

Little Hadham Parish Council

Minutes of the eleventh meeting of the Little Hadham Parish Council (2007 – 2011 Session)
held on Tuesday 6th May 2008 at 8:43 p.m. in the Village Hall, Little Hadham.

Present: **Mr M Fairchild** **Chairman**
 Mr A Morris)
 Mrs C Piccolo)
 Mr J Purvis) **Councillors**
 Mr T Skidmore)
 Mr G Williamson)

Mr B Evans – Clerk, and **63** members of the public.

11.1 Public session.

There were no comments.

11.2 Absent None.

11.3 Declarations of interest. Cllrs Fairchild, Skidmore and Mrs Piccolo said they had an interest in the gypsy and traveller sites as they were members of the Little Hadham Conservation Society that opposed the sites.

11.4 Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 1st April 2008 having been previously circulated were agreed as accurate. Proposed by Cllr Mrs Piccolo and seconded by Cllr Morris.

11.5 Matters arising from the Council minutes

11.5.1 Possible locations for gypsy and traveller sites.

11.5.1.1 Response to EERA consultation on Planning for Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation. The Chairman proposed that a response be delayed until May so that all the information, including the response from EHC, could be considered. Agreed.

11.5.1.2 Plans of the Little Hadham Conservation Society. The Chairman said that the society was studying a large pile of complex documents. The consultation asked if people agreed with the EERA policy on gypsy and traveller sites and if they agreed with the sustainability statement. The Chairman said that he would put a notice in the Parish News encouraging residents to respond. He said that the society might challenge the publication of the Scott Wilson Report although the report itself was not open to consultation.

The Chairman referred to an article in the Daily Mail claiming that property prices near an illegal gypsy and traveller site had halved.

The Chairman said that he had attended a meeting on the Local Policing Plan. He had asked about the perception that some sites were above the law. The Chief Constable had said that police target criminal elements on sites that intimidate others. The local Commander had said that he would deal with any crime. The EERA policy was to keep the sites relatively small. County Cllr Engle who was a member of the police committee had offered the Council help on the matter.

11.6 Road works

11.6.1 Cllr Morris noted that a number of projects had been delayed such as the new signs for the village school and the resurfacing of Albury Road. He noted that the gullies outside Ash Farm had been unblocked.

- 11.6.2 Traffic calming for the road from Cradle End via Bury Green, Ford Hill, Chapel Lane and Westland Green to Wellpond Green.** Cllr Morris read a letter that had been sent to Herts Highways by the Council asking for clarification on the funding of the investigation into possible solutions. In particular about how an identified solution would be funded. A reply was awaited.
The Chairman spoke of a collision between two vehicles that had closed Ford Hill for two or three hours. He thought it had been caused by vehicles travelling too fast along country lanes with limited visibility.
- 11.6.3 Rutting and drainage work on Chapel Lane.** Cllr Morris reported that the drains in Chapel Lane had been cleared in November 2007 and they appeared to be working well. Herts Highways had said that an engineer would visit the site to investigate the rutting.
- 11.7 Village Hall playground.** The Chairman said that the hedge had been lowered and new gates fitted. The litterbins were awaiting installation.
The Chairman proposed that Cllrs Purvis and Williamson be asked to consider any extra spending. The Clerk said that there was about £4,500 available though this included the insurance money paid for damage to the war memorial. The Chairman said that there were a number of matters to consider including resiting the football/basketball apparatus, creating a 5-a-side football pitch and installing a new noticeboard to acknowledge the funding of the playground. The Chairman asked that detailed proposals be circulated to councillors before the next meeting.
Agreed.
- 11.8 Repairs to the war memorial surround wall.** The Chairman said that he had spoken to a Herts Highways engineer who thought that it was possible that an expensive traffic management system might not be necessary during any repair. If this was so then the Council might be able to fund the materials for making a lasting repair.
- 11.9 Parish plan** The Chairman said that the group was organising a barn dance in the village hall on Saturday 31st May 2008 and encouraged all to attend. The Village Guide was nearing completion and was expected to be published within the next two months.
- 11.10 Stansted Airport.**
- 11.10.1 Council response to NATS proposed changes to flight paths and ‘stacking’ areas**
The Chairman said that the new plans gave no relief to Little Hadham – Bishop’s Stortford would be more affected than at present. He thought that flight paths for other airports might affect the parish. Cllr Morris said that the new plans might affect the western part of the parish more than at present. He thought it would be possible to change the proposed plans so that planes from Stansted climbed more quickly so they were at greater height over the parish. He thought the Council should talk to Bishop’s Stortford groups as they would be most affected by the new plans. The Chairman proposed that Cllr Morris should talk to contacts in the Stortford area. Agreed.
The Chairman proposed that the Council response should be delayed until the May meeting so that advice could be obtained from local bodies such as SSE. Agreed.

11.10.2 Planning application for expansion of Stansted Airport including a second runway.

The Chairman said that if the expansion plans were to be carried out Stansted would be bigger than Heathrow both in area and in passenger numbers. He proposed that the Council response be delayed until the May meeting. Agreed. The Chairman said that the response would be based on economics, employment, pollution and noise. He expected a public enquiry to be held in 2009/10 reporting in 2010. The result of the enquiry into expansion on the existing runway was expected soon. The Chairman said that all the local authorities around Stansted and Heathrow were working together against expansion at both airports. He encouraged people to attend a meeting at Bishop's Stortford on 2nd April 2008.

11.10.3 BAA report following consultation on road and rail access to the expanded airport.

The Chairman said the report followed the consultation in 2007. It now included plans to increase the number of lines in sections of the Lee Valley railway line although he thought that the main problems had not really been answered.

11.11 Chairman's report.

11.11.1 Council vacancy The Chairman said that the vacancy had been advertised in the Parish News and on local noticeboards. He said that a councillor should be co-opted before the May meeting. The Clerk reminded councillors of the procedure.

11.11.2 Parish Assembly Thursday 17th April 2008.

The Chairman referred councillors to the notice in the Parish News. He said that by keeping talks short and by adopting a 'Question Time' format he hoped to get more response from residents.

11.11.3 EHC Rural Parish Conference. 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Thursday 29th May 2008 at Puckeridge. The Chairman encouraged councillors to attend. He said that he would circulate details.

11.12 Democratic 10 minutes

The meeting closed at 9:51 p.m.

A resident asked how many caravans might use a gypsy and traveller site. The Chairman said 15 extra pitches were planned for East Herts with one and a half caravans per pitch. There might be six members in each family. A growth of about 3% p.a. was expected after 2010.

A resident said she thought there were some travellers living in some of the older homes at the Smithy. The Chairman said that if no local tenants were available on the day a house became vacant it was offered to the next person on the East Herts housing list.

The meeting reopened at 9:57 p.m.

11.13 Clerk's Report**Period ending 1st April 2008**

Barclay's Bank C/Acc	£7,131.05
High Rate BP Acc	£5.12
BP Acc	£168.79
Petty cash	£24.53

Total	£7,329.49
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To be approved for payment

Mr G Folly [Paid 18/3/08]	Lower playground hedge	£320.00
Mr B Evans	P/Clerk - (Mar)	£273.47
	Exp (Mar)	£24.14
Mrs K Green	Grass bins (Mar)	£41.85
Miss A Windmill	Litter picking (Mar)	£93.65
Little Hadham PCC	Copying Jan to Mar	£14.82
Mrs E Booth	PO cleaning Jan to Mar	£30.00
Mokut	Hedge cutting	£175.00
HM Revenue & Customs	PAYE Jan to Mar	£231.44

Total payments	£1,204.37
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Total in all accounts and petty cash after payment of this month's bills £6,125.12

11.13.1 Financial statement

11.13.2 Resolved to accept payment of accounts. Agreed.

11.13.3 Resolved to accept accuracy of financial statement. Proposed Cllr Mrs Piccolo, seconded Cllr Purvis. Agreed.

11.14 Planning matters. The transactions of the Planning Committee were noted.

11.15 Correspondence. The Clerk distributed items of correspondence to relevant councillors

CPRE Countryside Voice magazine

AM

SSE newsletters

MF

11.16 Any other business. None.

11.17 Date of the next meeting Tuesday 3rd June 2008.

11.18 The Chairman closed the meeting to the Public and the Press at 10:05 p.m.