

MUCH HADHAM PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Much Hadham Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday, 10th January 2017, at 7:30 pm in the Much Hadham Village Hall Main Room.

*Cllr W Compton

*Cllr I Hunt (Vice Chairman)

*Cllr B Morris

Cllr Mrs M O'Neill

Cllr W O'Neill

*Cllr C Thompson

*Cllr K Twort

*Cllr Mrs P Taylor (Chairman)

*Cllr Mrs J Liversage

* denotes present.

In attendance: F Forth, Parish Clerk and 10 members of the public.

17/1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Mrs M O'Neill, Cllr W O'Neill, Cllr I Devonshire (EHC) and Cllr G McAndrew (HCC).

17/2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr I Hunt declared an interest in a cheque to be approved under agenda item 17/11(ii) and therefore would not be voting on the motion to approve the payments. No other declarations made.

17/3. NOTIFICATIONS OF URGENT BUSINESS

None.

17/4. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman wished everyone present a Happy New Year and warned that the meeting could potentially be moved. It had been uncertain whether the Green Room was accessible hence the move to the Main Hall.

In addition, the Chairman apologised for the late posting of the Agendas and Minutes of previous meetings on the Parish Council website.

17/5. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Following discussion, Cllr B Morris requested it be noted that he did not consider item 10 to be an accurate record of the meeting.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting held on 5th December 2016 be accepted as a correct record of the proceedings and be signed by the Chairman.

17/6. REPORTS ON OUTSTANDING MATTERS

Report on outstanding matters noted.

17/7. MEMBERS' REPORTS

(i) Community

Cllr K Twort reported that two quotes had been obtained for the work required to repair the swings but it was agreed that a further quote is still required.

Following discussion on the shower mats proposed for the Pavilion, it was RESOLVED that £464.99 + VAT should be spent to purchase the matting identified by Cllr Mrs M O'Neill.

The Chairman read out the report from Cllr W O'Neill in relation to the Village Hall. The Green Floor has now been completed. Thanks were expressed to the Village Hall Committee and Neil Clarke in particular for their hard work. A check on parking in the Village Hall carpark on the 7th January had identified 2 cars that could not be accounted for and the fire exits were unimpeded.

(ii) Environment (inc Public Rights of Way)

Public Rights of Way

Cllr B Morris provided an update on the state of PRoW in the parish.

(iii) Highways

The Chairman read out the report from Cllr W O'Neill.

Focus remains on street lights with inspections and reporting of faults. A sample lantern will be installed at the Almhouses opposite the Recreation Ground so that parishioners can see proposed style for the modernisation project. The Parish Council is working with DW Lighting on converting lights to LED which has already been undertaken at Windmill Way and Millers View.

All current issues in relation to the roads were discussed with Ringway in December and it was stressed by them that the highways fault reporting service is the best way to have faults dealt with. The meeting in January, arranged by Cllr G McAndrew, will focus specifically on the roads in the hamlets of Green Tye and Perry Green.

Repair work on the bus shelter, and the bench beside it, at Hadham Cross is needed.

(iv) Media

The Chairman referred to an issue raised by a resident in relation to Gigaclear as may be relevant to others. An odd letter had been received which thanked them for their “time and support” and requested a wayleave form be signed. The resident has had no dealings with the company in this respect and has reported the letter to them.

(v) Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr I Hunt referred to the increased press coverage of neighbourhood planning at the end of last year. A ministerial statement regarding land supply gives a boost to Neighbourhood Plans where districts only demonstrate a 3 year supply but this statement is likely to be challenged.

Locally, progress on the site assessments has been delayed due to sickness. However, thanks to the hard work of Martin Adams, good progress has been made in relation to environmental policies. Support from external consultants is being sought where there is a shortage of practical skills. Residents encouraged to help in areas such as project management, evidence management and organising public consultations.

Total spend to date on the Neighbourhood Plan is £2,139.

In response to a question from Cllr B Morris, the next public meeting of the Steering Group is expected to be in February.

(vi) Security

The Chairman reported that she had attended the official launch of the defibrillator at the fire station. There will be 4 associated training sessions and the dates of these will be listed in the parish magazine with flyers to come.

Cllr Mrs J Liversage had circulated a video link in relation to defibrillators to the Parish Council and this will be included in the parish magazine and added to the website.

Cllr Mrs J Liversage also reported that there had been no police report. Cllr B Morris reported that there had been a number of serious break ins at Widford.

(vii) Other

None.

17/8. REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

(i) Report from District Councillor (Cllr I Devonshire)

Cllr I Devonshire was not present at the meeting therefore no report.

(ii) Report from County Councillor (Cllr G McAndrew)

Cllr G McAndrew was not present at the meeting but had provided an email update to the Chairman. The update referred to facilitating the meeting with Ringway, referred to earlier, arranging a meeting between Bellis Homes and local residents and that the defibrillator at the fire station was now operational.

17/9. RESIDENTS' COMMENTS

(i) Green Room

Apology given regarding the confusion as to whether the Green Room was available. The contractor had forgotten to remove notices. In addition, all those that had helped with the Green Room project were thanked for their assistance. It was also highlighted that Cllr G McAndrew (HCC) had agreed to provide £1,600 to the Village Hall for the purchase of chairs.

Attention was drawn to the fact that there is a PA system in the Main Hall that could be used given that the acoustics are poor. Caretaker needs to be contacted in respect to this.

(ii) EHC Draft District Plan

Concerns were raised regarding the draft District Plan and comments that had been made.

(iii) Street lighting

In response to whether the street light refurbishment would include new lights for the High Street, given there is a risk to those with mobility issues, the Chairman reiterated that a detailed survey had been completed to inform the refurbishment programme.

17/10. PLANNING

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 5th December 2016 be received and the decisions taken be ratified.

17/11. PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT

(i) Ex gratia payment

Proposed motion was discussed but as no documentation was available, it was agreed to defer this matter to the next meeting.

(ii) Payment of Accounts

RESOLVED that the accounts, as shown overleaf, be duly authorised for payment.

PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS - JANUARY 2017

Chq	Payable to	For	Amount
725	Mr C Copper	War Memorial grounds maintenance	520.00
726	FM Forth	Clerk's salary December 2016	533.14
727	MH Bowling Club	Service and repair mower - net offset by SA	402.66
728	MH Village Hall	Hall hire - PC etc 9 meetings £162; NPSG 5 meetings £90	252.00
729	MH Sports Association	Reimbursement of electricity Pavilion	93.52
730	HAPTC	Core Roles, Responsibilities and Duties in Councils training	40.00
731	Cllr I Hunt	Planning magazine subscription (NP)	165.00
732	David P Bunyan Builders Ltd	Village Hall Green Room Floor - net partial offset by MHVH £3,953.52; balance offset by EHC grant £5,075.00	10,834.22
733	David P Bunyan Builders Ltd	Village Hall extra works - net offset by MHVH	3,390.00
Total payments			16,230.54

Cheques will be signed and despatched at the conclusion of the meeting.

For Double S Flooring, the invoice for the Green Room floor had been received and amounted to £3,078.79 plus VAT. RESOLVED to authorise this invoice for payment.

(iii) Financial Statement

The financial statement was received. There were no matters to highlight. Following a question from Cllr B Morris, it was confirmed that inconsistencies in the accounts prior to the current Clerk's appointment had been corrected.

(iv) Precept 2017/18

Following a debate on the proposed budget and precept level, it was proposed that the precept should be reduced. This motion was not carried.

RESOLVED to approve the budget, as presented, for 2017/18 and determine the precept at £36,770.

Recorded vote:

- For: Cllr C Thompson, Cllr Mrs P Taylor, Cllr I Hunt, Cllr Mrs J Liversage and Cllr K Twort
- Against: Cllr B Morris and Cllr W Compton
- Abstained: None

Cllr B Morris requested his opinion be recorded that no information had been received in respect of the allocation of funds for street lighting.

(v) External Audit

The Clerk stated that the new external auditors were PKF Littlejohn and that they would replace BDO following the conclusion of the audit for 2016/17. Based on the current level of income and expenditure, the fee would be £300 + VAT.

17/12. URGENT BUSINESS

None.

17/13. CLERK'S INFORMATION

None.

17/14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, 7th February 2017, at 7.30 pm in the Much Hadham Village Hall.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 20:59 pm.