

MUCH HADHAM PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Much Hadham Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday, 3rd April 2018, in the Much Hadham Village Hall, Green Room, at 7:32 pm.

*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 9 members of the public.

18/47. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received and approved from Cllr Mrs M O'Neill

18/48. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

None.

18/49. NOTIFICATIONS OF URGENT BUSINESS

None.

18/50. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman made the following announcements:

- the Annual Village/Parish Meeting will be on Tuesday 22nd May at 7:30 pm with refreshments beforehand. There will be speakers and reports from various local bodies; and
- those present were reminded that if a resident wishes to speak on an item prior to the 'residents' comments' agenda item, raise a hand to alert the Chairman or the Clerk.

18/51. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting held on 6th March 2018 be accepted as a correct record of the proceedings and be signed by the Chairman.

18/52. REPORTS ON OUTSTANDING MATTERS AND RESOLUTIONS

Report on outstanding matters and resolutions noted. Any items requiring comment are included elsewhere on the agenda and some further updates to be made, for example, the number of dog bins on page 2 should read 4 not 2.

18/53. MEMBERS' REPORTS

(i) Community

Village Hall

Cllr W O'Neill reported that the car park initiatives agreed at the Village Hall Management Committee meeting on the 22nd February had been put into action, namely:

- the rear car park perimeter kerb has been marked out to indicate parking bays; and
- four places protected with a lockable posts have been installed, with two of these now leased out.

The Parish Council thanked Neil Clarke, Management Committee Chair, and those helping him to undertake this work.

In addition, it was reported that Peter Appleton was stepping down from the role of Treasurer after many years and the search is on for a replacement. The Parish Council passed on its thanks to him for his hard work during this time.

Sports Association/Pavilion

Cllr K Twort reported that he'd attended the last Sports Association meeting on the 20th March which had been attended by a young lad looking to establish a Sunday football team.

In addition, Cllr K Twort had inspected the Tower Hill phone box to confirm reports of broken glass.

In response to a query from Cllr B Morris, it was confirmed that quotes to deal with the dead/storm damaged trees at the Recreation Ground are still being sought.

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

Public Rights of Way

Cllr B Morris read out his report (Appendix A).

(iii) Highways

Cllr W O'Neill reported on the following matters:

- light number 59, outside The Old School House, has been replaced with a new column and bright new LED lantern;
- work on the Church Lane lighting columns suspended due to problems with the power supply, and will be rescheduled once power issue resolved;
- state of the roads and verges throughout the parish remains a concern and sustained campaign of Highways fault reporting still considered the effective option;
- recent bad weather has highlighted the poor state of the ditches and surface water drainage systems, particularly in the hamlets, which impacts on the roads. Drainage system maintenance is the responsibility of the landowners;
- no update in relation to Kettle Green Lane apart from highlighting that the wooden post was not replaced recently due to other roadworks being carried out.

In addition, Cllr W O'Neill observed that the Kettle Green Lane wooden post was not for the protection of pedestrians and alternative options would need to be considered if it were agreed that this is required. However, this would potentially be expensive and not effective. Following a lengthy discussion, it was agreed that the Traffic Working Party would consider this further.

(iv) Media

None.

(v) Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr I Hunt reported that target sites are still being progressed for including in the final draft of the Neighbourhood Plan (NP). In addition, a briefing by East Herts Council (EHC) on the District Plan main modifications consultation had been attended. As a result of this, in conjunction with other local NP groups, an objection was submitted against a modification that would water down the protection given to Local Green Spaces, as a number are being proposed for Much Hadham's NP.

In response to a question, Cllr I Hunt reiterated that the target sites remain as previously reported, namely:

- land adjacent to the Old Barn School;
- land at Hopley's;
- land at Moor Place - left hand side of the gate; and
- land at the Priest's House.

(vi) Security

Cllr Mrs J Liversage stated that there was nothing to report. It was highlighted that PCSO Leon de Bruyn had asked whether there were any concerns or issues to be raised with him. Nothing was forthcoming.

(vii) Other

The Chairman reported that the Traffic Working Party had been convened and consists of two Cllrs, a representative from the Village Hall and the village school, plus four residents. The first meeting will be held prior to the next Parish Council meeting.

18/54. REPORTS FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR AND COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Cllr I Devonshire (EHC) reported on the following matters:

- 2 more houses at Yew Tree House/Walnut Close – he'd been informed that the planning application had been withdrawn; and
- Much Hadham Golf and Country Club – new planning application has been submitted where the main changes appeared to be the inclusion of a flood report and numerous letters of support.

Cllr I Hunt commented that he'd looked at the 239 letters of support and 16 of these came from parishioners.

18/55. RESIDENTS' COMMENTS

(i) Footpath impassable

A resident highlighted that the pavement running south from Lordship Farmhouse to the gates of Spindle Bridge, was impassable as covered in debris and overhanging branches. As there are no street lights at that end of the village, it is very dangerous to walk in the road, so it is imperative that the little pavement that is provided should be usable. This is to be reported on the Highways fault reporting system by the resident and the Parish Council.

It was noted that the website detailed in the Parish Magazine for fault reporting was incorrect and this would be corrected in the May magazine.

[Website: <https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/faultreporting>]

(ii) Weight limit on Kettle Green Lane

It was reported that a significant cause for the state of the road surface in Kettle Green Lane was due to the number of lorries using this road. It was felt that there had been a weight limit in place on the old humpback railway bridge in the past and this would be investigated as a priority.

18/56. P3 FOOTPATH SCHEME

Cllr B Morris outlined the options that could be submitted for the P3 grant of £1,000. These are detailed in Appendix A.

Following discussion of the merits of each project, it was agreed that the order of these should be:

- renewal of the top dressing on the footpath along Church Lane from the High Street to the gates of St Andrew's Church;
- installation of a kissing gate at the junction of Church Lane and Oudle Lane; and
- addition of mesh on the smaller bridge over the backwater on footpath 29 although noted that this is likely to be undertaken by volunteers.

In addition, the Chairman reported that Herts County Council had decided recently against adding a footpath from the top of Cox Lane to the top of New Barns Lane, to the definitive map. It was agreed that this decision would be put on the Parish Council website and Cllr B Morris commented that this demonstrates how difficult it will be to get a new footpath created in future.

18/57. STANSTED AIRPORT LIMITED

RESOLVED to approve letter to the Secretary of State regarding the planning application submitted by Stansted Airport Limited. Content of the letter is reproduced at Appendix B.

The Chairman highlighted that the deadline for submissions had been extended from the 3rd April to the 30th April.

18/58. GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATIONS – IMPLEMENTATION DATE 25 MAY 2018

The Clerk reminded those present that she'd provided a high level briefing on the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) at the December 2017 meeting. Since that meeting, the Clerk has been on training and the salient points to note from that are:

- as can be expected, the "Parish Council" means the Parish Clerk, as employee, and all Parish Councillors therefore how everyone involved is holding personal data needs to be known and controlled;
- some new policies will be required, for example a Privacy Policy, a Bring Your Devices Policy, as well as amending other existing policies to ensure compliance;

- actions taken can be proportionate but if there were a breach, the Parish Council needs to be able to demonstrate it put in place appropriate arrangements to prevent a breach;
- the DPO Centre is providing support through group sessions with other parish councils. In addition to this, the Clerk has purchased packs of compliant policies to tailor for Much Hadham.

Finally, the Clerk proposed that she would run a training session for all Cllrs to ensure that everyone is fully aware of the implications and requirements as it affects the Parish Council. Suitable evenings to be proposed to Cllrs.

18/59. FINANCIAL

(i) Payment of Accounts

In response to a question regarding the street lighting payment, the Clerk highlighted that the number of parish lights had remained the same and the following elements had increased:

- annual maintenance cost per unit increased from £11.14 to £13.67;
- annual energy usage had increased from 9,045 kwh to 10,031 kwh as this is impacted by the seasons; and
- the actual price of the energy used had increased.

It was also confirmed that the maintenance is undertaken by Ringway and that the Parish Council has no option but to use the service provided by Herts County Council. This will be confirmed.

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

PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS - APRIL 2018

Chq	Payable to	For	Amount
846	E.ON	Lighting for war memorial	25.84
847	MH Sports Association	Pavilion water	165.13
848	BA Affinity for Business	Water bill for Perry Green	21.31
849	BA Affinity for Business	Water bill for St Andrew's	20.02
850	EMC Contracts	Burst tap repair at Pavilion	504.00
851	Herts County Council	Street lighting 2017/18	2,529.68
Total payments			<u>3,265.98</u>

Cheques will be signed and despatched following the meeting.

(ii) Financial Statement

The financial statement for 2017/18 was received. The Clerk highlighted that this was, effectively, the full year position from which the annual accounts would be produced.

The financial statement for 2018/19 was received. The summary financial position is detailed below and comparison to the annual budget is attached at Appendix C.

SUMMARY FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 3 APRIL 2018

	Parish Council £	Burial Authority £	Total £
Opening balance - 1 April 2018	32,847.34	14,249.65	47,096.99
Income	-	-	-
Expenditure	- 4,630.46	- 34.44	- 4,664.90
Closing balance	<u>28,216.88</u>	<u>14,215.21</u>	<u>42,432.09</u>

18/60. PLANNING

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 6th March 2018 be received and the decisions taken be ratified.

18/61. BURIAL AUTHORITY

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 6th March 2018 be received and the decisions taken be ratified.

18/62. URGENT BUSINESS

None.

18/63. CLERK'S INFORMATION

The Clerk highlighted the following matters:

- grant to St Andrew's Church bells project – subsequent to the Parish Council making a grant, it was identified that the Parish Council has no powers to provide financial assistance to a church. This has not been tested in the courts, therefore, at this time,

the grant can be considered valid expenditure. However, it is noted that no such funding should be made in future; and

- documents held at solicitors – as part of work being undertaken in relation to GDPR, time has been spent identifying the documentation held by Tees Solicitors on behalf of the Parish Council. Included within this was the lease agreement with The Henry Moore Foundation for the rental of part of the green at Perry Green, for the bridge to The Hoops. The rent outstanding from 2015 of £60 is being collected, and the next 4 yearly rent of £90 will be due in 2019.

18/64. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Annual Parish Council Meeting on Tuesday, 1st May 2018, at 7.30 pm in the Much Hadham Village Hall, Green Room.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8:38 pm.

Public Rights of Way MHPC Meeting 3 April 2018

Due to atrocious weather and Easter there is nothing to report on any PRoW Vis a Vis remedial works. There have been a small number of minor items raised for future attention which are in hand. The contentious issue of the unacceptable condition BR 52 remains ongoing. The Highways footbridge by Sidehill House has been barricaded off by Ringway, so I presume that they have received a formal report about the collapsed handrail and this has been prioritised for repair. I can understand its closure being very inconvenient while the road is flooded here, although many walkers will be wearing wellies at this time of year!

Agenda item 18/56

P3 Grant. £1000 2018-19 Decision to be made tonight as to what MHPC intends to apply for. I am advised the deadline is fluid from HCM

Suggested items put forward from various sources:

1 FP 20 The footpath along Church Lane from the High St to the Gates of St Andrews'. Renewal of top dressing . This has already received notional approval for the Grant if we were to agree to proceed.

2 FP 29 the surface of the main bridge over the river is fine, as it was pre-treated with a grit surface before installation. The smaller bridge over the backwater is a little slippery, and so could do with the addition of mesh. Some small repairs could also be done here by HCM [Hertfordshire Countryside Management] volunteers.

3 FP21: This stile is getting increasingly wobbly. It is not required to retain livestock or for public safety. Therefore if we do anything here, which we probably should, it will have to be the replacement of the stile with a gap, not a gate. The landowner resisted suggestions that this work should be done some years ago. This is really more of a matter for the Enforcement Officer than the Parish Council, unless there is a Councillor who is likely to have more luck in explaining the situation to the owner.

4 FP 22 & 23 – Damaged kissing gate junction of Church Lane/Oudle Lane. One side of the surround of the gate has collapsed, but there is a closing mechanism which keeps it shut except when a walker passes through. This gate was installed to retain horses in the field before Footpath 23 before it was fenced off. Strictly speaking, it is therefore no longer necessary. We could replace this with a staggered barrier, for example, if it is felt that something is necessary here for public safety, but I think that the current structure is doing the same job of slowing down children and dogs, and it might be better to quietly leave things as they are. Metal kissing gate kits costs something like £350 plus VAT. If volunteers install them the labour will be free. However, P3 money can only be used for gate kits in certain circumstances, e.g. if the structures is required for public safety (rather than stock control), or if it is required to retain stock but is an upgrade (from a stile) which is in the public interest.

BHAM

LETTER TO SECRETARY OF STATE

The Right Hon Sajid Javid MP
Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government
c/o National Planning Casework Unit
5 St Philips Place
Colmore Row
Birmingham B3 2PW

Also sent by email to npcu@communities.gsi.gov.uk

Dear Secretary of State,

Planning Application UTT/18/0460/FUL (the “Application”) 22 February 2018 from Stansted Airport Limited (“SAL”) to Uttlesford District Council (“UDC”)

I am writing as the Chair of Much Hadham Parish Council. The Parish Council's interest in the Application arises because Much Hadham is overflowed by aircraft on two different routes. First, aircraft departing from Stansted Airport on the BUZAD route having passed over houses in our hamlet of Green Tye then often pass over houses in the east of Much Hadham and, secondly, aircraft landing at Stansted Airport pass over houses in the west of Much Hadham. The noise often disturbs residents, particularly at night and during the summer months when residents are in their gardens and aircraft flying overhead interrupts conversation.

The Parish Council has reviewed the letter to you dated 19 March 2018 from Stop Stansted Expansion (“SSE”). We fully agree with SSE's reasons for asking you to call in the Application and trust that you will do so. This will ensure that the Application is properly considered, particularly with respect to the impact on communities that are outside UDC, as we are.

We do not consider that UDC has the staff or the expertise or the independence to carry out a proper review and evaluation of the Application. Moreover, UDC has agreed with SAL to fast track the Application in return for a fee of £117,781 plus VAT (a fee which UDC initially attempted to keep secret). This agreement has resulted in UDC refusing to allow local parish councils and residents sufficient time to consider and comment on the Application which consists of documents extending to 2930 pages. Apart from this, the attempt to fast track the Application could compromise the new over-arching airports policy for the south east, which is of course currently in development.

There is no need for urgency in arriving at a decision on this application. Stansted Airport has sufficient capacity for the next 5 years on the basis of SAL's forecasts, and for the next 15 years on the basis of the official DfT forecasts. In 2008 the airport operator obtained permission for up to 25 mppa, and passenger numbers only achieved this level in 2017. The current maximum permitted is 35 mppa.

As Stansted is a strategic, national asset, the SAL plans need to be thoroughly reviewed in that context. UDC have neither the resources nor mandate to do so, whereas you do. Please call in this application.

Yours sincerely

MUCH HADHAM PARISH COUNCIL

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2019

BUDGET TO ACTUAL COMPARISON AS AT 3 APRIL 2018

(Parish Council only)	FULL YEAR	YEAR TO DATE	COMMENT
	2019	2019	
	BUDGET	ACTUAL	
	£	£	
INCOME			
Precept	39,000.00	-	
Litter Agency	3,950.00	-	
New Homes Bonus	3,223.00	-	
Pavilion income	500.00	-	
Grant		-	
Other	5.00	-	
VAT reclaimed	5,000.00	-	
TOTAL INCOME	51,678.00	-	
EXPENDITURE			
Staff costs	6,600.00	-	
PWLB loan repayment	5,387.46	-	
Administration costs	2,500.00	-	
Insurance	3,600.00	1,398.92	
Audit fees	720.00	-	
General Data Protection Regulation compliance	2,200.00	-	
Election expenses	-	-	
Maintenance of open spaces	5,700.00	-	
Litter Agency	4,008.00	-	
War memorial (lighting and maintenance)	1,000.00	24.61	
Street lighting (energy and maintenance)	1,770.00	2,108.07	This is the prior year charge
Street lighting (replacement programme)	-	-	
Pavilion	1,770.00	585.13	Includes £420 for burst tap repair
Grants and donations	1,000.00	-	
Neighbourhood Plan	2,000.00	-	
Capital (to be allocated)	6,800.00		
Capital - laptop	600.00		
Maintenance - Red Lion bus shelter repair	1,000.00	-	
VAT	5,000.00	513.73	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	51,655.46	4,630.46	