

MUCH HADHAM PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Much Hadham Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday, 6 January 2015, in the Much Hadham Village Hall at 7.30 pm.

*Cllr Mrs S Bannerman

*Cllr A Baxter

*Cllr T Baxter

*Cllr W Bird

*Cllr W Compton (Chairman)

*Cllr S J Godfrey

*Cllr Mrs J Liversage

*Cllr B Morris (Vice Chairman)

*Cllr A J Young

* denotes present.

In attendance: 4 members of the public.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Carver (EHC) and Cllr McAndrew (HCC).

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

3. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 10 DECEMBER 2014

RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting held on 10 December 2014 be accepted as a correct record of the proceedings and be signed by the Chairman.

4. MATTERS ARISING

(i) Much Hadham Sports Association

To note that a meeting of the Association was scheduled for 26 February 2015 when the issue of the usage of the tennis courts would be addressed.

(ii) Highways matters - Vehicular Activated Signs

Cllr Bird stated that he was awaiting a response from Cllr McAndrew with regard to the changes in the criteria for providing vehicular activated signs.

(iii) Proposed development - Walnut Close

Members had been circulated with a copy of an e-mail from Strutt and Parker which stated that contrary to what had been mentioned at the presentation to the Parish Council meeting on 10 December 2014 the site had not been purchased in June 2014. No specific date had been given as to when the sale had been completed.

A concern was raised that coupled with the County Council's indication that it would be raising no objection to the application, Marden Homes was advertising on its website the sale of 7 new homes at Walnut Close.

5. RESIDENTS' COMMENTS

(i) Planning application 3/14/1514/FP - Chaldean Estate Grain Dryers/Storage

Cllr Morris referred to revised plans which had been submitted in respect of the above application and which would be discussed by the members of the Planning Management Committee to be held on 12 January 2015. A formal complaint had been made to the Case Officer, East Herts Council, with regard to the lack of plans being submitted to the Parish Council.

(ii) North Leys, High Street, Much Hadham

Cllr Morris informed members that the above property had recently had a change of ownership and the new owner was desirous of reinstating the house back to the original condition, which had existed prior to the change of ownership. The previous owner had undertaken extensive work, which had resulted in enforcement action being taken by East Herts Council. Whilst the reinstatement work was to be commended, the planning application recently submitted for a large scale side extension was deprecated.

(iii) Broadfield Close

Cllr Baxter (T) reported that with regard to the alleged abuse at the Circle Anglia establishment in Broadfield Close, three people had been identified, investigated and a report had now been compiled. Whilst the Parish Council would not be privy to the contents of the report, the resultant outcome would be made available in due course.

Cllr Morris expressed his concern regarding Cllr Carver's lack of involvement in this matter and he asked whether Cllr Carver had declared his interest with East Herts Council as being a non-executive director of Circle Anglia. Cllr Morris further stated that he had made a formal request to East Herts Council under the Freedom of Information Act requesting sight of all Cllr Carver's registered interests.

Cllr Baxter stated that the residents had expressed their sincere gratitude to members of the Parish Council for all their efforts in this matter.

6. PLANNING

(i) Minutes of the Planning Sub-Committee held on 10 December 2014

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Planning Sub-Committee held on 10 December 2014 be received.

7. HIGHWAYS MATTERS

Members had been circulated with a copy of the attached report (see Appendix A) compiled by Cllr Bird.

Other matters/Comments

- Widford Road - work not undertaken on 6 January as reported.
- Numerous discussions with Ringway were continuing on the many highways issues throughout the parish.
- Large pothole in Watery Lane - this matter had been taken off the county website - enquiries to be made as to why.
- Management not adhering to their own work programme.
- Removal of complaints from the website.
- Members needed to choose a convenient date when they could meet to log all of the highways matters.
- Cllr Bird had requested a meeting with Raj Goutham - no response.
- The Parish Council needed to be e-mailed with all the road closure information which affected the parish.
- High Street culvert work would not require a road closure. Work would proceed once land ownership had been ascertained.
- Cllr Mc Andrew had asked members not to contact him direct on highways matters, but to deal with problems via the fault reporting system.
- Cllr Mrs Bannerman felt that it would be useful for the Chairman to write an article explaining that the Parish Council was endeavouring to do something about all the highways problems in the parish and referring to the unsatisfactory comments made by Cllr McAndrew with regard to fault reporting.
- The grit box near the bus stop needed re-stocking
- The grit box on Winding Hill needed repairing - ideally it should be re-sited to the bottom of the hill.
- Bus shelter near Broadfield Close and the bench needed repairing.
- Street light outside Tudor Cottage was out of lighting.
- Street lamp number 159 had been damaged.

8. PARISH PARTHS PARTNERSHIP

(i) General

Cllr Baxter (A) confirmed that FP25 had been cleared and widened for which members expressed their gratitude.

9. PAVILION UPDATE AND FUNDING PROPOSALS

Cllr Mrs Bannerman informed members that the date for returning the tenders was 15 January 2015 following which documents would be opened and the total cost of the project ascertained. Members suggested that details of the tender opening date be advertised on the website. Cllr Mrs Bannerman was of the opinion that a ballpark cost for the project would be approximately £100,000.

With regard to funding and following her discussion with the Clerk, Cllr Mrs Bannerman suggested that an application be made to the Public Works Loan Board with a view to securing a loan to cover the cost of the project less the current earmarked reserve of £20,000. Members felt that, as there had been no calls made on the New Homes Bonus received from East Herts, this sum could also be set against the project. The Clerk informed members that, as an example, repayment of a loan of £80,000 from the PWLB over a 25-year period would amount to £4,495 per annum. This sum would need to be provided annually from the Parish Council's future precepts. The funding proposed by this method would enable the project cost to be met in full thus enabling an early start. Fund raising to mitigate the costs of the loan could continue at a leisurely pace with various grant aiding bodies being approached. A marketing fund raising brochure could be considered.

- RESOLVED: (i) that the current New Homes bonus fund held, £10,039, be utilised to provide funding for the pavilion refurbishment;
- (ii) that an application be made to the PWLB for a loan to cover the total cost of the project less the current earmarked reserve of £20,000 and the New Homes of £10,039;
- (iii) that authorisation be given to the following Councillors to open the tender documents:
Cllr Mrs S Bannerman
Cllr S J Godfrey
Cllr A Baxter

10. PARKING

The attached letter had been circulated to all members (see Appendix B).

In discussion it was unanimously agreed that the car park was a Village Hall facility and not a general car park for the use of the village. The general feeling was that non-patrons of the Village Hall should be charged for the use of the car parking facility, although it was accepted that there would be difficulties in policing this proposal.

Cllr Baxter was requested to respond to the letter from the Hon Treasurer confirming the views of members and that it was agreed that the matter be referred to the next meeting for further discussion.

Cllr Godfrey asked that the Deed to the Village Hall be viewed which might be specific in the status of the car park.

11. TELEPHONE BOXES - UPDATE

(i) Telephone box situated in Tower Hill

Cllr Mrs Bannerman stated that there were two options available, which were either for the box to remain in its present position or to be relocated to the edge of the car park on the recreation ground.

Members agreed to defer a decision on this matter until the next meeting.

(ii) Telephone box situated in Station Road

A suggestion to relocate the box to Green Tye was not supported. Therefore, members agreed to leave the box in-situ and for it to be used as a lantern.

(iii) Provision of K9 telephone box for Green Tye

Cllr Bird agreed to research the cost and feasibility of providing a box to be situated in the vicinity of the village green.

(iv) Defibrillators

Cllr Godfrey reminded members that they had previously discussed providing defibrillators in each of the telephone boxes referred to in (i) and (ii) above and he suggested that any new box should likewise house such equipment.

The general feeling was that defibrillators should also be provided at the Village Hall and on the recreation ground and that the Parish Council should look to both organisations to secure the necessary funding.

12. MUCH HADHAM SPORTS ASSOCIATION

Cllr Mrs Liversage confirmed that no Extraordinary meeting was to be convened and the Annual General Meeting would take place on 23 April 2015.

A discussion took place on the availability of the tennis courts, which Mr Pavey confirmed were available to the school during the summer months. However, they would not be left open for fear of vandalism.

Cllr Mrs Bannerman stated that during the school holidays the courts had been padlocked thus denying any access to them. The Parish Council should now be prepared to tell the Tennis Club that, as the Parish Council was the owner of the land, the courts should be available for use for at least 2 to 4 hours per day during the school holidays. It was agreed that this matter be discussed at the next meeting of the Parish Council.

13. VILLAGE IN BLOOM

Cllrs Mrs Liversage and Godfrey had been working in conjunction with each other on this issue and they had established that the Horticultural Society would be happy to be associated with providing floral decorations for the village. Cllr Godfrey suggested that it would be nice to provide hanging baskets at various locations in the village.

14. FLOOD PLAN

Cllr Baxter stated that he was still pursuing the production of a Flood Plan. The type of equipment required had been identified and locations where such equipment could be housed were being investigated.

15. PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT

(i) Payment of Accounts

RESOLVED that the following account be duly authorised for payment:

519	Green Tye Mission Hall	£27.00	Hire of hall
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(ii) Financial Statement

RESOLVED that the contents of the attached statement (see Appendix C) be noted.

16. URGENT BUSINESS

None.

17. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA

- Village Hall Management Committee.
- Village Hall car park.
- Painting of street lighting columns in the High Street.
- Duckling Green Children's Centre, Sawbridgeworth.
- Tennis courts.
- War memorial.
- Village Fete Committee.
- Review of Standing Orders.
- Clerk's remuneration.
- Telephone box situated in Tower Hill.

18. CONFIRMATION OF DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was confirmed that the next meeting would be held on Tuesday, 3 February 2015, at 7.30 pm in the Green Tye Mission Hall.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.35 pm.