

MUCH HADHAM PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Tuesday, 17th May 2022,
at 8.35pm at Much Hadham Village Hall

PRESENT: Cllr K Hamilton
Cllr I Hunt (Vice Chair)
Cllr S Smith
Cllr P Taylor (Chair)
Cllr K Twort

Plus: Cllr I Devonshire (EHC)
Cllr G McAndrew (HCC)
55 members of the public (approx.)

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllr B O'Neill, Cllr J Liversage, Cllr D McDonald and Canon Michael McAdam.

2. **MINUTES OF THE LAST ANNUAL PARISH MEETING – 4 MAY 2021**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting held on 4 May 2021 be accepted as a correct record of the proceedings and be signed by the Chair.

3. **SHORT REPORT FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL**

The Chair thanked everyone for coming, and especially commended the representatives of all the clubs/societies/committees/organisations for the overwhelming amount of trouble and effort that had gone into providing such interesting displays. They had created a great atmosphere for the first part of the evening, and generated a lot of interesting conversations.

The Chair confirmed there was still a vacancy on the PC, since the departure of Cllr Heidi Madahu in December, and are still actively looking for someone, preferably from the hamlets, and with social media skills.

The Chair listed some of the completed projects over the last year:

- 1) The refurbishment of the two Silver Jubilee Bus Shelters undertaken by Stewart Smith
- 2) The refurbishment of the Village Sign, undertaken by Duncan McDonald and Ken Twort.
- 3) The creation of a Memorial Garden for the burial of ashes at Perry Green Cemetery led by Jan Liversage.
- 4) The major project of the renewal and updating of our village lighting, overseen by Bill O'Neill who has seen this project through to its conclusion in the face of many hurdles. She reminded residents that those old lamp posts which have been bought are still in Bill's field, and an effort is required to organise collection and delivery, which may involve some funding by recipients for serious lifting equipment. Bill would appreciate hearing from those who would like their lamp post delivered, and hopefully this can be organised sometime this summer.

- 5) With regards to the Neighbourhood Plan, the Chair re-iterated her statement from last year's meeting...“The Steering Group is so nearly at the end of their task”. Unfortunately, it has taken over a year to achieve the External Examiner's report, but the NP will now go to Referendum, on the 23rd June. The Chair expressed her sincere thanks to the NP Steering Group, and in particular Cllr I Hunt for his resolve, ambition, dedication and determination to the delivery of the Plan through to referendum. She highlighted it was now up to all the residents to see the advantages and protections the Plan will provide the village, and to vote for its inclusion into East Herts Council's statutory Development Plan.

4. RESIDENTS' COMMENTS

- 1) A resident asked for the reasoning behind the inclusion of X2 (The Bull Inn) as a site for housing in the Neighbourhood Plan. Cllr I Hunt explained that the steering group had consulted far more than was required in putting together the list of site allocations. The Bull Inn was not the most favoured site but it had enough support to be included, more than some others. He went on to explain how important it was that residents voted for the Plan in the forthcoming referendum. Without a neighbourhood plan, all its policies, benefits and protections would be lost. Developers would quickly submit applications for all the sites in the Plan. EHC (or planning inspectors on appeal) would likely approve them without the conditions required by the Plan, because the sites had already been passed as sustainable by the Examiner and the Strategic Environmental Assessment.
- 2) A resident asked if the main road through the village would be closed for the Platinum Jubilee celebration on Sunday 5th June. The Chair confirmed the closure, which had only been approved a few days earlier, but it was agreed to go ahead. HCC will be unable to erect signage, so the village must provide their own. It was confirmed by Neil Clarke on behalf of the Village Hall, that those who needed to drive to events at the Bull between 11.0am and 4.0pm, could use the back lanes and park in the VH car park.
- 3) A resident offered her thanks to the parish councillors and all the volunteers, who worked so hard for the benefit of the village community, many of whom were present that evening.
- 4) A resident offered to e.mail as many people present as possible, with a list of activities on the 5th June, and asked that this be forwarded on to everyone they knew in the village, to spread the word that the road would be closed to traffic to enable a Big Lunch on the 5th June. The resident was thanked for her kind offer. All road fronting houses will be encouraged to decorate their homes and the Chair would distribute the 37 posters “In 1952, this house was.....” to all the relevant buildings, for display. It was generally agreed that it would be beneficial to Londis and the Fire Station to start the road closure just north of Londis, leaving the Allotments car park accessible; up as far as the junction with Church Lane.

The chair declared the meeting ended at 8.53pm, and invited everyone to stay and enjoy the refreshments and party atmosphere for as long as they liked.