

Little Hadham Parish Council

Minutes of the thirty-fourth meeting of the Little Hadham Parish Council (2003 – 2007 Session) held on Monday 3rd July 2006 at 8:21 p.m. in the Village Hall, Little Hadham.

Present: **Mr T Skidmore** **Chairman**
 Mr T Feather)
 Mr P Foreman) **Councillors**
 Mr A Morris)

Mr B Evans – Clerk, and 7 members of the public.

- 34.1** **Absent** Cllr Mrs Gibson, Cllr Stigwood and Cllr Fairchild who was on holiday.
- 34.2** **Declarations of interest** None.
- 34.3** **Minutes of the Parish Council meeting** held on Monday 5th June 2006 having been previously circulated were agreed as accurate. Proposed by Cllr Morris and seconded by Cllr Feather.
- 34.4** **Matters arising from the minutes**
- 34.4.1** War Memorial. The Chairman said that, after consultation with the War Memorial Trust, he had obtained a quotation for an inspection of the war memorial of £275. The Clerk said that, as any repairs were not urgent, he would prefer a decision to be made later in the year when the Council's finances were clearer. Agreed.
- 34.4.2** Bus shelter. Cllr Stigwood was absent. The Chairman would discuss any progress with Cllr Stigwood.
- 34.5** **Road works**
- 34.5.1** Cllr Morris reported on a letter from Herts Highways. The Council had been asked where warning signs concerning ponies around Bury Green should be sited. Mr Nubel would be asked to consult with residents. Cllr Foreman would consult with Westland Green residents as to where to site signs showing the limits of the hamlet. Cllr Morris said that the traffic survey of Bury Green was completed on 30th June and the Council would be given the results. A further survey in Westland Green would be carried out. Decisions to create more 30MPH zones could only be made as the result of a traffic and environmental survey. The County Council would have to consider the priorities of each request made following such surveys.
- 34.5.2** Cllr Morris reported that the Highways agency had said that they would request a sign warning of queuing on the Standon road. Herts Highways would be conducting a survey of traffic through the traffic lights on Wednesday 5th July 2006 following a number of complaints concerning the waiting times for traffic on the C15. The Chairman asked Cllr Morris to arrange a site meeting with Ms Jacques of Herts Highways when the survey results were available.
- 34.5.3** **East Herts Transportation Plan consultation.** Cllr Morris proposed a response to the consultation: We note that the report recognises that in section 7.1 key concerns from the public consultation were congestion on the A120 at Little Hadham and poor East-West road links, and also rat running traffic in rural lanes. The Little Hadham Parish Council recognises the need for a solution to the A120 Little Hadham congestion as this would solve all these issues. In Section 14.4 "Consideration of New routes and Route improvements" the A120 Little Hadham congestion is recognised as a route improvement, which needs to be solved. Within the list of potential schemes in section 15 no mention is made of the A120 Little Hadham congestion problem, and consequently no solution is proposed. We believe that the A120 Little Hadham congestion problem should be included. We do not

understand why it not included when the report raises it as a current major concern, and also identifies that the congestion will get substantial worse with the proposed development within the plan area and the expansion of Stansted airport.

Cllr Foreman asked that the response include a request for a bypass. With this addition the response was agreed.

- 34.5.4 Bypass petition.** Cllr Morris noted that many people had put their name forward at the Parish Plan Launch meeting to serve on the action group concerning transportation issues. He said that he wanted to move forward on a petition concerning the local support for a bypass. He thought that the petition should show the level of support for the principle of a bypass and not get bogged down in the details of a possible route. Cllr Foreman said that he thought the petition should address the question of the route but he could understand Cllr Morris' position. After some discussion it was agreed that the Parish Plan action group should decide on the wording of a petition and decide how it would be conducted.
- 34.6 Flooding of the Ash.**
- 34.6.1** Cllr Morris proposed: The Council to write to the Environment Agency requesting that they make a bid for local levy funding from the Regional Flood Defence committee to put in place the strategic engineering works from the Environment Agency report to solve the River Ash catchment flooding problems. Agreed.
- 34.7 Village Hall playground**
- 34.7.1 EDF works.** Cllr Foreman reported that the new cabling in the village was connected but the pylons in the playground still remained. He would consult with EDF about when the work would be completed.
- 34.7.2 Biffaward.** The Chairman said that the decision on the Council's application for a Biffaward had been deferred again and the result was now due in November 2006. He said that he would work with the Clerk on other possible sources of funding in case the Biffaward application was unsuccessful.
- 34.7.3 Playground Repairs.** The Chairman said that Bigfoot Ltd. expected to complete their work on the playground by July 17th and that Mr Mynott expected to complete his work at about the same time.
- 34.8 Parish Plan**
- 34.8.1 Parish Plan launch.** The Chairman spoke of the successful launch of the Parish Plan – over 110 residents had attended the meeting. The launch had received considerable publicity in the local newspaper and in the parish newsletter. He congratulated Cllr Fairchild and his many helpers on their achievement so far.
- 34.8.2 Housing needs survey.** The Chairman said that he would be meeting with the EHDC expert on housing needs surveys to discuss how to proceed. He reminded the Council that the parish could be in danger of having new housing imposed on it if a survey were not carried out.
- 34.9 Stansted Airport**
- 34.9.1** The Chairman presented a draft response, prepared by Cllr Fairchild, to the consultation by Uttlesford District Council on the expansion of Stansted Airport using the existing runway. The Chairman proposed that it be sent as the Council's formal response. Agreed.
- 34.10 Chairman's Report**
- 34.10.1** The Chairman reported that Cllr Mary Bayes had been deemed to have resigned from the County Council due to continuing absence because of bad health. There would be a by-election and he listed some of the names that had been mentioned as possible candidates.

- 34.10.2** The Chairman reported on the success of the ‘Stop Harlow North’ campaign as plans for Harlow West had been withdrawn.
- 34.10.3** The Chairman said that the Go-East public enquiry into the East of England Plan had proposed alterations to the Plan. The proposals were available on the Internet and could also be purchased from Go-East.

34.11 Democratic 10 minutes

The meeting closed at 9:06 p.m.

Mr Wild expressed his opinions on some of the possible candidates for the local vacant seat on the County Council. The Clerk reminded the Council of his advice that Mr Wild should not be answered at the meeting.

Mr Taylor said that he lived near the Ridgeway playground. Over the years the hedge round the playground had increased in thickness so that now there was not enough room to park in the road next to the hedge and still allow other traffic to pass. He asked for the hedge to be cut back. The Chairman said that he would meet Mr Taylor next morning on site to consider the problem.

It was asked whether the County Council was proposing a bypass or a ring road for the parish. Cllr Morris said that he would seek clarification.

Mr Wild complained about the parish and district council’s dealings with the cottages next to May Cottage, Cradle End. He considered the cottages as slums that should be replaced. Others present did not accept his views.

The meeting reopened at 9:18 p.m.

34.12 Clerk’s Report

34.13 Financial statement

Period ending 3rd July 2006

Barclay's Bank C/Acc		£17,140.52
High Rate BP Acc		£4.92
BP Acc		£165.06
Petty cash		-£19.27

Total **£17,291.23**

Included above

MoKut Grass cutting May	Paid 6/6/06	£211.50
Parish Plan - Raffle & full Plan sales	Received 23/6/06	£169.00

Received

HM Revenue & Customs	VAT refund	£821.36
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To be approved for payment

Mr M Dedman Litter picker	(June & July)		£174.72
Mr B Evans	(P/Clerk - (June & July)	£649.64	
	Float	£50.00	
	Exp (June & July)	£51.81	£751.45
Mrs K Green	Grass bins (June & July)		£81.26
Mrs H Davies	Parish Plan printing		£923.00
Little Hadham PCC	Printing Newsletter		£86.00
MoKut grass cutting June			£317.25

Total payments **£2,333.68**

Total in all accounts and petty cash after payment of this month's bills **£15,828.91**

Playground £12,400.00

Uncommitted £3,428.91

- 34.12.1** Resolved to accept payment of accounts. Agreed.
- 34.12.2** Resolved to accept accuracy of financial statement. Proposed Cllr Feather, seconded Cllr Foreman. Agreed.
- 34.12** **Planning matters.** The transactions of the Planning Committee were noted.
- 34.13** **Correspondence.** The Clerk distributed items of correspondence to relevant councillors
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| EHDC Standards Board for England newsletter | TS |
| CPRE Voice magazine | TF |
| CPRE Fieldwork newsletter | TS |
| HAPTC Newsletter | TS |
| HAPTC Invitation to AGM 7:30 18th July 2006 Colney Heath | TS |
| SSE Newsletters | MF |
| Local Council Review magazine | TS |
- Government Office for the East of England proposed revisions to East of England Plan
- 34.14** **Any other business.** Cllr Feather reported that some of the cottages at Ford Field, The Ford had been recently let to young families by Stort Valley Housing. He was concerned, as these homes had originally been reserved for old people in the parish. The Chairman said that the Parish Plan, with the help of the housing needs survey, would need to consider the housing needs of all in the parish including the old.
- 34.15** **The Chairman closed the meeting to the Public and the Press at 9:18 p.m.**
- 34.16** **Date of the next meeting Monday 4th September 2006.**