

## MUCH HADHAM PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Much Hadham Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday, 4<sup>th</sup> April 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 8 members of the public.

Before the meeting started, the Chairman wished Dr T Baxter a speedy recovery following his stroke. He had been a member of the Parish Council in the past.

In addition, the Chairman referred to the sad passing of Charlie Jordan who had been a Parish Councillor from 1984 to 2007. As a mark of respect, a minute's silence was held.

### 17/47. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None.

### 17/48. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

None.

### 17/49. NOTIFICATIONS OF URGENT BUSINESS

Cllr B Morris raised the following items as items of urgent business:

- Proposal for an agenda item at the next meeting to consider placing a defibrillator in the telephone box at Tower Hill, in situ or on the recreation ground; and
- Conflicts of interest in respect of planning issues.

### 17/50. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman highlighted that she and the Clerk had been on a training course for effective council meetings and whilst a number of ideas raised were already in place, there was always room for improvement. It was also highlighted that there is training on the Code of Conduct on the 26<sup>th</sup> April and any Councillor is welcome to attend.

In addition, the Chairman referred to the overrun by Affinity Water at Green Tye/Perry Green. HCC was unable to give Affinity Water any more extra time and asked they remove

their contractors from site at the weekend. Affinity Water and Herts County Council will prepare a proper plan for the new water main to be completed at a future date. Bourne Lane is now closed due to work being undertaken by Gigaclear.

#### 17/51. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting held on 7th March 2017 be accepted as a correct record of the proceedings and be signed by the Chairman.

#### 17/52. REPORTS ON OUTSTANDING MATTERS

Report on outstanding matters noted.

#### 17/53. MEMBERS' REPORTS

##### (i) Community

Cllr K Twort reported that all the repairs to the children's play equipment had been completed and concluded that the work had been done well. However, it has been identified that the woodworm treatment has not been successful. Woodworm has reappeared in some places and treatment has been re-applied.

In addition, he reported that a list is being drawn up of the work required to the Pavilion. As an example, the issues with the showers were outlined.

Cllr B Morris suggested that consideration could be given to using the s106 monies for the repair work as this had initially been intended to reduce the PWLB loan on the Pavilion.

Cllr K Twort will produce a report for the next meeting, including obtaining 3 quotes for the potential work required. As the football season has finished, the work can be completed over the summer.

Cllr W O'Neill reported that the Horticultural Society had held its Spring Show in the Village Hall and thanks passed to the Management Committee for organising it. The performance of "The Ladykillers" by the Much Hadham Drama Group will be in May, details of which are in the Parish Magazine. It was confirmed that the dog bin still needs to be purchased.

##### (ii) Environment (inc Public Rights of Way)

##### Public Rights of Way

Cllr B Morris reported that nothing much has been happening in respect of PRow in the parish, apart from general maintenance. He also referred to the Parish Paths Partnership Scheme, explaining that funding of £1,000 can be obtained for projects. Potential project is to restore the ancient pathway at Cox's Lane. Investigation into a suitable project will be undertaken and application made with a report back to the next meeting.

Cllr B Morris also confirmed that the bridge closed on Footpath 40 is with Countryside Management and they should pay for the new bridge. No cost falls to the Parish Council but the landowner could be required to contribute, although it is not known who that is.

(iii) Highways

Cllr C Thompson provided the following update:

- Lighting project – currently being hampered by the unreliable electricity supply which was restored to a string of lights but then failed a few days later;
- Snells Corner and B1004 – more damage has been caused this morning by a huge lorry towing a trailer with a large digger that got stuck on the turn;
- Green Tye and Perry Green – as mentioned earlier, there have been problems with the roads due to the Affinity Water project. This has now been suspended as Gigaclear are due to start work in this area;
- Danebridge Road – the dangerous section of the road verge reported at the last meeting has been coned off. It will be repaired in due course.

Cllr W O'Neill reported that there were footpath repairs soon in respect of Ash Meadow/ Ferndale & Windmill Way between 24<sup>th</sup> April and 5<sup>th</sup> May. It was assumed that residents would be informed directly but in case not, information will be posted on the notice boards.

(iv) Media

None.

(v) Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr I Hunt apologised that there was no report at the previous meeting and, therefore, this report would cover activity from February and March.

The workshop on the 25<sup>th</sup> February had been attended by almost 90 residents and the environment group are studying the ideas and feedback received. Policies are being drafted, key one being which land could be designated as a local green space which would provide an additional level of protection against development.

The housing group continue to meet landowners and the first formal assessment using the process approved at the February meeting has been completed. It is too early to state which sites will be put forward to residents for their consideration.

Changes to the Steering Group's Constitution were approved at the March meeting. Key change being to introduce an explicit requirement for confidentiality in respect of discussions with landowners.

Reassurance provided that the potential for affordable housing is always considered, as well as being alert for opportunities for ancillary benefits to accrue to the community when planning possibilities are discussed.

The online business survey is running and the Group have proactively sought input from some of the major local businesses.

The Parish Council has been successful in obtaining a grant from the Locality organisation for £5,500 for specific expenditure items in the period April to September.

Finally, reminder that a watching brief is being maintained, along with the Parish Council, on local land issues such as the planning application at Old Station Yard and the possible sales of the nature reserve and agricultural land.

Cllr B Morris stated, in respect of the confidentiality change to the Constitution, that this should be wider. Following discussion of the current process, the matter was referred back to the Steering Group to consider including equity interests in land registered in children's names.

The revised Constitution for the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group was noted.

(vi) Security

Nothing to report.

(vii) Other

It was noted that the work on the bus shelter had been completed to a high standard by Mr Kidger. In addition, it was highlighted that there are occasions when cars park on the pavement inside the shelter.

17/54. REFURBISHMENT OF THE WINDMILL WAY/STATION ROAD TELEPHONE BOX

The Chairman stated that it was not possible to give a grant for the refurbishment work as there was no formally constituted group in place. However, the proposal made was to cover the cost up to £250 for paint and a display system. Following discussions, an alternative proposal was made to fund half the cost of the proposed refurbishment, amounting to £600. This proposal was not carried. (Recorded vote: For – Cllr W Compton and Cllr B Morris; Against – all other Cllrs present).

RESOLVED to fund up to £250 for the paint and display system upon receipt of invoices.

17/55. INSTALLATION OF PLANTERS IN THE HAMLETS

The Chairman stated that permission has been sought by the Green Tye and Perry Green Preservation Society to install planters on the verges and common land owned by the Parish Council. The proposed planters are similar in design to those in place within Little Hadham.

Cllr B Morris questioned what the implications would be for the Parish Council's insurance should the planters be stolen or a person injures themselves on them. In addition, it was

queried whether the planters would be the property of the Society and whether it had insurance in place. The Clerk will investigate the implications for the Parish Council's insurance and Cllr W O'Neill to discuss with the Society.

#### 17/56. MUCH HADHAM VILLAGE HALL ACCOUNTS

Following a question from the Chairman, the Clerk confirmed that she needs to sign the Trustee Report. This will be done once the year end bank reconciliation and cashbook have been reviewed when the Village Hall Treasurer returns from holiday.

In response to Cllr B Morris referring to various items of expenditure relating to the Village Hall premises being processed through the Parish Council, the Clerk agreed to confirm with HMRC that this was acceptable practice in respect of claiming the VAT back.

#### 17/57. HARDSHIP FUND

The Chairman stated that the Parochial Church Council (PCC) accounts for 2014 and 2015 had been circulated with the agenda. Following discussions with the PCC, it had agreed to raise this fund at its next meeting and highlight the existence of the fund to the new Rector. The balance on the fund is £875. When any of this fund is spent, a report back to the Parish Council will be made. Any suggestions of how to spend this fund are welcomed by the PCC.

#### 17/58. REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

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

Cllr I Devonshire was not present but had sent a report which was read by the Chairman.

EHC District Plan had been submitted to the Planning Inspectorate on the 31<sup>st</sup> March. An Inspector will be appointed and all of the supporting documents checked and appraised. This process will take at least 10 weeks. Hearings are then arranged and officers are expecting that there will be 20-25 days. These hearings only sit for 3.5 days per week so 25 hearing days will take two months, expected to be September and October. An interim report will be produced for consideration by officers and EHC. The earliest the plan is likely to be adopted is thought to be March 2018.

Residents Community Seminars are being held every month to consult with local residents about the Proposed Gilston Development. These are 3 hours in length and result in good and constructive discussions. Cllr I Devonshire has attended some of these meetings in order to identify any matters that affect his ward or this parish. Before any planning decisions are made for this site, there will be a Detailed Master Plan written, which will involve consultation with their Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group and local residents.

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

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

## 17/59. RESIDENTS' COMMENTS

### (i) Water work at Green Tye and Perry Green

A resident stated that the water contractors had left the area today but had left the road in a significant mess. It was believed they'd received the message that residents were not happy, particularly when the road was closed at both ends.

### (ii) Planters at Green Tye and Perry Green

Following a question, it was confirmed that exact locations for the planters had not been received as yet.

### (iii) Church Lane

In response to a comment regarding the state of Church Lane, the Chairman stated that this has been well recorded and is on Ringway's action list for 2017. In addition, it was highlighted that Highways are pursued regularly.

### (iv) Pavilion repairs

Following a question, it was clarified that the no funds had been earmarked as yet for the repairs to the Pavilion. Cllr K Twort stated that the list being prepared will not be exhaustive. In addition, it was confirmed that it was too late to seek recompense from the architect or builder.

### (v) Village Hall car park

It was confirmed, following a question, that the working group in respect of the Village Hall car park had not yet been established. Neil Clarke volunteered to be involved and suggested that a joint approach is required.

In addition, a suggestion was made that the Parish Council write to the owners of Two Bridges, whose workmen regularly make use of the carpark, suggesting a contribution to the resurfacing the car park, in return for this provision.

### (vi) Low cost housing

In response to a question regarding the percentage of low cost housing in the Neighbourhood Plan, Cllr C Thompson stated that the aspiration of the District Plan is 40% but in reality it is more like 20%. It was confirmed that low cost housing is part of the discussions currently being undertaken with landowners.

The Chairman reiterated that the Parish Council is well aware of the need for affordable housing in whatever shape or form and is trying to achieve that through the Neighbourhood Plan.

## 17/60. PLANNING

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2017 be received and the decisions taken be ratified.

## 17/61. PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT

### (i) Payment of Accounts

Cllr B Morris extended his thanks to Sue Clarke for providing refreshments at the recent NP workshop.

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

RESOLVED that the standing order payments for the Clerk's salary (£544.44) and to M Windmill, Litter Agency (£334.00) be authorised for payment.

### **PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS - APRIL 2017**

<b>Chq</b>	<b>Payable to</b>	<b>For</b>	<b>Amount</b>
754	MH Village Hall	Green Room for NP Workshop (NP)	64.50
755	Lynne Mills	Printing & stationery for NP Workshop (NP)	68.25
756	Martin Adams	Printing for NP Workshop (NP)	16.38
757	Sue Clarke	Refreshments for NP Workshop (NP)	12.36
758	K Lunniss(WeldDesign)	Repair to children's play equipment	935.00
759	Richard Kidger	Repair bus shelter & bench	265.00
760	MH Sports Association	Reimbursement Pavilion electricity	129.16
<b>Total payments</b>			<b><u>1,490.65</u></b>

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

### (ii) Financial Statement

The financial statements for 2016/17 and 2017/18 were received. There were no matters to highlight. Following a question from Cllr W Compton, the Clerk is to check when the salary for the litter work was last reviewed. The Parish Council extended its thanks for the work undertaken.

## 17/62. URGENT BUSINESS

The following items of urgent business were raised at item 17/49:

Defibrillator in the telephone box at Tower Hill, in situ or on the recreation ground - agreed to place this on next month's agenda; and

Conflicts of interest in respect of planning issues – Cllr B Morris outlined his concerns regarding his perceived view that conflicts of interest were not being properly declared when planning applications were being considered. This was noted.

17/63. CLERK'S INFORMATION

None.

17/64. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2017, at 7.30 pm in the Much Hadham Village Hall. The Chairman reminded those present that it will be the Annual Parish Meeting where Chair and Vice-Chair will be elected. The Annual Village meeting will be on the 16<sup>th</sup> May and suggestions for speakers welcomed.

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There being no further business the meeting closed at 9:02 pm.