

## MUCH HADHAM PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Tuesday, 20th May 2025,  
at 8.25 pm at Much Hadham Village Hall

PRESENT: Cllr B Bird  
Cllr T Bond  
Cllr I Hunt (Vice Chair)  
Cllr J Liversage  
Cllr D McDonald  
Cllr Bill O'Neill  
Cllr S Smith  
Cllr P Taylor (Chair)

Plus: Cllr I Devonshire (EHC), Cllr M Pope (HCC)  
28 invitees and 9 members of the public

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr J Pillai was absent.

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST ANNUAL PARISH MEETING – 21 May 2024

RESOLVED that the minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting held on 21 May 2024 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 thanked all the invitees for setting up their trade-fair type tables, and making it such a community event. She welcomed Cllr Mark Pope as the newly elected HCC councillor (in place of Graham McAndrew), and Revd Tayo (who was unable to be present) who had recently been installed as St Andrew's Priest-in-Charge.

The Chair reported the PC had welcomed Cllr Joe Pillai last June to the council in place of Kathy Hamilton, and sadly Cllr Ken Twort had resigned in September. Cllr Twort was thanked for his and his wise counsel and contribution over his eight years on the PC. With one councillor short, it had been a busy 9 months and the Chair welcomed Cllr Tony Bond, newly co-opted at the May PC meeting, who was well known to many. His commitment to the community, as well as his IT skills will be gratefully appreciated.

The Chair listed some of the PC activities, and continuing projects:

1. The project begun last year for the maintenance of the many trees the PC is responsible for had continued, particularly at the Recreation Ground where the work had made a significant difference to the area, as well as allowing more light into the Almhouses, which was very gratifying. The footpath from the road, through the trees up to the car park had

been redone, although it was now a bit steep at the bottom. The PC are investigating ways to mitigate this, and improve the path more.

2. The extension to the cemetery at Perry Green has continued, in preparation for use next year, if required. The ashes garden has been created, and ashes interred.
3. The extension to the cemetery at Perry Green is virtually complete, and looks extremely nice, ready for use, as the existing area is now almost full. The provision of a special area for ashes, has been incorporated into the cemetery and a few ashes have already been interred.
4. Monitoring night flights at Stansted Airport continues with supporting the fight against any proposed increases.
5. Similarly support for the installation of 20mph speed limits continues, though HCC have not supported these. However a few town areas are trialling 20mph currently, and the new administration may have a different approach.
6. Controlling our costs is important and means that we were able once again to minimise the increase in the portion of your council tax that comes to the parish council – up just 1.4% this year following 1.1% last year.
7. The Chair confirmed the PC was consulted by EHC on all planning applications and continues to support only sustainable development that preserves or enhances our conservation areas. In the coming year, the new administration at East Herts will be reviewing the District Plan, and the PC will be closely watching out to ensure that any proposed policy revisions are not harmful to us. The Chair reported that The Hill House group will put in a planning application in June, and will be holding a public forum to gauge residents' opinions on the development. A date is not known yet, but will be well advertised when decided. The chair confirmed that the PC had no firm views on the merits of the application, and the gauging views of residents would be vital in helping come to a decision in due course.
8. The Chair explained there is also still a need to document and register Assets of Community Value identified in the NP, and any volunteers to help with this, would be extremely welcome. If any residents would like to help our parish councillors in any of our endeavours, please contact one of us.

#### 4. RESIDENTS' COMMENTS

- 1) A resident reported that some pavements were uneven, and needed attention, particularly in the Tower Hill area.
- 2) A resident commented on the steepness of the new path through the wood to the Recreation Ground car park and that the surface was extremely dusty.
- 3) A resident commented on the "entrance gates" at the 30mph signage at the north end of the village (by The Lordship) and how tatty the gates looked. The Chair advised that the "gates" were under review for improvement, but that the reduction in foliage on the west side had revealed the gate and 30 limit sign for the first time in many years.

- 4) A resident asked if the northern 30mph limit could be extended nearer to the Parish Boundary (at Luxford Close). The Chair thought this very unlikely as it had been investigated several times before.
- 5) A resident observed that the new section of the diverted Footpath 11, opposite the entrance to Moor Place in Kettle Green Lane, was extremely tatty and required attention.
- 6) A resident offered a vote of thanks on behalf of all residents, for the work of the Parish Council, and thanked councillors for their efforts and hard work.

The chair declared the meeting ended at 8.40 pm, and invited everyone to stay and enjoy the refreshments and party atmosphere, for as long as they liked.

DRAFT