

Little Hadham Parish Council

Minutes of the 33rd meeting of the **Little Hadham Parish Council** (2015 – 2019 Session) held on Tuesday 3rd July 2018 at 8:20 p.m. in the Village Hall, Little Hadham.

Present:	Mrs E Lloyd-Williams	Chair
	Mr T Hoodless)
	Mr G Tooke) Councillors
	Mr N Wardrop)
	Mrs M Wilkinson)

Mr B Evans – Clerk, and 6 members of the public.

- 33.1. Absent.** Cllr Pearson [family matter] and Cllr Wright [business].
- 33.2. Declarations of interest by councillors on any items below.** None.
- 33.3. Democratic ten minutes.**
A resident asked who had enquired about extra houses at the Grove. The Chair said she was unsure who the landowners were.
- 33.4. Minutes of the Parish Council meeting** held on Tuesday 5th June 2018 to be agreed and signed as a true record. Agreed.
- 33.5. Matters arising from the minutes.** None.
- 33.6. Highways**
- 33.6.1.** Outstanding road repairs and potholes. Cllr Pearson had reported that the white lining of the C15 had been completed. He had agreed to order road salt from HCC for use by residents in the winter.
- 33.6.2.** Bypass. The Chair reported that the public enquiry into land purchase and alterations to roads and rights of way would be held in the Village Hall starting on 17th July 2018 at 10 a.m. She said that she had been asked to give a presentation on behalf of the Council and Cllr Pearson had agreed to talk about flooding issues.
- 33.7. Environment affairs**
- 33.7.1.** Condition of footpaths. Cllr Hoodless said the issues raised in Mr Rogers's report last month had been dealt with by Mr Maddex. [Appendix 1]. Cllr Hoodless read the latest report from Mr Rogers [appendix 2]
- 33.7.2.** Cllr Hoodless said that, after many years, Mr Rogers would no longer report on Little Hadham rights of way from November 2018. Cllr Wardrop agreed to advertise for a volunteer in the Parish News. Action NW
- 33.7.3.** Inspection of trees for which the Council is responsible. Cllr Hoodless said he was still waiting to hear from Gascoyne Cecil Estates. Cllr Wilkinson said a tree was in danger of falling on a Westland Green path. Cllr Hoodless agreed to report it to HCC. Action TH
- 33.7.4.** Footpath walks leaflets. Cllr Hoodless said that he had a quotation for producing the 500 leaflets, including writing, typesetting and printing, for £1000. He said he had obtained other verbal quotes that were for significantly more. The Chair asked that Cllr Hoodless get some of these quotes in writing as Action TH

his lowest quote was from the wife of a councillor. Cllr Hoodless asked that the original quote be accepted. Agreed.

33.8. Playing fields and young people's needs

33.8.1. Playground conditions. Cllr Tooke said some children had received some minor cuts from some broken glass at the Village Hall playground. A parent had spent some time clearing away the glass. He said a parent had reported that the zipwire seat had left some stains on children's clothes. He had looked at the seats and could not see what could be done to prevent this. It was agreed that Cllr Wardrop would investigate.

Action
NW

33.8.2. Cllr Tooke said that the playground gate had arrived and the fitting arranged. The Tesco money would pay for the gate onto the road at the north end of the playground as well as repairs to all the other playground gates.

33.9. Community

33.9.1. Damage to kiosk. The Chair said the replacement window had been delivered to Cllr Wilkinson's husband who had agreed to make the repair.

33.9.2. Missing Bury Green sign. The Chair said the matter had been reported to Herts Highways.

33.9.3. Cradle End Bus shelter. Cllr Tooke said he had a quotation £245 for inserting a window into the shelter. However, Cllr Hoodless thought it excessive and said he would obtain another quote. The Chair agreed to write to Connect Scaffolding thanking them for repairing the bus shelter.

Action
TH

Action
ELW

33.10. Consultations and Public Relations

33.10.1. To consider a possible response to the Harlow Local Plan. Cllr Wardrop read a brief summary of the plan [Appendix 3]. He said he would prepare a response that he would circulate to councillors before submission.

Action
NW

33.10.2. To consider plans for a lunch for elderly and isolated residents using a grant from the Stansted Airport Passenger Community Fund. The Chair agreed to discuss the lunch with Mrs Bhatt who had organised earlier lunches.

Action
ELW

33.10.3. Neighbourhood Plan. Report from the steering group meeting on whether to allocate housing sites. Cllr Wardrop said the character assessment was near completion. He read a report on the meeting from Cllr Wright [Appendix 4]. The Chair said a new Chair of the group was required as well as more members of the parish.

The Chair said she was sad to announce the death of Mr Andy Munro. Mr Munro had been an active member of the steering group from the start. She sent the Council's condolences to his family.

Cllr Wardrop said a housing needs survey was needed.

The Chair said the July meeting should be cancelled as it was in the holiday. She also asked if meeting times could be made more convenient for those with young families. She said she would email group members on this. The Chair asked how the workings of the group could be communicated more effectively to the parish.

Action
ELW

33.11. Significant external factors

33.11.1. Noise from aircraft using Stansted Airport. Cllr Wardrop said a resident had attended a meeting of STACC (Stansted Airport Consultative Committee) at the airport. A Noise Action Plan was to be released which the Council would need to study.

33.11.2. Recruitment of residents to aircraft noise working party. The Chair said there was still only one volunteer

33.12. Flooding

33.12.1. The Chair said that Cllr Pearson had agreed to respond to the HCC consultation on flooding issues. Action GP

33.13. Security

33.13.1. Cllr Wilkinson said she had nothing to report.

33.14. Parish Council

33.14.1. Progress on appointing a replacement Clerk. The Chair said there had been three people expressing interest and she would be sending them the information pack with a closing date for applications of 22nd July 2018. She hoped to hold interviews the following week. Action ELW

33.14.2. Cllr Tooke said the pay rates for Clerks had been raised by 2.2%. He proposed the Clerk's pay be increased by this amount back dated to the 1st April 2018. Agreed. Action Clerk

33.14.3. Progress on the removal of historic Council documents to the County Archive. The Chair said Cllr Hoodless had agreed to collect the chest of Council documents. Mr Mike Smith had agreed to sort through the documents. Action TH

33.15. Allotments.

33.15.1. To consider removal of newly planted fruit trees. The Chair said the allotment rules had been put up on the notice board but had been twice removed. She said the rules would have to be amended to agree with the EHC tenancy agreement. She said she would consider the plans. Cllr Hoodless said he had not yet spoken to the resident who had planted the trees. Action TH/ELW

33.16. Chair's report.

33.16.1. The Chair thanked councillors for the extra work they had carried out following the resignation of the Clerk.

33.16.2. The Chair spoke of the document showing the use of the New Homes Bonus. It was agreed to send the document to EHC. Action Clerk

33.16.3. The Chair said the History Society had made a request for £200 towards the cost of a computer projector. She agreed to talk to the society about whether the projector could be borrowed for the Parish Assembly. Action ELW

33.17. Clerk's Report**33.17.1. Financial statement****Period ending 3rd July 2018**

Unity Trust Bank			£27,167.24
Petty cash			£41.92
		Total	£27,209.16
Included above			
Paid (30/6/18)	Unity Trust Bank service charge		£18.00
Paid (12/6/18)	Sargies playground fence repairs		£445.10
Uncleared cheque			
	Mothers & Toddlers donation		£100.00
To be agreed			
To Pay			
Staff Salaries	June		£517.62
Clerk's expenses	June		£22.40
P Knott (Mower Services)	2 cuts playing fields	June	£242.00
HM Revenue & Customs	PAYE		£248.60
Little Hadham Village Hall	Rent for Hall Feb to Jun	£125.00	
	Disposal of rubbish	£117.00	£242.00
NALC	LRC magazine subscription		£17.00
Mr G Tooke	Playground gate		£546.00
		Total payments	£1,835.62

Total in all accounts and petty cash after payment of this month's bills £25,273.54

33.17.2. Proposed to accept payment of accounts. Agreed.

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

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

33.19. Date of next ordinary Council meeting – Tuesday 4th September 2018.

33.20. The Chair closed the meeting to the Public and the Press at 9:46 p.m.

Appendix 1 Report from Mr Nicholas Maddex to Mr Robin Rogers concerning parish rights of way

Hi Robin

I write to update you as follows:

FP22: vegetation cleared by my contractor;

FP28: section your reported overgrown is not on the regular mowing contract. The unofficial route cut must have been done by the owner. The correct route has now been

FP24: fallen tree cleared from path by stile and bridge by my contractor

FP22 and FP25: I will write to the farmer to require him to clear crops from the path.

Best wishes Nicholas Maddex

Appendix 2 Report from Mr Robin Rogers to Mr Nicholas Maddex concerning parish rights of way

Dear Nicholas,

With the exception of LH Fp 21 which was not mown when I checked the other footpaths in the Bury Green area I have now checked all the paths on the Little Hadham mowing schedule and I can confirm that they have all been mown.

I have 4 other problems to report as follows:

1. LH Fp 15 Coming from MH Fp 54 the first part of this path follows a field edge and is very overgrown and not easy to walk.
2. LH Fp 32 The path across the cultivated field is not reinstated and no attempt has been made to reinstate it.
3. LH Fp 56 This footpath runs from junction LH Fp 10/54 to A120. At the LH Fp 10/54 end there should be a waymark post but I could not see it this morning. It is either broken or covered in vegetation. At the A120 end the path goes up steps with railings. Three quarters of the railings are broken.
4. LG Fp 34 This footpath crosses 2 cultivated fields which are more or less reinstated but nowhere near wide enough. Between the 2 fields is a stretch of woodland with a large fallen tree. The only reason that the tree is not completely blocking the footpath is that it is resting on the railings of the bridge. I do not know how strong the bridge but I suspect that there is a possibility that the whole lot could collapse.

With best wishes

Robin rogers

Appendix 3 Cllr Wardrop's report on the Harlow Local Plan

Points of note

Overall

Aiming for sustainable development with environmental considerations and supporting sustainable use of transport

Local Plan period is up until 2033 and replaces the Local Plan from 2006. In 2010 council started this plan and consulted on the now-revoked east of England regional spatial strategy which suggested the potential need for 11000 new homes around Harlow. The flaw was that many of these homes were outside of Harlow administrative area and had little support.

Following consultation on a range of local options they're adopting a plan that can deliver growth

Working with East Herts and Epping, have surveyed the housing market area.

By 2033, Harlow will have:

1. secured its role as a key urban centre
2. provided sufficient new homes to meet local needs,
3. a reputation as a location for high tech industries,
4. excellent education facilities,

The land use and transport policies will be co-ordinated to ensure the maximum possible increase in passenger transport, walking and cycling.

They want us to consider the following:

1. is it deliverable?
2. does it meet Harlow development needs?
3. does insufficiently protect environmental assets?
4. is it consistent with national policies in terms of sustainable development?

London Stansted Cambridge Consortium

1. Mentioned a number of times as a development public and private consortium focussing on the Lea Valley from London to Cambridge.
2. The partnership was formed to organise and promote a distinct economic area with strong interconnections.
3. 'Core Area' of Harlow, Epping Forest, East Hertfordshire, Uttlesford and Broxbourne
4. In addition to Harlow this takes in Bishops Stortford too.
5. Certainty through further investment: including in the West Anglia mainline, Crossrail 2, the M11 junctions, M25 junctions, A414, A120 and A10 is a vital component of this.

Transport Capacity

1. Addition of Junction 7a of M11 north of Harlow.
2. Creates an additional East/West route from the M11 into the north of Harlow linking up with the A414.
3. Improved Rail links 4 tracking on the rail route.
4. Crossrail 2.

Homes

1. 16,100 dwellings in the Harlow and Gilston Garden Town.
2. As part of the development plan there is plans for around 3000 new homes at Gilston in the plan period with additional 7000 beyond the plan period within east Herts area...

Relocating the hospital to a more accessible location freeing up land for homes.

Recommendation for feedback to the report

It does look deliverable and sufficiently meets development needs.

1. We'd like to get more clarity on where the additional east Herts homes are likely to come from past the plan period.
2. Support the plans in terms of transport.
3. We'd like to know more about where they plan to locate the hospital. This is currently the nearest A & E to Little Hadham.
4. We'd like to understand how the new homes will get sufficient water supply without causing environmental issues to east Herts and Little Hadham.

Appendix 4 Report on Neighbourhood Plan meeting from Cllr Wright

We had our NP Group meeting last week and it was, I think, relatively successful in that at least we have been able to rebalance the 'heat' and we had a sensible debate without too much emotion. That is a really big step and should not be knocked, as it gives confidence that there should be a sustainable Group remaining to take the Plan forward (albeit I will not be the Chair).

The only item we discussed was to allocate sites or not. As we all know at the previous NP Group meeting we ended up holding a vote and, much like Brexit, it was a very close call which would have gone the other way if one person had been able to attend and vote. But, vote we did and even since then there has been a change of members and the current majority of that Group do not see the virtue of allocating sites at this time. At a later date that view may well change dependent on a) East Herts maintain a plus five-year land supply and b) that

Planning consents are not consented that we think should be refused in line with Policy.

I think you all know that I consider that allocating sites is absolutely the right thing to do, because regardless of the lack of targets and the current East Herts housing pipeline, I see that

a NP with allocated sites will give Little Hadham real power to object and win against developments that we do not want. I also think that the developers currently circling us will get consent one way or the other; because they have the resource, experience and probably a willingness go to appeal and argue round all the objections they might receive.

However, I am currently in the minority with that opinion. The alternative is to rely on the fact that there is currently a 6.2-year housing land supply, there are no targets on Little Hadham because we are group 2 and 3 settlements and as such we are not considered a sustainable location for development. Therefore, the planners will refuse applications for development that is outside the settlement boundaries at the Ash and the Ford. So there is no need to allocate.

Before coming to a conclusion and recommendation I think it is very necessary to set the record straight on a few things that have been said recently that are not true or are being exaggerated. Because if the NP Group is to stand a chance of success then it must be clear to all that the Group is not compromised and it has done everything transparently and correctly:

1) "I have been talking to developers 'behind closed doors' and am somehow complicit or in cahoots with them."

The reality is that as the Chair I was nominated by the NP Group to liaise with all the developers and landowners that put their sites forward. As we carried out a call for sites and were going to allocate sites, it was absolutely necessary for someone to liaise with and so talk to these developers and landowners on occasion and at the direction of the NP Group. I have reported each conversation and was doing my job as the representative of the NP Group.

2) "There have been numerous cases of previous NP Group members being shouted down and bullied out of the Group because they would not support site allocation. If those previous members were still present the recent vote would have been clearer."

To my knowledge two individuals retired from the Group specifically on the grounds that they could not reconcile with site allocation. In the last two years that the Group has been running we discussed and voted again and again on this subject because the two people in question would not accept the decision of the (possibly now previous) majority. In addition, I believe that to date five other people that supported site allocation have left the Group for other reasons - time and other commitments have generally been their reasons to leave.

3) "There has been no consultation and the process had been undemocratic"

Honestly, this is hugely upsetting as we have strived to get the community involved with articles, leaflets, questionnaires, community events and all documentation available on the website. In addition, by cancelling the last public consultation event we have still not actually given the community the chance to give their opinion on site allocation, which in itself is undemocratic.

Moving on to a conclusion

There is value in a NP for Little Hadham and it should look to discover housing need for the Parish and at a minimum it should give guidance and direction on design criteria for

developments that might come through. To really get control we should allocate sites but it might be that 2018 is not the year to do that whilst there is a current 6.2-year land supply.

I therefore consider that the NP should continue but, bearing in mind the lack of current support to allocate sites, it does not seem feasible to continue unless the NP ignores site allocation. I recommend that the NP continues and concludes the Character Assessment, seeks to find evidence of housing need and sets out design criteria for developments that do come through. I think it is vital though that the NP Group pays close attention to the land supply situation as well as wider planning issues so that if it becomes apparent that site allocation would be beneficial this question is reconsidered again.

I recommend that the PC support the NP Group with its current direction (without site allocation unless there is a significant change).

Hope that helps.