



Little Hadham Parish Council

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Minutes of the **Little Hadham Parish Council** held in the Little Hadham Village Hall on Tuesday 7th October at 7:30 pm

Present: Cllr C Westlake (Acting Chair)

Cllr R Mardell

Cllr M Moore

Cllr M Wilkinson

Also: Clerk, 8 Members of the public, Cllr Pope, Cllr Williamson, Vice Chair of the Village Hall

25.10.01 **Receive and accept apologies for absence.** Cllr Kent has given her apologies

25.10.02 **Public Issues** - Members of the public and councillors can raise matters of concern.

- Highways update - Cllr Kent (See Appendix 1)
- Albury School closure. Decision by the County Council to close the school with the first stage being a consultation. See what arises from that and a decision will be made as to whether to close it. Cllr Pope encourages people to log on to the County Council website to record their views. Lack of numbers is the reason behind the closure. The numbers were 40, but once the news of the closure went out, the number reduced to low 20's.
- Boreholes to improve groundwater monitoring network. The Village Hall agree to the Environment Agency using the car park, but keeping the works as close to the fence to the playing field as possible. **Action: Clerk to response to the letter from the Env Agency. Done, meeting with the EA on the 11th February**
- A question was asked if anything has been done about speeding on the Albury Road, with a suggestion of pinch points or barriers to force traffic to slow down. **Action: Cllr Pope to bring up with Highways.** Another suggestion is to get the police involved to do a speeding trap. A speed camera is one possibility. The police are at the VH on the 3rd of December at 12.00.

25.10.03 **Declaration of Interest and dispensations** – To receive Declaration of Interest and dispensations from councillors on items on the agenda. None received.

25.10.04 **Approval of minutes** held on 4th November 2025 agreed and signed as a true record.

25.10.05 **Matters Arising from the minutes.**

25.10.06 **Planning applications** - considered by EHC (See Planning Report) – Cllr Wilkinson
Planning decisions - received from EHC (See Planning Report)

3/25/1714/FUL - Warners Hill site was bought three years ago as a Biodiversity net gain, which is for preserving places in their natural state to offset other developments. The applicant has put in a post to show where the new gateway will be. Proposed 8-12 vehicles a year for maintenance purposes. The site is half an acre. A question was asked how many mature trees are there. The representative for the application said about 20 in total with 8 being at the front, 12 at the back and only one tree is coming out. All branches at the front of the land will be trimmed right back. It was asked what guarantees there are that the land will not be developed for building houses. The agent responded he has had to make a pre-application to ask for an application and that permission is sought to gain access onto a public highway. The intention is to put a gateway in for maintenance. Cllr Mardell asked why if the other properties at the site had to be set back from the road, why this piece of land does not need to follow the same



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line of view. The question was asked if the plan was to build properties the same as Luxford Close. The agent responded No, They do not plan to build an 18-story tower block. A member of the public asked have you bought it for BNG use. The agent responded yes. There will be a tree survey, and remove all the trash, this will show the open areas and show the areas to be planted. The agent further said he has put in a woodlands management plan and a tree survey, and wants to improve the area and sell BNG points. Replanting obligation under Section 106. Cllr Wilkinson objects on the grounds of too much work to plant trees. Cllr Mardell objects on the access. Cllr Moore objects on the grounds of safety. Cllr Westlake abstains.

25.10.07

Reports to the Council - receive reports from representatives on outside bodies, local authorities, and agencies.

- **County Councillor Report** – Cllr Mark Pope – Meeting with officers on the 12th – plans for the A120 to include a 20mph zone by the school. Resurfacing of the road by the traffic lights. Bus shelter at the Nags Head in early 2026. Missing speed signs on the A120 have been ordered and will be replaced soon. Resurface the footpath by the school is in next year's budget. Parking along that stretch by the garage on the verge. It appears the County own the land. The vans are also parking on the Albury Road by the lights. Cllr Williamson and Cllr Pope to look into the legality of the planning permission. Paul Collins has the idea to run a pipe from the road along the fence to Squirrels by the VH directly into the River Ash. Cllr Pope to find out who owns the land.
- **District Councillor Report** – Cllr Geoff Williamson – reorganisation of local government. Meetings have been held and requests are in for 2., 3 and 4. Unilaterally all councillors would prefer things to be left as they are. In force May 2028. Decision is July 2027. No update on the councillors. No further comment to be made at this time.
- **Village Hall** – Vice Chair of Village Hall – Volunteers are working hard. Warm spaces will run till July 2026. 10 dec to 7th a break for Christmas. 40 guests for lunch tomorrow. Community breakfast is likely to be 72. Digital café can be run without a grant. There will be a choir entertaining at the breakfast. Events committee had 2 bingo evenings and one yesterday afternoon. Will continue with this. Going to replace the soffits around the main hall and hopefully be done in the new year.

Notice boards at the Smithy, A120 and Bury Green, can they be refurbished to allow for people to put posters on. Perhaps a board. Tree outside the village hall needs cutting back. Clerk confirmed that will be done before the Spring. A comment was made about the floor and asked if there was any way to minimise the marking of it.

25.10.08

Reports from the Parish Council – to receive reports from the Parish Councillors

- **Playground update** – Cllr Mardell
- **Police Report** – Cllr Mardell
- **Footpaths** – Cllr Hoodless – no report.
- **Community Orchard / Allotments** – 2 spare allotments. To go on the Facebook page and the Parish News with the allotments costing £18 per year. The bill for the water for the summer came to £38.00. Just two rents to come in.
- **Neighbourhood Plan – Cllr Moore** – draft vision is ready to share with the village

25.10.09

Finance – Clerks Report

1. To agree to payment of accounts. Payments agreed.
2. To receive and agree bank statements, bank reconciliation, and financial report. Received and agreed.

25.10.11

Correspondence / AOB

25.10.12

Date of Next Meeting: 3rd February 2026

25.10.13

Close of meeting – 20.50



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Appendix 1 - Highways

Ringway's Street Lighting Contracts Manager has confirmed that the street lighting assets on Standon Road, reported under fault reporting reference 4901004481044, were fixed last Wednesday. This fault highlighted a discrepancy between the reference numbers marked on the street lighting assets and those recorded in the inventory.

Albury Road - The road closure on 20 – 24 October was implemented to repair a link box. HCC does not have forward visibility of emergency works, the decision to close the road would therefore have been made by UK Power Networks and its subcontractors. To make a complaint, please contact UKPower Networks using the following link: [Roadworks: delayed or over running works | UK Power Networks](#)
tel:0800 31 63 105

Bus Stop at the Smithy - Out of a total of 40 people consulted, 90% (36) support the proposal, 5% (2) oppose the proposal and 5% (2) are not sure. This is a suitable mandate for relocating the northbound bus stop from Hadham Ford Road to The Ford (west of The Smithy) and constructing a new section of footway to the relocated bus stop. To avoid the costly lowering of a telecommunications chamber, it is proposed to construct the new footway on a curved alignment rather than parallel to the edge of the carriageway (see attached sketch).

SID on the A120 - to be considered with Phase 3.

This forms part of the scope for phase 3. Paul has received a draft task order from Jacobs setting out the work they will be doing. What the cost will be. Paul raised some queries still awaiting the final version. Paul to chase. No design done yet, task order needs to be in place first.

Traffic light phasing on the A120 – East / West traffic is currently prioritised, but with Phase 3, North/South will be the priority. Proposed moving the traffic lights back towards the VH to make the access to and from the lights a single vehicle width. Also taking out the central islands at Albury Road and putting in pedestrian crossings on the A120 (West side) and Albury Road. This may make it less enticing for traffic to use the old A120 as a cut through. The road surface on the junction is in a poor state and needs repairing. It is now being considered for carriageway repair in 26/27. Timescales for phase 3 – awaiting proposal from Jacobs with costings. Design this financial year and implementation in the next year.

Crossroads on the Ford – this was raised at the PC meeting. The holes are deep enough to see the exposed sensor loop cables for the traffic lights. And has been reported via HCC's Highways fault reporting system. This was assigned the reference number 401004570858. Subsequently received an email informing that 'We have assessed the fault at this location, and it doesn't currently meet our criteria for repair.' It is understood from colleagues in the Asset Management team that this section of The Ash is one of a number of locations being considered for inclusion in the 2026/27 carriageway resurfacing programme.



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Appendix 2 – Planning Applications

PLANNING APPLICATIONS	PC DECISION
3/25/1715/HH - PROPOSAL: Provision of swimming pool and new outbuilding, replacing the existing tennis court at Hoop House Green Street Deadline: Please send your comments to EHC by: 4th December	No comments
3/25/1643/FUL - PROPOSAL: Change of use of land from agricultural to equestrian use. Erection of stable block comprising 6 stables, tack/kit room, feed room, hay/straw barn, and horse walker at Millfield Cottage Millfield Lane Bury Green Deadline: Please send your comments to EHC by: 11th December 2025	No comments
3/25/1714/FUL- PROPOSAL: Creation of access from Warners Hill for woodland management purposes only, with permeable track and turning area, gate, and retaining features (re-submission of 3/25/0814/FUL) at Woodland To The West Of Warners Hill, North Of Ash Valley Golf Club Deadline: Please send your comments to EHC by: 12th December 2025	Unanimous to object
3/25/1548/LBC - PROPOSAL: Central heating installation and hot water upgrade, principal plant including oil/HVO boiler, unvented cylinder, pumps and controls, insertion of a flue. Removal of current electric storage heaters and inclusion of radiators. Replacing the existing electric underfloor heating and removal of existing storage heaters. Insertion of secondary glazing at Millfield Cottage Millfield Lane Deadline: Please send your comments to EHC by: 16th December 2025	No comments
3/25/1770/FUL - PROPOSAL: Removal of existing disused garages, Retention of rear garage walls, installation of proprietary crash barrier in front of retained walls, resurfacing of entire cleared area, providing 14no car parking spaces at 14 No Garages The Smithy Deadline: Please send your comments to EHC c by: 17th December 2025	No comments
PLANNING DECISIONS	
3/25/1235/HH - PROPOSAL: Single storey side extension with changes to fenestration at 2 Old Dairy Green Street	Grant Planning Permission subject to Conditions
3/25/1152/FUL - PROPOSAL: Erection of 3-bedroom self-build dwellinghouse, formation of parking area, installation of entrance gates, fencing, EV charger, and air source heat pump. Conversion of stables to outbuilding. Associated landscaping and access Works at Land To Rear Of Ashford House The Ford	Grant Planning Permission subject to Conditions
PLANNING APPEALS	
Land Adjacent To The Mill House Albury Road LPA Appeal Reference: 25/00075/REFUSE The applicant has appealed to the Secretary of State against the Council's refusal of planning permission for:-Erection of two dwellings and associated development. This appeal is being dealt with by an exchange of written statements between the applicant and the Council and will be decided by an Inspector appointed by the Secretary of State. If you made any comments on the original application for planning permission (unless they were marked confidential), the Council will send them to the Planning Inspectorate and they will be taken into account by the Inspector who decides the appeal unless they are subsequently withdrawn. If you wish amend your comments or make any new ones, please contact the Planning Inspectorate quoting reference APP/J1915/W/25/3375773 by 25th December 2025	



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Appendix 3 – Police Report

*NO RECORDED CRIMES – Does not include reports for domestic incidents, child protection investigations, or sexual offences. Not all reported incidents end up being recorded as crimes and will therefore not appear on the report.

ALBURY No reported crimes	ANSTEY No reported crimes
BRENT PELHAM No reported crimes	DASSELS No reported crimes
EASTWICK & GILSTON 1 x criminal damage – hare coursing 1 x criminal damage – vehicle	FURNEUX PELHAM 1 x business burglary
GREAT HADHAM No reported crimes	GREEN TYE No reported crimes
HORMEAD No reported crimes	HUNSDON No reported crimes
LITTLE HADHAM No reported crimes	MUCH HADHAM No reported crimes
STOCKING PELHAM 1 x criminal damage	WARESIDE No reported crimes
WIDFORD No reported crimes	

Other news and updates:

The Neighbourhood Policing Team recently conducted OPERATION QUANDRO over three nights. Officers changed their shifts to work later into the night, stopping vehicles and suspects of interest, and following leads from relevant intelligence reports. The operation saw several seizures of drugs, four vehicles and an e-scooter seized, and a drug driver arrested. A vehicle from Bedfordshire linked to organised crime was stopped by the team. Although no offences were established, the message was clear – we are onto you, stay out of Hertfordshire!

With Hare Coursing taking place regularly across rural areas nationally, four vehicles linked to offences have been seized in East Herts. The team also caught a suspect vehicle and its occupants in Hunsdon. Three suspects were arrested and their dogs were seized for re-homing.

Whilst on patrol, Sergeant Miller caught a fly-tipper in the act! The offender was made to remove his mess and issued with a Community Resolution.

In the coming month, the EAST Herts Rural Team will be conducting more OP QUANDRO patrols along with OP GALILEO patrols for hare coursing / poaching.

The constabulary are particularly keen for local people to give us feedback on policing via the Herts Connected surveys. We will be looking to set our policing priorities for the upcoming quarter and would very much appreciate if you could share the link and QR code below on social media:-



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<https://bit.ly/hertspolice-psf>

If you need to report a crime in progress, please call 999, for all others please use 101 or online reporting <https://www.herts.police.uk/ro/report/ocr/af/how-to-report-a-crime/>

The Herts Connected system delivers Hertfordshire police's crime alerts. Registered local residents can receive the latest crime or emergency updates and alerts, as well as information about policing events in your area. Local residents can get involved in helping to make their local area a safer place, tell us what police should be doing in their area, shape the initiatives that help to keep people and property safe, and tell us what matters are causing local communities harm.

The more residents that register, the better informed and safer our communities will be. We would be most grateful if you could continue to share the link below in any parish communications, and especially on social media, to encourage as many local residents as possible to sign up.

<https://www.hertsconnected.co.uk/>

Your cooperation is very much appreciated.

Additional Crime Prevention Advice can be found via this link: <https://www.herts.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention/> Thank you

East Herts Rural Highlights Video 2024-25
<https://youtu.be/bnf6PE4uuvc?feature=shared>



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Appendix 4 – Finances

27th November			
Unity Trust Bank			34178.47
Petty cash			£0.00
Not cleared bank		Total	£34,178.47
Paid			
J Hammond	winter plants	Rep/Maintenance	£ 69.60
C Page	November salary	Pay	£ 519.61
C Page	November mileage	Mileage	£ 7.20
J Hammond	November salary	Pay	£ 150.00
HM Revenue and Customs	PAYE	Pay	£ 29.05
PKF Littlejohn LLP	External audit	Misc	£ 252.00
M Smith	internal audit	misc	£ 50.00
C Page	December salary	Pay	£ 519.61
C Page	November mileage	Mileage	£ 7.20
J Hammond	December salary	Pay	£ 150.00
HM Revenue and Customs	PAYE	Pay	£ 29.05
C Page			
	Christmas PC refreshments	Misc	£ 32.36
C Page	Microsoft renewal	Misc	£ 79.99
		Total payments	£1,895.67
Total in all accounts and petty cash after payment of this month's bills		£32,282.80	



Parish Clerk – Carole Page
Rosemary Cottage, Acorn Street
Hunsdon, SG12 8PE
07825011975
clerk@littlehadham-pc.gov.uk