

Little Hadham Parish Council

Minutes of the 116th meeting of the Annual Parish Assembly held on Thursday 22nd April 2010 at 7:30pm in the Village Hall, Little Hadham.

Present: **Mr A Morris** **Chairman**
 Mr J Forgham **)**
 Mrs C Piccolo **) Councillors**
 Mr J Purvis **)**
 Mr G Williamson **)**

Mr B Evans – Clerk, and **83** members of the public.

1. Apologies None

- 2. Minutes** of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 16th April 2009 having been previously seen, agreed and signed at the Parish Council meeting on Monday 6th April 2010, were placed on the Chairman’s Table for examination by anyone present.

3. Review of the Year: Cllr Andy Morris, Chairman of the Parish Council

The Chairman reviewed the activities of the Council during the past year. He welcomed the new Councillors Jonathan Forgham and Robin Gregory.

He said the Council had responded to several consultations including sustainability appraisal policy for new EHC Local Development Framework and refuse disposal for HCC. The Council had also considered 50 planning applications.

Cllr Morris said that there had been a ‘call for sites’ under the Development of new Local Development Framework. Several sites had been put forward though he expected few to be accepted. The sites were: Church End Farm 200 Ha; The Ash, Ashcroft farm 0.66 Ha; Bury Green Farm 3.2 Ha; Stone House Farm 0.67 Ha; Barrens, Bury Green 0.4 Ha and The Ford, Florence Cottage 0.4 Ha.

The Council had adopted the two telephone kiosks at the Ford and Bury Green – consultations were proceeding as to how they would be used.

He said that two affordable houses for local people were being built at Ashcroft Farm. They were expected to be complete in summer 2010 and residents on the housing list should register their interest with EHC.

Cllr Morris mentioned the wedding reception to be held at Bury Green. He congratulated the Young Ones for their successful production and reminded residents that they were looking for a new leader.

Cllr Morris said that the Council continued to oppose a Gypsy and Traveller site in Millfield Lane and supported the aims of the LHPS.

Cllr Morris reported that the war memorial had been cleaned with the help of public donations and a grant from EHC. Council funds and another EHC grant had been used to repair the wall around the memorial.

Speaking of Stansted Airport, Cllr Morris said that the second runway inquiry had been postponed. All main political parties were now saying ‘no’ to a second runway. He noted that flight path alterations over Little Hadham were still out for review by NATS.

Cllr Morris said the route for the bypass had been approved and planning work was to be completed by December 2009. However, this had been delayed due to financial pressures on HCC. Government funding was needed. He thought that the outcome of the general election might have a major impact on the future priority of the project, due to potential removal of Regional Assemblies. EERA had made it a low priority though HCC might raise its importance.

4. **Financial report: Bev Evans, Clerk, Parish Council** [Appendix 1].
5. **Local charities: Richard Beckett, Trustee, Little Hadham Charity** reported on how monies from the local charities had been distributed. The charity had three trustees – Mrs Ann Clayton, Mrs Eileen Booth and Mr Beckett. At Christmas, £40 each was distributed to 29 local residents. The tomb of one of the original benefactors in the church yard had been repaired. Mr Beckett thanked Mr Robert Collins who had carried out the work.
6. **Mrs Liz Stockley, Head of Little Hadham Primary School**, gave a presentation describing ‘A Year at Little Hadham School’. Dinosaur Week in May included a display of dinosaur models. Years 5 and 6 enjoyed a week at the Kingswood Residential Centre on Mersea Island. Activities included crate stacking, wall climbing, exploring rock pools, quad biking and nightline. The school put on a production of Wind in the Willows. B.P. held a Robolab Link day at the school when children learned how to program robots to gather sweets. Years 4 and 5 attended Wodson Park Games. There was a visit to the Colne Valley Victorian Special. Children organised Love in a Box – 50 to 60 boxes of gifts were collected for children on other countries. Members of the Saracens Rugby Club visited the school. KS1 and Early Years children staged two nativities and many rode on the Santa Express. Children collected for the Haiti disaster Silver Towers Appeal – over £400. B.P. held a Plastazote Workshop. Some pupils were lucky to get a place in the 15,000 choir held every three years at Royal Albert Hall. There was K’Nex model building competition. The school held a day of Indian dancing and Indian food tasting. Some pupils learned Salsa dancing. Lime Class held a balloon race and there was an Easter Chick Drive. Mrs Stockley hoped people had enjoyed her tour though what had been a very busy year.
7. **Policing in Little Hadham: Sgt Andy Palfreman, lead Neighbourhood Policing and PC Les Bridger, Ward Constable.** Sgt Palfreman said that neighbourhood policing meant listening to the concerns of local people. People wanted police to be seen. PC Bridger was one of a team of four local officers together with PCs Nicola Hunt and Tracey Fagin and PCSO Stephen Blanks. Sgt Palfreman encouraged people to talk to and help others to protect their homes – such as by checking doors, gates and windows were locked. People could get advice from the Herts Police website or by speaking to local police. The Crime Prevention Officer was willing to give talks to meetings of local people. Several residents were concerned about speeding through the village and of drivers jumping the lights from the side roads. This was particularly dangerous when children were going to school. Sgt Palfreman said that he would ask his officers to carry out a radar speed check in the village and he would check that the timing of the lights was set to keep waiting to a minimum.
8. **Mr Trevor Watkins – EHC.** Mr Watkins gave details of the new Alternative Refuse Collection (ARC) introduced by EHC. The general refuse black bin would be emptied every two weeks. The brown organic waste bin would be emptied on alternate weeks together with the green box, for white paper including window envelopes, and the blue box for food cans, glass bottles and jars and plastic bottles. The brown bin could be used for all food waste, garden waste, coloured paper and uncoated cardboard – Tetrapacs should go in the black bin. People with large families or very young children could qualify for a larger bin. Mr Watkins said that 41% of refuse was being recycled – more than the target. The organic waste was composted and used to improve farmland.
9. **Parish Plan Group.** Mike Smith congratulated residents as their Parish Plan was started in 2003 and published in 2005. The plan was updated in 2009 but many parishes were still working on their plan. Mr Smith said that the Plan Group had organised a very successful parish Fun Run. £1,200 had been collected by participants and a large donation had been made to CRY. A 5-a-side football competition had been organised for young people and three were chosen for a course at the Beckham Football Academy. Mr Smith thanked Mike Fairchild for his hard work on the production of the parish Welcome

and Information pack.

Cllr John Purvis spoke of the 2010 Fun Run to be held on 13th June. There would be a 5Km and a 10Km course both starting and finishing at the Village Hall. The village school would be organising a barbeque, the village cricket club would run a bar and the Karate Club would organise a raffle. He encouraged all to come along – either to take part or to watch.

Cllr Jonathan Forgham spoke of the Parish Biodiversity survey he had just completed after three years work. Among other flora and fauna he had observed 99 varieties of bird, 24 of butterflies, 250 of moths and 120 plants. Cllr Forgham said he was looking for sponsors and applying for funding to print the 80 page booklet that should be available for sale shortly.

- 10. Little Hadham Conservation Society – Mr Don Gibson.** Mr Gibson said that the East of England Regional Authority wanted to create 187 new Gypsy and traveller pitches – 15 in East Herts. A pitch was room for 1.7 caravans and ground for vehicles and tools of the trade – about the size of a football pitch. Two years ago the Society was set up and sought, and received, authority from the Assembly to represent the local community. The Scott Wilson report named two possible sites in Millfield Lane as meeting the criteria including being close to primary and secondary schools, being near a doctor and causing no significant risk to traffic. A four day public enquiry was attended by LHPS members. The panel recommended that the 15 pitches in E. Herts be increased to 20.

The Society thought sites should be chosen on a needs basis. Most G&Ts wanted to live in the East of East Anglia. Mr Gibson said that the timetable seemed to have slipped and so far no decision had been made. Some MPs were against the EERA proposals as were HCC and EHC. He encouraged anyone interested to contact him.

Mr Gibson said that the Society had £1,550 for legal expenses with £3,145 promised.

- 11. Work of the District Council - Cllr Mike Tindale.** Cllr Tindale said that he had been involved with the planning application for Ashcroft Farm from the start. Mr Lynch, the owner, had agreed to donate a parcel of land to the school – matters like levelling and draining the land still needed to be sorted out.

He said that he was pleased to hear Mr Watkins – the EHC ARC scheme seemed to have started well.

Cllr Tindale said that EHC had moved its administrative centre away from Bishop's Stortford to Hertford to minimise costs. He hoped that EHC would be webcasting its meetings, including the Development Control Committee, so that residents could watch them on the Internet.

Cllr Tindale spoke of the Areas of Special Restraint (ASR) in Bishop's Stortford – areas marked for partial development. These included the fields inside the northern bypass. EHC was in discussion with developers for building 2,000 to 3,000 homes over the next few years. Cllr Tindale introduced County Cllr Leanda Newlyn. Cllr Newlyn said that her special remit was culture and community safety which included Fire Services and child care. She said that £10,000 had been allocated to the Community Fund and she encouraged organisations such as the Friends of Little Hadham School and the Parish Plan Group to apply for funds.

- 12. The Chairman thanked Cllr Mrs Piccolo, the Clerk and their many helpers for organising the Assembly and he closed the meeting at 9:05 p.m.**

Appendix 1 Parish Clerk's report – Mr Bev Evans

The Parish Precept for 2009/10 was £13,500 – an increase of £1,615. The precept for the current year is unchanged at £13,500. As the number of homes in the parish has increased, the money paid to the parish by each council taxpayer has fallen by 5%.

A detailed breakdown of the accounts is shown over the page and the Council's books will be available for inspection later this year.

At the close of business on 5th April 2010, the end of our financial year, the Parish Council had £7,330.02 in its Bank Accounts and petty cash. This is rather more than expected as, after much consideration, the repair to the war memorial wall was considerably less expensive than originally planned and the Council was grateful to receive a £1,000 grant towards the cost from EHC. This surplus has enabled the Council to keep the precept unchanged and will allow the Council to make a number of outstanding repairs and improvements around the parish.

The Council litter picker is Miss Mandy Windmill – I'm sure you will want to greet Mandy and her sister Melissa when you see them at work around the parish. Melissa and Mandy are also the litter pickers for Much Hadham. East Herts Council funds our litter picker – £1,170.37 pa. Despite Mel and Mandy's hard work, it is not possible for them to clear every part of the parish on a regular basis. I would like to see parishioners taking care of the areas around their homes by clearing some of the litter left by the thoughtless and uncaring.

Mrs Karin Green, Karin Green Garden Services, cuts the grass around the Village Pump and at the war memorial and empties the parish litter bins.

Thanks, as usual, are due to the residents of 'Marshalls', opposite the War Memorial, who voluntarily plant out the flowerbeds at the War Memorial and generally keep them in pristine condition. The Council would also like to thank Chris Sitton and Andy Pyatt from The Ford. Chris has spent considerable time repairing the bus shelters and Andy has had the willow trees by the Ash at the Ford cut back and made safe.

Financial position for the year 2009 to 2010

Credit	To date	Comments
B/F From 2009/10	£5,530.04	
Precept	£13,500.00	Unchanged from 2008/09
Rent	£340.15	Rent from Westland Green and wayleaves for power cables
Interest	£0.08	
VAT refund	£793.71	The Council does not pay VAT
Sales	£55.52	Sale of redundant equipment
EHC Grant	£1,000.00	For repair of the war memorial wall
War memorial cleaning	£550.00	£150 EHC grant and £400 donations for cleaning the war memorial
Parish Plan	£577.00	Part of the cost for printing the updated Parish Plan
Litter picker	£1,170.37	EHC pays the litter picker's salary
Total credit	£23,516.87	

Debit

Pay	£6,625.21	To the Clerk, litter picker and Karen Green Garden Services
Mileage	£48.20	
Telephone	£216.00	
Post	£18.11	
Copying	£54.64	Mainly using the church copier
Office supplies	£153.19	Mainly paper and printer ink
P/News	£95.00	The Council is one of several organisations who fund the Parish News
Donation	£575.00	To the village school, graveyard upkeep, The Young Ones and SSE
Subscriptions	£678.59	Mainly to HATPC for legal and other help and advice
Maintenance	£2,218.35	Mainly grass and hedge cutting for the playgrounds
Repairs	£144.37	Repairs to fencing and equipment at the playgrounds
Rent	£188.46	Mainly Village Hall hire
Chairman	£90.00	For phone, post and travel expenses
Insurance	£952.29	To cover the play equipment as well as general Council risks
Parish Plan	£652.70	Cost of printing the updated Parish Plan
Audit	£155.25	
Training	£108.72	
War Memorial	£3,145.25	Cleaning the war memorial and rebuilding the surround wall.
Misc	£67.53	Mainly refreshments for public meetings
Totals	£16,722.19	
Surplus to carry forward to 2010/11	£7,330.02	