way they run footpaths is that someone in the parish keeps an overall view and report any problems. Nicholas is happy with that as a concept, but would like one person to take forward, as Little Hadham do not have that person. Mary offered to monitor Westland green. **Action: Cllr Lloyd-Williams to ask U3A walking groups to see if we can find someone through those routes.**
 - g. Stansted Airport – Chair – (See Appendix 2) Update from Stop Stansted expansion group. Supporters of Stop Stansted Expansion and pay an amount to help them. Fully 2 years (Liz to provide report for inclusion). We still have Nigel Pay who sits on a committee for us on any matters concerning us.
 - h.
7. Neighbourhood Plan – Chair – Summarised to councillors today. Cllr Williamson and Cllr Lloyd-Williams spoke to George Pavey about our extensive character assessment. Asked can we use that document as it stands to have any bearing on planning applications for little Hadham. The response was 'No', giving the reasons: The character assessment has not been through any type of ratification process such as a referendum which would be part of the neighbourhood plan process; The document would as such carry no weight; The document might not be agreed with by other departments such as the conservation office, and without official weight that would pose problems (he did suggest that it could be lodged with them as they might be interested in it, but again said there would be no legislation that suggested they needed to refer to it (or agree with it). He suggested if we wanted to continue with the Neighbourhood plan route, we could reconsider what we thought the plan should look like. For example, he suggested a one policy document would be very viable and could concentrate on something such as "landscape and conservation". It would not need to list any housing sites but would still give a guide to the type of development we wished to see. He thinks there is precedent of this but couldn't remember for where. He said something about updated ways to review plans which I'll have to revisit. He also suggested it could inform new SPD or conservation doc, but I don't think we have one of those due for some considerable time.

Action: Cllr Lloyd-Williams to share consultant discussions with Cllr Attwell. We need to re-visit the Neighbourhood Plan and seek support to take it forward to see if there is any appetite in the village for this. **Action: Cllr Lloyd-Williams to invite the Neighbourhood Plan group to a meeting.** Also, are we eligible for anymore grants?

8. Village Infrastructure

- a. 'Drive Safe' Update – Chair – Starting to try to run more sessions. Volunteers are a problem. Only do a roadside observation if we have a lead, only two at the moment. Plus 3 people minimum and 5 max. Less than 5 on the A120 we can't get the information. Cllr Attwell is willing to join as a Lead and agreed to his details being passed to the police as part of this process. Cllr |Lloyd Williams will get the paperwork done. Next session is on Monday 10th. Drive Safe Scheme. Less volunteers available this year so really could do with some more support
- b. Environmental affairs – Cllr Hoodless. No report
- c. Playing fields and young people's needs – Chair. |Link with the Village Hall regarding the CCTV.
- d. Flood prevention project C15 - progress update – Chair. Nothing new from Graham Pearson.
- e. Allotments – Cllr Wilkinson. Cllr Attwell questioned the cost of the flowers for the planters and memorial and suggested we cap an amount for flowers. **Action: Clerk to get costings from Joel.** Joel Hammond has requested a salary increase of an extra £30 a month for additional work. Cllr Lloyd-Williams proposed and supported Joel's suggestion of £30 a month salary increase, Cllr Williamson seconded. All Councillors in favour.

Memorial – has been battered again, the corners taken out. A suggestion of obtaining some pudding stones. Action: Cllr Attwell to speak to the contractors about any pudding stones that they dig up on the bypass can be used on the corners of the memorial. Cllr Wilkinson said it was a good idea.

- f. Community – Cllr Hoodless – No report
 - g. Consultations and Public Relations – Chair – no update
 - h. Village Gates – Cllr Wilkinson. The village gates were discussed as needing attention, at both ends by the Village Hall and also at South Cottages. The fencing is falling down and needs attention, Cllr Lloyd Williams suggests painting them white. Action: clerk to get costings for their repair. **Action: Sign in New Road needs cutting back, just coming into the village.** Cllr Lloyd-Williams suggests we get the list of all signs in the village and their current condition updated (Cllr Lloyd-Williams has an out of date list). Add to agenda for next month. Liz has a listing of all signs. Cllr Attwell suggested we have a ‘Sign Corner’ on the website to request the information on the signs that need attention.
9. Security – Cllr Hoodless – no report. Consultation and Public Relations – Clerk – Put dates of meetings in the Parish news, i.e. New Councillors:
10. Chair’s Report – Cllr Lloyd-Williams welcomed Cllr Richard Mardell to the council. Very pleased to have you on board. The council still need of 2 – 3 new councillors. The number of Councillors is determined by the number of people within the parish. Our Council needs 7 Councillors. I am remaining in post for as long as possible, but still expect to step down over the summer leaving 4 Councillors in post – and three vacancies to fill.

Meetings first Tuesday of the month (no meeting January or August)

Parish Meeting (previously Assembly) – Again a very well attended event. Thank you for everyone who got involved helping organise and set up the event on the day. It’s always a great opportunity for the community to get together and find out what is happening in the community. Unfortunately, we had to hold Council meetings either side of the Meeting this year so we didn’t get as much chance to mingle as we would have liked.

13th June – Bypass session (12noon – 9pm)

We are planning evening’s in the Village Hall to provide an opportunity for people to talk to the Councillors about what it means to be a Councillor in the community. **Action: Clerk to put an article in the Parish Newsletter.** Cllr Attwell to lead on this. Cllr Mardell suggested he would drop into coffee mornings and the Thursday lunch

11. Clerk’s Report
- a. To agree to payment of accounts. Agreed
 - b. To accept the accuracy of the financial statement. Accepted
 - c. As the Parish Council have been offered an exemption from an external audit this year, due to being under the £25,000 income and expenditure limit. The clerk suggested we have a by-annual audit. Cllr Lloyd-Williams proposed this, and Cllr Attwell seconded. All Councillors agreed.
 - d. The fee for the hall for the Easter meal was not paid by the grant. **Action: clerk to find out if the PC contribute to the meal by paying the bill. Action: Cllr Wilkinson to look at grants for the next Easter dinner.**
12. Planning matters. To receive the report from the Planning Committee
13. Correspondence
14. Date of next Council meeting – Tuesday, 2nd July 2019

To close the meeting at 21.28

The Department for Transport has now formally confirmed it is providing up to £27.4m of funding towards the A120 Little Hadham Bypass and Flood Alleviation Scheme. Hertfordshire County Council (HCC) has worked in partnership with the Environment Agency to develop the scheme. Advance works have been taking place in recent weeks including the diversion of utility services and ecological works. The main works are expected to start in late June and be completed and open in autumn 2020. This government funding was secured through Hertfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership's strategic economic plan and forms part of a wider funding package with the County Council and Environment Agency.

The new 3.9km bypass, to the north of Little Hadham, will alleviate congestion from The Ash traffic lights and provide more reliable journey times. As part of the scheme, new road embankments along the River Ash and Albury Tributary

Communication HCC & contractor GRAHAM is planning to hold a public information drop in event in the Little Hadham Parish Hall before work starts on site. The drop-in event will take place on 13th June between 12 noon to 9pm and will give the local community and users of the A120 an opportunity to talk to the project team and find out more about the works. A second date is also being arranged but is yet to be confirmed. Local residents will also be advised of the exhibition dates by letter. Getting ready for construction.

Graham Pearson is preparing various documents needed prior to starting work, including their Construction Health & Safety Plan; Quality Plan; Environmental Management Plan and Communications Plan. New hedgerows have been planted for bat foraging and existing hedgerows have been removed to prevent birds nesting in locations where works are due to happen. Other ecology works include relocating Great Crested newts, Roman snails, badgers and other protected fauna. We are creating new habitats for these creatures to thrive in the surrounding area.

Utility diversion works are expected to be completed prior to the start of construction. At the River Ash, UK Power Networks (UKPN) has taken down its overhead power lines and laid them underground, to lie below the bypass. There are various utility services in the vicinity of the planned Hadham Park roundabout that are expected to be diverted in the coming weeks. There may be some disruption on the A120 during these diversion works. Please look on <https://roadworks.org/> for up to date information about any road closures or expected disruption.

More information can be found on the project's website: www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/a120bypass. If you have any questions you can contact the project team at: a120bypass@hertfordshire.gov.uk

Appendix 2 - Stansted Airport Planning Application

By the time you receive this letter it will have been **fully two years** since Manchester Airport Group ('MAG') **first submitted proposals** to Uttlesford District Council ('UDC') **to expand Stansted beyond its currently permitted throughput of 35 million passengers per annum** ('mppa'). MAG stated at that time that it expected to secure planning approval within 'three to four' months. The position today – two years on – is that MAG has **still not secured approval**.

You will recall that in November 2018 the UDC Planning Committee divided evenly (five v. five) on a resolution to approve the airport planning application for 43mppa. The end result was that conditional approval was granted on the basis of the Chairman's casting vote. However, the conditions attached to that approval **have still not been met** – despite protestations from MAG and UDC officers to the contrary.

Meanwhile, there has been a **dramatic change in the political landscape at UDC**. The previous administration, which had enthusiastically supported MAG's expansion plans, was ousted at the local

elections on 2nd May and was replaced by the Residents Party who we expect will take a more balanced approach. Significantly, the five members of the Planning Committee who voted in favour of the airport planning application last November are no longer councillors, whereas the five who voted against were all re-elected and all now sit on the new Planning Committee.

There is considerable controversy within UDC – mainly between the Council's officers and the elected members – as to what should happen next. This largely revolves around two issues:

1) Whether the proposed Section 106 agreement (i.e. the mitigation commitments and community benefits which MAG is willing to provide in return for planning approval) satisfies all the conditions laid down in the November 2018 Planning Committee resolution.

2) Whether, since November 2018, there have been new material considerations or changes in circumstances of sufficient weight to tip the balance in relation to the original decision.

It is abundantly clear from any proper examination of the above two issues that: (1) the proposed S.106 agreement falls far short of what was specified and expected by the November Planning Committee resolution; and (2) a number of material developments have either occurred or emerged since last November which have a direct and significant bearing on the planning balance, including:

- **Misapprehensions:** It has emerged that the Chairman of the Planning Committee and at least one other Planning Committee member, both of whom voted in favour of approval in November 2018, had not realised that approving the application would result in between 25,000 and 47,000 additional flights per annum, compared to maintaining a 35mppa cap.
- **New WHO Guidelines:** The majority of the Planning Committee were totally unaware that updated WHO Noise Guidelines were published in October 2018, setting significantly lower thresholds for the avoidance of adverse health impacts from aircraft noise. Inexplicably, UDC officers failed even to alert the Planning Committee to the new WHO Guidelines.
- **Green Paper:** The determination of the Planning Application on 14 November 2018 was followed, five weeks later (17 December), by the publication of "Aviation 2050: The future of UK aviation" setting out a number of proposed new Government policies for tackling the adverse environmental impacts of aviation.
- **Boeing 737 Max-8:** The assessments of the noise and air quality impacts for the 43mppa Planning Application assumed that Ryanair (which accounts for 80% of Stansted's passengers) would replace the majority of its present fleet with "cleaner and quieter" Boeing 737 Max-8 aircraft by 2028. In the light of the ongoing problems with Boeing 737 Max-8, that assumption is now untenable.
- **Heathrow third runway ('HR3'):** Despite the Government's expectation that HR3 would be open by 2026, and repeated assurances from Heathrow Airport Ltd that it would meet that timetable, MAG assumed that HR3 would not open until 2030. Legal obstacles were cited by MAG as its main reason for projecting that later opening date and UDC officers accepted MAG's assumption. However, Heathrow Airport has now

overcome all five of the legal challenges it was facing and has reaffirmed its commitment to a 2026 opening for HR3.

• **Climate Change Committee ('CCC')**: The CCC published a landmark report on 2 May 2019 recommending that the UK should amend its legislation to commit to net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. This will require a major review of current Government policy on aviation carbon emissions and a coordinated approach to manage these nationally rather than allowing decisions about airport expansion to be taken by local planning authorities.

Logically, the correct approach now is for the application to be referred back to the (new) Planning Committee, which is the appropriate body to consider the above matters. The Planning Committee would be able to invite representations from MAG, SSE and others before making its decision.

The above matters are due to be discussed at an Extraordinary Council Meeting on Friday 28th June at the UDC Offices, Saffron Walden, starting 4.00pm, which is open to the public.

Legal update

SSE's two legal challenges continue to progress slowly but surely in the High Court. A 'Directions Hearing' is scheduled for 6th June where, hopefully, the Judge will agree to combine the two cases (one against Transport Secretary Chris Grayling and the other against Communities Secretary James Brokenshire) and set a date for a full hearing – which will probably require three days.

The earliest dates for a High Court hearing will be in September. There will however be no need for a hearing if the UDC Planning Committee, after reviewing the proposed S.106 Agreement and the new material considerations, decides that the balance has shifted and now supports a refusal decision rather than an approval decision. It is highly likely that MAG would appeal against a decision to refuse its application, in which case the Secretary of State would appoint a Planning Inspector to chair a Public Inquiry to consider the application and make recommendations.

SSE has argued from the outset that this airport planning application was too large and complex to be properly considered at local level by UDC. We would therefore unreservedly welcome the establishment of a Public Inquiry where we would be able to present our evidence and to cross-examine MAG on the dubious assertions and projections it has used in seeking to claim that its expansion proposals for Stansted Airport would have no significant environmental impacts.

Reminder – AGM

The 2019 NWEPPHA AGM (incorporating SSE) will be held on **Wednesday 5 June** at Takeley Silver Jubilee Hall, Brewers End, Takeley, CM22 6QJ at 8.00pm. All SSE members are welcome.

With many thanks for your ongoing support.

Peter Sanders
Chairman