

MUCH HADHAM PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Much Hadham Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday, 2nd July 2019, in the Green Tye Mission Hall at 7:32 pm.

*Cllr Mrs K Chesters
Cllr I Hunt (Vice Chair)
*Cllr Mrs J Liversage
*Cllr D McDonald

*Cllr B O'Neill
*Cllr S Smith
*Cllr Mrs P Taylor (Chair)
*Cllr K Twort

* denotes present

In attendance: F Forth, Parish Clerk and 17 members of the public.

19/115. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received and approved from Cllr I Hunt.

19/116. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

None.

19/117. NOTIFICATIONS OF URGENT BUSINESS

None.

19/118. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair reported that she had received a complaint under the Parish Council's Complaints Procedure on 31st May. The complaint regarded a matter of maladministration by the Parish Council. The Complaints Procedure has been followed, and the matter settled directly with the complainant. Further to this, the Parish Council will review its management procedures, so that similar problems do not happen again.

In addition, the Chair highlighted that the Parish Council is running the Tombola Stall at the Fete this year so all donations of bottles (alcoholic or otherwise) would be gratefully received. A number of clubs and societies have been written to with pleas for donations, and a good number of people will be needed to man the stand on the day, so any volunteers gratefully received.

19/119. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETINGS

RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting held on 4th June 2019 be accepted as a correct record of the proceedings and be signed by the Chair.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the additional meeting held on 25th June 2019 be accepted as a correct record of the proceedings and be signed by the Chair. The Chair highlighted that this additional meeting had given approval for the next step in the Neighbourhood Plan, the Pre-submission (Regulation 14) Consultation.

19/120. REPORTS ON OUTSTANDING MATTERS AND RESOLUTIONS

The Clerk reported that the outstanding matters to highlight related to the internal works at the Pavilion – a specific agenda item – and the flower tubs with the welcome signs would be covered as part of members' reports.

19/121. CO-OPTION OF PARISH COUNCILLOR

Item deferred to 6th August meeting as Martin McPherson-Pottle subsequently unable to attend the meeting.

The Chair welcomed Cllr S Smith, who had been co-opted last month, and reported that he had joined the Planning Committee, and would be involved with the Environment portfolio, with responsibility for Public Rights of Way, and the Highways portfolio.

19/122. MEMBERS' REPORTS

(i) Community

Sports Association

Cllr K Twort stated there was nothing to report.

Village Hall

Cllr B O'Neill stated there was nothing to report.

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

Public Rights of Way

The Chair reported the following matters:

- problem with the gate at the bottom of Footpath 26 (Congregational Church to Malting Lane) has now been sorted;
- Herts County Council (HCC) Highways are going to properly edge and re-tarmac the damaged section of Footpath 26 near the Congregational Church. The 3 small trees causing all the root problems will be cut down, so hopefully the new path will not be damaged for many years. It may be a while before this is done, but it is definitely on the HCC's list;
- HCC mowing contractor has now cut Footpath 2 (right up at the northern border of the parish off Bromley Lane); and

- HCC volunteers have replaced the two collapsed waymark posts on Footpath 2 and two on the adjoining Little Hadham Footpath 5.

Cllr Mrs K Chesters highlighted that the site for the planters, by the “welcome” sign on the B1004, actually sloped and this needed to be resolved before pursuing the project further.

(iii) Highways

The Chair read her report (attached as Appendix A) which had been circulated prior to the meeting.

The options for Kettle Green Lane were discussed and the consensus was option 2 – to fill and tarmac the existing passing places. In addition, it was suggested that Herts County Council Highways be asked if they could stabilize the bank in some way to prevent the stones washing down the road.

Cllr B O’Neill stated that he’d reported a number of faulty lights and that the southern Speed Indicator Device (SID) was obscured by a tree.

(iv) Media

Cllr Mrs K Chesters highlighted new posts on Facebook relating to requesting donations for the tombola (see minute ref: 19/118) and also a short, easy to understand, video on neighbourhood planning.

(v) Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr B O’Neill read Cllr I Hunt’s report on his behalf.

Following the Parish Council’s instruction last week to proceed to the Pre-Submission stage of the process, the team are working on completing the necessary documents. Drafts have been prepared of the consultation response form and, as promised at the last meeting, the draft consultation report (80 pages) is on the website. [[Draft Consultation Statement](#)]

Email addresses of all the statutory consultees are being compiled. Work has begun on preparing the summary of the Neighbourhood Plan (NP) document that will be delivered to each household too. As mentioned above, there is a link on Facebook to a short video describing the basics of the NP process - a useful, easy-to-understand beginners’ guide for those who are unaware of what the benefits of a NP are.

(vi) Security

Cllr Mrs J Liversage reported that there had been 2 burglaries and 2 thefts from vehicles in the last month and whilst some enquiries ongoing, there have been no suspects. It was also

highlighted that there has been an increase in thefts from vehicles in East Herts so remember to keep vehicles locked and secure all valuables.

(vii) Other

Lime Trees in Church Lane

The Chair reported that a letter had been received from St Andrew's Parochial Church Council, requesting works to the trees lining Church Lane. Prior to that, the Chair had taken photographs and registered a "fault" with the trees – overhanging branches and obscuring the new lamp on the footpath.

A120 Bypass

Cllr B O'Neill reported that he'd attended the information sharing event in the Little Hadham Village Hall. Potential future impact is less traffic through Much Hadham and a River Ash Flood Control plan will be put in place.

[For further information – see [Herts County Council A120 bypass website](#)]

Stop Stansted Expansion

Cllr B O'Neill highlighted that the 2018 Stansted Airport planning application had been referred back to the Uttlesford District Council's Planning Committee on 28th June.

Internal works to Pavilion

The Chair reminded those present that the internal works to the Pavilion had been requested by the Sunday Lunch Club and that the Club had identified funding from East Herts Council and donations. In addition, highlighted that a meeting had taken place at the Pavilion with a representative from the football teams.

Following discussion, RESOLVED to approve the following internal works to the Pavilion requested by the Sunday Lunch Club:

- installation of shelves in the kitchen; and
- installation of a shutter over the front door and window.

In terms of the serving hatch, it was agreed to investigate this further in terms of need and whether it was structurally possible.

19/123. REPORTS FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR AND COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Cllr I Devonshire (EHC) highlighted that over the coming meetings, he would be providing more detail on what his role as Rural Development Champion entailed. This meeting, he focused on:

- digital innovation vision – explaining that the intention is for the rural community to have 5G; and

- rural isolation:
 - this is being tackled well in the east of the District. Much Hadham Health Centre has done really well in this respect, tapping into the concept of social prescribing;
 - Chatter tables – exactly as the name suggests, currently established in all 5 towns in the District and now seeking to roll out to the rural areas;
 - farming community – identifying ways to improve their social lives; and
 - mobile café – Community Development Agency (CDA) for Herts has a caravan which is used as a mobile café.

In addition, Cllr I Devonshire highlighted that he had attended the recent Scout AGM, finding it to be an uplifting event as the troop is doing well at all levels – beavers, cubs and scouts. He also commented that the Scout Committee is doing well in obtaining funding for insulation and refurbishment works to the scout hut.

Finally, Cllr I Devonshire stated that he personally, whilst in favour of affordable housing, he was not in favour of the Moor Place Gate site being in the Neighbourhood Plan.

Parish Cllrs made a number of comments in relation to the Neighbourhood Plan including some support of affordable housing on the Moor Place Gate site. Ultimately, everyone present was reminded that the 7-week consultation period begins on 12th August and everyone is encouraged to read the draft Plan to see what has been proposed.

19/124. RESIDENTS' COMMENTS

(i) Sunday Lunch Club

A Club member highlighted that 30-40 people are served lunch at the Club and the internal works requested, in particular the serving hatch, would help make it safer and easier to serve those attending. It was also highlighted that this was social prescribing in action, as is the Friday lunch @ The Bull, Death & Donuts @ The Bull and afternoon teas at the Green Tye Mission Hall and the Congregational Church Hall.

(ii) Malting Lane Speed & Volume Survey

In response to a question, the Chair confirmed that this would be undertaken during term time.

(iii) A120 Bypass

Following clarification for a resident that the A120 Bypass event at Little Hadham had ended, the Clerk highlighted that there is a specific website for this project, details of which would be added to the Parish Council website.

[Note – link also added to these Minutes – see page 4]

(iv) Roads in the hamlets

A resident suggested that alternative representatives should be found to ensure that the hamlets were always represented at meetings with Highways.

In addition, it was highlighted that the road by St Thomas' Church is extremely dangerous, particularly at the weekend when cyclists ride 4 abreast.

(v) Footpath 22

A resident repeated the following requests from 4th June meeting:

- will the Parish Council be applying to have the proposed route added as a Right of Way to the Definitive Map; and
- removal of illegal signage at the entrance to the school.

A further resident highlighted that should the footpath be diverted, the school had previously agreed that the existing footpath gates would be open to allow children to arrive/depart school but would be shut during the school day to protect children.

(vi) Tennis Club

Statement made on behalf of the Much Hadham Tennis club attached as Appendix B.

(vii) Transport

For the benefit of Cllr I Devonshire (EHC), a resident highlighted that the key issue for rural isolation was the lack of accessible transport.

(viii) Vote on Neighbourhood Plan

A resident suggested that consideration be given to having 2 votes for the Neighbourhood Plan at the referendum – one with Moor Place Gate included and one without this site included.

(ix) Kettle Green Lane

A resident agreed that the money should be used to tarmac the existing passing places and suggested that consideration be given to including slow down notices.

(x) Next Highways meeting in relation to the roads in the Hamlets

In response to a question, the Chair clarified that the next Highways meeting is likely to be at the end of the summer but that no date had been set as yet.

19/125. FINANCIAL

(i) Payment of Accounts

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

PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS - JULY 2019

Chq	Payable to	For	Amount
932	MH Sports Association	Alarm system support charge	193.20
933	MH Sports Association	Grass cutting at Recreation Ground	1,000.00
934	C Copper	Cut front hedge & strim grass verges at Recreation Ground	210.00
SO	M Windmill	Litter Agency (July)	334.00
SO	F Forth	Clerk's salary (July)	581.10
Total payments			<u>2,318.30</u>

Cheques will be signed and despatched following the meeting.

(ii) Financial Statement

The financial statement for 2019/20 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 2 JULY 2019

	Parish Council £	Burial Authority £	Total £
Opening balance - 1 April 2019	47,134.88	17,037.46	64,172.34
Income	19,970.67	2,050.00	22,020.67
Expenditure	- 13,817.50	- 580.53	- 14,398.03
Closing balance	<u>53,288.05</u>	<u>18,506.93</u>	<u>71,794.98</u>

Note: the following items are included in the Total Fund Balances:

(1) Section 106 receipts	6,070.00
(2) Earmarked for Neighbourhood Plan (2018/19 grant balance)	2,455.50
(3) Earmarked for 3 replacement street lights (Quote approved 5 September 2017)	8,832.30
	<u>17,357.80</u>

19/126. PLANNING

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 4th June 2019 be received and the decisions taken be ratified.

19/127. BURIAL AUTHORITY

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Burial Authority meeting held on 4th June 2019 be received and the decisions taken be ratified.

19/128. URGENT BUSINESS

None.

19/129. CLERK'S INFORMATION

None.

19/130. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be Tuesday 6th August 2019, at 7:30 pm in the Much Hadham Village Hall, Green Room, which will be preceded by the Burial Authority meeting at 6:45 pm.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.44 pm.

HIGHWAYS REPORT – PC 2 JULY 2019**(From meeting with Herts County Council (HCC) Highways 10th June)**

Kettle Green Lane (KGL): we have been chasing the works to be carried out under the Section 106 agreement for the Moor Park Place development for a number of years. £58,000 was set aside for improvements to the passing places on Kettle Green Lane. A Feasibility Study has at last been produced with 4 options 1. Do nothing and 4. Widen the road are not worthy of consideration.

Option 2 is to fill and tarmac the existing passing places. The downside of this, is that it is a short term fix, and the road will deteriorate again and holes need filling. However, the lane will keep its character and the many existing passing places will be much safer and more user friendly. This option comes within the budget of the available money.

Option 3 is to create 4 pairs of proper passing places – 2 before the Moor Place drive and 2 after.

Option 3 has a better long term maintenance value. However, it will cost a lot more than the available monies, and we are not sure HCC will cover the rest. Also, with so few passing places created (involving enlarging existing places by some way), the other poor passing places will still be used, and still be dangerous and difficult to use.

Basically the decision is out of our hands, but HCC would be interested in our view, if we were to come to some agreed conclusion.

Discussion regarding the options for Kettle Green Lane recorded in the minutes.

The Traffic Working Party was keen to have a 20 mph section in the Tower Hill area, but as a B road, this is not possible. Advisory 20mph signs are also not allowed by HCC. However, a Speed & Volume Survey has been done at Tower Hill, and the Average Mean speed was recorded at just under 30mph in either direction. If the average speed was over 30mph, they could not justify putting in any 20mph limit – you can only lower speeds a certain amount – which appears completely converse to logic, but there it is. Therefore the only option available is “School 20 when lights show”. This will be a 20 mph zone outside the school during start and end of the school day.

Should be done this financial year.

Hadham Cross junction: possible double yellow lines opposite KGL (condition of Walnut Close development). There should have been a Section 278 agreement, but this was not entered into on this occasion. The Developer is co-operating regarding funding, but HCC is looking for a way to be able to do the work.

Church Lane posts and kerbing: HCC has reported that investigation shows the verge belongs to HCC, and they will request that the Licencing and Enforcement Team will send a letter to the resident who erected them.

Watery Lane/Stansted Hill junction: white lines now re-instated, AT LAST!

White lines have been re-instated at Green Tye junction of Parsonage Lane and Unnamed road from Snells Corner. Potholes at the junction have also been fixed.

Malting Lane: the problems residents experience in Malting Lane are extremely difficult to solve. HCC appreciate we have lots of ideas for this road, but some are not legally or practicably possible. However, as a first step, a Speed & Volume survey will be conducted to get actual data on road usage.

LANES IN THE HAMLETS:

Snells Corner

In the view of HCC Highways, erosion appears to have stabilised over the spring when dry. The Telegraph Pole appears to have prevented any further erosion. HCC think it best to now leave as is. The top road should also be left, as the poor passing places keep the speed of traffic down.

Joyce Cottage bend

HCC reported that the verge belongs to HCC so no permission required from the adjacent landowner, for incorporating the existing extra width of the highway.

It was agreed the best way forward would be to tarmac two areas of the widened road, to create two “passing places”, at appropriate positions on the corner. The work to fill potholes in the eroded verges hopefully to be funded with new programme of funding – CAT 6, possibility for 2019/20 Financial Year.

St Thomas’ Church triangle

HCC investigated commissioning a Feasibility Study, but it was considered too costly. The problem appears to be cosmetic, and the triangle was currently not looking too bad, again due to the recent period of dry weather. To ascertain the precise problem with the traffic, HCC agreed to organise an HGV study in the area to be undertaken during term time i.e. after September, but within the current financial year.

I did point out the other concern was the perceived speeding on the main road round the blind bend – and suggested warning signage to encourage slower speeds. These will be investigated.

Penny Taylor

1st July 2012

RESIDENT'S COMMENTS - MUCH HADHAM TENNIS CLUB

My name is Alexandra Farmer and I am a member of the Much Hadham Tennis Club Committee and of the Sports Association Committee. I would like to make a few comments on behalf of Much Hadham Tennis Club in respect of any proposed development at the site known as Moor Place Gate.

Much Hadham Tennis Club (MHTC) is situated adjacent to the Moor Place Gate site. The Club is extremely concerned that, should any development go ahead on this site, residents could, at any point in the future, complain of 'Statutory Nuisance' due to noise and the use of the floodlights. This could have a significant impact on the activities of the Club.

The response from the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group (NPSG) has been to suggest how a developer might attempt to address the issues which concern the Club and in the May meeting of the NPSG it is minuted simply that " the potential light nuisance is a planning consideration for the East Herts Environmental Health Services." This isn't good enough and should be a fundamental planning consideration for those elected to represent us - NPSG and the Parish Council (PC) - in order to protect this facility and its use. It seems the impact on the tennis courts and vice versa has been completely overlooked. The emphasis should be on "Neighbourhood". The courts are the most used sports facility in our village and the Club currently has over 200 members. It is critical that this facility is secured for the current parishioners and for future generations. Without such community facilities we are nothing more than a large housing estate along a busy road. We would like the PC/NPSG to commit to protect the use of this facility as it is currently utilised by imposing relevant conditions on any development and if necessary if the MHTC is faced with a nuisance claim we want the PC to agree to support the Club in defending any claim and to pay for any changes that the Club may be required to make to its facilities to maintain the status quo.

Replacing the current lighting or reconfiguring it could cost upwards of £40,000. The NPSG proposals to sink any development into the landscape to reduce the visual impact will exacerbate any floodlight issue and noise from the courts would be heard in adjacent gardens. Can we suggest that the NPSG/PC commission a lighting consultant to examine the impact of a housing development on the Tennis Club and what could be done to minimise any impact on occupiers, including estimates of costs to address any issues?

The Tennis Club wishes to have these comments recorded for future reference and I am happy to email a copy of my comments on behalf of the club to the Parish Clerk.

MUCH HADHAM PARISH COUNCIL

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020

BUDGET TO ACTUAL COMPARISON AS AT 2 JULY 2019

(Parish Council only)	FULL YEAR	YEAR TO	COMMENT
	2020	DATE	
	BUDGET	ACTUAL	
	£	£	
INCOME			
Precept	39,000.00	19,500.00	
Litter Agency	4,085.00	-	
New Homes Bonus	8,243.00	-	
Pavilion income	750.00	299.00	
Grant	6,500.00	161.00	
Other	95.00	10.67	
VAT reclaimed	5,000.00	-	
TOTAL INCOME	63,673.00	19,970.67	
EXPENDITURE			
Staff costs	6,973.64	2,324.40	
PWLB loan repayment	5,387.46	2,693.73	
Administration costs	2,400.00	866.61	
Insurance	3,400.00	1,369.31	
Audit fees	720.00	430.00	
General Data Protection Regulation compliance	200.00	-	
Election expenses	1,500.00	-	
Maintenance of open spaces	8,500.00	1,260.00	
Litter Agency	4,008.00	1,336.00	
War memorial (lighting and maintenance)	650.00	32.36	
Street lighting (energy and maintenance)	2,000.00	-	
Street lighting (replacement programme)	5,000.00	-	
Pavilion	2,900.00	1,165.39	
Grants and donations (Section 137 expenditure)	1,000.00	-	
Sport and recreation grants (Section 106 funded)	3,000.00	-	
Neighbourhood Plan	11,000.00	1,750.00	
Capital (to be allocated)	2,000.00	-	
VAT	5,000.00	589.70	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	65,639.10	13,817.50	