



Little Hadham Parish Council

Minutes of the 38th meeting of the **Little Hadham Parish Council** (2015 – 2019 Session) held on Tuesday 19th February 2019 at 8:00p.m. in the Village Hall, Little Hadham.

Present: Cllr G Tooke – Acting Chair
Cllr M Attwell
Cllr GA Hoodless
Cllr G Pearson
Cllr Wilkinson

Also: Acting Clerk, Mr Bev Evans, and 6 members of the public

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1. Apologies – and reason for absence. Cllr Wardrop [resigned the Council]. Cllr Lloyd-Williams [on holiday].
 2. Declaration of Interest – by councillors on any items below. Cllr Pearson said he had an interest in flooding as his home was prone to flood.
 3. Democratic 10 minutes. Mr Dave Willett asked what the Council planned to say about the Neighbourhood Plan at the Parish Assembly. **Cllr Tooke said there was to be a meeting between members of the Council and the Plan group to consider the future of the Plan.** Mr Willett said that he seemed to be the only member of the group left. He said some strong comments against the plan had been made at the last Assembly and he was disappointed that the Council had done nothing to balance these negative views. Mr Willett thought the Plan had already brought benefits such as the work on footpaths. The bypass would have a profound affect on the parish and this needed to be addressed by the Plan. He thought the Council should put an article in the Newsletter giving a more balanced view of the Plan. Cllr Tooke said it was unfortunate that the strongest advocates of the Plan had left the Council and the Plan group. The meeting with the group would have to decide on the best way forward.
 4. Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 4th December 2018 were agreed and signed as a true record.
 5. Matters arising from the minutes. Cllr Tooke said a number of Newsletter articles had not been written due to the resignation of Cllr Wardrop. Cllr Pearson said he would write a report on dog fouling. **Cllr Tooke asked that the Clerk write articles on: volunteers to monitor footpath; the theft of a parcel; and the electronic version of new footpath scheme with the help of information from Cllr Hoodless.**
 6. Reports from members representing the Parish Council on Outside organisations and attending meetings on behalf of the Council.
 - a. Update from Cllr Williamson - (Appendix 1 for full report).
 - b. Highways – Cllr Pearson – There was little to report though the weekend closure of the A120 for tree cutting had caused some confusion.
 - c. Bypass – Cllr Tooke read the report (Appendix 2). Cllr Attwell said that a Local Liaison Officer was usually appointed for projects like the bypass. **He thought the Council should enquire whether an officer had been appointed.**
 - d. Police Liaison – Cllr Tooke read part of a report on the Police Liaison Group meeting (Appendix 3).
 - e. Village Hall – Cllr Tooke read a report from Mrs Jan Williamson (Appendix 4) From the floor, Mr Mike Smith said there would be a trial of the Film Club in March. If successful the members only club would be set up. Cllr Pearson encouraged residents to join the District Council lottery. Tickets were 4 for £1 and 50% of takings could go to the Hall.

- f. Footpaths – Cllr Hoodless. There had been 5 volunteers whose names have been passed to Mr Maddex the HCC rights of way officer for East Herts. However, he is looking for someone to take on a more formal role to report on all rights of way in the parish.
- g. Stansted Airport – Cllr Tooke said there was nothing new to report.
- h. Neighbourhood Plan – Cllr Tooke said this had been dealt with in the discussion with Mr Willett.

7. Village Infrastructure

- a. 'Drive Safe' Update – Chair. The scheme should restart in the village in March.
 - b. Environmental affairs – Cllr Hoodless.
 - i. Bus shelter quotes for agreement. **Cllr Hoodless said he planned to discuss the matter with Connect Scaffolding.**
 - c. Tree Maintenance for which the Council is responsible – Cllr Hoodless
Comments from meeting with Gascoyne Estates "They will look at the trees in the Spring that they are responsible for, to assess the trees and work out what to do". Cllr Hoodless thought that the risk was very low. However, Cllr Attwell said that, as the Council had a report pointing out dangers, it was obliged to take action. **Cllr Tooke asked that the Clerk to chase the matter before birds started nesting in the spring.**
 - d. Playing fields and young people's needs –
 - i. Vandalism and general disorderly behaviours – Cllr Tooke said the playgrounds were in good condition except two of the notices had been damaged. He had asked Mr Mick Foskett to replace them.
 - ii. CCTV – Cllr Tooke said this would be discussed at the next Police Liaison Meeting.
 - e. Flood prevention project C15 - progress update – Cllr Pearson
 - i. Cllr Pearson said Connect Scaffolding had cleared 90m of the ditch from Pathway Cottages leaving 40m at Ford End uncleared. EHC and the Environment Agency were in discussion to persuade the riparian rights owner the clear the final part of the ditch. Should this fail to prevent flooding they would consider constructing a holding pond on the field behind Pathway Cottages. The land owner has given consent and the Council might be asked to contribute £500 towards the total cost of £1,000 with the remainder coming from local businesses. Should this not solve the problem, they would consider laying a pipe directly from the ditch behind Pathway Cottages to the river. Cllr Pearson said that, despite the drain under the road being cleared, water was coming out of the manhole cover near the ditch. He said Herts Highways intend to concrete over the start of the ditch between the road and the river which would make clearing some of the silt easier.
 - f. Allotments – Cllr Hoodless – no update.
 - g. Community – Cllr Tooke reported that the Clerk, together with some residents of The Ford, had met the owner of the chapel which is being converted to a residence. The owner agreed to address the residents concerns about access to graves. He said that, when the building work was complete, he would plant a low hedge to separate the area for his private use from the rest of the graveyard.
 - h. Geocaching. Cllr Tooke proposed that geocaches be allowed within the parish on Council property such as the kiosks. Agreed.
 - i. Consultations and Public Relations – No report
8. **Security** – Cllr Wilkinson – nothing to report.

9. **Parish Council** – Cllr Tooke said that three councillors did not plan to seek re-election at the May 2019 election – Cllr Pearson, Cllr Lloyd-Williams and himself. There was an urgent need to find some residents willing to join the Council and perhaps become Chair. The Acting Clerk said that this would leave only one Council signatory and, given the time it took to replace a signatory, the Council should appoint one now. Cllr Tooke proposed that Cllr Attwell become a signatory on the Council bank account. Agreed.
Clerk to amend the list of signatories with the bank.
10. **Chair's Report**
Cllr Tooke read a report from the Chair (Appendix 5).
11. Clerk's Report

Period ending 25 January 2019

Unity Trust Bank		£27,574.19
Petty cash		£20.02
	Total	£27,594.21

Included above

Paid

P Knott (Mokut)	Inv 60173 November 2018 grass cut	£121.00
SLCC	Annual PC subscription	£106.00

Uncleared cheque

Mothers & Toddlers donation		£100.00
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To be agreed

To Pay

Clerk's expenses	January	£7.20
Staff Salaries	January	£615.80
EA Earth Anchors	New bin for the playing field	£372.00
Mr M A Foskett	Move tyre and fix zip wire	£60.00
	Total payments	£1,055.00

Total in all accounts and petty cash after payment of this month's bills £26,439.21

- a. To agree to payment of accounts - agreed
- b. To accept the accuracy of the financial statement – agreed
12. Planning matters. The transactions of the Planning Committee were noted.
13. Correspondence – nothing to report
14. Date of next Council meeting – February Tuesday, 19th March 2019
15. To close the meeting – 9.05 p.m.

Appendix 1 – Report from Cllr Williamson

The East Herts Lottery was launched last month and at the last count 46 organisations had signed up. I am trying to spread the word to as many clubs and groups as possible so they can take advantage of this fund-raising opportunity.

EHC has just published updated guidance on Neighbourhood Planning, and I attach a copy for your information.

The revised planning application for the stables off Millfield Lane came in last week and will be on your radar. The deadline for consultation responses is Wednesday so there is just time presuming you discuss tomorrow.

Wider news from EHC:

EHC in conjunction with Bishop's Stortford Town Council has been successful in securing funding to make major improvements to Castle Park. These include making Waytemore Castle and the war memorial the prime focal points of the park, and incorporates work to conserve the castle remains on the top of the mound. A new network of paths will be provided to improve access and a new crossing will be constructed along the River Stort. There will also be better facilities for younger users of the park.

East Herts Council is the first district council in the country to train up its officers to spot the sign of scamming under the national Friends Against Scams initiative. Scams affect the lives of millions of people across the UK.

EHC is holding a housing fair at Wodson Park in Ware on Saturday March 2. This is an opportunity to chat to housing associations about homes available for shared ownership across East Herts.

I apologise that I will not be able to get to the meeting as I have to attend a briefing at EH, but as always let me know if anything comes up that I can assist with.

Regards,

Geoff

Cllr Geoff Williamson

Executive Member for Finance & Support Services
& Member for Little Hadham Ward
East Herts Council

Appendix 2 Bypass update – Helen McCormick – Feb 2019

Project update

Towards the end of 2018 progress on the A120 Little Hadham Bypass and Flood Alleviation scheme made a number of positive steps forward. Hertfordshire County Council (HCC) is pleased to announce that John Graham Construction Ltd (GRAHAM) has been notified that they have been successful in their bid to carry out the construction works. Other advanced works are underway.

Getting the land for the scheme

Confirmation notices for the scheme's Compulsory Purchase Orders and Side Roads Order appeared in local newspapers and on the affected land in November 2018. The project team continues to work with landowners to secure land agreements voluntarily within the scheme programme.

Planning conditions

Further planning conditions have recently been approved by the local planning authority and the project team continues to work through those conditions tied to the start of construction. Conditions that relate to construction itself will be addressed by the contractor over the coming months. HCC has also been issued with the impoundment licences needed for the flood storage embankments across the River Ash and Albury valleys.

Selecting a contractor to build the scheme

GRAHAM has been notified that it has been successful in its bid and has been issued with a Letter of Intent.

This allows the contractor to start preparation for the works by mobilising their team and addressing planning conditions, ready for a start of the main works on site in summer 2019. Subject to final approvals the contract with GRAHAM is expected to be signed in April 2019. HCC will be working closely with GRAHAM about their planned communications during the works, to keep the local community advised of when the works might affect local roads and footpaths, or when significant aspects of the work are to take place. Hertfordshire County Council and the Environment Agency look forward to working with GRAHAM to

see the successful delivery of the Scheme.

Construction

The main construction of the scheme is expected to start in summer 2019. A number of landowners have however kindly agreed to allow some early ecology and utilities works to take place.

These early works include the planting of new hedgerows to mitigate against the loss of those hedgerow which needs to be removed from the Scheme route. (The photo to the right shows recent planting at Hadham Towers).

Planting the new hedgerow now allows it time to start to establish before existing Hedgerows are removed. The removal of a number of trees and hedgerows in the coming months is necessary to avoid birds and bats roosting before the main works start, as this has the potential to delay progress.

Utility diversion works started in late January. This will involve the undergrounding of an overhead UKPN (electricity) service in the vicinity of the River Ash. A number of utility services in the vicinity of the proposed Hadham Park roundabout are expected to be diverted in the coming months. More information can be found on the project's website: www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/a120bypass

Appendix 3 Police Liaison Group Meeting

7th February 2019 – 12.00

Present: Cllr B Toll (Chairman), Cllr B Dunthorne

Cllr E Lloyd-Williams (Chair, Little Hadham)

In attendance: C Page (Clerk), Sgt D Wallace

1. Welcome and outline of any issues for Hunsdon – Councillor Toll

Councillor Toll welcomed Sgt. Wallace and thanked him for attending. Councillor Toll also welcomed Cllr Lloyd-Williams to the group. Going forward the Police Liaison Group will be a combined meeting with Little Hadham and Hunsdon parish Councils.

2. Police Report – Sgt. Wallace

From 01/12/18 to 07/02/19 there have been the following crime related incidents recorded:

Hunsdon

2 x Burglary offences to the building site to unoccupied premises

1 x Theft of 4000 litres of Kerosene

1 x Racially Aggravated damage to motor vehicle (Image scratched onto bodywork)

- 1 x Theft from motor vehicle
- 1 x Burglary Dwelling where the vehicle was stolen (VW Golf)

There was also three additional reports all relating to one incident at one address:

- 1 x non-crime domestic incident
- 2 x domestic related assaults

Little Hadham

- 2 x Possession of cannabis – 1 on the A120 and 1 at Hadham Park
- 1 x Sudden death investigation in Westland Green
- 2 x Public order offences – both neighbour dispute related
- 1 x Child protection investigation
- 1 x Theft (batteries from traffic signals at road works Cradle End)
- 1 x Blackmail (On line scam)
- 1 x Burglary to commercial premises (Hadham Park)
- 1 x Assault – Redbrick Cottages – Domestic related
- 1 x damage to exterior light on residential dwelling
- 1 x Dog being out of control
- 1 x Fraud – suspect identified as school associate of victim's son

Force performance

East Herts as a whole is currently showing an increase of 52 offences per month to date for February up 45.2% and by year to date by 5.6%

I have recorded the following actions:

- 1; Abandoned vehicle Drury lane – speak with Leon
- 2; Recovery vehicle causing damage to pavement
- 3; Drive safe Collaboration between villages
- 4; Attendance at Parish Meetings

The 'Nottingham knockers' – door to door selling has hit Hunsdon. Sgt Wallace stated the burglary rate has not increased during this activity, so would appear not to be a real connection to burglary.

Cllr Toll reported an abandoned vehicle in Drury Lane for some 6 months. Sgt. Wallace advised East Herts are responsible for abandoned vehicles. If they are taxed and insured, no action can be taken.

The pick up truck parked outside Vicary Cottages is causing damage to the pavement. Action: Clerk to contact Highways to report this.

Little Hadham – Sgt. Wallace observed there had been a couple of incidents with known youths causing problems, but this side of Christmas it has been quieter.

Cllr Lloyd-Williams reported a dog attack, by a husky type dog. Sgt. Wallace said to contact the Dog Warden for dogs fighting. Encourage the owner of the reported incident to report it. If a person is in fear for their personal safety then it needs to be reported to the police under a Section 3 – Dog out of Control'.

3. Drive Safe

Little Hadham are recommencing in March. Cllr Lloyd-Williams asked if Little Hadham could combine with Sawbridgeworth. Sgt Wallace said 'Small Parishes and villages can work together. Action: Sgt. Wallace to get confirmation this is OK.

Next meeting: 23rd May 2019 in the Little Hadham Village Hall at 11.00.

Appendix 4 Report on Village Hall – Mrs Jan Williamson

- 1) Service providers Fayre on 6th February was very successful and we had a reasonable turn out but the real success was the networking that was done amongst all the groups there i.e. East Herts support groups and social prescribing groups.

- 2) We have received a £6k grant from Graham McAndrew's locality budget which is specifically for designs and planning.
 - 3) Our Cinema club is nearly ready and if Mike Smith is in the audience, he might give you an update.
 - 4) We have had our first coffee morning which is held on the 2nd Wednesday of each month (9.30 am – 11.30 am) and we had 23 people come to it. This was great for the first time
 - 5) We have now set a date for afternoon tea for the over 60's which will be held on the 1st Thursday of each month (information is in the parish News)
 - 6) The East Herts Lottery has sold 38 tickets which works out at £988.00 funds per year but we need to sell a lot more.
 - 7) There is to be a talk on Victorian Architecture in April which we will put on refreshments for and the proceeds will go towards the village hall.
 - 8) The next stage of our project is to get plans drawn up for major storage which will be the first part of the project, this will give us the least amount of disruption to activities in the hall as it will be external work but will help to create insulation to certain parts of the building. We shall be applying for the much bigger grants over the next few weeks to help us with costs for some of the major projects that will follow.
- Please give my apologies as I do look forward to coming to the meetings. Geoff is unfortunately out until late on Council business.

Kind regards
Jan

Appendix 5 Chair's Report – Cllr Lloyd-Williams

Neighbourhood plan meeting due to take place the week starting 25th Feb. Cllr Atwell and Clerk to be invited.

Drive safe – some delays in paperwork for new leads could cause a problem with pre planning of new dates. Cllr Lloyd-Williams to meet to discuss.

Great work from Carole regarding the trees. Very happy that Gascoyne Estate, after meeting with Carole, are going to deal with much of the problem. Cllrs to agree remaining work.

Very interesting meeting with Sargent Wallace (in new joint initiative with Hunsdon PC. Unfortunately, CCTV not discussed. To be followed up. 2019 Elections are fast approaching, and all Cllrs wishing to nominate themselves to stay in the role need to do so in March this year. It is really important this is done within the application window (see dates below). If nominations are not received Cllrs cease to be in office after the elections are held.

We are expecting to have a number of Cllrs this year who will not be nominating themselves for re-election, and therefore a number of vacancies. This includes myself due to family commitments, so the Cllr are actively looking for member of the community who would like to join. Obviously, this also means we will be looking for a new Chair. We set money aside for training each year and this includes chairing.

I'm very happy to talk to people about the role, as I'm sure my colleagues would also be. It can be an extremely rewarding role, and a great way to get to know the wider parish and community better. We should aim to have new Cllrs in place for the May 2019 meeting. It is likely that we will be looking for

New PC dates: - remember now the 3rd Tuesday of the month