



Little Hadham Parish Council

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Minutes of the 18th meeting of **Little Hadham Parish Council** (2019 – 2023 Session) held virtually via teleconference on Tuesday 2nd March 2021 at 7:30 p.m.

Present:

Cllr M Attwell (Acting chair)
Cllr C Westlake
Cllr M Wilkinson
Cllr T Reeves Hoodless
Cllr F Arkell

Also:

Clerk: C Page, member of the public – Darren Grainger, Andrew Freeman, Dave Woodcock, Steven Whipp, Rachel Dixon, Jan Williamson, Mike Smith

21.02.01 To receive and accept apologies for absence. Cllr Mardell is unwell, Cllr Williamson must attend a full council meeting.

21.02.02 Democratic 10 minutes. No questions asked.

21.02.03 Presentation on the bypass (10 mins)

Dave Whipp – said the roundabout is open, with one or two incidents of traffic going round the wrong way. River Albury structures underway, starting to backfill against the structures. River Ash most of the concrete has been done. Dry weather has helped progress. Still tracking to be on target for early to late autumn for completion. Trying to keep the lorries out of the lanes. There has been graffiti sprayed on the bridge. There was an incident of assault by people in the early hours of the morning. **Action: Dave to send police crime reference to clerk for follow up.** Cllr Wilkinson said a mess had been left by the flood control section before the Smithy and could it be cleared. **Action: Clerk to mention the May window when the road will be shut down to Graham McAndrew.**

Post bypass – (Appendix 1) - Andrew Freeman – showed a presentation **Action: Andrew to send to clerk.** Phase one proposals: controlled crossing between the school and the traffic lights. Cllr Attwell pointed out the narrowness of the pavement, could it be widened around the corner. Cllr Hoodless pointed out the controlled crossing should be implemented with the traffic lights. Andrew asked us to input into our consultation response. Andrew said when there are less vehicles using the road will look at that then.

Currently the traffic lights give priority to A120. Looking at making them more responsive and give the non A120 traffic a less attractive option for use as a shortcut. Programmed to be responsive to traffic levels. Does not have to be permanent, can be adjusted. Improve village gateway features also to show that you are going through a village. Cllr Attwell suggested having a child design for the signs. Andrew said that has been done before and happy to do that as it's something they do regularly with the schools Gateways at the new roundabout should have a speed limit of 40.

Consultation event – community engagement with LHPC LH school, residents and businesses in the Parish and Albury PC. **Action: Rachel to send a notice to go on social media also the presentation.** Post bypass update at next PC meeting (15 mins). Also, half an hour at the May meeting. **Action: clerk to put an article in the Parish news regarding the post lockdown celebration.**

21.02.04 Declaration of interest and dispensations – to receive Declaration of Interest from councillors on items on the agenda. No declarations of interest from the councillors.



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21.02.05 Approval of minutes held on the 2nd of February 2021 to be agreed and signed as a true record. All councillors agreed and the Chair signed the minutes as a true record, to be sent to clerk at first opportunity.

21.02.06 Matters arising from the minutes (5 mins)

21.01.07 Planning applications considered by the Council (15 mins)

- **3/21/0156/HH - PROPOSAL:** Erection of two storey side extension with dormer window and juliet balcony to rear. Alterations to fenestration and openings. **AT:** Barn Cottage Lodge Farm Chapel Lane. **Please send your comments to EH Planning by 24th February 2021**

- **3/21/0157/LBC - PROPOSAL:** Erection of two storey side extension with dormer window and Juliet balcony to rear. Alterations to fenestration and openings. Internal alterations to include repositioning of staircase. **AT:** Barn Cottage Lodge Farm Chapel Lane. **Please send your comments to EH Planning by 24th February 2021**

Planning decisions received from EHC.

- **3/20/2095/FUL - PROPOSAL:** Demolition of existing dwelling and construction of replacement dwelling. **AT:** Ash Croft Stortford Road. This matter was considered by EH Council on the 11th of February 2021 and it was decided to **Grant Planning Permission subject to Conditions.**

- Side Hilly – Cllr Wilkinson proposes a letter is sent to EH Council to ask them to relook at the site to see what the debris is and if there is any danger to wildlife or people by contamination, as the residents are concerned about the environmental impact of this waste and the runoff. Cllr Attwell seconded the proposal. All councillors agreed. **Action: clerk to draft a response to the EA and EH Planning.**

- Travellers site at Westland Green – Cllr Wilkinson advised there has been digging for 3 weeks now into the water table. There are many residents who use boreholes for water and there is real concern about the grey water from the site running into the water table. Cllr Wilkinson proposes we write to the EA to look at this matter and write to the EA, with a copy to EHC and Cllr Williamson. Cllr Attwell seconded. All councillors agreed.

- Signs along the A120 and the layby need a letter to request they clear the debris away.

21.02.08 Reports - Areas of Responsibility (15 mins)

1 Highways / Bypass – Cllr Arkell – feedback from the meeting with Cllr McAndrew scheduled for the 5th.

2 Playing fields and young people's needs – Cllr Mardell.

- Crime prevention survey recommendations - entrance chain / combination lock. Recommendation from the crime survey was to make the car park hard to access. Cllr Attwell proposes we agree to give Cllr Mardell the authority to purchase a chain and padlock to the sum of £100. Cllr Mardell to investigate and get prices for a CCTV and a sensor lighting in the playing field. Cllr Attwell proposes Cllr Mardell be given approval for these two actions. Cllr Wilkinson seconded. All councillors agreed.

4. Village Hall – Jan Williamson – (Appendix 2) Kitchen finished, contractors to do some work round the back of the (Jan to send the report to clerk). Cycle racks donated by Clarion futures. £5,0000 grant. Action

5. Police Liaison – PCSO De Bruyn – Cllr Mardell.

- 1 report for Little Hadham for the month of February 21. Criminal damage at a derelict site in Bury Green where suspects have smashed windows to an unused building. Unfortunately, police enquiries have been unable to identify suspects. However increased patrols and awareness are being conducted by the local SNT Team. The local Rural SNT Team have conducted several rural operations



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focusing on Hare coursing, poaching and off-road scrambler bikes in addition to patrols for COVID-19 breaches.

6. Operations – Cllr Attwell – nothing to report. EC are aware of Side Hilly and has been reported to the EA.
7. Village Celebration – Cllr Attwell – looking forward to the end of Covid-19 restrictions. The idea is to have a Parish celebration, perhaps tie in with a fund-raising event for the VH. Cllr Attwell says he feels is a benefit to the village. Cllr Attwell proposes that we form at the earliest opportunity a subcommittee to organise such a celebration. An advert in next months Parish Magazine for a chair and members of the committee. Cllrs Arkell and Mardell are keen. Cllr Arkell seconded. All councillors agree. Cllr Attwell asked if anyone knows of people who would be a good chair put them forward.
8. Operations – Cllr Attwell (Appendix 3)
 - Recruitment. It is still Cllr Attwell intention to step down as chair. If any councillor has changed their mind to stand as chair, please talk to Cllr Attwell or the clerk.
 - Clerk is staying on board. Cllr Wilkinson said Cllr Attwell has done a good job. Clerk said the councillors have engaged with their roles and are doing a good job and is the chief reason the resignation was withdrawn. Cllr Arkell will put notices up for the clerk for a few weeks.
 - Chair of the VH will put an email out to the groups and committee members for volunteers for the village celebration.
 - Due to width of pavement East of Bury Green turnoff on the A120, it is decided that it is unsafe for the litter picker to carry on clearing that stretch to the phone mast. This will be reviewed once the pavement has been cleared. **Action: clerk to email litter picker and advise him.**

21.02.09 Update from Cllr Williamson – nothing to report.

21.02.10 Chair's Report (See Appendix 3)

21.02.11 Clerk's Report

- 1 To agree to payment of accounts. All councillors agreed to the payment of the accounts as in line with the financial review sent to all councillors.
- 2 To accept the accuracy of the financial statement, all councillors accepted the accuracy of the financial statement.

21.02.11 Correspondence.

20.02.12 Date of next Council meeting – Tuesday, 6th April 2021

20.02.13 To close the meeting – 20.56.

For members of the press and public, the Parish Council meeting is being held virtually via Zoom videoconference that will commence at 7.30pm. All normal Parish Council rules apply. There will be the normal Democratic 10 minutes for questions. Contact the clerk and she will invite you. clerklittlehadham@gmail.com



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Appendix 1 – Bypass

Appendix 2 - Village Hall report – Jan Williamson

Clarion Futures' Contractors Engie have completed the kitchen refit and it is looking really great.

Graham Contractors are going to make good an external area of the garden which can be used by hall users when we re-open.

We are hoping that we can open our doors Week commencing 17th May and there is much interest in this

Our AGM is on March 11th @ 7.30 and attendance must be booked through Denise Armstrong on booking@littlehadhamvillagehall.com

We have been awarded a grant of £5k grant from Low Carbon Workspaces towards windows.

We have asked for donations from the village community to help with the excess cost of windows which will cost over £20k

We have advertised in the Parish News for people to join a team of fundraisers to get us on our way with a new floor and then storage building This will also help with setting up a fundraising campaign to have a post covid party!

We are now actively ringing the 64 residents who asked for help in the village connections survey last year.

We will be trialling streaming equipment in the hall for the next 2 weeks with a view to installing some equipment soon after.

Appendix 3 – Chairs Report

Work is ongoing to fill the current vacancy we have within the Parish Council. Carole and I spoke to two people in the last month who had expressed a desire to become involved but sadly both individuals chose not to take this further. It remains my intention to step down as chair once someone has been found to take over this role on a permanent basis.

I am however pleased to report that our clerk Carole Page has decided to continue in her role for the time being. Freddie Arkell has kindly agreed to assist her in some of her duties whilst her recovery is ongoing. We all look forward to continuing working with Carole and benefitting from what she has to offer our Parish Council.

Otherwise, we are looking at number of things within the Parish at present. These include the footpath and littering alongside the A120, the state of the War Memorial surrounds and other assets in our Village and the role that our allotments play in the Parish.

I should also say thank you to PCSO Leon Debruyne @ Herts Constabulary who undertook a crime prevention survey on the Village Hall and Playing Field this month. Thanks also to



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Carole, Richard, and Freddie for their input here. We are all looking forward to making this a safer place for the residents of Little Hadham.

I would also like to take this opportunity to remind counsellors that monthly reports for their areas of responsibility should be provided to the Clerk well ahead of the month's PC meeting. The Clerk will be chasing us all for these on a regular basis.

We're almost at the anniversary date of the onset of Covid-19's impact of life in our Parish so I'm extremely pleased that we're now able to turn our eyes to celebrating the return of normal life in Little Hadham. The success of the event which we are hoping to organise will depend entirely on the input of a sub-committee which we will be putting together over the coming months. If you feel you have something to bring to this, please do not hesitate to get in contact with any of us at the Parish Council.