

# Little Hadham Parish Council

Minutes of the 17<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Little Hadham Parish Council (2011 – 2015 Session) held on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2012 at 8:10 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 13 members of the public.

- 17.1. Absent.** None.
- 17.2. Declarations of interest.** None.
- 17.3. Public session.** A resident said he thought the hedges at the Village Hall playground had not been cut low enough.
- 17.4. Minutes of the Parish Council meeting** held on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2012 had been previously circulated. The minutes were agreed as accurate.
- 17.5. Matters arising from the minutes.** None.
- 17.6. Budget and Precept for 2013/14**
- 17.6.1.** The Chairman referred to the draft budget prepared by the working party which had been circulated to councillors. He said there had been some discussion among councillors concerning payments to ‘Stop Stansted Expansion’ and money budgeted for flood prevention works. He proposed that the draft budget be accepted with the exception of these two items which could be decided at the next meeting. Agreed.
- 17.6.2.** The Chairman proposed that the Parish Precept for 2013/14 be left unchanged at £13,500. Agreed. The Precept claim form was signed by the Chairman, two other councillors and the Clerk. Action Clerk
- 17.7. Playgrounds.**
- 17.7.1.** Repairs following the playground inspections. Cllr Williamson said that the quotation submitted by Mr Foskett was more that he thought the Council could afford – the quote included a significant cost for repainting the football/basketball stand at the Village Hall playground. Cllr Williamson thought repairs at the Ridgeway playground were most urgent. He had spoken to Mr Foskett who had agreed to resubmit a revised quote of about £1,000. Cllr Williamson proposed that the revised quote be accepted. Agreed. Action Clerk
- 17.7.2.** Trim Trail in the Village Hall playground. Cllr Mrs Piccolo said that apparatus had been installed and was in use. The Chairman said that he had received favourable comments from local children and parents.
- 17.7.3.** Playground hedges. The Clerk said that the hedges at both playgrounds had been cut by Green Man Conservation.
- 17.8. Road matters.**
- 17.8.1.** Outstanding matters. The Chairman said he had reported a new pothole in Chapel lane near Valley Fields.

- 17.8.2.** Vehicles from the side roads jumping the A120 lights. The Chairman said this was a serious problem. He thought an accident involving pedestrians, especially children, was very likely. There was a need to change the attitudes of some drivers. The Chairman said a report had appeared in the Observer and he had written to both local MPs and local parish councils. The new Police Commissioner had passed the matter to the local police. The Chairman asked residents to report incidents of bad driving to County Cllr Leanda Newlyn. Cllr Gregory asked if a CCTV camera could be installed. Other councillors thought this impracticable and that it would have a dominant appearance. Cllr Mrs Piccolo said she would include the email addresses of County councillor, police and the police commissioner in the Parish News. Cllr Gregory mentioned a letter in the latest Parish News that had been critical about the use of vehicle speed indicator equipment by local residents. He asked if the Council should respond. Cllr Mrs Piccolo said that, although she had initially encouraged the use of the equipment it was a community rather than a Council initiative. She has recently stepped back from an active role.
- 17.8.3.** Concealed ditch and reflective signs on Chapel Lane near to Westland Green. The Chairman said he was waiting for Hert Highways to take action. **Action JF**
- 17.8.4.** Blocked drain under the road at Westland Green. The Chairman said Herts Highways would deal with this together with a blocked culvert on the A120. **Action JF**
- 17.8.5.** Update on protection of the gas control box south of Bridge Foot Farm. Cllr Pearson said that his daughter had 200 votes on her online petition and she would be giving a presentation to the County Council. Mr Oliver Heald MP had contacted Herts Highways and National Grid who were 'looking in to it'.
- 17.8.6.** Installation of recycled plastic planters. Cllr Ms Woodgate she was waiting for Herts Highways to agree on the locations for the planters. She said two planters would cost £708 – there would be no installation cost. The peat would cost about £30. She proposed that, given Herts Highways consent, the Council buy and install the two planters on the road verge near the Village Hall Playground and on the verge between the Village Hall and Lloyd Taylor Close. Agreed. **Action CP/WW**
- 17.8.7.** Village sign. Cllr Mrs Piccolo said Herts Highways would install a sign for about £400. It was agreed that the sign should be sited near Ash Valley Golf Course at a cost of no more than £500. **Action CP**
- 17.9. Flooding.**
- 17.9.1.** Cllr Pearson said the water level readings of the Ash near the A120 now correctly appeared on the Environment Agency website. He noted that the river had reached 'flooding possible' levels a number of times this year.
- 17.9.2.** Cllr Pearson said he had received a letter from Mr Heald MP concerning the increasing cost of flooding insurance. The government was in consultation with the insurers.
- 17.9.3.** Cllr Pearson said that he had sent a list of flood prevention works to the Environment Agency who had agreed to consider the matters.
- 17.10. Bury Green**
- 17.10.1.** Renovation of Bury Green pond and fence. The Chairman said that work was on-going. He hoped to visit the site in the new year. **Action JF**
- 17.10.2.** Tidying the Millennium Wood. The Chairman said that he had three willing volunteers. He said he was waiting for permission from Romehold to carry out the work by February/March. **Action JF**

- 17.11. Westland Green.**
- 17.11.1.** Repairs to the byroad across the green. The Chairman said he had yet to hear from Mr Maddex, HCC Footpaths Officer. Action  
JF
- 17.11.2.** Grass cutting of the green. From the floor Mr Stephen Stigwood said he would cut the Green but it was still too wet.
- 17.12. NHS report.** There was nothing to report.
- 17.13. Allotments.** The Chairman said he had not received a reply from the person he had asked to be allotments rep. He said he would collect the rent. Action  
JF
- 17.14. Footpaths.**
- 17.14.1.** Rutted, overgrown footpaths from Millfield Lane to Green Street and from Cradle End to St James Way, Bishop’s Stortford. Cllr Mrs Piccolo said Mr Maddex was very busy and she was reluctant to give him more to do. Action  
CP
- 17.15. Parish Plan Group.**
- 17.15.1.** Parish website. Cllr Mrs Piccolo said she and the Clerk had met Mr O’Reagan who had been very helpful and was willing to help the Council develop the existing Hadham site at no cost. She said she would be preparing stories for uploading to the site. Action  
CP
- 17.16. Consultations**
- 17.16.1.** HCC Waste disposal – various documents.
- 17.16.2.** HCC Active Travel Strategy. The Chairman said he would consider the two consultation documents. Action  
JF
- 17.17. Chairman’s report.**
- 17.17.1. Local business directory.** Progress on creating a leaflet detailing local businesses. The Chairman said he had no further news. Action  
JF
- 17.17.2.** Bulb planting round village signs. The Chairman said the bulbs would be planted soon. Action  
JF
- 17.17.3.** Refuse bins – helping vulnerable residents. The Chairman said he had received acknowledgement for the help he had given to several residents.
- 17.17.4.** Refuse bins – obstructing pavements. The Chairman referred to a letter from EHC saying that they would instruct their contractor not to leave bins obstructing pavements. Cllr Pearson said he had not received any more complaints from residents.

## 17.18. Clerk's Report

### 17.18.1. Financial statement

#### Period ending 4<sup>th</sup> December 2012

Barclay's Bank C/Acc	£19,010.15
StepSaver BP Acc	£5.19
BP Acc	£170.14
Petty cash	£44.52

**Total** £19,230.00

#### Uncleared cheques

Mr M A Foskett - playground repairs	£291.00
Isobel Hospice - in memory Mr Michael Hurford	£10.00
Herts CC - office stationary	£20.94

**Total uncleared** £321.94

#### To be agreed for payment

Mr B Evans	P/Clerk - Nov & Dec	£631.42	
	Exp (October)	£26.20	£657.62
Karin Green Garden Services -	Grass cutting (Nov & Dec)		£100.00
Mr A Purvis	Litter picking (November)		£108.66
Mr A Purvis	Litter picking (December)		£108.66
HM Revenue & Customs	PAYE		£236.80
Green Man Conservation	Hedge cutting		£320.00
Broker Networks Ltd	Additional insurance		£25.00
Caloo Ltd	Trim Trail		£6,000.00
Little Hadham School	Donation		£500.00
SLCC	Subscription		£100.00

**Total payments** £8,156.74

**Total in all accounts and petty cash after payment of this month's bills** £10,751.32

17.18.2. Proposed to accept payment of accounts. Agreed.

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

### 17.19. Democratic 10 minutes.

A resident said she had spoken to Mrs Jan Finn, editor of the Parish News. Mrs Finn said that she was frustrated by the slowness and unreliability of the printer. The Chairman said that the Council had made a significant contribution to refurbishing the printer but he would look into the matter.

Action  
JF

A resident said that he had written the letter concerning the use of the speed indicator equipment. He said he was not against the police carrying out speed checks but he thought local residents should not be involved as it was likely to raise conflicts between them and speeding local drivers. Cllr Mrs Piccolo said that any penalties would be issued by the police.

A resident thought some trees near the Ash had been inexpertly cut. Cllr Pearson said he would take the matter up with the Environment Agency.

Action  
GP

A number of residents spoke about the timings of the A120 traffic lights. They thought that allowing more time for the side roads might reduce the number of people jumping the lights. The Chairman said he would investigate.

Action  
JF

Cllr Williamson thanked Mr Denis Taylor for installing a seat, in memory of his late wife, near the village pump.

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

### 17.21. Correspondence.

CPRE Hertfordshire Newsletter

CP

17.22. **Date of the next meeting Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2013.**

17.23. **The Chairman closed the meeting to the Public and the Press at 9:09 p.m.**