

MUCH HADHAM PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Much Hadham Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday, 7th February 2017, at 7:30 pm in the Much Hadham Village Hall Green 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 16 members of the public.

17/15. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

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

17/16. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

17/17. NOTIFICATIONS OF URGENT BUSINESS

None.

17/18. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman commented on the new floor and thanked the Much Hadham Village Hall Management Committee for their hard work, especially Neil and Sue Clarke.

In addition, the Chairman stated that the Clerk was at liberty to speak at the meeting, particularly in relation to financial items as she is the Responsible Financial Officer. Any questions to be directed via the Chair.

17/19. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Following discussion, the last sentence on page 5 was amended to read "Cllr B Morris requested it be recorded that no information had been received in respect of the allocation of funds for street lighting".

After amendment, RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting held on 10th January 2017 be accepted as a correct record of the proceedings and be signed by the Chairman.

17/20. REPORTS ON OUTSTANDING MATTERS

Report on outstanding matters noted and the following updates provided:

- Repair work on the bus shelter, and bench beside it, has been passed to Richard Kidger to obtain a quote for the work required;
- Road sweeping Church Lane would not be an effective solution and therefore not requested;
- No action proposed currently regarding notices for the Village Hall fire exits but it was highlighted that a car is currently blocking a fire exit therefore notice and hatchings should be considered;
- Ringway are aware of all demolished posts and these are on their to do list but not considered a priority;
- Dog litter bin at the Village Hall a good idea and need to agree positioning; and
- Give Way road markings at Sidehill House junction will be dealt with by Ringway in due course.

17/21. MEMBERS' REPORTS

(i) Community

On behalf of Cllr K Twort, the Clerk provided the details of the 3 quotes obtained to correct the defects identified in the inspection of the play equipment. Quotes were Broadmead Leisure £1,210.00, E.G. Brett Ltd £1,375.00 and Welddesign £935.00. It was RESOLVED to accept the quote from Welddesign and for all the repair work to be undertaken as one job.

In terms of the shower mats for the Pavilion, this is in hand.

The Chairman read out the report from Cllr W O'Neill in relation to the Village Hall. New chairs have been ordered for the Green Room and these are being funded by HCC.

(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

Cllr C Thompson read out the report from Cllr W O'Neill.

Focus remains on street lights with inspections and reporting of faults. A sample lantern is currently under construction to demonstrate LED lighting.

A meeting to discuss the highways problems from Snells Corner to the bottom of Bourne Lane, involving representatives of all interested parties, concluded that there is still no way

forward regarding the funding of the work required. Henry Moore Foundation still have £5,500 available to contribute.

In addition, B1004 at Snells Corner will be inspected in due course with regard to the water problem.

(iv) Media

The telephone box at Windmill Way is remaining as a group of residents are looking after it. Permission was sought to trim the trees and this was agreed by the Parish Council.

(v) Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr I Hunt reported that EHC have drafted a report to demonstrate that it has a land supply in excess of 3 years which is good for the Neighbourhood Plan process. It provides an added incentive to have the plan completed.

Professional expertise to support the Steering Group has been identified and it is proposed to appoint a professional planning consultant and a project manager at the next meeting (15th February). Support from parishioners would also be welcomed and there is a public workshop on the 25th February (2pm Village Hall) to discuss draft policies and other related matters.

Progress has been made on drafting the site assessment policies and procedures. These will be considered at the February meeting.

Total spend to date on the Neighbourhood Plan is £2,239.

In response to a question from Cllr B Morris, it was confirmed that, given that planning permission has been granted for 17 houses, the minimum target effectively becomes 37. In addition, he requested greater urgency for developing the plan be recognised to avoid speculative development on land outside of the boundary.

(vi) Security

Cllr Mrs J Liversage reported that whilst there had been 1 burglary reported, this is still a safe place to live. The police report also included reminders to lock vehicles, garages and report damage to crops.

The Chairman reminded those present of the dates for the defibrillator training which have been included in the parish magazine.

(vii) Other

Cllr B Morris reported that no quotes have been received as yet in respect of the oak tree at Perry Green Burial Ground. He was also granted approval to complete at nominal cost (£50) the replacement of a handrail on FP25 where it meets Oudle Lane.

17/22. REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

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

Cllr I Devonshire provided an update in respect of Old Station Yard. Given the information now available against the development, he thought that this development will not be approved.

EHC has not yet approved its precept but it is expected that there will be an increase of 1.99% given the reduction in government funding and the decrease in the New Homes Bonus of £1million.

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

Cllr G McAndrew was not present at the meeting therefore no report.

17/23. RESIDENTS' COMMENTS

(i) Raising money from development land

Two residents questioned whether the Parish Council should be more robust in requesting from landowners and developers a share of their good fortune when profiting from land development, to contribute to parish improvements. Cllr C Thompson stated that the Parish Council is well aware that when land is included in the Neighbourhood Plan or planning permission is granted, its value may increase and that ways of providing for some of that benefit to come to the parish would be investigated.

(ii) Local green space

Following discussion on the two large plots of land for sale (land to the south of Kettle Green Lane and the Moor Park nature reserve), it was confirmed that the Neighbourhood Plan will include an environmental policy covering local green space as land to preserve. With respect to the status of the nature reserve, the issue as to whether a planning condition or a legal contract pursuant to planning consent was made is to be investigated by Cllr C Thompson.

17/24. PLANNING

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 10th January 2017 be received and the decisions taken be ratified.

17/25. PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT

(i) Payment of Accounts

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

PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS - FEBRUARY 2017

Chq	Payable to	For	Amount
735	Eon	War Memorial Lighting	23.63
736	Lynne Mills	Reimburse website costs (NP)	120.00
737	FM Forth	Clerk's salary January 2017	533.14
Total payments			<u>676.77</u>

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

(ii) Financial Statement

The financial statement was received. There were no matters to highlight. Following a question from Cllr J Liversage, it was confirmed that the high value of unrepresented cheques is due to the timing of the bank statements.

17/26. URGENT BUSINESS

None.

17/27. CLERK'S INFORMATION

The Clerk highlighted that the correspondence address would be changing following her move.

17/28. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, 7th March 2017, at 7.30 pm in the Much Hadham Village Hall. The Chairman also highlighted that the dates for all future meetings are on the website and in the parish magazine. Additionally, the Annual Parish/Village meeting would be held on the 16th May.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8:43 pm.