

# Little Hadham Parish Council

Minutes of the 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Little Hadham Parish Council (2015 – 2019 Session) held on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2015 at 8:26 p.m. in the Village Hall, Little Hadham.

**Present:**      **Mrs E Lloyd-Williams**    **Chair**  
                   **Mr C Bhatt**                            )  
                   **Mr A Hoodless**                       )  
                   **Mr G Pearson**                        ) **Councillors**  
                   **Mr G Tooke**                            )  
                   **Mrs M Wilkinson**                   )  
                   **Mr W Wright**                         )

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

**3.1**            **Absent.** None.

**3.2.**            **Declarations of interest.** None.

**3.3.**            **Public session on matters on the agenda.**

There were no questions or comments on agenda items.

**3.4.**            **Minutes of the Parish Council meeting** held on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> July 2015 had been previously circulated. The minutes were agreed as accurate.

**3.5.**            **Matters arising from the minutes.**

**3.5.1.**        Temporary polo stables and planning law. The Chair said she thought the stable were not moveable so she had asked the planning office to investigate.

Action  
ELW

**3.6.**            **Neighbourhood Plan.**

**3.6.1.**        To consider whether the Council should take steps to create a Plan. Cllr Wright thought the Council should definitely prepare a plan although the timing depended on whether the bypass went ahead. Cllr Bhatt asked how much work could be done before a final decision on the bypass. Cllr Wright thought the initial planning work would take some time. The Chair asked about initial costs and how public opinion would be sought. Cllr Wright thought councillors should discuss options with a consultant. The Chair said she was in contact with the Much Hadham planning team. It was agreed that Cllrs Wright and Bhatt would draft a proposal for the October meeting including costs and funding.

Action  
WW/CB

**3.6.2.**        The possible redefinition of the categories given to The Ashe and The Ford. Cllr Tooke said EHC had still to make a decision on Stage 1 of the consultation. Currently the Ashe was rated 19<sup>th</sup> out of 34 Category 1 villages with the Ford rated 26<sup>th</sup>. EHC proposed changing the scoring of the villages following responses. This might include flooding risk. It was agreed that the Clerk would write reiterating the risk of flooding in the two hamlets from overflowing ditches and sewers as well as from the river.

Action  
Clerk

**3.7. Allotments**

**3.7.1.** There was nothing to report.

**3.8. Playgrounds.**

**3.8.1.** To consider the Playground Inspection Reports and consider any work required. Cllr Tooke said all the items were low or very low risk and were mainly wear and tear. The Chair asked Cllr Tooke to prepare a list of work ready for a quotation. Action  
GT

**3.9. Road matters.**

**3.9.1.** Maintenance of the verge outside homes on Standon Road. Cllr Bhatt said he had reported the loose manhole cover to Cllr McAndrew again. Maintenance of the verge was said to be on the list by no timing had been given. Action  
CB

**3.9.2.** Potholes. The Chair said they were as prolific as ever and she encouraged residents to report them to the HCC website.

**3.9.3.** Vehicles jumping the A120 traffic lights. The Chair said she had no new news.

**3.9.4.** Excessive speed of traffic on the Cradle End, Bury Green, Ford Hill and Chapel Lane roads. The Chair said she was waiting for confirmation of the traffic monitoring. Action  
ELW

**3.9.5.** Damage to verge and danger to pedestrians caused by cars parked outside the garage on the A120. Cllr Bhatt said wooden posts had been driven in around the verge outside the garage which should keep vehicles away.

**3.10. Footpaths.**

**3.10.1.** Condition of footpaths. The Chair said most footpaths were in good condition.

**3.10.2.** Cllr Wilkinson said the footway along the A120 had become dangerously overgrown so that pedestrians had to walk close to the traffic. Cllr Hoodless said that he had been told the footway was safe for his young daughter to walk to school in Bishop's Stortford. After one try she was too frightened to use it. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to Herts Highways asking for the hedge to be cut. Action  
Clerk

**3.11. Bury Green.**

**3.11.1.** Pot hole on the Green. The Chair said the pothole had been repaired.

**3.11.2.** Cradle End noticeboard. The Chair thanked Cllr Hoodless for installing the new noticeboard and removing the old one.

**3.11.3.** Millennium Wood. The Chair said Mr Jonathan Forgham would hold a meeting in the Village Hall on 23<sup>rd</sup> September at 7:30 p.m. to consider maintenance of the Wood. The village school planned to use the Wood in gaining their 'Forest' status. The Chair said Mr Forgham expected to ask the Council for some funding.

**3.12. Westland Green**

**3.12.1.** Installation of posts along the byroad crossing the Green. The Chair said that the posts had been installed so that vehicles could only pass along the byroad. She noted that the locked gateway was not wide enough to allow a tractor to pass to

cut the grass. There would be a small opening ceremony on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September at 11 a.m.

- 3.12.2.** Cllr Wilkinson referred to an email from Mr Jonathan Forgham recommending that the green be cut only once a year in order to preserve the multitude of wildlife living in and around the green. She asked that the green be cut as soon as possible. Action Clerk

**3.13. Flooding.**

- 3.14.** Cllr Pearson said Cllr McAndrew was in contact with Thames Water and Mr Oliver Heald MP about replacement sewage pumps. He noted there had been several severe rainfall warnings recently and a number of surrounding villages had been flooded. The average rainfall in August for the last 5 years had been 100mm while the average before this was 60mm. Many houses in the Ashe and the Ford were at risk of flooding. Cllr Wright said there had been no flooding at Green Street. Possibly due to some drain clearing work although the ground was not yet saturated. Action GP

**3.15. Chair's report.**

- 3.15.1.** Defibrillator. The Chair said 14 residents attended the training day. She planned to invite the trainers to the next Assembly. Cllr Pearson said he would include details in the Parish News. The Chair said she might be able to get a leaflet from a contact that could be inserted in the Parish News. She said the box included a 1<sup>st</sup> Aid kit. Cllr Bhatt agreed to buy a torch for the box.

- 3.15.2.** Positions of responsibility. The Chair said that the list needed some modification. She agreed to circulate possible changes to councillors.

**3.16. Clerk's Report**

**3.16.1. Financial statement**

**Period ending 1<sup>st</sup> September 2015**

Barclay's Bank C/Acc	£17,521.40
High Interest Acc	£5.19
Business Savings Acc	£170.36
Petty cash	£3.76

**Total**     **£17,700.71**

**Included above**

**Received**

EHC	New Homes Bonus	£4,599.00
EHC	Litter picker salary	£1,398.44

**Paid**

L Knott, Mower Services	2 grass cuts playing fields [paid 24/7/15]	£242.00
Greenbarnes Ltd	Cradle End noticeboard [paid 24/7/15]	£863.81
Mrs C Piccolo	Bury Green repair materials [paid 24/7/15]	£60.00
BDO LLP	External audit [paid 24/7/15]	£120.00
Sargies	Mowing Bury Green [paid 6/8/15]	£80.00

**To be agreed****To Pay**

Staff salaries	August	£503.53
Clerk's expenses	August	£13.70
Mr M Foskett	Playground repairs	£260.00
EHC	Playground inspections	£99.60
L Knott, Mower Services	2 grass cuts playing fields	£242.00
	<b>Total payments</b>	<b>£1,118.83</b>

**Total in all accounts and petty cash after payment of this month's bills £16,581.88**

- 3.16.2.** Proposed to accept payment of accounts. Agreed.
- 3.16.3.** Proposed to accept the accuracy of the financial statement. Agreed.
- 3.16.4.** To receive the report of the external auditor and consider any actions required. The Clerk said the only comment from the auditor was about a £1 rounding error. The Chair proposed that the report be accepted. Agreed.
- 3.16.5.** To consider changing the Council bank from Barclays to Unity Trust Bank so as to allow Internet Banking. The Clerk said that, unlike Barclays Bank, Unity Bank would allow the Clerk to set up, but not authorise, bank transfers. Authorisation would have to be given by two of the three Council signatories. Currently the signatories were Cllrs Lloyd-Williams, Pearson and Wilkinson. The Unity bank was covered by the Financial Services Protection Scheme. It was agreed that the Clerk should apply to open an account at the Unity Bank and appoint the bank as Council bankers. The Council agreed be bound to the Unity Bank Terms and Conditions that had been circulated to councillors. The Bank's terms and conditions may vary from time to time and the Council agreed to be bound by them. The Mandate for the operation of the bank account, payment instructions and banking services was approved and be provided to the Bank by the Clerk in accordance with the Bank's procedures. The Bank was entitled to rely upon this Mandate until it received a later Mandate amending it.
- 3.17. Democratic 10 minutes.**  
A resident said that he had asked Albury Road to be included in the HCC drain clearing but it had not been done. He had written to HCC and awaited a reply. A resident asked why the bypass was not on the agenda. He thought it was the most important issue affecting the village and he thought many people were against it. The Clerk said it could not be on the agenda every meeting until there was something new to discuss. The Chair as said as many residents were for the bypass as against. The matter would be discussed again when HCC submitted a planning application.
- 3.18. Planning matters.** The transactions of the Planning Committee were noted.

**3.19. Correspondence**

CPRE Standing up for Herts countryside

CPRE Fieldwork magazine

CPRE Countryside Voice Magazine

EHC playground inspection reports

**TH****MW****TH****MW****3.20. Date of next Council meeting – Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2015.****3.21. The Chair closed the meeting to the Public and the Press at 9:30 p.m.**