

# Little Hadham Parish Council

Minutes of the 21<sup>st</sup> meeting of the **Little Hadham Parish Council** (2015 – 2019 Session) held on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2017 at 8:19 p.m. in the Village Hall, Little Hadham.

<b>Present:</b>	<b>Mrs E Lloyd-Williams</b>	<b>Chair</b>
	<b>Mr G Pearson</b>	)
	<b>Mr G Tooke</b>	)
	<b>Mr N Wardrop</b>	) <b>Councillors</b>
	<b>Mrs M Wilkinson</b>	)
	<b>Mr W Wright</b>	)

Mr B Evans – Clerk, and 18 members of the public.

**22.1. Absent.** Cllr Hoodless.

**22.2. Declarations of interest by councillors on any items below.** None.

**22.3. Democratic ten minutes.**

A resident spoke about a vehicle parking on the C15 opposite the junction with Chapel Lane. Another resident said the vehicle was in the way when turning and obstructed the traffic. Cllr Pearson thought that the law would be unenforceable. The Chair said she would ask Cllr Hoodless to speak to the local PCSO. Cllr Pearson referred residents to the new phone app for contacting the police on non-urgent matters. It allowed photographs to be sent.

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A resident referred to the danger of traffic caused by numerous parked cars on Albury Road. Traffic often sped through the road and large trucks visiting the building site made things even more dangerous. The Chair said there was an informal working party considering traffic issues. A resident thought the flashing speed signs in Standon were effective and a resident of the Ford was concerned about traffic congestion on Chapel Lane when work converting the former chapel started.

**22.4. Minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting** held on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2017 to be agreed and signed as a true record. Agreed.

**22.5. Minutes of the Parish Council meeting** held on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2017 to be agreed and signed as a true record. Agreed.

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

**22.7. Strategic matters**

**22.7.1.** Neighbourhood Plan. Cllr Wright said the ‘Call for Sites’ had been advertised in the Parish News and on the Plan website. The steering group was collecting information. He expected that an application for a further grant would be made in two months or so.

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**22.8. Highways**

**22.8.1.** Consultation with residents on traffic matters including: traffic calming measures, the Drive Safe Scheme and parking near the village pump.

The Chair said she had met with the group and an action plan was being developed. There needed to be consultation with Herts Highways on such matters as the Safe Drive scheme. She understood some volunteers had monitored traffic speed in the past and it might be possible to work with surrounding parishes. Speeding vehicles could be reported to the police who would write to the owners. Serious offenders might get a police visit. The Chair

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noted the poor condition of many road signs and said she would speak to Cllr McAndrew.

**22.8.2.** Vehicles jumping the A120 lights. The Chair said she had nothing new.

**22.8.3.** Outstanding road repairs including potholes. Cllr Pearson said the C15 from South Cottages to Bromley Lane had been gritted. The repainting of the road markings at the Ford was on the Herts Highways 18 month rota.

**22.8.4.** Bypass. The Chair said she had nothing new.

**22.9. Environment affairs**

**22.9.1.** Condition of footpaths. The Chair read an email from Mr Robin Rogers. [Appendix 1]

**22.9.2.** Painting of the bus shelter opposite the Nag's Head. The Clerk said that Mr Joel Hammond planned to do the work very soon.

**22.9.3.** Inspection of trees for which the Council is responsible. The Chair said that a number of quotations had been received – all expensive. She said Cllr Hoodless planned to speak to the man who conducted the survey and she said she would contact councillors about considering particular trees in their neighbourhoods.

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**22.9.4.** Safety of trees between the Ridgeway Playground and the C15 road. Cllr Pearson said a report was on Herts Highways rolling program. Residents were encouraged to complain to Anglia Housing about trees on housing association land.

**22.9.5.** Maintenance of the C15 planters. Cllr Pearson said that some of the plants had been pulled up by vandals. The Chair said she would discuss the problem with the residents providing the plants.

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**22.9.6.** Noise from aircraft using Stansted Airport. Cllr Wright referred to a report from Stop Stansted Expansion. It appeared that the frequency and noise of aircraft over the parish was increasing. He thought evidence needed to be collected – perhaps with noise measuring equipment. Many people needed to complain using the official website, not just a few. The new, more accurate plane tracking system meant most hamlets were not overflowed but it made things worse for those that were – such as the Ash and Ford. Cllr Wright thought the Council should be represented at public information days at the airport and he would investigate the cost to the Council of joining SSE.

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**22.10. Groups and Amenities** No new information.

**22.11. Community**

**22.11.1.** Report on the campaign to improve broadband speeds within the parish. The Chair said that Mr Geoffrey Pratt is seeking advice as he thought HCC was not sufficiently competent to manage its contract with Open Reach.

**22.11.2.** Millennium Wood. The Chair thought Mr James Fallen was not actively soliciting donations.

**22.11.3.** Repairs to Westland Green byway. Cllr Wilkinson said that repairs were complete. She thanked Mr Nicholas Maddex, HCC Countryside Access Officer, for his prompt action.

**22.11.4.** Playgrounds. Replacing/repairs playground gates. Cllr Tooke said more robust catches would be fitted to repair those broken by vandals. He hoped the money from the Tesco Fund might pay for stronger gates.

- 22.11.5.** Allotments. Cllr Wilkinson said there was nothing to report.
- 22.12. Consultation and Public Relations**
- 22.12.1.** Council website. Cllr Wardrop thought the site needed regular updating. It should be available on smart phones – perhaps following the design of the Neighbourhood Plan site. He agreed to report to the Council. Action  
NW
- 22.13. Flooding.** The Chair read Cllr Pearson’s report:  
Heavy rainfall, almost a month’s worth for May, fell on 17th May. In addition, there were two further yellow warnings of rain and potential flood on 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> May, and also 2<sup>nd</sup> June. There was flash flooding from water runoff blocking the highway at several locations within the Parish on 29<sup>th</sup> May. These were the C15 between the village hall and Ford End on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> May, and at the A120 by the Little Hadham Traffic Lights. The bow waves caused by passing traffic are a continual concern to householders. The River Ash itself was at a low level which will be the similar position once the flood alleviation scheme is in place. That is, the scheme may help with the River but awaits testing as to how it will assist the existing water runoff. Residents at Ashcroft Lane reported water backing up and gurgling in their toilets and drains as the sustainable drainage was not coping in a short spell of heavy rain and were concerned that they may lead to overflowing if further rain and water runoff occurs.  
It is of note that the weather patterns of the last few years are causing large volumes of rainfall to fall in a short period of time with the potential to cause water runoff very quickly. Highways have been out in the Parish clearing drains. Cllr Wardrop said that blocked gullies were causing flooding on the A120 and that this could be cleared by the vacuum cleaning truck. Cllr Pearson said the Council frequently complained but the truck was only used twice a year.
- 22.14. Security Matters** None.
- 22.15. Parish Council matters.**
- 22.16.** To consider the report from the internal audit of the Council. The Clerk said Mr Mike Smith had not raised any matters and the document was available on the website. Cllr Tooke said he would check the audit document and report the councillors. Action  
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- 22.17.** To consider the purchase of Office software for use by the Clerk. Cllr Tooke proposed that £75 of the Transparency Fund grant be used to buy a copy of the latest version of MS Office. Agreed.
- 22.18. Chair’s report.** The Chair said she had no further matters to report.

**22.19. Clerk's Report****22.19.1. Financial statement****Period ending 6<sup>th</sup> June 2017**

<b>Unity Trust Bank</b>	£22,978.94
Petty cash	£7.43
<b>Total</b>	<b>£22,986.37</b>

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

Staff Salaries		£519.84
Clerk's expenses		£13.40
P Knott (Mower Services)	3 cuts playing fields in May	£363.00
Came & Company	Annual Council insurance	£660.22
Mr T Hoodless	Playground gate parts	£34.52
	<b>Total payments</b>	<b>£1,590.98</b>

**Total in all accounts and petty cash after payment of this month's bills £21,395.39****22.19.2.** Proposed to accept payment of accounts. Agreed**22.19.3.** Proposed to accept the accuracy of the financial statement. Agreed.**22.19.4.** Appointment of Council insurers. The Clerk said the premium had been paid to Came & Co.**22.20. Planning matters.** The transactions of the Planning Committee were noted.**22.21. Date of next ordinary Council meeting – Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> July 2017.****22.22. The Chair closed the meeting to the Public and the Press at 9:20 p.m.****Appendix 1 Email from Mr Robin Rogers concerning parish footpaths**

I walked LH Fp 1 - 15 this morning and I have the following to report;

1. LH BOAT 2 There is a tree across the path about half way along but it is possible to duck underneath it.
2. LH Fp 5 Coming from Westfield Farm the last 10 - 15 yards are very overgrown and it is difficult to pick out the waymark post which defines the position of the bridge over the ditch.
3. LH Fp 8 I had to do some clipping of nettles and brambles to get through this path, however it will be cleared properly as part of the mowing schedule.
4. LH Fp 14 The stile at the road end is very rocky and not easy to get across.
5. LH Fp 15 Coming from Bridgefoot Farm the last part of this path runs alongside a field edge before it meets MH Fp 54. This part is very overgrown and parts are difficult to walk.

With best wishes

Robin Rogers