

## **MUCH HADHAM PARISH COUNCIL**

MINUTES of the Much Hadham Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday, 7<sup>th</sup> June 2022, in the Much Hadham Village Hall, at 7:30 pm.

\*Cllr Mrs K Hamilton  
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, Clerk and 13 members of the public.

### 22/89. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

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

### 22/90. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION

The Chair declared an interest in two payments to be approved (agenda item 22/102 (ii)) and would therefore not be participating in nor voting on the related motion.

No other declarations were made or applications for dispensations sought.

### 22/91. NOTIFICATIONS OF URGENT BUSINESS

None.

### 22/92. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair made the following announcements:

- Annual Parish Meeting, 17<sup>th</sup> May – many thanks were expressed to those representatives from local clubs/societies/projects that had provided information to local residents prior to the short formal meeting which concluded the meeting. The evening was a great success, with over 60 people present, and it was hoped that more villagers would attend when the event was repeated next year;
- Much Hadham Neighbourhood Plan referendum – a reminder that the referendum was on the 23<sup>rd</sup> June and everyone was encouraged to vote; and
- Jubilee Picnic, 5<sup>th</sup> June – residents who organised and effected the road closure for the Picnic were thanked.

## 22/93. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2022 be accepted as a correct record of the proceedings and be signed by the Chair after the meeting.

## 22/94. REPORTS ON OUTSTANDING MATTERS AND RESOLUTIONS

The following updates were provided on outstanding matters:

- Assets of Community Value (ACV):
  - The Ley (nature reserve) – East Herts Council (EHC) have agreed that this site should be registered as an ACV. However, the change in ownership has prevented EHC registering the ACV and the new owner may need to be consulted before EHC can conclude the registration process; and
  - The Bull Inn – the Save The Bull campaign group have submitted an ACV nomination for this site; and
- dog bin near Footpath 29 – at the last meeting, it had been highlighted that this dog bin had been destroyed. A replacement dog bin has been ordered and should arrive in July. East Herts Council have been notified of its “removal” and a credit will be agreed once replacement bin in place.

## 22/95. MEMBERS' REPORTS

### (i) Community

#### Recreation Ground

Cllr D McDonald reported that some issues had been raised relating to the Pavilion and the surrounding area which are being investigated.

Cllr K Twort highlighted that the Sports Association were concerned about future funding and a meeting was being organised to discuss that with the Parish Council. It was noted that this meeting was taking place on the 9<sup>th</sup> June.

#### Geocaching

The Chair reported that a request had been received from the Much Hadham Scouts to hide a geocache on the Recreation Ground. It was agreed that this should be discussed with the Sports Association before any decision was made.

## Village Hall

Cllr Mrs K Hamilton reported that the Village Hall had a new online booking system in place, details of which had been included in the last parish magazine. In addition, she highlighted that the Table Tennis Club, who play on a Wednesday, are looking for new members, whatever age.

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

On behalf of Cllr S Smith, the Clerk provided the following update:

- Bridleway 7 (Cox's Lane) - all fallen trees and branches on the bridleway had been cleared by the estate;
- footpath/byway that runs through Bucklers Hall Farm - the illegal notice on this footpath/byway – stating “No Public Right of Way” - had been removed by the owner at Herts County Council’s (HCC) request; and
- annual undergrowth and trimming - half of the first cut of the annual schedule for had been completed and the remaining part would be completed in the next couple of weeks. If residents require a footpath or bridleway to be cleared in an emergency, Cllr S Smith (01279 842400) or HCC Countryside Management (01992 555243) can be contacted.

Finally, there was nothing new to report regarding outstanding tasks/projects including the Footpath 11 diversion order and Footpath 20 bridge closure.

Cllr Mrs J Liversage reported that Footpath 20 maybe closed but it had been trimmed, making it very accessible.

### (iii) Highways (inc street lighting)

The Chair reported that no updates had been received on the outstanding Highways matters and that she would be chasing these.

In terms of the street lighting, Cllr B O'Neill reported that the snagging items were almost complete. He also reported that, unfortunately, the old column in Church Lane, by the church gates and used each Easter to support the cross, had been removed in error. Cllr B O'Neill will be talking to the Churchwardens of St Andrew's Church regarding alternative options for the cross in future.

### (iv) Media

On behalf of Cllr S Smith, the Clerk reported that several posts had been made in good time to notify the immediate community of the road closures for the village's jubilee celebrations.

(v) Security

Cllr Mrs J Liversage provided the following update from OWL reports:

- a reminder to be alert to possible scams and fraudsters who are trying to dupe people out of personal details by posing as Ofgem officials who are trying to pay one-off Government grants on a means-tested basis;
- the Police are working with the community in launching and promoting LGBT inclusion to avert hate crimes;
- 30.5.22: at 5.30 am, an off-road trike was 'removed' from the road side and loaded onto a flatbed van;
- 18.5.22: at 6.30 pm, a trailer was taken from a business property in Green Tye;
- 15.5.22: a 71 year old man was reported missing from Biggin Hill and may be in the Anstey area. He has not yet been reported as found;
- 12-29.5.22: a 2 week campaign providing an opportunity to surrender fire arms and ammunition to Hertfordshire Police;
- 10.5.22: an Older Persons (over 55) event was held in Albury Hall with services collaborating to give advice and support;
- distraction thefts amounting to £5000 at ATM machines have been reported in Hertfordshire; and
- a cross border police operation arrested 141 people for offences including burglary, robbery, theft of motor cars and drug offences, involving seizure of motor vehicles, weapons, cash and drugs.

In addition, Cllr Mrs J Liversage reminded those present that for all non-emergency matters, call 101.

(vi) Stansted Airport

Cllr D McDonald highlighted that there was nothing further to report in relation to the Stage 3 consultation.

The Clerk commented that the Stansted Airport Watch AGM was taking place on the 8<sup>th</sup> June.

(vii) Other

The Clerk reported that she had spoken to the contractor regarding obtaining the tree quotes.

## 22/96. REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR AND DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

Cllr I Devonshire (EHC) reported that the multi-storey car park in Bishop's Stortford was nearly complete and would be opening in the next month or so. Once opened, work on the Old River Lane project would commence. He also highlighted that payments for parking at this site would be via an app only.

Finally, Cllr I Devonshire (EHC) highlighted that most of the complaints he receives relate to Planning matters, adding that he is willing to chase Planning on behalf of residents.

## 22/97. RESIDENTS' COMMENTS

### (i) Bench at Green Tye

A resident requested that any decision on the installation of a bench on the green at Green Tye be deferred as an application had been submitted to East Herts Council.

It was noted that East Herts Council have no authority in relation to the green as this is owned by the Parish Council.

### (ii) Malting Lane signage

A resident highlighted that the notice regarding heavy goods on Malting Lane was only at one end and asked if a sign could be added at the other end.

### (iii) Graffiti

A resident reported that graffiti had been added to a number of signs on the footpath from Malting Lane to the High Street. The Chair highlighted that this needs to be reported to the Police and as she understands it, only the victims of crime can do this.

## 22/98. DEFIBRILLATOR AT THE PAVILION

The Chair thanked Cllr S Smith for the detailed report on the proposed defibrillator at the Pavilion which had been circulated with the agenda. She also informed those present that the possibility of a joint venture with the school had been recently ruled out.

During discussion, it was noted that:

- there are two defibrillators in the hamlets which have been accessed although, subsequently, not used. For these, the batteries are replaced every 3 years, costing £350, unless the defibrillator is used following which the batteries must be replaced;
- defibrillators in the village are located at the fire station, doctors and dentists, with the latter two sites only being available during business hours;
- siting a new defibrillator at the Pavilion will provide 24 hour access; and

- it was important to have community “buy in” for the training.

RESOLVED that, subject to satisfactory “buy in” from the Sports Association, to approve:

- the purchase of a Lifeline View, semi-automatic Automated External Defibrillator (AED) from Community Heartbeat Trust (CHT) for £1,855 + VAT;
- an annual service contract with CHT for £135 + VAT; and
- provision of training from CHT for £175 + VAT.

“Buy in” from the Sports Association would be discussed at a meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> June 2022.

#### 22/99. BENCH

The Chair explained that the agenda had included two different motions relating to this item as a request had been received for a bench, or for the placement of a plaque on an existing bench, on the green at Green Tye.

Following a brief discussion, it was agreed to defer this item to the next meeting, being held in the Green Tye Mission Hall, in order to gauge the views of local residents.

It was also noted that requests for information from the applicant had not been responded to.

#### 22/100. BOWLING CLUB

The Chair highlighted that a request had been received from the Bowling Club for financial assistance in relation to the reinstatement of part of the fencing that surrounds the bowling green, damaged in the strong storms earlier in the year. She reported that the Bowls Club had paid £2,100 for these repairs and received a grant of £1,400 from Sport England, leaving a deficit of £700.

Following discussion, it was agreed to defer this item in order to seek further information.

#### 22/101. HADHAM HOPPER

The Chair reported that a request for financial assistance had been received from Bishop’s Stortford Town Council for the Hadham Hopper, following the phased reduction and withdrawal of future funding by East Herts Council.

In discussion, the following salient points were noted:

- the existing service is currently free to users, as it would be if using other bus services with a bus pass;
- in principle, not against providing funding but consider that this funding should be provided by principal councils and not the Parish Council; and
- the service being provided currently is exclusive to a set number of users.

Following discussion, it was agreed that the Chair would write to Cllr I Devonshire (EHC) and request that East Herts Council review its decision to phase out its financial support for this service.

## 22/102. FINANCIAL

### (i) Payment of Accounts

RESOLVED that the accounts, as shown below, be duly authorised for payment. The Chair did not participate in this item or vote due to her declared interest. (Minute ref: 22/90)

#### **PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS - JUNE 2022**

Ref	Payable to	For	Amount
OP150	East Herts Council	Annual dog bin charges	1,677.67
OP151	Auditing Solutions	Internal Audit review 2021/22	534.00
OP152	BA MH Landscapes	Maintenance at burial grounds Jan - Mar '22	540.00
OP153	PA Taylor	Refreshments for Annual Village meeting (17/5/22)	99.83
OP154	PA Taylor	Jubilee road closure signs	90.00
OP155	GovResources Ltd	Neighbourhood Plan support (NP)	1,200.00
OP156	MH Village Hall	Share of 1100 ltr bin costs (used by Litter Picker)	100.03
OP157	MH Village Hall	Cleaning materials for Pavilion	62.95
OP158	MH Village Hall	Buildings insurance	505.53
OP159	MH Village Hall	D Billson - Pavilion cleaning (May)	80.00
SO	M Windmill	Litter Agency (Jun)	334.00
OP160	FM Forth	Clerk's salary (Jun + plus backpay for additional hours)	1,056.18
<b>Total payments</b>			<b><u>£6,280.19</u></b>

Payments will be authorised online following the meeting by Cllr B O'Neill and Cllr K Twort.

RESOLVED that a direct debit with nPower to pay for the electricity supply to the war memorial be set up.

### (ii) Financial Statement

The financial statement for 2021/22 to date was received. The summary financial position is detailed overleaf and comparison to the annual budget is attached at Appendix A. No matters were highlighted by the Clerk.

## SUMMARY FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 7 JUNE 2022

	Parish Council £	Burial Authority £	Total £
Opening balance - 1 April 2022	44,158.77	29,970.81	74,129.58
Income	38,920.89	-	38,920.89
Expenditure	- 16,961.67	- 545.00	- 17,506.67
Closing balance	<u>66,117.99</u>	<u>29,425.81</u>	<u>95,543.80</u>

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

(1) Section 106 receipts for sport or recreation	1,570.00
(2) Open spaces	18,650.00
	<u>20,220.00</u>

### 22/103. PLANNING

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> April 2022 be received and the decisions taken be ratified.

### 22/104. URGENT BUSINESS

None.

### 22/105. CLERK'S INFORMATION

The Clerk reported on the following matters:

- the next East Herts Council Town and Parish Engagement event is being held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> June at 7 pm. The topics being covered include the impact on the sector of the Government levelling up agenda, waste and recycling, and an update on environmental sustainability;
- East Herts Council have opened its community grants scheme for applications, with a deadline of 5<sup>th</sup> July. Grants between £301 and £5000 are available and more information is available on East Herts website. In addition, East Herts are running two advice and guidance workshops to help with grant applications via Zoom - 14<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> June; and
- Citizen's Advice East Herts are seeking volunteers and contact details to pursue this are available from the Clerk.



22/106. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2022 at 7:30 pm at the Green Tye Mission Hall.

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There being no further business the meeting closed at 8:49 pm.

# MUCH HADHAM PARISH COUNCIL

## YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

### BUDGET TO ACTUAL COMPARISON AS AT 7 JUNE 2022

(Parish Council only)	FULL YEAR	YEAR TO DATE	COMMENT
	2023	2023	
	BUDGET £	ACTUAL £	
<b>INCOME</b>			
Precept	42,000.00	21,000.00	
Litter Agency	4,275.00	-	
Pavilion income	9,660.00	1,560.00	
Grant	300.00	-	
Other	60.00	0.61	
VAT reclaimed	5,000.00	16,360.28	
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>61,295.00</b>	<b>38,920.89</b>	
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>			
Staff costs	7,200.00	2,396.04	
PWLB loan repayment - Pavilion	5,387.46	2,693.73	
PWLB loan repayment - Parish lights	2,734.64	1,367.32	
Administration costs	2,960.00	999.84	
Insurance	2,650.00	1,337.13	
Audit fees	850.00	445.00	
General Data Protection Regulation compliance	35.00	-	
Election expenses	-	-	
Maintenance of open spaces	7,000.00	3,423.09	
Litter Agency	4,008.00	1,002.00	
War memorial (lighting and maintenance)	805.00	77.67	
Pavilion	4,000.00	1,385.48	
Grants and donations (Section 137 expenditure)	1,000.00	-	
Sport and recreation grants (Section 106 funded)	-	-	
Neighbourhood Plan	-	1,000.00	
Capital - Playground equipment	5,000.00	-	
Revenue/Capital Projects (to be allocated)	10,000.00	-	
VAT	5,000.00	834.37	
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>58,630.10</b>	<b>16,961.67</b>	