

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HILPERTON PARISH COUNCIL
HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL, WHADDON LANE, HILPERTON,
at 7.30 pm on Tuesday, 18th January, 2005**

There was one member of the public present

PRESENT Mr. E. Clark (in the Chair)
 Mrs. S. Sawyer
 Mr. M. Duff
 Mr. R. House
 Mr. K. Jackson
 Mr. B. Cullern
 Mr. D. Drewett
 Mr. J. Willis
 Mr. D. Tucker
 Mrs. K. Hayes
 Mrs. M. Keates

IN ATTENDANCE: Cllr. T. Carbin and P.C. Gary Fox

At the open forum Mr. Don Durbridge spoke about parking in Hill Street and speed limits along the proposed relief road.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Mr. V. Bielecki.

2. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL/PREJUDICIAL INTEREST

Agenda Item 7 – Hilperton Village Hall: Mrs. Sawyer and Mr. Drewett (both personal). The Chairman declared that he was on the Village Hall Committee as the Parish Council representative.

3. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 21st December, 2004, and the Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on the 11th January, 2005, were approved and signed.

4. MATTERS ARISING (from the Minutes of the PC meeting held on the 21st December)

Minute 7 – Hilperton Relief Road/WWDC Standards Committee: The Clerk said she had written to WALC, and Mrs. Hayes informed the meeting that she had also written to the Standards Board and had been advised to approach the local government ombudsman. It was agreed that nothing further would be done until a reply had received from WALC.

Minute 7 – Parish Council website: The Chairman said this was now up and running (from the 1st January). Mr. Drewett suggested that the menu tabs might be more clearly visible if they were not in the current grey colour and the Chairman said he would see if this could be changed.

Minute 7 – Litter Bins, Paxcroft Mead: The Clerk confirmed that two more had been ordered.

Minute 7 – Litter Bins, Hilperton Village: Mrs. Hayes confirmed that the bin by the former Hatchery site was still in place. The two missing bins had been replaced by one along Horse Road and another in Wyke Road.

Minute 7 – WWDC's proposed car parking charges: The Clerk had written to WWDC, as requested, with the Parish Council's comments.

Minute 12a – Bus stop clearways: The Clerk had spoken to Eric Egar, WCC, who had informed her that a review was currently taking place and it would shortly be decided which bus stop clearways would be included in the budget for the next financial year.

Minute 12c – Manhole outside Mrs. Sawyer's house and flooding in wet weather at the end of Newleaze: This had been reported to Clarence.

Minute 12d – Parish Council's Liaison Group meeting: The Clerk had contacted the three absent parish councillors but none had been able to accompany Mr. Jackson to the meeting.

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIR

The Chairman said he was unable to attend WWDC's planning committee on the 27th January. There were two fairly contentious items on the agenda relating to Hilperton and he wondered if any member of the Parish Council would like to go along to re-iterate verbally the comments sent to the planning department by the Clerk. There were no volunteers.

The Clerk had sent out with the agenda a copy of the Inspector's decision regarding the planning appeal by J. J. Gallagher and Heron Land Developments re. land south of The Grange, Ashton Road. The appeal had been dismissed and the Chairman said that some of the Inspector's comments had been pretty damning. Officers from WWDC had recommended approval and it was only the objections made by the Parish Council that had forced the application to go to the full planning committee, who had refused it - hence the appeal. So parish councils did in fact have some 'teeth' when it came to local planning issues.

6. COUNTY COUNCILLOR, DISTRICT COUNCILLORS AND POLICE

County Report

Councillor Carbin tabled copies of his January parish report. On the subject of school buses he said that where children were entitled to free transport they were expected to have a seat and not to stand. When a commercial service was in operation it was not the responsibility of the County Council. However, WCC was not happy with the situation and was seeking a resolution to the problem. Mrs. Hayes said that she had actually seen children the previous week left standing at one bus stop because the bus was full.

Mr. Tucker asked when work would start on Whaddon Lane but was informed by Mr. Carbin that this was not on the agenda at the present time, though he would give WCC another reminder.

Asked about the siting of the proposed new secondary school, Mr. Carbin said that WCC was having trouble determining land ownership on the sites being looked at.

District Report

The Chairman said that WWDC's cabinet had agreed a tax rise which would produce a 4.5% increase in council tax. This would have to be ratified by the full council at their February meeting. WWDC was also undertaking a review of its constitution and one area of possible change referred to planning applications referred to the planning committee because town/parish councils recommended refusal against the planning officer wishing to recommend permission. It was agreed that this should be discussed at the February PC meeting.

Police Report

P. C. Gary Fox had brought along crime statistics for the area from the 1st December to the 17th January. There had been 30 recorded crimes (28 in the Hilperton area) but nothing ongoing. A couple of crimes related to banks and cheques, and there had been eight thefts, five incidences of damage to

property, six incidences of damage to vehicles, two offences on building sites and five domestic violence cases. Ten of the twenty-eight crimes were centred in the Towpath Road/Navigator Close area.

The Clerk asked P. C. Fox to whom she should send future agendas and he recommended Inspector Hookings as he would then know which officer was on duty at the time of each Parish Council meeting.

7. ITEMS FOR REPORT AND DISCUSSION

War Memorial

The Clerk had again contacted Young Johnson to remind them to get in touch with Mrs. Sawyer to arrange an inspection of the War Memorial. Mrs. Sawyer had still heard nothing and the Clerk said she would chase them up.

Parking in Hill Street

The Clerk had written to Sergeant Bettles about the problem with cars parked alongside the old Methodist church in Hill Street. She had not yet heard from him but would contact him again.

Manholes/Drains

The Clerk said she had again contacted Clarence about the raised manhole outside Mr. Cullern's house, and had been told by them that they would try to put some pressure on the developer, McLeans. In the meantime, Mr. Cullern and Mr. Carbin had put in some wooden wedges as a stopgap and these had, for the time being at least, stopped the noise when cars drove over the cover.

Similarly the drain outside Mrs. Sawyer's house and the possible connection between this being full and flooding at the end of Newleaze had been reported to Clarence who would investigate the situation.

Anti-Social Behaviour Events

The Chairman said that WWDC's External Overview Committee would, at its meeting on the 19th January, be considering the subject of anti-social behaviour, with relevant speakers invited. The North and West Wiltshire Community Safety Partnerships were also inviting representatives to attend one of the awareness raising/information sharing events being held in North and West Wiltshire. The venues in West Wiltshire would be at:-

- a) Trowbridge Civic Hall on Monday, 21st February, from 1pm until 4 pm
- b) Melksham Assembly Room on Thursday, 24th February, from 6 pm until 9 pm
- c) Warminster Assembly Hall on Wednesday, 16th March, from 1 pm until 4 pm

Approval of the Budget and Setting of the Precept for 2005/2006

The Clerk tabled copies of the proposed budget for 2005/2006 (copy attached to Minutes). She informed members that the estimated number of Band D properties in the parish had risen slightly to 1,788.75 and, based on this estimate, if the levy again remained at £10.99 this would produce a precept of £19,659.

The Chairman reminded members of the committee that during the past year much of the Parish Council's funds held at the bank had been transferred to the building society to enable interest to be paid, and most of the estimated expenditure would be very much the same as last year. He did, however, suggest an addition on the expenditure side of £300 to cover the cost of the website, which would bring the closing balance down to £1,091. This was agreed and the Chairman then proposed the

adoption of the budget and the setting of the precept at the figure of £19,659. This was seconded by Mr. Drewett with all in favour.

WWDC – Trowbridge Area Seminar

This seminar, which was due to take place on the 20th January, had been moved to the 17th January and had been attended by the Chairman. Councillor Carbin had also gone along and both agreed that there had been nothing on the agenda of any great importance for Hilperton Parish Council.

Hilperton Village Hall – Request for Help in funding Annual Grounds Maintenance

The Clerk had received a letter from the acting secretary of the Village Hall Committee requesting funding to help with the maintenance of the Village Hall playing field. The treasurer had set out some figures for the year 2003/2004:-

Ground maintenance	£1,128
Public liability insurance (25%)	£347
Play area repairs	<u>£147</u>
	£1,622
Less football income	<u>£533</u>
	<u>£1,089</u>

The Chairman informed members that some years ago the Parish Council felt it was unfair for the Village Hall to have to raise money for things used by the community as a whole, and decided that costs involving third party liability on the play equipment and maintenance and repair of the play equipment should be borne by the Parish Council. The playing field was used by everyone so it was also decided that the Parish Council would pay the maintenance costs less the income from the football teams. As this would be a grant, however, the Village Hall must formally make a request for funding to the Parish Council. The £1,089 asked for referred to the actual figures for last year. After a short discussion it was agreed that a Section 19 grant of £1,089 should be made to the Village Hall Committee provided that the money had been used as per the treasurer's figures (proposed by Mr. House, seconded by Mr. Cullern, nine in favour, two abstentions).

Hilperton Relief Road Planning Application

This would be considered by WWDC's planning committee at a special meeting on the 28th January and the Chairman said that, as far as he could see, the only change to Persimmon's application was that the developer had put in kissing gates instead of stiles and had made some alteration concerning a low noise surface. The Chairman was unable to attend and, as a member of the planning committee, would have had to declare a prejudicial interest in any event, but he felt a representative of the Parish Council should, if possible, go along to put forward the views expressed at the special meeting held in October. The Clerk said she would be happy to go along as the Parish Council's representative and this was agreed. It was also agreed that she should have a written authority from the Parish Council to act as their representative.

Date for the December, 2005, Meeting

As last December's meeting had clashed with the St. Michael's carol service, it was unanimously agreed that the December, 2005, meeting should be held on the second Tuesday in the month, rather than the third (i.e. the 13th December). The Chairman confirmed that standing orders would not have to be amended.

Boats on the Kennet and Avon Canal

Mr. Tucker was concerned at the increase in the number of boats on the Kennet and Avon canal, which was causing problems in respect of parking and dumping of rubbish. He also said there appeared to be a trend towards people living permanently on the canal. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to British Waterways and the Kennet and Avon Canal Trust to see if anything was being done by them to 'police' this waterway.

8. PLANNING MATTERS

Applications

There were no applications.

Decisions

04/01894/FUL: Mr. and Mrs. D. Holland, 27 Newleaze
Summerhouse

This application had been approved by the planning authority with the following conditions:-

- a) the development shall be begun before the expiration of five years from the date of permission.
- b) the development shall be used only for purposes incidental to the enjoyment of the dwellinghouse and not used as separate living accommodation.

04/02143/FUL: Mr. and Mrs. Wylie, 214 Faverolle Way
Single storey upvc conservatory to rear

This application had been approved by the planning authority with the following conditions:-

- a) the development shall be begun before the expiration of five years from the date of permission
- b) the materials to be used in the construction of the external surfaces of the development shall match those used in the existing building.

Planning Enforcement

WWDC's Implementation Officer, Steve Vellance, had inspected the fence at 5 Newleaze after the Parish Council had expressed concern over its height. He had also consulted with the relevant planning legislation and had come to the conclusion that it was not a breach of planning regulations. Mrs. Hayes had also spoken to him about the porch on the house and, whilst it appeared the occupants did not require planning permission for that, Mr. Vellance said he would have a look at it. Discussion then took place on the fact that there was no room at all for a car between the house, and members wondered if the house had either been built bigger than the plans indicated or was wrongly sited on the plot. The Clerk was asked to investigate.

9. CORRESPONDENCE

- a) Letter from SPLASH with details of their fundraising proposals for 2005.

10. PUBLICATIONS

- a) WCC – Services Directory, 2005
- b) WCC – Annual Review, 2004
- c) WCC – Emergency Planning Newsletter – Winter 2004/05
- d) Waste – Christmas Newsletter, 2004
- e) The Clerk – December, 2004
- f) In Focus – Winter, 2004/05
- g) Local Council Review – January, 2005
- h) The Arc Theatre events from January to April, 2005
- i) Clerks and Councils Direct – January, 2005

11. ACCOUNTS

Payments authorised:

a) Since the last meeting:-

The Cloth Road Arts Week (Chairman's allowance)	£10.00
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b) This meeting:-

Clerk's Salary for January	£385.75)	
Clerk's expenses	£58.56)	£444.31

WWDC – 2 Topliner bins (including £37.31 VAT)	£250.51
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Plus: Hilperton Presents (advertisement for the forthcoming pantomime – agreed at the last meeting)	£90.00
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Hilperton Village Hall (Section 19 Grant approved earlier in the evening)	£1,089.00
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12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS AND VILLAGE MAINTENANCE

a) Mr. Jackson reported noise coming from the car park area outside the school on Paxcroft Mead the previous Sunday afternoon. This was from mini-motorbikes and if they were going to be in the area regularly the noise factor could become a nuisance. Mrs. Sawyer said they were also seen in the Village Hall playing field. The Clerk said she would contact the police.

b) Mr. Jackson had attended the recent meeting of the Parish Councils Liaison Group and all Clerks to the local Parish Councils would shortly receive a letter from the secretary concerning a) recycling, b) rights of way and c) maintenance and repair of footpaths adjacent to highways. It was agreed that this should be added to the February agenda for consideration.

c) Mr. House and Mr. Drewett volunteered to clean the bus shelter along the Trowbridge Road as it was becoming somewhat smelly.

13. ITEMS FOR PARISH NEWS/LOCAL PRESS

- a) New litter bins for Paxcroft Mead
- b) Change of date of December meeting
- c) Details of the Precept
- d) Grant to the Village Hall
- e) PC website

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, 15th February, 2005 (apologies given in advance by Mr. Drewett).

The meeting ended at 8.42 p.m.

Signed Date

