

Little Hadham Parish Council

Minutes of the thirty-ninth meeting of the Little Hadham Parish Council (2003 – 2007 Session) held on Monday 5th February 2007 at 8:48 p.m. in the Village Hall, Little Hadham.

Present:	Mr T Skidmore	Chairman
	Mr M Fairchild)
	Mr T Feather)
	Mr P Foreman) Councillors
	Mr A Morris)
	Mr S Stigwood)

Mr B Evans – Clerk, and 14 members of the public.

- 39.1 Absent** Cllr Mrs Gibson.
- 39.2 Declarations of interest** None.
- 39.3 Minutes of the Parish Council meeting** held on Monday 4th December 2006 having been previously circulated were agreed as accurate. Proposed by Cllr Stigwood and seconded by Cllr Morris.
- 39.4 Matters arising from the Council minutes**
- 39.4.1 Bench near Halfway Cottage.** Cllr Stigwood said that he would repair the bench that had been damaged by vandals.
- 39.4.2 War memorial surrounding wall.** The Clerk said that he had received a cheque for £2,250 from the insurers of the lorry that damaged the wall surrounding the war memorial. He had arranged to discuss possible methods of repair with Mr Mynott.
- 39.4.3 Computer grant** The Clerk said that he had confirmation that the Council had been awarded a grant of £675 for computer equipment – the Council had to pay £75 to make a total of £750. Cllr Fairchild said that this would enable the purchase of equipment to help with the Parish Plan concept of an Internet Café. A number of people had shown interest in introductory lessons on the use of the Internet and email. Cllr Fairchild said that he was investigating the possible use of the IT suite at the village school.
- 39.4.4 Response to police consultation** Cllr Fairchild read a letter he had sent to the new police inspector – Insp. Andrew Piper. Cllr Fairchild welcomed the inspector to his post and commented on the poor police response to the late night vandalism in the village that occurred at the beginning of December. He thought that the police plan was far too general in its objectives. Cllr Fairchild said that he would try to attend the meeting in Hatfield on 26th March 2007 when the results of the consultation would be announced.
- 39.5 Road works**
- 39.5.1 Road repairs** Cllr Morris said that the resurfacing of Ford Hill was outstanding. Cllr Fairchild asked if something could be done about the badly rutted passing places. The mud from these blocked the gullies and made the road dangerously slippery. Cllr Stigwood said that the agents for the landowners had never received an enquiry from Herts Highways asking for permission to enter the land to make repairs.
- Cllr Morris said that installation of the new streetlight for the Smithy had been postponed. The traffic lights had been recently repaired and now seemed to be working correctly. The village school was campaigning to have a flashing light installed to warn motorists about the school at the start and end of the school day. The Chairman proposed that the Clerk should write to the school giving the Council's support. Agreed.

- 39.5.2** Cllr Morris reported that there had been an accident on the Standon Road in which two people had died. In the past a motorcyclist had died on the same road. The Chairman asked Cllr Morris to talk to the traffic police about controlling excessive traffic speed on the A120
- 39.5.3 Drainage works on the C15** Cllr Morris reported that the new silt trap near the village hall appeared to be working but there were still several blocked gullies. The matters had been reported to Herts Highways who said that they were waiting for reports from contractors. Cllr Stigwood proposed that the Council should write to Herts Highways asking for a timetable for the completion of the works. Agreed.
- 39.5.4** Cllr Morris said that there were no gullies on the Cradle End road despite reports from a member of the public at the last Council meeting. He would investigate why the road was flooding. The gullies in Chapel Lane were to be unblocked but Herts Highways would have to issue a road closure order.
- 39.5.5** Cllr Foreman said that the back road to the green at Westland Green was to be resurfaced although it was far from the worst in the area. The Clerk said that Church End Lane, Little Hadham had been booked to be resurfaced but it appears that Herts Highways did not know about the planned realignment until he had informed them.
- 39.5.6 Bypass.** Cllr Morris said that all residents would receive a booklet explaining the different options for a bypass. Included would be a reply paid card inviting people to make comments and to choose their preferred route. There would also be an exhibition in the village hall from 8th to the 10th March. The Clerk said that the consultation would not be a referendum, as Herts CC would have to consider economic and environmental questions as well as local opinion. Cllr Foreman asked about a bypass for Standon. The Clerk said that Herts CC had identified a need to bypass both villages but a single scheme would be too expensive. It had decided to proceed with Little Hadham first followed by Standon.
- 39.6 Village Hall playground**
- 39.6.1 Biffaward** The Chairman said that four suppliers had been asked to submit plans for the playground – the last would be in by 14th February 2007. All suppliers had been asked to supply Matta safety matting. The Chairman said that he and Cllr Foreman had reviewed the quotes received so far and had made a number of queries. The Chairman proposed that when all details were in, a group consisting of three councillors and the Clerk would meet to select a preferred supplier and present recommendations for approval at the Council meeting on Monday 5th March 2007. It was agreed that Cllrs Skidmore, Foreman and Fairchild and the Clerk would meet to consider the quotes.
- Cllr Foreman said that the Council needed to check the details of the original Biffa application. The Clerk said he would circulate copies. Cllr Fairchild said that he had spoken to Ms Clare Nagle at Rural Action East. Cllr Fairchild proposed that the Clerk should write to explain the action taken so far. Agreed. Cllr Fairchild said that the Parish Plan had recommended the creation of a village centre including a distinctive entrance to link the Hall and the playground. He hoped that the Biffaward could include this. Cllr Fairchild agreed to inform parishioners of the progress on the playground.
- 39.7 Parish Plan**
- 39.7.1 Progress report** Cllr Fairchild said that the nine member steering group had been set up including a number of new members. The group was about to sign off the draft constitution for the Charity Commission - six members would be trustees. Three volunteers were talking to young people on how they could take an active part in village activities including setting up a Youth Council.

- The Group was planning a date for the next parish event – a ‘safari’ to Bury Green or Westland Green. Work was proceeding on setting up the computer workshops.
- 39.7.2 Housing needs survey** The Chairman said that the analysis of the survey should be available in March 2007. The 36% return was considered to be statistically significant.
- 39.8 Stansted Airport**
- 39.8.1** Cllr Fairchild summarised a response to the Uttlesford DC consultation on the airport expansion using the existing runway. The recent Stern Report on climate change identified air transport as the fastest growing source of CO₂. The economic arguments for airport expansion are unsound. Cllr Fairchild said that an independent inspector appointed by the government would hold the public enquiry and the enquiry would likely take eight months. Cllr Fairchild proposed that the response be sent as the formal Council response and that if asked he should speak at the enquiry on behalf of the Council. Agreed.
- Cllr Fairchild said that revised plans for the second runway had been published though they had not significantly addressed the Council’s objections. The most significant change was to single mode use with one runway for landings and the other for takeoffs though BAA were not bound to keep to this. No details of alterations to flight paths were available.
- Cllr Fairchild reported on a Community Conference organised by UDC and SSE on 4th February 2007 at which people from all the surrounding areas showed their support. SSE had raised £55,000 of the £100,000 needed for legal representation at the enquiry.
- Cllr Fairchild said that consultation about surface access to the expanded airport was about to start.
- 39.9 Chairman’s report.**
- 39.9.1 Fly posting** The Chairman reported on a letter from EHDC concerning fly posting. He proposed that the Council should not designate an area for posters other than the parish notice boards. It was difficult to give permission to some organisations without extending it to everyone. If fly posting were to become a problem the Council could reconsider. Agreed.
- 39.9.2 Parish Assembly** The Chairman proposed that the assembly should concentrate on the Council’s achievements during its term of office. He proposed that the Council should invite Mrs Stockley, Insp Piper, Cllr Mary Bayes and Mr Ashley to give presentations in addition to those from Councillors and the Clerk. Agreed.
- 39.9.3 East of England Plan** The Chairman said that, despite the recommendations of the public enquiry, the secretary of state had reinstated plans for Harlow North. He asked Cllr Fairchild to prepare a response to the amended plans for the next Council meeting. Agreed.
- 39.10 Democratic 10 minutes**
- The meeting closed at 9:47 p.m.**
- A resident reported ditches in need of clearing at Cradle End and flooding at Green Street. Cllr Morris said he would investigate and report to Herts Highways. There were enquiries about how the bypass exhibition would be advertised. The Chairman said that it was on the website, an article would appear in the newsletter and there would be posters.
- The meeting reopened at 9:53 p.m.**

39.11 Clerk's Report**39.11.1 Financial statement****Period ending 5th February 2007**

Barclay's Bank C/Acc			£7,921.88
High Rate BP Acc			£4.97
BP Acc			£165.80
Petty cash			£4.03
Total			£8,096.68
Included above			
Receipts			
VAT refund	Received 27/11/06		£1,687.80
Zurich insurance settlement	Received 27/12/06		£2,250.00
Paid			
Mr S Stigwood - bus shelter materials	Paid 5/12/06		£66.06
To be approved for payment			
Mr B Evans	(P/Clerk - (Jan)	-£86.97	
	Float	£50.00	
	Exp (Jan)	£36.97	£0.00
Mrs K Green	Grass bins (Jan)		£40.63
Mrs B Evans	Litter picking		£35.00
HAPTC - risk assessment course			£20.00
Total payments			£95.63

Total in all accounts and petty cash after payment of this month's bills £8,051.05

- 39.11.2** Resolved to accept payment of accounts. Agreed.
- 39.11.3** Resolved to accept accuracy of financial statement. Proposed Cllr Stigwood, seconded Cllr Morris. Agreed.
- 39.11.4** The Chairman proposed that he sign the Precept Bill Authority for an annual precept of £10,805 for the year 2007/08 as agreed at the December 2006 Council meeting. Agreed.
- 39.12** **Planning matters.** The transactions of the Planning Committee were noted.
- 39.13** **Correspondence.** The Clerk distributed items of correspondence to relevant councillors
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| EHDC Agendas and Minutes | |
| EHDC Consultation on Affordable Housing | MF |
| EHDC Consultation on 'Cultural Strategy' | MF |
| Uttlesford DC and SSE consultation on Stansted expansion on existing runway | MF |
| BAA workshop on health impact of second Stansted runway | MF |
| NALC magazine | TS/MF |
| HAPTC newsletters | MF/TS |
| CDA Annual review | MF |
| SSE Newsletter | MF |
| Herts Building Preservation Trust Newsletter | ALL |
| HCC Consultation on waste disposal | PF |
| Herts Local History newsletter | TF |
| Sawbridgeworth Community Voice | TF |
- 39.14** **Any other business.** None.
- 39.15** **Date of the next meeting Monday 5th March 2007.**
- 39.16** **The Chairman closed the meeting to the Public and the Press at 10:02 p.m.**