

# Little Hadham Parish Council

Minutes of the 12<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Little Hadham Parish Council (2011 – 2015 Session) held on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> June 2012 at 8:10 p.m. in the Village Hall, Little Hadham.

<b>Present:</b>	<b>Mr J Forgham</b>	<b>Chairman</b>
	<b>Mr R Gregory</b>	)
	<b>Mrs C Piccolo</b>	)
	<b>Mrs M Wilkinson</b>	) <b>Councillors</b>
	<b>Mr G Williamson</b>	)
	<b>Ms W Woodgate</b>	)

Mr B Evans – Clerk, and 9 members of the public.

**12.1. Absent.** None.

**12.2. Declarations of interest.** None.

**12.3. Public session.** There were no questions or comments on agenda items.

**12.4. Minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting** held on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2012 had been previously circulated. The minutes were agreed as accurate.

**12.5. Minutes of the Parish Council meeting** held on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2012 had been previously circulated. The minutes were agreed as accurate.

**12.6. Matters arising from the minutes.** None.

**12.7. Replacement councillor.** The Chairman said that he had received enquiries from one resident but as yet no firm application.

**12.8. Playgrounds.**

**12.8.1.** Repairs following the inspection. Cllr Williamson said that a quotation had been received from Mr Mick Foskett for repairs to the Village Hall playground for £1,425 [Appendix 1] He proposed the quotation be accepted and Mr Foskett asked to carry out the work. Agreed.

Action  
Clerk

**12.8.2.** Installation of ‘No Dogs’ signs at the playgrounds. The Chairman said the signs had been installed and he thanked Mr Fardell for his work.

**12.8.3.** Fitness apparatus for the Village Hall playground. Cllr Mrs Piccolo said she had received three quotations. Four pieces of apparatus would cost about £5,000 including matting and fixing. Cllr Ms Woodgate asked about the safety of children. Cllr Mrs Piccolo said there had to be a minimum separation between the fitness and play apparatus. She understood that children aged from ten could use the apparatus under supervision. The Chairman said he had received two emails from residents on the subject. One thought the apparatus would be a waste of money and would be rarely used while the other thought it was a good idea. The Chairman said he had the reservation that the community had to show that the apparatus would be used as £5,000 was a lot of money. Cllr Williamson agreed. He said there would likely be extra costs such as insurance and maintenance. Cllr Ms Woodgate said she thought the apparatus would not be used much. Cllr Mrs Wilkinson thought that depended on how well publicised the launching of the new apparatus was. The Chairman thought the Council could organise a training session. It was agreed that Cllr Gregory would contact Councils that had installed fitness equipment and enquire about usage and safety. Cllr Mrs Piccolo would seek the advice of Mr Trevor Waldock of EHC and would also write an article for the Parish News asking residents for their views.

Action  
CP/RG

- 12.8.4.** Damage to aerial runway. The Clerk said that the cable was generally covered in a thin layer of rust but at one point the cable had rusted through and broken. Cllr Williamson thought this could be a design fault and he was taking the matter up with SMP, the company who had supplied and installed the runway. It was agreed that Cllr Mrs Piccolo would ask Mr Waldock for his advice on the matter. Action GW/CP
- 12.9. Road matters.**
- 12.9.1.** Outstanding matters. The Chairman said the hole in Albury Road had been filled and the post knocked over outside the Nag's Head was awaiting repair by Herts Highways. The concealed ditch on Chapel Lane had been reported.
- 12.9.2.** Overgrown pavement from the Nag's Head to the Smithy. The Chairman said that he had asked residents opposite the Nag's Head to cut back their hedges. He said he would talk to residents in Chapel Lane. The Chairman said that a number of residents had seen that Herts Highways had removed nettles and soil that had encroached onto the A120 pavement. They wanted to know if the pavement from the Village Hall to the Smithy could be cleared in the same way. The Chairman said that he would ask for volunteers in the Parish News. Action JF
- 12.9.3.** Damage to the war memorial. Cllr Williamson said the he had witnessed an articulated lorry damage the wall around the war memorial. The lorry was foreign owned and driven by a driver who spoke no English. Cllr Williamson said he had recorded the lorry registration number and the driver had given him a statement in Slovak agreeing that he had damaged the wall. The Clerk said there was little hope of getting compensation, especially as the name and address of the company were unknown. It was agreed that the Clerk would obtain a quote for a repair. Action Clerk
- 12.10. Bury Green**
- 12.10.1.** Bury Green seat. The Chairman said that he had mislaid the details of the company supplying the seat. He asked the Clerk to contact former councillor Peter Wells. Action Clerk
- 12.10.2.** Renovation of Bury Green pond and fence. The Chairman said that he had raised the matter at the Parish Assembly and he hoped to hear from volunteers. Action JF
- 12.11. NHS report.** Cllr Gregory said there was nothing to report.
- 12.12. Allotments.**
- 12.12.1.** Use of waste land for extra allotment plots. The Clerk said that having spent time looking into services on the land he thought the Council should proceed with allocating the land as allotments. The Chairman thought this too much of a risk and it was agreed to continue with the investigation as to where any services ran. Action JF
- 12.13. Footpaths.**
- 12.13.1.** The Chairman reported that a hole, about 1m square and ½ m deep, had been dug in the Millennium Wood. This had caused Mr Allen to have an accident resulting in a broken wrist while mowing the grass on the paths. The Chairman said that Mr Harvey had reported similar holes on his farmland. The History Society had reported that it was not to do with them and the Chairman wondered if it might be someone with a metal detector. He asked residents to keep a watch for the culprits.
- 12.13.2.** The Chairman said that Mr Harvey had complained about the cutting of footpaths on his land which he thought had left them in a mess.
- 12.14. Parish Plan Group.**
- 12.14.1.** The Chairman said that the Jubilee celebrations had been rather damp and cold. However, the children's parade and the games and picnic in the Village Hall had

gone well. Unfortunately, the Gala Dinner had to be cancelled as there were too few people to make it viable. The Chairman thanked the Cricket Club for organising the bar and Mrs Tracy Northcote for organising the children from the school.

**12.14.2. Millennium Wood bioblitz and picnic.** The Chairman said that he would organise the event for children and parents in September. He said he would contact Romehold, the owners of the land, to seek permission. Action  
JF

**12.14.3. Parish website.** The Clerk said Mr O'Reagan had not contacted him but he would like to speak to him before going further. Action  
Clerk

**12.15. Hundred Parishes Constitutional Conference Monday, 25th June 2012.** Cllr Mrs Piccolo said she intended to attend. Action  
CP

## 12.16. Chairman's report.

**12.16.1. Parish Assembly.** The Chairman said that there had been a good turn out with some good presentations – especially by the children. He would like the views of residents on what they would like to see at future assemblies. He agreed to write a request for the Parish News. Action  
JF

**12.16.2. Youth representative to the Council.** The Chairman said that he was still looking for expressions of interest – possibly for a youth council. Action  
JF

**12.16.3. Local business directory.** Progress on creating a leaflet detailing local businesses. The Chairman said he had contacts from 25 businesses though it turned out they involved only 7 people. He said he would chase the larger businesses. He expected to pay for the directory by selling advertising space. He would put a note in the Parish News. Action  
JF

**12.16.4. Compiling a list of vulnerable residents for use in emergencies.** The Chairman said that he had not been able to get residents to sign up to a list. It was agreed not to pursue the matter.

**12.16.5. Compiling a database of residents' email addresses.** The Chairman said that few people had returned details of their email. It was decided not to continue with the list.

**12.16.6. Proposal from Albury PC for planting trees.** The Chairman said he hoped to meet the Albury chairman soon. Action  
JF

## 12.17. Clerk's Report

### Period ending 11<sup>th</sup> June 2012

Barclay's Bank C/Acc	£17,715.05
StepSaver BP Acc	£5.19
BP Acc	£170.10
Petty cash	-£22.51

**Total £17,867.83**

### Uncleared cheques

Little Hadham Cricket Club	Donation	£125.00
The Hadhams History Society	Donation	£200.00

**Total uncleared £325.00**

**To be considered by the Council**

<b>To be agreed for payment</b>			
Mr B Evans	P/Clerk - (May)	£315.61	
	Float	£50.00	
	Exp (May)	£20.31	£385.92
Karin Green Garden Services	Grass cutting (May)	£50.00	
	Mower petrol	£6.90	£56.90
Mr A Purvis	Litter picking (May)		£106.86
Mower Services [Mr L Knott]	Mowing playgrounds		£290.40
Mrs C Piccolo	Refreshments		£68.26
NALC	LCR magazine subscription		£15.50
	<b>Total payments</b>		<b>£923.84</b>
<b>Total in all accounts and petty cash after payment of this month's bills £16,668.99</b>			

**12.17.1. Financial statement**

**12.17.2.** Proposed to accept payment of accounts. Agreed.

**12.17.3.** Proposed to accept the accuracy of the financial statement. Agreed.

**12.17.4.** LCR magazine. It was agreed to take an annual subscription.

**12.18. Democratic 10 minutes.**

A resident noted that the Bury Green sewage disposal system discharged into the Bury Green pond and care should be taken to avoid infection.

A resident asked about the builders' waste fly-tipped in New Road. The Clerk said the matter had been reported. The resident said that overgrown hedges in Chapel Lane obstructed the view from high vehicles like tractors. The Chairman said that he would speak to residents. The resident asked how long the fitness apparatus would last in the rain. It would be very expensive if it only lasted a short time.

A resident was disappointed with the Jubilee events. He thought the Parish News was not the best way of advertising such matters and he thought the Council needed other ways of contacting people.

A resident said that those who had intended to attend the Gala Dinner had in fact enjoyed a meal organised at his home by Mr Mike Smith. She thought that the menu offered for the original dinner was not really suitable for a celebration. The Chairman said that they were to items selected from a list by those consulted.

**12.19. Planning matters.** The transactions of the Planning Committee were noted.

**12.20. Correspondence.** The Clerk distributed items of correspondence to relevant members.

NALC LCR magazine

**JF**

Clerks and Council Direct magazine

**JF**

**12.21. Date of the next meeting Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2012.**

**12.22. The Chairman closed the meeting to the Public and the Press at 9:21 p.m.**

## Appendix 1 – Quotation for playground repairs

**Mick's Carpentry and Plastering Services**

Carpenter's Cottage

5 Farm Place

Bury Green, Little Hadham

Hertfordshire

SG11 2HA

Telephone 07811 141275 (m) 01279 758708 (h)

10 June 2012

**ESTIMATE****For works to be carried out at Little Hadham Playing Field****Roundabout**

To place top soil and turf underneath roundabout to close gap from ground level to underside of roundabout to maximum of 75mm. This is in between recommended levels of 60mm to 110mm.

**Gate Nearest to Car Park**

Replace gate stop.

Fit rubber sponge at bottom of stop to avoid pinch gap when gate is closed.

**Fence by Car Park**

Tighten support wires at each end of posts to make them taught.

Fix in more staples to centre posts.

**Basket Ball Stand**

Take off existing back board.

Replace back board using 15mm WBP ply and paint to white finish.

Fix new fixings as existing fixings need to be cut off and new ones will be drilled right through metal frame. The fixings will have nene priene nuts and bolts.

**Fence by Basket Ball Stand**

Replace 6 no. posts, existing have rotted. Re-fix wire fencing to posts.

**Total cost labour and materials                    £1,245**