

Little Hadham Parish Council

Minutes of the first meeting of the Little Hadham Parish Council (2011 – 2015 Session) held on Tuesday 7th June 2011 at 8.09 p.m. in the Village Hall, Little Hadham.

Present: **Mrs C Piccolo** **Chairman**
 Mr J Forgham **)**
 Mrs M Wilkinson **) Councillors**
 Mr G Williamson **)**

Mr B Evans – Clerk, and **13** member of the public.

- 2.1. Absent.** None.
- 2.2. Declarations of interest.** None.
- 2.3. Co-option of councillors.** The Chairman said that the Council had had difficulty arranging times to meet the prospective councillors. However, the new councillors would be able to take office at the July meeting.
- 2.4. Confirmation election of Chairman.** This was deferred until the July meeting.
- 2.5. Public session.**
There were no questions or comments.
- 2.6. Minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting** held on 3rd May 2011 had been previously circulated. The minutes were agreed as accurate. Proposed by Cllr Mrs Wilkinson and seconded by Cllr Forgham.
- 2.7. Minutes of the Parish Council meeting** held on Tuesday 3rd May 2011 had been previously circulated. The minutes were agreed as accurate. Proposed by Cllr Mrs Wilkinson and seconded by Cllr Forgham.
- 2.8. Matters arising from the minutes.**
- 2.8.1.** Possible EHC funding from Cllr Tindale. Cllr Williamson said that, as a district councillor, he had received details of the fund. The fund was not available to parish councils. The residents of Westland Green could apply for funding for hamlet signs if they formed a community group and opened a bank account.
- 2.8.2.** Dog bins. The Chairman said nothing had been heard from EHC. She thought she might make a phone call in order to expedite matters. Action
CP
- 2.8.3.** Oil purchasing syndicate. The Chairman said that about thirty five people had expressed an interest.
- 2.8.4.** Young Ones. The Chairman said that she had found a qualified drama teacher willing to run the group at a charge of £50 per session. She was actively seeking sources of funding for what she thought was an important activity for local young people. Action
CP
- 2.9. Election of Council officers.** This was deferred until the July meeting.
- 2.10.** Election of area representatives. This was deferred until the July meeting.
- 2.11. Playgrounds.**
- 2.11.1. Roundabout.** The Clerk said that Matta had agreed to raise the ground level round the roundabout. He had asked them to carry out the work after the Fun Run. Action
Clerk
- 2.11.2. Repairs to the SMP apparatus.** The Clerk said that he had spoken to Mr Trevor Waldock of EHC. Mr Waldock thought it unlikely that the bearing had failed on the aerial runway – the inspector had made the same report for all EHC runways. Failure if the bearing would make it difficult to move the traveller. This would not be dan-

gerous to users. Mr Waldock said that the tension of the wire could be adjusted using the bottle screw at the end of the wire. Again there would be no danger to children if the wire were too slack. Cllr Williamson said that he would arrange a work party to make the adjustments.

Action
GW

2.11.3. Queen Elizabeth II Field status. The Clerk said that he has been in contact with HALTC who could find no Council that had joined the scheme. The Clerk said that the only significant effects would be that the Council would not be able to dispose of the land without the consent of QE II Field Trust and it might not be able to apply for grants such as that used to refurbish the village hall playground. The Chairman proposed that the Council should not apply to join the scheme. Agreed.

2.12. Road matters.

2.12.1. Flashing lights outside the school. The Chairman said that she had spoken to PC Tracy Fegan about the possible installation of flashing warning lights. HCC would have to carry out extensive, expensive consultation with many residents, councils and other organisations. No children crossed the road outside the school so it was very unlikely that lights would be installed.

2.12.2. Street lighting. Cllr Mrs Wilkinson said that HCC were planning to turn off street lights in residential areas after midnight. Lights would stay on all night in town centres and areas with high traffic densities.

2.12.3. Speeding traffic. The Chairman said that Herts Police were keen for local people to use the hand held traffic speed indicator. She said that she would be seeking volunteers.

Action
CP

2.13. NHS consultation. Cllr Williamson said that he had read the document and could find nothing of relevance to the parish. He proposed there be no response. Agreed.

2.14. Flooding matters

2.14.1. The Clerk said there had been nothing to report on flooding at Lloyd Taylor Close, Pig's Green and The Ash. The Chairman proposed the matter be left off the agenda until there was something to report. Agreed.

2.15. Repairs to the bus shelters. The Chairman said that she had received three quotations for refurbishment of the three bus shelters. The lowest was for £2,000 including materials. Cllr Williamson said that the bus shelters clearly needed refurbishment but he was uneasy on spending so much on such old structures. Cllr Mrs Wilkinson asked if there was a specification for the work as it was important to be sure the quotations were on an equal basis. It was agreed that councillors Forgham, Mrs Wilkinson and Williamson would prepare a specification and circulate it to the three contractors.

Action
JF GW
MW

2.16. Parish Plan Group.

2.16.1. The Chairman said that the Fun Run for 12th June had 70 online applications.

2.16.2. Telephone kiosk. Progress with the art exhibition. The Chairman said that Ms Connie Flynn's exhibition was ready for installation. He warned residents that the books would be removed on Friday 10th June and returned on Monday 13th.

2.17. Chairman's report.

2.17.1. Cutting of the grass at Bury Green. The Chairman said that she had received a complaint from a Bury Green resident that some residents were cutting the green in front of their homes rather than leaving it as rough meadow. The Chairman said that she had been to the Green and spoken to a number of residents. There followed an extensive discussion from the floor involving several residents. Some of the points

made were: a resident was happy with the grass length as it was now but he had cut the grass when it was very long so his children could play on it without treading in dog excrement hidden in the grass. Some residents had received notes from 'The Friends of Bury Green'. No such group existed and there was no contact address. A resident said that a green should allow residents to 'indulge in lawful sports and pastimes'. This was not possible when the grass was so long. A resident said that in the past the green had been cut once a year for hay. A resident said that many years ago he had been asked to cut the green that had become infested with nettles, docks and other weeds. A resident asked if the Chairman knew who had sent the notes. The Chairman said that she did not know and had no intention of asking residents to find out.

The Chairman said that the Council rented the green from Cascoyne Cecil Estates and was responsible for its maintenance. The lease did not specify how the green should be kept. Currently the grass was cut at the expense of Romehold, the owners of Bury Green Farm. The Council gave no support to anonymous groups sending notes to residents. The Council was reluctant to lay down the law about how the green should look and would much rather that the residents of Bury Green discuss the matter among themselves and then come to the Council with an agreed proposal for a Council policy. The Chairman asked the residents present at the meeting to contact every Bury Green resident and organise a meeting. Cllr Forgham said that he was willing to help organise the meeting. The Chairman said she would like to attend.

Action
JF CP

- 2.17.2. Bury Green seat.** The Chairman said that that the seat on the Green had disappeared and a resident had offered to replace it. The Chairman proposed that the Council make a £50 donation when the details had been clarified. Agreed.

2.18. Clerk's Report

2.18.1. Financial statement

Period ending 7th June 2011

Barclay's Bank C/Acc			£14,649.41
StepSaver BP Acc			£5.19
BP Acc			£170.02
Petty cash			£30.16
		Total	£14,854.78
To be agreed for payment			
Mr B Evans	P/Clerk - (May)	£315.61	
	Exp (May)	£19.20	
	Float	£50.00	£384.81
Karin Green Garden Services	Grass cutting & bins (May)		£44.40
Mr A Purvis	Litter picking (May)		£101.59
Mower Services	2 cuts in May		£290.40
	Total payments		£821.20
Total in all accounts and petty cash after payment of this month's bills £14,033.58			

- 2.18.2.** Proposed to accept payment of accounts. Agreed.

- 2.18.3.** Proposed to accept the accuracy of the financial statement. Proposed Cllr Mrs Wilkinson seconded Cllr Williamson. Agreed.

- 2.18.4. Annual Governance Statement.** The Chairman proposed that she sign the Governance Statement that had been previously circulated. Agreed.

2.18.5. Accounts for 2010/1. The Chairman proposed that she sign the accounts for 2010/11 that had been previously circulated. Agreed.

2.18.6. Annual Return for 2010/11. The Chairman proposed that she sign the Annual Audit Return for 2010/11 that had been previously circulated. Agreed.

2.19. Democratic 10 minutes.

Cllrs Forgham and Williamson said that a resident had asked that a silver birch near the end of Chapel Lane be cut back so that the direction sign behind it could be seen. The Clerk said that he had investigated the matter when the resident had complained in the past. The tree had been planted by the Council before HCC had installed the sign. To his mind the tree was much more attractive than the sign. The Chairman said that she would like to investigate the situation before any decision was made. A resident asked who would pay for an organiser for the Young Ones as twenty four sessions might be required to prepare a production. The Chairman said that she would work to obtain the required funding.

Action
CP

2.20. Planning matters. The transactions of the Planning Committee were noted.
Correspondence. The Clerk distributed items of correspondence to relevant members.

CPRE Members Guide

MW

CPRE Countryside Voice magazine

JF

Clerks & Councils Direct magazine

CP

2.21. Date of the next meeting Tuesday 5th July 2011.

2.22. The Chairman closed the meeting to the Public and the Press at 9:16 p.m.