

Little Hadham Parish Council

Minutes of the Nineteenth meeting of the Little Hadham Parish Council (2007 – 2011 Session) held on Tuesday 3rd March 2009 at 9:24 p.m. in the Village Hall, Little Hadham.

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

Mr B Evans – Clerk, and 7 members of the public including County Cllr Mary Bayes.

19.1 Public session.

A resident asked if a litterbin was to be installed on the C15 near Lloyd Taylor Close. The Clerk said that he had visited the site with a representative of EHC who considered that the litter problem was not bad enough to justify the cost of a bin. Cllr Bayes said that planning continued on the bypass. The land surveys were complete and the archaeological and environmental surveys were almost complete. The two roundabouts had been reduced in size and footpaths and bridle paths were to be investigated. The business case for the bypass would be completed by the end of the year to be ready should any funding become available. She said that the county executive member for highways and transport was convinced that the bypass should have the highest priority. Cllr Bayes said the Chief Project Officer, Ms Helen McCormick would be willing to talk at the parish assembly.

19.2 Absent Cllr Skidmore [recovering from surgery].

19.3 Declarations of interest. Cllrs Fairchild and Mrs Piccolo declared an interest in Gypsy and Traveller sites, as they were members of the Little Hadham Conservation Society.

19.4 Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 3rd February 2009 having been previously circulated were agreed as accurate. Proposed by Cllr Mrs Piccolo and seconded by Cllr Purvis.

19.5 Matters arising from the Council minutes.

19.5.1 Cllr Wilkinson said that she had attended the first meeting of the Parish Paths Partnership. The Council would have to agree a business plan for paths for consideration by the Herts CC Countryside Management Service.

19.6 Possible locations for gypsy and traveller sites.

The Chairman said that EHC had confirmed that nothing would happen until the secretary of state had responded to the report. There would then be a 12 week consultation period on possible sites.

19.7 Road works.

19.7.1 Near miss road accident near the A120 traffic lights. This matter was deferred until the next meeting as Cllr Skidmore, who was due to report on the matter, was absent.

19.7.2 Naming of the C15 south of the A120. The Chairman said that there was a debate about what to call the road. A resident had asked Herts CC to call the road ‘The Ford’. However there seemed little evidence that the whole road had ever been

called this and it could cause confusion with The Ford hamlet. He proposed that the Clerk should write to Herts CC asking that the road's name be left unchanged pending further investigation. Agreed. Cllr Williamson proposed that he should investigate the matter and bring a proposal to the April meeting. Agreed.

19.8 Flood warnings during the recent breaching of the Ash. Cllr Morris said that the Ash had almost breached its banks on the 10th February 2009. There had been a breach in Much Hadham. However the Environment Agency website showed no flood warnings for the area. It appeared that the automatic flood warning devices were unreliable. An agency representative had agreed to visit the site and Cllr Morris said that he would report on the meeting at the April Council meeting.

19.9 Playgrounds

19.9.1 Recommendations following the annual playground inspections. Cllr Williamson said that he would ask for volunteers to complete the outstanding work. Cllr Morris mentioned the damaged seat near Halfway House. The Chairman said he had suitable materials and would make the repair when the playground was repaired.

19.10 War memorial. Progress on funding for the replacement of the memorial surround wall. Cllr Williamson said that there was £1,500 available from Council funds and £1,000 had been granted by EHC. Herts CC had agreed to supply the traffic management scheme free of charge. This meant that about £1,500 was still required. The Chairman thought it was less. Cllr Williamson said that he would obtain more accurate quotations for the April meeting. The Chairman asked if the conservation officer should be involved. The Clerk said that the late Mr Wellburn had asked to see any plans before any work was carried out.

19.11 Stansted Airport.

19.11.1 New flight paths. Cllr Morris said NATS was reconsidering the revised flight paths following the consultation. The new proposals would be available by July 2009.

19.11.2 Airport expansion. The Chairman reported on a High Court appeal by Stop Stansted Expansion against the Government's decision to allow expansion of the airport using the existing runway. If the judge agreed with SSE that the public enquiry inspector was wrong to have ignored three factors, including environmental impact, the project could be considerably delayed. The Chairman said that the secretary of state had delayed the enquiry into the second runway until a decision about a possible sale of the airport could be considered. The Chairman said that this almost certainly meant that a decision about a second runway would be delayed until after the next general election.

19.12 Parish Plan. The Chairman said that the new plan, together with the village guide, would be launched at the Assembly in April – councillors had received a copy of the first draft of the plan. The recent questionnaire showed that most people thought the plan's activities had brought residents closer together and they approved of the type of activity that had been organised. There had been a disappointing number of questionnaires returned and there were few new ideas. However the new plan had several original ideas for the future.

19.13 Chairman's report.

19.13.1 Council Business Plan. The Chairman said that councillors had received a draft copy of the plan and he was awaiting comments. He said that he thought there should be a clearer division between the Parish Plan Group, that would be primarily concerned with organising local events and applying for funding, and the Council which would be concerned with aim and objectives. He said that he would propose the plan at the April Council meeting.

19.13.2 Government consultation on local council communication. The Chairman said that the proposals only seemed relevant to larger councils and proposed that there be no response. Agreed.

19.13.3 Parish Assembly Thursday 16th April 2007. The Chairman spoke of the draft programme for the assembly that had been circulated to councillors [Appendix 1]. From the floor Cllr Bayes said that she would not be available. The Chairman proposed that the draft be accepted. Agreed.

19.14 Clerk's Report

19.14.1 Financial statement

Period ending 3rd February 2009

Barclay's Bank C/Acc		£6,578.12
StepSaver BP Acc		£5.19
BP Acc		£169.82
Petty cash		£16.79
	Total	£6,769.92

To be approved by the Council

Received

Allotment rent		£24.00
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To be paid

Mr B Evans	P/Clerk - (Feb)	£296.03	
	Exp (Feb)	£20.94	£316.97
Mrs K Green	Grass & bins (Feb)		£43.11
Miss A Windmill	Litter picking (Feb)		£97.53
Mrs E Booth	PO cleaning		£30.00
	Total payments		£487.61

Total in all accounts and petty cash after payment of this month's bills £6,306.31

19.14.2 Proposed to accept payment of accounts. Agreed.

19.14.3 Proposed to accept the accuracy of the financial statement. Proposed Cllr Mrs Wilkinson, seconded Cllr Williamson. Agreed.

19.15 Democratic 10 minutes

The meeting closed at 9:15 p.m.

A resident said that the bus shelter at the Ash had been damaged. The Chairman said that it would be repaired at the same time as the playground.

The meeting reopened at 9:19 p.m.

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

- 19.17 Correspondence.** The Clerk distributed items of correspondence to relevant members.
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| Standards Board – Newsletter | MF |
| CPRE – Herts Newsletter | MW |
| EEDA – “Cut your carbon” leaflet | MW |
| HAPTC – Newsletters | MF/AM |
| NALC – Magazine | MF |
| Clerks & Councils Direct magazine | MF |
- 19.18 Any other business.**
- 19.18.1** Cllr Mrs Piccolo said that she was willing to organise the Parish Email system though she might need some technical help. The Chairman said that he would ask residents to supply their email addresses at the assembly.
- 19.18.2** Cllr Morris mentioned the latest Young Ones production.
- 19.19 Date of the next meeting Tuesday 7th April 2009.**
- 19.20 The Chairman closed the meeting to the Public and the Press at 9:22 p.m.**

Appendix 1 – Draft programme for the Parish Assembly

7:30	Refreshments (Pat Fairchild and team will do wine, soft drinks and snacks) – An opportunity to see and discuss the work of the Police, Little Hadham School, the Parish Plan Group and the Parish Council (a table each with existing info boards (police), photos, examples of work (school), photos and early copies of the Village Guide and new Parish Plan (LHPPG and PC). The PC could hand out a summary of the review of the year to cut my time to 5 mins, ditto your financial report.
8:00	Welcome/Minutes
8:10	Chairman's annual review
8:20	Charities
8:25	School
8:30	Police
8:35	Cllr Bayes
8:40	Cllr Tindale
8:45	Questions to any speakers (urgent Qs only to speakers at end of their talks)
8:50	Questions and close (guillotine at 9.45)