



# Little Hadham Parish Council

## PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Minutes of the **Little Hadham Parish Council** (2019 – 2023 Session) held in the Little Hadham Village Hall on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2023 at 7:30 p.m.

**Present:** Cllr N Kent (Chair)  
Cllr Westlake (Vice Chair)  
Cllr M Wilkinson  
Cllr R Mardell  
Cllr Hoodless

**Also:** Clerk, Chair of LH Village Hall (Jan Williamson), 9 Members of the public

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**23.08.01** **To receive and accept apologies for absence.** Cllr Williamson sent his apologies due to work commitments.

**23.08.02** **Public Issues** – A question was asked regarding the land leased by the Parish Council at Westland green. When the lease expires in March 2024 what are the intentions of the Parish Council in regard to the lease. A parcel of land adjacent to this was sold by the Marquis of Salisbury estate and would like confirmation that this parcel would not also be sold. Cllr Kent suggests we contact the Salisbury estate asking if they are intending to regrant to us. At the moment Steve Stigwood (a local farmer) rents the large field. He also cuts the small field twice a year. Steve confirmed he is happy to continue leasing.  
**Action: Cllr Kent to approach the Salisbury Estate**

Abandoned road signs by the traffic lights. Highways are on a drive to get Ringway to pick them up. If you see any signs abandoned, report them on the Highways portal. If they aren't picked up, let the PC know and they will follow up. Send any reference numbers to the clerk.

Speeding down Stortford road with the missing 40 mph sign is a massive issue.

**23.08.01** **Declaration of interest and dispensations**

- a. To receive declarations of interest from councillors on items on the agenda. None.
- b. To receive written requests for dispensations for declarable interests. None.
- c. To grant any requests for dispensation as appropriate None.

**23.08.02** **Approval of minutes** held on 5<sup>th</sup> September 2023 to be agreed and signed as a true record. Resolved, proposed Cllr Kent, seconded Cllr Mardell that these Minutes be agreed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings and be duly signed by the Chair.

**23.08.03** **Matters arising from the minutes** – no matters arising.

**23.08.04** **Planning applications** - considered by EHC (Appendix 1) – Cllr Wilkinson  
Planning decisions - received from EHC (Appendix 1)

**23.08.05** **Reports from Working Parties and Committees**

- Allotments – Cllr Westlake (Appendix 2). Cllr Westlake has obtained the rents of £75, plus £10 from Cheryl which has already paid. There is currently only half a plot vacant. Six people turned up for the allotment meeting. There is an amount of rubbish still to be removed. The cheapest quote for a skip is Hunsdon Skips. There is an issue of access to be overcome. Be a weekend hire of the skip.



# Little Hadham Parish Council

## - Little Hadham Community Orchard / Allotment green space opportunities

Most of the of the area could be put on a conservation cut with a mown path network through the area. An area of close mown grass around the bench close to the entrance to the site would provide a useful space for picnics. Some hedge planting along the southern boundary would fill gaps in the existing hedge. An interpretation panel and labels for each tree would provide extra interest and local promotion of this community orchard to encourage use.

A good turnout of enthusiastic people for the apple pressing day on the 17<sup>th</sup> September. Was a very good day and something we will do next year. Residents turned up to see what was going on.

Three quotes for pruning of the fruit trees. The trees need a good prune to remove the diseased and dead branches. Cllr Westlake has approached the gardening club to see if anyone has any expertise in pruning. **Action: Cllr Westlake to contact the College to see how they are getting on.**

- Community Flood Plan – Cllr Westlake – Action: Clerk and Cllr Westlake to develop the plan.

## 23.08.08 Reports to the Council To receive reports from representatives on outside bodies, local authorities, and agencies.

- **County Councillor Bypass update** – Appendix 3
- **District Councillor Report** - Cllr Williamson  
Ref AMA Fest, we know an investigation has been instigated. We were made aware that by inviting residents to submit details of the experiences on the night through the Parish News that would slow down the investigation, but we felt it is important all residents have the opportunity to have their say – as promised at the last PC meeting. Clearly as soon as we have more information we will share with the PC and residents.
- **Village Hall** – Jan Williamson (Appendix 4). Road surfacing on the Ridgeway caused cars to park in the village hall. There was Covid and Flu vaccination going on over the weekend, with over 3,000 attendees. The parking of these cars caused an issue for the village hall bookings going forward. **Action: Find out who resurfaced the road, and why the PC weren't notified.**
- **Police Report** – Cllr Mardell (Appendix 5) – New format covers all the villages, but not drilling down into any detail **Action: Cllr Mardell to ask for more detail on what the crimes are and where they happen, i.e., theft from a house, car etc.**
- **Playground update** – Cllr Mardell – all equipment is in a reasonable condition. Goal post is broken and needs to be removed. **Action: Cllr Mardell to remove.** Fence between the car park and the park need replacing. **Action: Cllr Mardell to get a price for the work to be carried out. Action: clerk to ascertain when the playground inspections are to be reinstated from East Herts Council. Clerk to get the bin emptying schedule from East Herts Council. Action: get a useful number listing for general circulation. Put the website in to report signs and if not actioned report to PC.**
- **Footpaths** – Cllr Hoodless – nothing to report.
- **Highways** – Cllr Kent
  - Update from Highways meeting.(Appendix 6)

## 23.08.09 Chair's Report

## 23.08.10 Clerk's Report (Appendix 7)

- To agree to payment of accounts. Councillors agreed to the payment of the accounts.
- To accept the accuracy of the financial statement. The councillors accepted the accuracy of the financial statement and the reconciliation.



# Little Hadham Parish Council

- Remembrance Sunday wreath - £50 agreed for two wreaths, one for the memorial and one for the war grave in Chapel Lane graveyard.
- Parish Council email system – everything to be on the email addresses as per . . .
- Precept Meeting – set the meeting up for the 7<sup>th</sup> November to do the precept meeting in the meeting room.

## **23.08.11 Correspondence**

Fly tipping – in the layby on the A120 opposite Hadham Hall. Cllr Mardell spoke to the fly tipping officer who confirmed if we put a pole up, they would put a notice up. Cllr Mardell suggests we adopt the area and keep it tidy in an effort to deter casual fly tipping.

**23.08.12** Date of next Council meeting – Tuesday, 7<sup>th</sup> November 2023

**23.08.13** To close the meeting.



# Little Hadham Parish Council

## Appendix 1 – Planning Report

Planning Applications – closed during Summer	PC Decision
<b>3/23/1553/FUL</b> <b>PROPOSAL:</b> Demolition of double garage and erection of new build dwelling with an air source heat pump, a proposed pond, tarmac vehicle entrance and car parking area, and landscaping enhancement at Land Adjacent Chalk Pit Cottage Stortford Road <b>Deadline:</b> Please send your comments to EHC by: 27th September 2023	No comments
<b>3/23/1554/LBC</b> As above	No comments
<b>3/23/1723/HH</b> <b>PROPOSAL:</b> Two storey and party single storey extension to garage to create first floor accommodation. Replacement of windows and garage doors, and external alterations at Capell House Church End <b>Deadline:</b> Please send your comments to EHC by: 2/10/2023	No comments
<b>3/23/1743/HH</b> <b>PROPOSAL:</b> Alterations to and extension of existing gravel access and parking area. Removal of gravel and replacement landscaping including the planting of one front tree at The Birches 1 Farm Place Bury Green <b>Deadline:</b> Please send your comments to EHC by 4/10 2023	No comments
<b>3/23/1784/HH</b> <b>PROPOSAL:</b> Single storey rear extension including raising of roof ridge and insertion of roof light windows at Craigowan, Stortford Road <b>Deadline:</b> Please send your comments to EHC by: 12/10/2023	No comments
Planning Decisions	EHC Decision
<b>3/23/1087/HH</b> <b>PROPOSAL:</b> Erection of detached 3-bay cart lodge at Hadham Croft Ford Hill.	Grant Planning Permission subject to Conditions
<b>3/23/1386/FUL</b> <b>PROPOSAL:</b> Change of use of agricultural barn to use class B8 (storage & distribution), together with infilling of openings with vertical cladding, installation of new doors and rooflights and extended hardstanding area at A120 Veterinary Hospital	Grant Planning Permission subject to Conditions
<b>3/23/0423/FUL</b> <b>PROPOSAL:</b> Demolition of outbuilding, greenhouse, Part demolition of garage. Conversion of 2 dwellings to 1. Alterations to garage to create outbuilding/home office, alterations to barn to create annexe. replacement of window cills, repairs to roof, replacement of fascias, replacement of render, replacement of glazed doors for windows and insertion of secondary glazing. Landscaping to include drainage works, new front gate at 1-3 Ash Cottage Albury Road	Grant Planning Permission subject to Conditions
<b>3/23/0424/LBC</b> As above	Grant Planning Permission subject to Conditions
<b>3/23/1401/FUL</b> <b>PROPOSAL:</b> Demolition of redundant storage buildings, timber apex shed and concrete walls. Erection of new single storey buildings containing workshops (use class E(g)), together with the provision of new parking spaces and 4 EV charging points at A120 Veterinary Hospital Standon Road	Refuse Planning Permission



# Little Hadham Parish Council

## Appendix 2

All plots are taken except 2x half plots and I have someone interested in taking one of those.

Advertising in the Parish News has worked well. Carole has a copy of the spreadsheet showing names and status of everyone. All rents and allotment agreements are now in except one allotmenteer who has 2 plots. Hopefully this will be in soon. We had a meeting in the pub on the 26th (6 of us ) which was very positive. 2 new members were welcomed. We also discussed the orchard and there was a lot of enthusiasm expressed on how it could develop.

## Appendix 3 - County Councillor Update – By-pass

Following the completion of A120 Little Hadham Bypass and Flood Alleviation scheme, contractor GRAHAM reinstated areas which were used temporarily during the works for site compounds or working areas (such as haul routes or stockpile areas). This reinstatement was mainly concluded last summer (summer 2022) when the weather was suitable, after the bypass opened in December 2021. The temporarily used areas are intended to be returned to landowners in a similar state to that before the works (i.e., agricultural use).

Since the reinstatement, landowners have raised concerns about the quality of the ground, with worries that topsoil and subsoils have been mixed, or that foreign materials have been left on site. We have subsequently carried out on-site assessments, including trail holes, to determine if the quality of the reinstatement is as per the contract specification. In some areas, we have found that the quality is lacking so we have therefore been working with GRAHAM to agree a remediation plan to improve the reinstated ground.

Conditions at each site differ, but generally it has been agreed that the remediation will include:

- Topsoil stripped down to 300mm, screened and stockpiled.
- Subsoil material is ripped and screened. Where excess material has been identified, this is to be removed from site, or screened and left in situ as clean material where agreed.
- Clean topsoil re-laid on top of subsoil and regraded, levelled to original (pre-scheme) levels, or to other agreed levels.
- All plant and excess material then removed from site. Any unsuitable (foreign material) to be removed to tip.
- Records of site observation and photos are to be taken by a supervising site presence.

This remediation work has now started on site, while the weather is suitable, and is expected to be concluded by end of October 2023. We trust that this remediation will close out the remaining landowner concerns and that the hand back can be concluded.

Best regards

Graham

Councillor Graham McAndrew CMILT  
Deputy Executive – Environment  
County Councillor for Bishop's Stortford Rural Division  
District Councillor Bishop's Stortford Thorley Manor Ward.



# Little Hadham Parish Council

## Appendix 4 - Village Hall report

The foyer has now been carpeted and looking very smart. It was christened with over 3000 vaccinations over 2 weekends.

Unfortunately, the resurfacing of the ridgeway caused us a big headache due to the unauthorised parking of 12 cars in the car park. This caused major congestion and many disabled and elderly were not able to park close to the hall. It may well have also cost us part of the rental as the hirers were not happy! Whilst we appreciate the problem of parking in the village, had someone rung us to ask permission they would have been advised that the hall was fully booked for the weekend.

Wednesdays have now really taken off with chair yoga , tai chi and forever cycling running in conjunction with the welcome café. We are doing around 20 luncheons each week and we see more and more new faces. Last week we had a gentleman of 103 drive here to meet a friend and they both had lunch. We made a staggering £100 in donations! The digital workshop is also benefitting from the additional footfall, so it is good news all round.

As you may have read in the Parish newsletter our insurance has gone up by over £1500 to over £8200 a year. This is absolutely crippling us, and we are desperately looking into Insurers that may take us on at a cheaper price. It is very disappointing that the words of the Environment Agency saying our risk would change with the flood alleviation. This has not happened! How many rentals do we have to have to just pay this bill!

Sadly, the sports therapy and massage has folded due to people wanting more flexibility of days. The NHS now have the room 4 sessions a week and we hope that we may be able to use the room ourselves if we can use it as a quiet room on Wednesday afternoons for the digital inclusion workshop. We have also had another enquiry for the use of the room and are having a trial session tomorrow using our welcome café as the Guinea pigs.

We had a visit from The Mayor of Bishops Stortford last Wednesday who dropped in on our digital workshop and also on our air fryer demonstration the previous Monday. He was very impressed with what goes on here and made a donation.

We have just submitted 2 grant applications to Clarion which if successful will allow us to continue with our weekly digital workshop. It will also help us to fund regular air fryer demonstrations and create more opportunities to share food ideas and advice around the cost of living. The aim would be to create a village hall recipe book which would be part of the village hall history over the years. We will keep you informed of the outcome sometime later this month!



# Little Hadham Parish Council

## Appendix 5 - Crime Report

**ANSTEY** - no reported crimes

**HORMEAD** - no reported crimes

**BRENT PELHAM & MEESDEN** - no reported crimes

**STOCKING PELHAM** - no reported crimes

**FURNEUX PELHAM** - no reported Crimes

**ALBURY** - 1 x Burglary

**LITTLE HAHDAM** - 1 x Burglary, 3 X Thefts

**MUCH HADHAM** - 1x Criminal Damage

**HUNSDON** - no reported crimes

**WIDFORD** - no reported crimes

**WARESIDE** - 1x Criminal Damage, 1 x Possession of drugs, 1 x Theft from motor vehicle

**EASTWICK & GILSTON** - 1 x Offensive Weapon

**BRAUGHING** - Burglary (at the church)

**STANDON & PUCKERIDGE** - 2 x Theft from Motor Vehicle, 1x Possession of bladed article, 1 x Cannabis, 1 x Arson

### Other news and updates:

Please encourage the members in the community to use the police non-emergency number 101 to report incidents directly. This is the most effective and efficient way to contact police.

Update from Highways meeting.(Appendix 6)

