



# Little Hadham Parish Council

## PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Minutes of the **Little Hadham Parish Council** (2019 – 2023 Session) held virtually via teleconference on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2021 at 7:30 p.m.

**Present:**

Cllr M Attwell (Acting chair)  
Cllr C Westlake  
Cllr M Wilkinson  
Cllr R Mardell  
Cllr F Arkell

**Also:**

Clerk: C Page, member of the public Lara Clark, Paul Collins, Robin Gregory

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**21.03.01 To receive and accept apologies for absence.** Apologies received from Councillor Hoodless.

**21.03.02 Democratic 10 minutes.** Cllr Attwell thanked everyone for joining the meeting and asked if anyone wished to use the democratic 10 minutes. Three members of the community wished to ask questions relating to the proposed Solar Panel Farm and the Music Festival:

It was asked that views be considered, and what screen options are being considered. A request for an environmental assessment to be made. It would massively impact the environment: bridleways would be affected; the visual impact would be significant.

It was commented that there would be a hope that the residents generally and the Parish Council would become fully engaged when the planning application is submitted.

As this is currently arable land, the loss of 247 acres would represent a log of agricultural countryside and would need to be closely monitored. The fields are large and flat very efficient for farming, best soils in the area by far and would cause serious damage to the ecology. There are concerns over the future soil fertility. Location is vital.

Cllr Williamson said in relation to the Solar farm, there is another one the other side of Stocking Pelham. The application that affects Little Hadham is currently a screening application, stage prior to a full planning application being lodged. Does not believe at this stage it goes out for consultation. When full or outline is lodged will go out for the statutory consultees

A proposal for a music festival to be held on the land belonging to the group who own the church end industrial estate has been made. 3 day from 11.00 till 11.30 at night. 5,000 spectators. Application for a licence for the provision of alcohol, with 25<sup>th</sup> April being the closing date for the application. Could raise issues of noise, nuisance, pollution (traffic, access, egress. Many footpaths and bridleways that allow access to this site, and these would be affected. Date in mind is August bank holiday. Cllr Williamson said he has only just caught up with this, but if an objection is to be raised, this will be considered by the licensing subcommittee. Either agreed or not by that committee. If no objections, then permission is given automatically. If objections are lodged, he will work with the licensing. It has been noted by a resident that blue signs have been put up round Church End and have tried to search for the application on EH website but no application.

**21.03.03 Presentation on the bypass (10 mins) (See Appendix 1)**



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

**21.03.05 Approval of minutes** held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of March 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.

**21.03.06 Matters arising from the minutes** (5 mins).

**21.03.07 Planning applications** considered by the Council (15 mins)

- **3/21/0588/FUL - PROPOSAL:** New agricultural field entrance off Albury Road **AT:** Church End Farm Church End. Please send your comments to EHC Planning by 22nd April 2021.
- A resident commented that a previous application has been made for this site for a housing development. If this current application is approved to improve access, it is feared a new application for houses would be submitted. Cllr Attwell asked that all Councillors read the application and respond to the clerk if they wish to object. If an objection is to be made, the clerk to request an extension to allow the objection to be endorsed at the next meeting.

## **Planning decisions received from EHC.**

- 3/21/0231/HH - PROPOSAL: Remove timber cladding to the front elevation and dormers **AT:** Hunters Chapel Lane. This matter was considered by EH Council on the 25th of March 2021 and it was decided to Grant Planning Permission
- 3/21/0162/HH - PROPOSAL: Two storey side extension, including extension to existing dormers **AT:** 13 The Smithy Little This matter was considered by EH Council on the 18th of March 2021 and it was decided to Grant Planning Permission
- 3/21/0148/HH - PROPOSAL: Erection of greenhouse/pergola. **AT:** Ashmeads The Ford. This matter was considered by EH Council on the 17th of March 2021 and it was decided to Grant Planning Permission
- 3/21/0178/HH - PROPOSAL: Erection of two storey side and rear extensions. A new front dormer and single storey front extension. **AT:** Westfield Lodge Westfield Farm Lane. This matter was considered by the Council on the 18th of March 2021, and it was decided to Grant Planning Permission
- **3/19/2145/FUL - PROPOSAL:** Erection of building for B1 (office) use with creation of 26 additional car parking spaces and associated landscaping works. **AT:** Hadham Park Connect. This matter was considered by EH Council on the 1st of April 2021 and it was decided to **Grant Planning Permission**
- **3/20/0055/FUL - PROPOSAL:** Temporary retention of 4 porta cabins for office use (B1).**AT:** Connect Scaffolding Hadham Par. This matter was considered by EH Council on the 1st of April 2021 and it was decided to **Refuse Planning Permission**
- **3/20/0056/FUL -PROPOSAL:** Temporary use of land for the storage of scaffolding – Retrospective **AT:** Connect Scaffolding Hadham Park. This matter was considered by EH Council on the 1st of April 2021 and it was decided to **Refuse Planning Permission**

**21.03.08 Reports - Areas of Responsibility** (15 mins)

- 1 Highways – Cllr Arkell – SID's machines are now installed.
2. Playing fields and young people's needs – Cllr Mardell. Nothing to report on playing field. Area of concern is the fencing on the ridgeway. Cllr Mardell met with two contractors to discuss the issues. **Action: Cllr Mardell to obtain quotes for the replacement fencing and if any grants are available.**  
The bus shelter has been painted and repaired by Cllr Mardell. Cllr Atwell and the councillors thanked him for his time and work.  
A gate post has been purchased to replace the rotten one at the entrance to the car park at the village hall. A chain will be attached to the post with a combination lock.  
Numbers to be given to trustees of the VH. Village Hall – Jan Williamson -
3. Village Hall – Jan Williamson (Appendix 2)



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4. Police Liaison – PCSO De Bruyn – Cllr Mardell.  
Crime report for Little Hadham parish for March 21
  - Commercial Burglary- Silver Leys polo club – Suspects have gained entry to the premises and have broken into several unlocked outbuildings removing property from within. They have also removed a horsebox from the site and made off in an unknown direction. Police enquiries are in progress.
  - In addition to this we have received a report of ASB at the Glaxo site next to the Polo Club (although there is no evidence to suggest this is connected to this crime). This is a derelict building no longer in use. Police patrols have increase to combat the reports.
4. Operations – Cllr Attwell (See Appendix 3)
5. Village Celebration – Cllr Attwell (See Appendix 3)
6. Grants (Cllr Westlake)
  - Community Gym – Community grant for the playing field. Cllr Westlake proposes we look at a grant for a community gym. Cllr Attwell seconded, all councillors agreed, motion carried. **Action: clerk and Cllr Westlake to work on this.** Cllr Westlake suggests another SID machine at the Smithy. Cllr Arkell suggest putting in another socket to enable the current SIDs to be moved.
  - War Memorial repairs – get Highways to look at the steps.
7. Wildlife and environmental topics – Cllr Westlake – sustainability, push for local councils to improve diversity and look at climate change. We can look at the land we have jurisdiction over. Cllr Westlake proposes we set up a sub-committee to discuss this, Cllr Attwell seconded, all councillors agreed, motion carried. Perhaps get Herts and Middlesex wildlife involved. Cllr Atwell suggests we should be thinking about this more.

**23.03.09 Update from Cllr Williamson** – Discussed the solar farm. Have you heard that zoom meetings are to be ended in May? Cllr Westlake asked if the solar farm does not go ahead would housing be considered. Cllr Williamson suggests the district plan would need to be consulted. In the assessments done for the District Plan that was not considered a suitable site for housing. Cllr Wilkinson asked about the traveller's site, the application for the discharge of conditions. Cllr Williamson thought that had been withdrawn. **Action: Cllr Williamson to check.**

**21.03.10 Chair's Report** (See Appendix 3) – Our Litter Picker is out of action for 3 weeks, so encourage all councillors to look out for rubbish whilst out walking.

## **21.03.11 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.
3. Police liaison group – A meeting was held with surrounding Parish clerks and our local police PCSO, and members of the police force to discuss ways of communication going forward. It was decided to set up a WhatsApp group, although not outlet to report crimes or incidents, that should be done in the usual way using 999, 101 or reporting online to Herts police, it will be a forum for the distribution of any information to the villages.



# Little Hadham Parish Council

Credit		Budget	To date				
B/F General	19,374.01	E25,828.00		1st April 2021			
Precept	7,031.00	E14,062.00		Unity Trust Bank			24,844.08
Rent	307.61	E300.00		Petty cash			E45.28
New Homes Bonus		E1,630.00				Total	E24,889.36
VAT refund		E0.00		Not cleared the bank			
Grant footpaths		E0.00					E0.00
Litter picker		E1,553.69					
Atkins repaid due to non cutting		E560.00					
				To be agreed			E0.00
				To Pay			
				C Page	March Salary	Pay	E447.00
				C Page	March mileage	Pay	E7.50
				R Bunce	March Salary	Pay	E130.00
				J Hammond	March Salary	Pay	E100.00
				P Knott (Mower Services)	March cuts 11/3 and 24/3	Playgrounds	E242.00
<b>Totals</b>	<b>26,712.62</b>	<b>E43,933.69</b>		Gascoyne Holdings	Bury Green yearly rent	Rent	E5.28
Income less B/F		E18,105.69		Gascoyne Holdings	Westland Green yearly rent	Rent	E0.13
				Hunson Parish Council	3 months zoom subscriptions	Misc	E43.17
<b>Debit</b>						Total payments	<b>E976.08</b>
Allotments	20	0.00					
Audit	262	0.00					
Banking	72	72.00					
Chair	100	0.00					
Contingency	1,000	1,095.08					
Developments	100	100.80					
Donation	3,830	3,730.00					
Election	0	0.00					
Fleet		0.00					
Bury & Westland Greens	0	0.00					
Insurance	700	603.92					
Lunch	500	0.00					
Misc	690	360.60					
Neighbourhood Plan	0	0.00					
P/News	250	0.00					
PAYE		278.72					
Pay	7,508	7,984.51					
Playgrounds	3,612	3,067.00					
Rent	406	52.82					
Rep/Maintenance	1,937	1,457.95					
Subscriptions	830	834.62					
Training	200	30.00					
Website	300	352.38					
<b>Totals</b>	<b>22,319</b>	<b>20,020.41</b>					
<b>Surplus</b>	<b>4,394</b>	<b>23,913.28</b>					

## 21.03.12 Correspondence.

**21.03.13** Date of next Council meeting – Tuesday, 4<sup>th</sup> May 2021. Due to the current decision not to extend Parish Council remote meetings, the Annual Parish Meeting and the Annual Meeting of the Council will both be held on Tuesday, 4<sup>th</sup> May 2021, commencing at 7.30pm for the Annual Meeting of the Council followed by the Annual Parish Meeting. The clerk will request reports from: **Little Hadham Primary School**  
**East Herts Council – Chief Executive**  
**Local Police Report**  
**Little Hadham Charities**  
**A120 Bypass**  
**Little Hadham Village Hall**  
**Review of the year for Little Hadham Parish Council**

With a view to holding meetings in the village Hall, the Chair of the Village Hall advised that up to 30 people can attend an indoor event from May 17<sup>th</sup>. Come June restrictions will change again and will depend on what we are told by the insurers of the VH. Will also have streaming equipment to allow us to stream out our PC meetings. Cllr Attwell encourages it to be streamed for any member so the parish who are uncomfortable joining indoor meetings.

## 21.03.14 To close the meeting – 20.48.

**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**



# Little Hadham Parish Council

## Appendix 1 – Bypass

Due to the election period, we will not be attending this evening's Parish Council meeting but please do let us know if anyone has any queries or questions. Regarding the A120 Bypass and Flood Alleviation Scheme please continue to look at the website for up-to-date information, a follow up letter will be issued to the community in the coming weeks with updated information regarding forthcoming roadworks and road closures.

Regarding the A120 post-bypass highways improvement consultation, this went live as planned on 17 March. A letter was posted to the c.500 properties within the parish boundary and promoted via HCC's social media channels. To date around 50 representations have been made. The consultation is open until 14 April and we encourage everyone to provide their feedback via the consultation portal: [www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/a120postbypassconsultation](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/a120postbypassconsultation)

We will next attend a PC meeting following the election period.

## Appendix 2 - Village Hall report – Jan Williamson

We have just done 2 weeks of trialled streaming in the village hall using borrowed equipment from a known and respected company. We are now working on a template for equipment that will be purchased using grant funds from the Community Hub for the Ash Valley which can then be rolled out to other village halls along the Ash Valley. This will help rural areas connect to a much wider audience depending on suitable broadband connections. Graham McAndrew is leading the investigation on rural broadband. We have suitable broadband in Little Hadham!

We have our first on-line zoom training workshop booked this week to help a group of people who would like to learn more about how to book, attend and host zoom!

Road map permitting we have our first Digital Inclusion workshop booked for 9<sup>th</sup> June for people that have asked for our help through the Hadham's (Ash Valley) survey conducted last year. We have contacted all 64 residents with some new ones added to the list. We are happy to take referrals from Parish Council or other organisations who are now involved in our pilot project. We have set up a Constitution for this Community pilot project as it will involve much fundraising to provide equipment, devices and administrative costs that will be needed for the workshops. Money raised will be spent on community facilities along the Ash Valley if they want to be part of the digital inclusion project and rural connections.

All our groups are keen to return to the village hall and many new enquiries are being received. We are working on how we can improve our booking system to accommodate the once-a-month groups that can block a particular session for other regular users. The idea is that where possible all once a month groups will be asked to come on a certain day i.e., 1<sup>st</sup> week of the month Traditional afternoon tea, 2<sup>nd</sup> week community coffee morning, 3<sup>rd</sup> week lunch for over 60's. We are also looking at how we can open the hall up for more community-based mornings and afternoons providing refreshments. The aim is to provide a safe and secure environment for our residents that may feel nervous about restarting life after lockdown, provide useful information on Health and Wellbeing and have access to a direct help line to key service providers such as CAB and domestic abuse.



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The foyer will be used as a reception area and we will be able to provide the use of a PC (donated) and technical support if residents do not have internet but need to access information online.

We now have 2 containers erected on site so we can store unwanted items securely and without cluttering the hall.

We have refurbished the old shed with our volunteer's support.

We have had a pledge of £11k towards the window walling in the main hall, which will be done in July. This is from a local resident.

Large CCTV signage has been put up and we are looking into lighting and an additional camera at the rear of the building.

We are looking at grants to erect some fencing where there is access to the rear of the premises via the river Ash when it is dry.

I have asked the committee for help with village day in September and I will be asking for volunteers on Thursday when we have a VH meeting. There are 3 of us currently on the VH fundraising steering group but we need much more commitment from other members and supporters. Our priority this year is to do main hall windows, remove floor, replace underground pipes, and then replace floor with something more suited to a multi usage hall.

## Appendix 3 – Chairs Report

Work is ongoing to identify individuals to recruit into the council as councillors. I would urge all Parish Councillors to speak to people in the Parish about this rewarding role.

Last year we formed an HR committee which we said would meet at least twice a year. I am proposing to advertise with the parish for a HR professional to sit on that committee and help advise its members on how we can improve the Parish Council as an employer.

**Action: clerk to advertise for that**

Most of you now will have heard about the proposed solar development in the village, indeed you may have heard people speak about this proposed development earlier tonight. Whereas this is not yet a full planning application (it being for a screening opinion only) and so does not yet require the Parish Council's it is important we all give careful thought to this over the coming weeks. From a personal perspective, I am torn. The world clearly needs to move towards a low carbon future and solar power will be an important part of that. But I struggle with the scale of this development, on useful agricultural land, when hundreds of houses are being built almost adjacent to this site with no apparent requirement to put their roof space to good use. This will clearly negatively impact the countryside surrounding the village - a significant source of enjoyment for the people who live here. I am though looking forward to understanding whether this development will improve the biodiversity of the countryside and learning more about its direct ecological impact.



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We voted last month on holding a post covid celebration within the Parish and agreed to set up a sub-committee to fulfil that. Adverts have been placed in the Parish news and on our notice, boards seeking people to become involved. I will be proposing at next month's meeting a high level 'mission statement' for the sub-committee to work to.

On a personal level, I agreed to chair this council on a temporary basis after my short-lived predecessor stepped down in November. You probably will all have spotted that I have already overstayed my welcome - this is the 4th meeting I will have chaired on a temporary basis when I said originally that I would do 3 to prevent the Council ceasing to operate in its current form. I have been helped by a quieter professional life, but this will change in June when I change jobs and after then will need to balance again my many commitments. As a result, the last meeting I will be chairing will be in June after which a new chair will need to step forward. I would encourage each member of the council to either consider whether this is a role that they would like to do going forwards and if not, think about other people in the Parish who might be willing to this role.

the playgrounds are fine apart from the fencing which still needs doing, we can't afford to do it all so will have to be done in stages of importance, the hedges as you know still have to be done and as discovered we missed the deadline because of confusion with e Mail, in future I will take it on to speak to him personally to arrange at the right time, DEFIB all up to date with new pads so it's all back on line and ready to use, as you saw today I painted the bus stop so that's looking good, I can't do the security chain as I just discovered one of the gate posts has rotted at ground level and the hedge is holding it up, I bout a new one today and will replace hopefully over bank holiday weekend, the sids signs are now up as I'm sure everyone is aware so hopefully they will help