

# MUCH HADHAM PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Much Hadham Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday, 7 April 2015, in the Much Hadham Village Hall.

Cllr Mrs S Bannerman	*Cllr S J Godfrey
*Cllr A Baxter	*Cllr Mrs J Liversage
*Cllr T Baxter	*Cllr B Morris (Vice Chairman)
Cllr W Bird	*Cllr A J Young
*Cllr W Compton (Chairman)	

\* denotes present.

In attendance: 19 members of the public.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence received from Cllr Mrs Bannerman.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

3. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 3 MARCH 2015

Matters arising (i) Broadfield Close

Paragraph 1, line 4: Delete “leaving their employment”  
Insert: “moved from the site”

Members agreed unanimously that as part of the discussion on Broadfield Close at the last meeting, the question had been raised as to why Much Hadham Ward District Councillor Carver had not included in his Declaration of Interest that he is on the board of Circle Anglia and RESOLVED that this be recorded.

Residents’ Comments – Heading:

Delete: “Proposed development – Millers Way  
Insert: “Proposed development – Station Yard adjacent to Millers Way

Having given effect to the above amendments, it was RESOLVED that the minutes be accepted as a correct record of the proceedings and be signed by the Chairman.

#### 4. MATTERS ARISING

##### (i) Kettle Green Road - Renaming

Cllr Morris requested that the East Herts Council make arrangements to provide the new name plates to reflect the renaming to Kettle Green Lane.

##### (ii) Dog bin on the Recreation Ground

Cllr Mrs Liversage requested that an additional sign be erected on the recreation ground (gateway to the deer park) to dissuade dog owners from allowing their dogs to foul the grounds. Cllr Mrs Liversage agreed to research appropriate wording and obtain costings.

Cllr Morris referred to a resident who regularly allowed his dog to foul the verges at the entrance to Ash Meadow. Cllr Morris further stated that East Herts Council had to date brought no prosecutions against anyone allowing dog fouling and it might now be appropriate to request that action be taken in this situation.

The Clerk was asked to action this matter.

##### (iii) Payment of Accounts – Cheque number 526 payable to T Fuller (£348)

The Clerk informed members that at a meeting of the Parish Council held on 14 June 2014, the Parish Council had been informed of the work required to be undertaken to the trees situated on the Common Land in Green Tye in the sum of £290 plus VAT. Members had formerly “resolved” that the quotation be accepted and the work be put in hand.

#### 5. RESIDENTS’ COMMENTS

##### (i) Agenda for Parish Council meetings

A resident questioned the validity of the meeting stating that the agendas had not been circulated and made available to the public three clear days before the meeting. The Chairman stated that lack of service did not invalidate the meeting.

##### (ii) Broadfield Close

A resident expressed her concern and that of residents regarding a rumour which was going around concerning a possible residential development of 200 houses to the rear of Broadfield Close and to the possibility of a number of the properties having to be demolished to facilitate an access way to the proposed development.

Cllr Morris stated that under the emerging Local Plan, Much Hadham was designated a Category I village and, as such, would need to provide up to 10% of its housing stock to meet the overall target of 20,000 across the District to the end of the planned period 2031.

Cllr Morris stated that Cllr Carver had repeatedly stated that the total houses to be provided by Much Hadham were only 49 and clearly this was not 10% of the total housing stock. Clearly it must be accepted that there would be pressure on the Parish in terms of residential provision and Cllr Morris was of the opinion that far more than the 10% would be required for Much Hadham. He was also of the opinion that the land to the rear of Broadfield Close would be built on over a number of years and it might be that the provision in excess of 200 houses would be more than hearsay.

Cllr Carver had been asked specifically to confirm whether East Herts Council had approached the owner of the land to be included in the Strategic Land Assessment. No response had been forthcoming.

(iii) Pavilion update

A question was raised as to why an approach had not been made to the Football Association to grant aid the work.

Cllr Godfrey stated that the question of securing grants and additional funding was being handled by Cllr Mrs Bannerman and in her absence he was unable to give the enquirer any information.

(iv) Neighbourhood Plan

Concerns were expressed that the Parish Council had made no attempt to undertake to produce a Neighbourhood Plan and reference was made to a number of Parish Councils who were well on the way to a referendum situation.

Cllr Morris stated that the production of a Neighbourhood Plan had been discussed by the Parish Council and it had been agreed to raise the matter at the Annual meeting with a view to setting up a Steering Committee of local volunteers to commence the process. Cllr Morris stated that the lack of action by the Parish Council had not been all of its making as on numerous occasions over the last two-years, Cllr Carver had advised the Parish Council to hold back until the emerging Draft Local Plan had been adopted.

(v) Bus stop opposite the Jolly Waggoners

Cllr T Baxter informed members that the bus shelter had been trashed and was in a dangerous condition and he requested that repairs be undertaken as a matter of urgency. Cllr Morris stated that as the maintenance of bus shelters was the responsibility of the Parish Council it was down to the Parish Council to arrange a repair.

(vi) Jolly Waggoners

Cllr T Baxter referred to the deteriorating condition of the building and he asked if anyone knew what was happening as the site was not secure and represented a hazard to the public.

It was agreed to write to East Herts Council requesting this information.

(vii) Renaming of Kettle Green Road

An enquiry was made as to whether the renaming would affect the speed limit. A response was given that even an unclassified road would still be subject to the national speed limit.

(viii) Bridge – Kettle Green Road

The Parish Council was asked why it had not taken up the condition of the bridge with the appropriate authority.

6. ALTERATION OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS

RESOLVED that the under Standing Order 10 vi, the order of business be changed to allow early discussion on agenda item 11, “HMF Construction – Traffic in Perry Green and Green Tye”.

7. HMF CONSTRUCTION – TRAFFIC IN PERRY GREEN & GREEN TYE

RESOLVED that Standing Orders be suspended to allow discussion on this subject matter.

The Chairman of the Perry Green and Green Tye Preservation Society expressed, on behalf of its members and residents of the villages, concerns regarding the size, the excessive speed of traffic coming through the villages and the wanton destruction of the highway verges by construction traffic. It was pointed out that there were a lot of pedestrians, horse riders, walkers and Mums with children negotiating the roads, who were coming into conflict with construction traffic accessing the HM site. The situation had been made worse by the recent water leak which had meant the re-routing of traffic.

Cllr Morris referred to an email he had received that afternoon in which it had been stated that both Cllr Carver and Cllr McAndrew (HCC) had spoken to the site manager at the Hoops car park site and it had also been observed by both Cllr Carver and Cllr McAndrew that all vehicles were sheeted, not overloaded and travelling at sensible speeds along the road. All drivers were now observing the prescribed routes and all the signage was in place. Cllr Morris stated that clearly there was a conflict in the observations of Cllr Carver and Cllr McAndrew and those reported this evening.

Mrs Wake (HMF) thanked the Preservation Society for its diligence in this matter and she assured the meeting that all complaints were taken up with the contractors. There had been transgressions and she accepted that the situation had been made worse by the recent water leak. This disruption had also caused a problem for the drivers. Once the water leak had been completed every effort would be made to ensure that vehicle movements into and out of the site would be regularly monitored and there would strict compliance with the conditions laid down in the planning permission.

In conclusion, the Chairman suggested that the Preservation Society should write to Cllr McAndrew asking for his involvement in this matter and, in addition, write to the Parish Council setting out the bullet points of complaint in order for the Parish Council to take up the matter officially with the County Council and the Police.

## 8. PLANNING

### (i) Minutes of the Planning Sub-Committee held on 3 March 2015

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Planning Sub-Committee held on 3 March 2015 be received and the decision taken be ratified.

## 9. HIGHWAYS

In the absence of Cllr Bird no report was available.

Matters raised:

- The pothole in Watery Lane had been unsuccessfully repaired and was now in a worse condition than previously.
- A number of the verges in Oudle Lane had been damaged by heavy vehicles.

## 10. PARISH PATHS PARTNERSHIP

Cllr A Baxter reported that a number of trees were down in Bluebell Wood with one being in a precarious position. Although the onus was on the owner of the land to address the issue, nevertheless, the matter had been reported to Nicholas Maddex, Rights of Way Officer, Hertfordshire County Council.

## 11. PAVILION UPDATE

The Clerk informed members that a formal approval had been received from the Department of Communities and Local Government confirming that the Parish Council might borrow an amount not exceeding £80,000 towards the Pavilion refurbishment. An application would now be made to the Public Works Loan Board to arrange for the necessary funds to be made available.

Cllr Godfrey informed members that the refurbishment work to the pavilion was due to commence this coming week.

12. KETTLE GREEN ROAD RE-NAMING

An email had been received from East Herts Council which confirmed that no objections to the renaming of Kettle Green Road had been received. The Post Office and other statutory authorities would now be contacted, together with every householder affected by the change, to confirm that the road was to be known as Kettle Green Lane.

Cllr Morris reiterated his request for new name plates to be erected indicating the new name.

13. NOTICE OF MOTION

The following motion had been received which was moved by Cllr Morris and seconded by Cllr A Baxter:

“MHPC to agree and give a one off single donation of £250 towards the (Much Hadham Health Centre) PPG (Patient Group) organisation’s cost of producing and distributing a leaflet/guide currently under design to be distributed to every domestic home in the Parish on medical self-help, contact points, telephone numbers, etc, for all ages and what to do in an emergency.

RESOLVED that the above motion be duly approved and that a cheque in the sum of £250 be released when the work in producing the leaflet/guide had been completed. Such expenditure being met under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 as being in the interests of the inhabitants of the Parish.

14. FLOOD DEFENCE PLANS

Cllr T Baxter confirmed that all the equipment, the subject of the Council’s agreement to purchase, had now been received and arrangements had been made for the items to be stored in the Sports Association’s garage.

Cllr T Baxter informed members that he had met with Mr Graham Stevens, Engineer, East Herts Council, who was well aware of the flooding problems which had been experienced last year and, in particular, the work which had been undertaken to repair the culvert at Cox’s Lane. Further drainage work would be required at a location near the Bull Public House, which was scheduled to be carried out within the next few months. Of interest it was learned that there was a map in existence which plotted all the drainage runs throughout the Parish and a major district flood plan which would be invoked in the event of severe flooding in the area. It had also been learned that the drainage pipes throughout the village had been installed over 300 years ago.

Concerns were expressed that the river at a point near the culvert to the river appeared to be void of life and it would appear that what looked like sewer pipes were entering the river from Church Lane. Clearly the situation should be investigated and the matter would be taken up with the Environment Agency.

15. NEW DEVELOPMENT AT OLD STATION YARD (MILLERS VIEW)

Cllr T Baxter stated that there had been very little development since the matter had been raised at the presentation by DLA Town Planning to the Parish Council meeting held on 3 March 2015. In all probability nothing would be forthcoming until after 7 May 2015 elections.

16. REVIEW OF FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

Members had been circulated with a copy of the Model Financial Regulations as proposed for adoption by the National Association of Parish Councils.

RESOLVED that the Financial Regulations be formally adopted.

17. PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT

(i) Payment of Accounts

RESOLVED that the accounts as shown on the attached statement (see Appendix A) be duly authorised for payment.

(ii) Financial Statement

RESOLVED that the contents of the financial statement (see Appendix B) be received.

18. URGENT BUSINESS

None.

19. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA

- Village Hall Management Committee.
- Painting of street lighting columns in the High Street.

20. DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS

It was confirmed that the next meetings (Annual meetings) would be held on Tuesday, 19 May 2015, in the Green Tye Mission Hall.

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