

Little Hadham Parish Council

Minutes of the 15th meeting of the Little Hadham Parish Council (2011 – 2015 Session) held on Tuesday 2nd October 2012 at 8:25 p.m. in the Village Hall, Little Hadham.

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

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

- 15.1. Absent.** None.
- 15.2. Declarations of interest.** Cllr Pearson said he had a personal interest in the gas switch box south of Bridgefoot Farm as he was considering taking legal action against the owners.
- 15.3. Public session.** There were no questions or comments on agenda items.
- 15.4. Minutes of the Parish Council meeting** held on Tuesday 4th September 2012 had been previously circulated. The minutes were agreed as accurate.
- 15.5. Matters arising from the minutes.** None.
- 15.6. Replacement councillor.** Mr Graham Pearson has been co-opted.
- 15.7. Playgrounds.**
- 15.7.1.** Report from the playground inspections. Cllr Williamson said he had prepared a specification for repairs. He proposed the Clerk seek a quotation for the work. Agreed. Action
Clerk
- 15.7.2.** Proposed installation of a Trim Trail in the Village Hall playground. Cllr Mrs Piccolo said that she had met the Caloo representative at the playground together with the Chairman and Clerk. She showed pictures of the four pieces of apparatus chosen. The Chairman said that the posts were guaranteed for 10 years and the ropes for two years. Safety matting would not be needed as the equipment was below 1m high. He noted the equipment was very popular at primary schools he had visited. He thought money should be budgeted for the replacement of ropes. It was agreed to install the apparatus at an approximate cost of £5,000 ex VAT. The Chairman proposed that there be an opening ceremony when the apparatus was installed. Agreed. Action
CP
- 15.7.3.** Damage to the aerial runway. The Clerk said he had received an email saying an engineer would contact him saying when the repair would be carried out but he had failed to do so. Cllr Mrs Piccolo said she would speak to the company manager. Action
CP
- 15.8. Road matters.**
- 15.8.1.** Outstanding matters. The Chairman said that long standing potholes, blocked drains and ditches in Acremore Street had been finally repaired.
- 15.8.2.** The Chairman reported that the damaged post near the Nag's Head had been repaired and the concealed ditch on Chapel Lane near to Westland Green was so over grown that it was over 0.7m from the road. It would not need attention until the scrub had been cut back.

- 15.8.3.** Damage to the war memorial. From the floor, Mr Foskett said he expected to make the repair at the weekend.
- 15.8.4.** Update on protection of the gas control box south of Bridgefoot Farm. The Chairman said he still was waiting to hear from National Grid. Action
JF
- 15.8.5.** Possible installation of recycled plastic planters. Cllr Ms Woodgate said she would like to enhance the village with large planters like those in Hunsdon. The Clerk said care should be taken over ownership of the land.
- 15.8.6.** Possible memorial bench near the parish pump. Cllr Ms Woodgate said a resident had requested permission to erect a bench near the village pump in memory of his late wife. The request was agreed subject to agreement from Herts Highways. It was agreed that Cllr Mrs Piccolo and Cllr Ms Woodgate would discuss the installation of the planters and bench with Mr Noades of Herts Highways. Action
CP/WW
- 15.9. Bury Green**
- 15.9.1.** Bury Green seat. The Clerk said the seat had been delivered and awaited installation by Mr Foskett.
- 15.9.2.** Renovation of Bury Green pond and fence. The Chairman said that he and a work party of volunteers had cleared much of the undergrowth. A digger would be needed to clear some of the weed choking the pond. Action
JF
- 15.9.3.** Cutting of the green. Residents complained that the green had not been cut for several weeks. The Chairman said he would talk to the owners of Romehold. Action
JF
- 15.10. Westland Green.**
- 15.10.1.** Repairs to the byroad across the green. The Chairman said he would discuss the matter with Mr Maddex, HCC Footpaths Officer. Action
JF
- 15.10.2.** Grass cutting of the green. From the floor Mr Stephen Stigwood said he would cut the green in about three weeks' time.
- 15.11. NHS report.** There was nothing to report.
- 15.12. Allotments.** The Clerk said the allotment rents needed to be collected. The Chairman said he would contact the person he had asked to consider being the allotment rep. Action
JF
- 15.13. Footpaths.**
- 15.13.1.** Damaged foot bridge opposite the Nag's Head. The Chairman said he had just been informed that contractors had been instructed to make repairs.
- 15.13.2.** Rutted, overgrown footpaths from Millfield Lane to Green Street and from Cradle End to St James Way, Bishop's Stortford. Cllr Mrs Piccolo said the paths were very dangerous and she was in discussion with Mr Maddex on the best way to make them safe. Action
CP
- 15.13.3.** From the floor, Mr Stigwood said that someone had been stretching fishing line across paths at head height on his land. He thought it was dangerous, particularly to horse riders. The Chairman said he would report the matter to the police.
- 15.14. Parish Plan Group.**
- 15.14.1.** Parish website. The Clerk he had spoken to a Much Hadham councillor. The Much Hadham Council had started to create a new site and he was trying to discover whether they intended to continue with the Hadham site. Action
JF
Action
Clerk

15.15. Chairman's report.

- 15.15.1. Local business directory.** Progress on creating a leaflet detailing local businesses. The Chairman said he had contacts from 25 businesses. He said he would chase the larger businesses. Action JF
- 15.15.2. Bulb planting round village signs.** The Chairman said he would organise a work party to plant bulbs near the new signs and near traffic calming fences. Action JF
- 15.15.3. Council tax.** The Chairman said that some residents received rebates on their council tax bill. In the past this money had been paid to the district councils by the government. In the future the government would pay only 90% of the rebates to the district councils who will have to decide how to raise the other 10%. EHC was consulting on whether all residents should pay at least 10% of their council tax bill or whether the cost should be passed on to the tax payers not receiving a rebate. The closing date for the consultation was 20th October. Cllr Gregory said that individuals should make their own decision rather than there be a collective view of the Council. Agreed. Action All

15.16. Clerk's Report

15.16.1. Financial statement

Period ending 2nd October 2012			
Barclay's Bank C/Acc			£16,641.70
StepSaver BP Acc			£5.19
BP Acc			£170.14
Petty cash			£18.52
		Total	£16,835.55
Received			
EHC - 2 nd half of precept			£6,750.00
To be agreed for payment			
Mr M Foskett - playground repairs [paid 11/9/12]			£1,245.00
Mr B Evans	P/Clerk - September	£315.81	
	Exp (September)	£13.70	£329.51
Karin Green Garden Services	Grass cutting (September)		£50.00
Mr A Purvis	Litter picking (September)		£108.66
Mower Services [Mr L Knott]	Mowing playgrounds		£290.40
EHC - allotment rent			£20.00
	HM Revenue and Customs - PAYE		£236.80
CPRE - annual subscription			£29.00
		Total payments	£2,309.37
Total in all accounts and petty cash after payment of this month's bills			£21,276.18

15.16.2. Proposed to accept payment of accounts. Agreed.

15.16.3. Proposed to accept the accuracy of the financial statement. Agreed.

15.17. Democratic 10 minutes.

A resident asked how the grass would be cut round the Trim Trail. The Clerk said the contractors would strim around the apparatus.

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

15.19. Correspondence.

The Clerk distributed items of correspondence to relevant members.

CPRE Fieldwork magazine

MW

HAPTC courses leaflet

JF

HAPTC Invitation to Sustainability Conference

JF/MW

NALC LCR magazine

JF

Clerks and Councils Direct magazine

JF

15.20. Date of the next meeting Tuesday 6th November 2012.**15.21. The Chairman closed the meeting to the Public and the Press at 9:27 p.m.**