

MUCH HADHAM PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Much Hadham Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday, 6th June 2017, at 7:30 pm in the Mission Hall, Green Tye.

*Cllr W Compton

Cllr C Thompson

*Cllr I Hunt (Vice Chairman)

Cllr K Twort

*Cllr B Morris

*Cllr Mrs P Taylor (Chairman)

Cllr Mrs M O'Neill

*Cllr Mrs J Liversage

*Cllr W O'Neill

* denotes present.

In attendance: F Forth, Parish Clerk and 19 members of the public.

17/87. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received and approved from Cllr Mrs M O'Neill and Cllr K Twort. Cllr C Thompson aims to be here but has been held up.

17/88. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

None.

17/89. NOTIFICATIONS OF URGENT BUSINESS

None.

17/90. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman thanked those who had supported the Annual Parish Meeting on the 16th May.

In addition, the residents' comments agenda item was highlighted. If a resident wishes to make a comment before then, if they raise their hand, the Chairman will endeavour to note in order to come back to them at the agenda item.

17/91. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting held on 2nd May 2017 be accepted as a correct record of the proceedings and be signed by the Chairman.

17/92. REPORTS ON OUTSTANDING MATTERS

Report on outstanding matters noted and further updates will be made as part of the following agenda items.

17/93. MEMBERS' REPORTS

(i) Community

Village Hall

Cllr W O'Neill referred to the fundraising being undertaken for funds to purchase chairs. Neil Clarke has completed his cycling trip and is on his way home.

Pavilion

In the absence of Cllr Mrs M O'Neill and Cllr K Twort, the Chairman reported a new cleaner had been appointed. Following a question from Cllr B Morris, it was confirmed that she was not an employee of the Parish Council.

The Chairman then detailed the quotes received for the work to be undertaken at the Pavilion. These were as follows, all exclusive of VAT:

- EMC Contracts £6,440;
- Brendan Clark Carpentry £7,400; and
- KJ Ewin Carpentry £7,670.

Before the quotes were discussed, a number of points were clarified after last month's meeting:

- With 2 exceptions, the work required is remedial to replace poor quality materials or resolve poor workmanship/inadequate specification;
- Exceptions are for an automated lock for the external toilet and a passive infrared light by the side entrance and external toilet;
- John Clarke, Architect, is aware of the need for the remedial work and has indicated that the only work not carried out to specification appears to be the failure to install ducting in the loft space for the shower extractor fans. Cllr K Twort is attempting to contact the builder regarding this;
- The football manager and Sports Association have been consulted on this specification to ensure it meets need;
- The funding for this work will come from the Section 106 monies that the Parish Council received from the Moor Place development which was described as an "open space and sport contribution";
- The work will be scheduled to recognise the demands on the Pavilion over the summer holidays; and
- Confirmation provided that the shower mats, approved at the February meeting, had not been purchased. It had been realised that these would be unwieldy and a better solution found in terms of better drainage.

The Chairman concluded by referring to the email circulated by Cllr K Twort recommending that the cheapest quote submitted by EMC Contracts be chosen. Additionally, making it clear that this work is the minimum required to make the Pavilion reasonably fit for purpose. It is possible that additional requirements are identified when completing this work and therefore additional costs. Cllr I Hunt stated the Pavilion was unsafe and dangerous.

It was then debated as to whether the works proposed were remedial or betterment. It was accepted that there is no intention to find fault or place blame but simply to address the current situation and make the Pavilion fit for purpose. For example, without heat shields above the electric heaters in the changing rooms, the heaters are potentially dangerous and unsafe.

In response to questions from Cllr B Morris regarding the dishwasher and TV, the Chairman reported that:

- the dishwasher had been donated to charity. There had been no provision for the necessary supply connections in the original contract and it had, therefore, not been plumbed in. The donor had not wanted it back;
- the TV was in secure storage. No provision had been made in the original contract for a power supply or aerial to be installed. The Village Hall have declined to take it.

A suggestion was made that the TV be donated to the Fete to be used as a raffle prize.

The potential for redress was discussed. It was highlighted that when the building was handed over and the retention monies paid that all relevant certificates had been provided. Problems have emerged subsequently with the use of the building. Cllr B Morris suggested that John Clarke should be invited to comment formally. It was noted that Cllr K Twort is already in correspondence with John Clarke and would be asked to report at the next meeting.

RESOLVED to amend the motion to include that the work be funded from Section 106 monies.

RESOLVED that the quotation from EMC Contracts for £6,440 + VAT be accepted and that this be funded from Section 106 monies.

(ii) Environment (inc Public Rights of Way)

Public Rights of Way

Cllr B Morris reported good news. On Footpath 38, a broken post has been repaired and on Footpath 32, a tree across the path in the wooded section at the Perry Green end has now been cleared.

Following a request from the Chairman, Cllr B Morris agreed to look into the overhanging branches on Footpath 29.

(iii) Highways

Cllr W O'Neill stated faults continued to be reported. Works in the hamlets is scheduled for the 16th June at the Perry Green end following which will be back to Green Tye to connect. Cllr B Morris asked that Cllr G McAndrew (HCC) be thanked as the High Street had been swept. Unfortunately, this was followed by heavy rains and resulted in the drains becoming blocked. This was reported online and dealt with within 2 days.

(iv) Media

No matters to report.

(v) Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr I Hunt provided a brief update.

The stage is being reached where sites have been identified and assessed with sufficient potential to meet the minimum target of 54 new houses. The number of houses with planning permission already approved, including the current building of 5 units at Old Station Yard, is now 19, which leaves a net minimum requirement of 35 to be built over the next 15 years or so.

Sites are currently being assessed which exceed that number and the Steering Group hope to be announcing soon a consultation at which the public can express their choice of preferred sites for inclusion in the Neighbourhood Plan. It was stated that of the sites assessed so far, there is very little difference in their technical scores – they have similar merits - which means that public opinion will be a crucial factor in choosing between those sites. However, there is more work to be done, and the outcome can't be pre-judged and, until the Neighbourhood Plan is in place, the parish is always vulnerable to developers moving in a different direction.

Cllr I Hunt also announced that Mark Ashwell had stepped down from the Steering Group following his appointment as Chair of the Preservation Society in the hamlets. This leaves the hamlets unrepresented on the Steering Group and a volunteer from Green Tye or Perry Green to replace him would be welcomed. Mark was thanked for his valuable contributions and wished luck in his new role.

Following questions, further clarification was provided in respect of technical scores, the reason why a volunteer from the hamlets would be useful and the minimum number of houses.

(vi) Security

Cllr Mrs J Liversage reported on the latest crime statistics. There has been an increase in residential and business burglaries, as well as an anti-social behaviour issue.

Cllr B Morris reported that he was now a Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator, referring to a request made from the police for information on occupants of properties.

(vii) Other

The Chairman reported that fellow Cllrs had been canvassed regarding membership of the Planning Committee and Burial Authority. The Planning Committee will have a sufficient number of members but that the Burial Authority would be down to 4 members. The residents were asked if there was anyone who would be interested in joining the Burial Authority and an offer was made by Anne Aranha. Membership, once finalised, will be approved at the next meeting.

17/94. PARISH COUNCIL 3 YEAR PLAN

The Chairman confirmed that the problems have been identified and there is a need now to focus on solutions. An update on each area was provided:

Traffic and parking – requires a working party to be established;

Street lighting – Cllr W O’Neill is working on this but is being hampered by the power supply issues;

Events – Cllr Mrs M O’Neill is taking the lead on this;

Burial Ground – fees were reviewed at the 7 March 2017 meeting and a plan to extend the burial ground is in place; and

Asset register – this is being addressed by the Clerk.

Following a question, consideration to be given to replacing the lantern at the entrance to St Andrews Church.

Cllr B Morris requested that it be noted that the 2 broken posts at Hadham Cross have not been repaired.

17/95. REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

Cllr I Devonshire reported that EHC are reviewing strategies for leisure centres. Additionally, reference was made to the Much Hadham Cubs preparing information boards for the Tower Hill telephone box. The boards will have historical information in respect of houses on the High Street. Cllr G McAndrew (HCC) has agreed to pay for the lamination of these, around £500.

17/96. RESIDENTS’ COMMENTS

(i) Pavilion

A resident highlighted that the title deeds for the playing fields allowed for only 1 building on the ground. There are actually 2 buildings: Pavilion and Bowls Club. A further resident had already looked into this matter and the consensus was that it is not an issue.

(ii) Damaged bin and sign

It was highlighted that a litter bin and street sign had been damaged at the Perry Green Burial Ground. Both of these items are on Highways land and therefore to be passed on to them. Damage was believed to have been caused by Affinity Water.

(iii) Utility contractors

Concern was raised about the chaos being caused by Affinity Water and Morrisons in the hamlets. Mark Ashwell is provided with updates and passes the information on but overall communication with the contractors is considered to be difficult.

(iv) Church Lane road surface repairs

In response to a question, it was confirmed that it is on the list to be done before September this year.

17/97. GOVERNANCE DOCUMENTATION

RESOLVED to defer the approval of the revised Standing Orders to the next meeting.

17/98. PLANNING

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 2nd May 2017 be received and the decisions taken be ratified.

17/99. PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT

(i) Payment of Accounts

The Clerk reported that no progress had been made as yet in respect of the payment to MH Landscapes Ltd and, therefore, requested that this payment not be approved.

RESOLVED that the accounts, as shown overleaf, be duly authorised for payment, excluding the payment to MH Landscapes Ltd.

PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS - JUNE 2017

Chq	Payable to	For	Amount
768	MH Landscapes Ltd	BA Churchyard maintenance Jul-Dec 2016	1,080.00
769	MH Sports Association	Grass cutting recreation ground	800.00
770	Auditing Solutions Ltd	Internal Audit 2016/17	504.00
771	EMC Contracts	Plumbing repairs to Pavilion	336.00
772	Broadmead Leisure Ltd	Inspection playground equipment	60.00
773	MH Bowling Club	Mower repair and service - net offset by SA	489.63
774	MH Sports Association	Pavilion electricity	49.18
775	FM Forth	Clerks expenses Invoice 6 (Stationery)	123.49
Total payments			<u>3,442.30</u>

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

(ii) Financial Statement

The financial statement for 2017/18 was received. There were no matters to highlight.

17/100. URGENT BUSINESS

None.

17/101. CLERK'S INFORMATION

None.

17/102. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, 4th July 2017, at 7.30 pm in the Much Hadham Village Hall.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9:06 pm.