



Little Hadham Parish Council

Minutes of the 39th meeting of the **Little Hadham Parish Council** (2015 – 2019 Session) held on Tuesday 19th March 2019 at 8:00p.m. in the Village Hall, Little Hadham.

Present: Cllr L Lloyd-Williams
Cllr G Tooke
Cllr M Attwell
Cllr G Pearson
Cllr Wilkinson

Also: Clerk: Ms C Page, Cllr Williamson and 5 members of the public

1. Apologies and reason for absence. Cllr A Hoodless.
2. Declaration of Interest – by councillors on any items below.
3. Democratic 10 minutes.
4. Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 19th February 2019 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. **Action: Cllr Tooke asked that the Clerk write articles on volunteers to monitor footpaths 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 – Nothing particular to report now.
 - b. Highways – Cllr Pearson – Nothing new to add, Cllr Wilkson requested the road work signs get picked up. **Action: Clerk to contact Highways to see what the process is for getting them removed. If the contractor / utility company is known then they should be notified direct. If causing an obstruction to Highway user and the works associated with the sign have been completed, use the HCC on line fault reporting system: <https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services>.** Salt has been received and kept in Bury green, someone collected from Green Street and Akemans.
 - c. Bypass – Update from Helen McCormick (Appendix 1). As the A120 Little Hadham Bypass and Flood Alleviation scheme moves towards its construction phase, updates on the project will be prepared by the site team in collaboration with the contractor, GRAHAM. Going forward, updates will be circulated from the project mailbox (emails will come from an 'a120bypass' address) and you are welcome to send any queries back through that mailbox. Should you need to speak to someone directly about the project, please contact John Denney, details below;

John Denney; Project Management Office Group Manager
Hertfordshire County Council | County Hall | Pegs Lane | Hertford | SG13 8DE
Tel: 01992658389

John wrote the following update: we have begun removing field margin hedgerows along the alignment of the bypass. We are doing this in advance of the main works whilst birds are not nesting in the hedges. This work is being supervised by an appropriately qualified ecologist in case any birds have begun nesting early, in

which case we have protocols in place to protect them. In some locations these works will be visible from the road, so I wanted to keep you informed in case you have any enquiries from the public on this subject.

- d.
 - e. Police Liaison – (Appendix 2). **Action: Post on Facebook and web site of the procedure for reporting fly tipping and other crime prevention strategies.** 'Next Door' social media - A resident posted that a group of three males entered their property on Sunday. A message to be vigilant in rural areas particularly and lock doors and sheds. Cllr Tooke advised PCSO Leon de Bruyn he had found 24 legal high canisters in the playing field, awaiting a response from him.
 - f. Village Hall – (Appendix 3) Jan gave a very informative report. The Hadfest is being held again in Little Hadham Village Hall and Playing field. The date proposed is Saturday 14th September. Jan officially asked the Chair and the Councillors if the Village Hall could again use the playing field for the festival. The Councillors unanimously agreed to the use of the playing field for Hadfest. Cllr Attwell is looking into the insurance aspects of this and will report back at the next Parish Council meeting. **Action: Cllr Attwell to check out the insurance requirements for the PC.**
 - g. Footpaths – Cllr Hoodless. Nothing to report.
 - h. Stansted Airport – Nothing to report.
7. Neighbourhood Plan – Cllr Lloyd-William, Cllr Atwell, the Clerk and Dave Willett met to review the current situation. The strong feeling that came out is that our thanks to the Neighbourhood Plan team is overdue, and that we need to look at sharing the Character assessment which is an outstanding piece of work. There was some thought that we ought to look to understand what would need to be done to translate this into an adoptable neighbourhood plan although there was some doubt as to the capacity to undertake this, or how necessary this currently is with the East Herts District Plan now having been adopted. Cllr Lloyd-Williams met with Consultant Rachel, to explore the work done, and to also set up a meeting with East Herts Planning. An update will be prepared for the Parish magazine and the Assembly
8. Village Infrastructure
- a. 'Drive Safe' Update – Chair - Looking to start up again as the weather improves. Unfortunately, again lead approval proving slow. Hopefully 2 new leads will be on board shortly and dates will be set. The new team will allow a more diverse set of monitoring times.
 - b. Environmental affairs – Cllr Hoodless. No report.
 - i. Bus shelter – Cllr Wilkinson asked of the status of the window. Cllr Tooke suggested having a mirror to see down the road. **Action: Clerk to obtain prices for a mirror, also to contact Highways for any problems with installing one. The mirrors are a nominal costing depending on quality of less than £100. The Services disruption team at EHC are the department to contact re installation and permissions.**
 - c. Tree Maintenance for which the council is Responsible – Cllr Hoodless. Gascoyne Estates have agreed to look after the trees they are responsible for. **Action: review lease documents for Westland Green and Bury Green. Revisit the estimates and see what a way forward is. Councillor Atwell / Clerk**
 - d. Playing fields and young people's needs – Cllr Tooke. 24 legal highs found in the village hall playground by the shelter. New signs for VH playground and Ridgeway to be bolted to the posts. **Action: Mick Foskett to put the signs up.**
 - i. CCTV – discussion on potential installation.
 - e. Flood prevention project C15 - progress update – Cllr Pearson. The initiative has stalled, whereas 14 of the 15 riparian owners have done their bit, one owner who

has 40 metres has declined. Discussions in the future with the owner, may be useful. The Environment Agency flood volunteer will be Graham Pearson going forward. Connect scaffolding are still willing to do the work.

- f. Allotments – Cllr Wilkinson. Nothing to report.
 - g. Community – Nothing to report.
 - h. Consultations and Public Relations – Cllr Lloyd-Williams has been writing Parish magazine articles. We have Facebook and Twitter also to post too.
9. Security – Cllr Wilkinson – Has received an Owl message advising caution, as after a storm some rogue builders could call to offer help and building works. Say no thank you. **Action: Put in next months Parish Magazine.**
10. Parish Council – Cllr Tooke. We need new councillors.
11. Chair's Report (Appendix 4)
Cllr Lloyd-Williams thanked our new litter picker for his exemplary work. The roads and lanes are noticeably clear of litter. All the councillors and the Clerk also thanked him.
- a. The Chapel – we are receiving varying complaints regarding the condition of the road outside the chapel, which has been dug up several times leaving holes in the road. **Action: Clerk to contact the owner to let him know what is going on at his property and to try to minimise the inconvenience to others. The chapel works are currently moving on. A comment from a neighbour: "The work on the Chapel is now progressing well thanks to your intervention, although it is extremely noisy!"**
 - b. Grants. We are receiving grant information and how to apply. We all need to keep looking at this and make the most of the money available.
 - c. Film Club donation. Request has come through Cllr Pearson as a request for money. The Millennium wood money is not being used, so we could reallocate that money to the film club. Cllr Pearson said they need a projector of a style for large venues which is between £2,000-£2,500. It will be used for all Groups and will be fixed in the Village Hall. It will also generate funds for the VH. Cllr Atwell voiced his concern that he feels uncomfortable giving £3,000 to the film club primarily for their use, but if given to the village hall it becomes a village hall asset. **Action: Hold a meeting to discuss the finances going forward into the next financial year. Action: meet with village hall**
 - d. Train to be a Volunteer Rights of Way Surveyor – details to be on notice board in VH reception.
 - e. Parish assembly – due to changes in councillors, postpone till June 4th, Cllr Hoodless' wife did the catering last year. Parish Assembly for notice boards.
 - f. A request has been received for a donation of £100 towards the over 60's afternoon teas. Cllr Lloyd-Williams proposed that we allocated £100 for the Afternoon Teas. Cllr Pearson proposed we donate £120 then that would be £10 per month. Cllr Atwell suggests we use this forum as a community information centre. All Councillors agreed to the £120 donation.
 - g. Councillors who are re-elected will be going through the areas of responsibilities. Liz commented there are three councillors standing down (including her).
12. Clerk's Report
- a. To agree to payment of accounts – Clerk. All agreed to the payment of accounts.
 - b. To accept the accuracy of the financial statement – Clerk. All accepted the accuracy of the accounts
13. Planning matters. To receive the report from the Planning Committee

14. Correspondence
15. Date of next Council meeting – Tuesday, 16th April 2019
16. To close the meeting – 9.48pm

Appendix 1 By Pass Report – Helen McCormick



Project update

Hertfordshire County Council (HCC) and the Environment Agency (EA) continue to make progress on the A120 Little Hadham Bypass and Flood Alleviation scheme. The Secretary of State for Transport and the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, on 17 October 2018, confirmed the legal orders necessary for the delivery of the scheme. Tender returns have also been submitted by the shortlisted contractors.

Getting the land for the scheme

The confirmed HCC Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) and Side Roads Order (SRO) provide the powers to secure the land for the bypass and to divert the highways, rights of way and private means of access affected by the scheme. The EA CPO provides the powers to secure the land and rights needed for the flood alleviation works. Confirmation of the orders followed the Public Inquiry held in July and notices will appear in local newspapers on 8 November 2018. The project team is continuing to work with landowners to secure the land by agreement.

Planning conditions

The project team continues to work through the conditions attached to the planning permission, granted in January 2017. Ecology surveys are ongoing, and submissions to address conditions tied to the start of construction have been submitted for consideration by the local planning authority. Where conditions relate to construction, submissions will be made by the contractor once they are appointed. HCC has also submitted applications for water resources impoundment licences, needed for the embankments across the River Ash and Albury valleys.

Selecting a contractor to build the scheme

The shortlisted contractors identified in the initial stage of the procurement process have returned tender submissions. HCC, with the support of the EA, are currently reviewing the returned bids and will make a decision about the preferred contractor following its evaluation. HCC hopes to appoint a successful contractor in early 2019.

Construction

The construction of the scheme is expected to start in late spring 2019. Subject to landowner agreement, some early works are planned to take place towards the end of 2018 and into 2019 which may include environmental mitigation and utility diversion works.

More information can be found on the project's website: www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/a120bypass

Appendix 2 - Crime Report – PCSO Leon De Bruyn

Crimes for period 19th February to 13th March 2019

- Theft of Forklift truck – Albury – police enquiries continue as there have been several building sites targeted over the past couple of months in the East Herts Rural areas.
- Fly-Tip – Albury. This is 1 of 3 Fly-Tips that have been on a commercial scale and EHDC have been the lead agency in their removal. Unfortunately, there has been no evidence for police to progress enquiries.

Incidents for period 19th February to 13th March 2019

- o 3 x neighbour disputes from the same address with regards to noise and environmental concerns. EHDC advised.
- o 4 x suspicious circumstances. 2 circumstances were with regards to suspicious vehicles which proved to be false alarms. 2 other circumstances were regarding locks found on a residential gate and one lock broken on a residential property. Crime prevention advice was given, and no further lines of enquiry sought. There have been no other suspicious circumstances of this nature at either location or any other.
- o 2 x Audible residential alarms activated – False alarms.
- o 1 x Broken down vehicle
- o 1 x Driver stopped for driving with no insurance
- o Found property – a Safe was found abandoned in a field. Police forensic enquiries ongoing

Appendix 3 – Village Hall

Service providers fayre held on February 6th was extremely useful to all the social prescribers and service providers in East Herts. There were 65 attendees and very positive feedback. This came up at Patient Participation Group who said that it could go much further in linking up with a bigger audience of providers. EHC have been given feedback.

Coffee morning has started 2nd Wednesday in the month (9.30 – 11.30) and is great for networking and talking to different groups. Transport can be arranged.

Traditional afternoon tea has started up on 1st Thursday of each month (3 – 5) and is proving very successful with getting the over 60's together. Transport can be arranged.

We have a PowerPoint presentation on Victorian Gothic Architecture on Tuesday 9th April at 7.30pm by David Willett. He is doing this for the benefit of the village hall, and we will provide refreshments.

Plans are being drawn up for a new storage area which will be submitted hopefully over the next couple of weeks

We now have booking on line www.littlehadhamvillagehall.com All regular bookings will still be overseen by Denise Armstrong to avoid squabbles with the locals.

We are trying to recruit new committee members, and this is proving successful by networking with people at coffee mornings and other social gatherings at the village hall.

We have a new Mother Toddler Group started up on a Monday morning 10am – 11.30am (I think)

The old grotty porta cabin has now been removed

Appendix 4 - Chairs Report

Chair's update from minutes – Feb 2018

March Minutes outstanding

5. Magazine articles outstanding (Updates currently being written by Cllr Lloyd-Williams in lieu of allocated Cllr)

- Condition of Dog fouling on footpaths (awaiting from Graham)

- electronic version of new footpath scheme plus request for volunteers to monitor footpath (awaiting from Tony / Clerk)
- theft of parcel (out of date – to be removed)

Chair's report.

Cllr Attwell's areas of responsibility are: Operations and Roads

At the start of the May meeting we will re-allocate these across the board so if anyone has any interest in a particular area it is helpful to say so in advance. The areas we have been particularly short recently are: Significant external factors; Consultation and Public Relations. Also being vacated are: Highways (important with the bypass upcoming); Playing fields and young people's needs (which we are legally obliged to check); Neighbourhood Plan.

Cllrs wishing to re stand need to get their paper work to the Clerk asap.

We are actively looking for additional councillors so if anyone is interested or knows of anyone one who might be interested, please come and have a chat with us. The Clerk has advised me that if we only have 3 standing Cllrs then we will be in a tricky position going forward (just quorate) and might have outside Cllrs allocated to the parish.

The Chapel

Back in Feb the Clerk arranged a meeting between Chapel owner James Conway and local residents due to concerns over the way renovations have been proceeding. James has given confirmation that the graves will be left intact and he will put a hedge around the small strip of land he will be using for his personal use. The heavy equipment is expected to be on site until July and then just internal works till September. Everyone left this meeting happy with the discussion.

Grants

The Clerk has been emailing us opportunities to apply for Grants. I've stressed before how important these grants are really important in bolstering our funds so if these come up in areas relating to your areas of responsibility please consider how we could apply.

Film Club Donation

We have received a request from the Village hall to help support their renovations. In this year's budget we've already allocated £3,000 to the Village Hall.

Train to be a Volunteer Rights of Way Surveyor

We are looking for volunteers who love walking in Hertfordshire's countryside and are willing to go the extra step to survey Rights of Way as they go. Following a training course on Friday April 12, participants will be invited to choose a Parish to 'adopt' and walk and check its paths.

Parish Assembly

New date in June (4th). Clerk to send out invites asap.

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