

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HILPERTON PARISH COUNCIL
HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL, WHADDON LANE, HILPERTON,
at 7.30 pm on Tuesday, 15th February, 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
 Mrs. C. Beckett
 Mrs. M. Keates
 Mrs. K. Hayes
 Mr. D. Tucker

At the open forum Mrs. Lesley Warne, Chairman of Staverton Parish Council, spoke against the two planning applications included on the agenda relating to Staverton (05/00063/FUL – Charles Church Western - and 05/00064/OUT – Persimmon Homes Limited). Both applications were re-submissions of identical applications which had been refused by WWDC, and the applicants' reasons for re-submitting in both cases were to give the local planning authority 'an opportunity to reconsider their decision'. The meeting commenced at 7.38pm.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Mr. D. Drewett, Mr. V. Bielecki and Mr. J. Willis.

2. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL/PREJUDICIAL INTEREST

There were none.

3. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 18th January, 2005, had been circulated. Mrs. Hayes said that (in Minute 6 – County Report) she had not actually seen children standing at a bus stop but had been told that children had been left standing at a bus stop because the bus was full. Subject to this amendment the Minutes were approved and signed.

4. MATTERS ARISING

Minute 7 – War Memorial: Mrs. Sawyer had met Mr. Johnson of Young Johnson on site and had discussed with him the repairs needed to be done to the war memorial. She was now awaiting an estimate and it was agreed that this matter would be discussed further at the March PC meeting. In the meantime the Clerk was asked to a) ascertain whether or not the war memorial was listed and b) find out if any grants were available.

Minute 7 – Parking in Hill Street: The Clerk had spoken to P.C. Giles about this problem and he said that the police would monitor the situation over the coming months.

Minute 7 – Anti-Social Behaviour Events: The Chairman said that he would be attending the seminar in Trowbridge on the 21st February.

Minute 7 – Boats on the Kennet and Avon Canal: The Clerk had written to and received a response from British Waterways. All boats licensed with them should either have a mooring or 'continuously cruise', i.e. they should be engaged on a journey or series of journeys. British Waterways were currently undertaking enforcement action against unlicensed boat owners and those breaching their

licence conditions but with regard to the dumping of rubbish they suggested that if a witness was prepared to come forward then they would take any action necessary.

Minute 8 – Planning Enforcement: The Clerk had been assured by WWDC’s Implementation Officer, Steve Vellance, that the building at 5 Newleaze did actually measure up to the plan and it was not wrongly sited or bigger than the plans indicated. As far as the porch was concerned, no planning permission was required for this. Members were still concerned about the height of the fence between the resident’s garden and the house at the back because it was felt that this restricted vision around the corner for those using the road.

Minute 12a – The Clerk had contacted the police about the motorbikes at The Mead Primary School and the Village Hall. She had been told that no other recent complaints had been received but they would endeavour to have extra patrols made in these locations and, if offences were being committed, police officers would deal with them. Meanwhile, should any parish councillor feel that offences were being committed, they were encouraged to telephone the police at the time so that they could respond positively to the problem.

Minute 12c – Mr. House confirmed that he and Mr. Drewett had cleaned the bus shelter along the Trowbridge Road and members thanked him (and Mr. Drewett in his absence) for doing this.

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIR

The Chairman informed members that Persimmon Homes had submitted a new application for the Hilperton Relief Road. It appeared that this was identical to the previous application, giving the opportunity for the District Council’s planning committee to ‘reconsider their decision’ (taken on the 28th January). It was agreed that the Clerk should write to WWDC’s Legal Services Manager, Simon Best, to ask if the Standards Committee could reconsider their decision on the subject of dispensations, also informing him that, since the last dispensations had been granted, no circumstances relating to members of the Parish Council had changed.

6. COUNTY COUNCILLOR, DISTRICT COUNCILLORS AND POLICE

County Report

Councillor Carbin was not in attendance.

District Report

The Chairman had nothing of significance to report.

Police Report

The Clerk had received a letter that day from Inspector Hookings to say that, due to operational commitments, he was unable to send an officer to the meeting. He had, however, included with this letter a copy of the report given to Trowbridge Town Council in January. It was agreed that the Clerk should contact him and again stress the Parish Council’s need for crime statistics relating to Hilperton.

7. ITEMS FOR REPORT AND DISCUSSION

Hilperton Relief Road/ WWDC’s Standards Committee

The Clerk had attended the special planning committee held on the 28th January and had spoken at the open forum on behalf of the Parish Council. The response from WALC on the decision of the Standards Committee relating to who should and who should not have been granted dispensations suggested that, if the Parish Council was not satisfied, the matter should be taken further to the Standards Board for England. It was agreed that this course of action should be taken. As another application had been submitted by Persimmon Homes, the matter of dispensations had arisen again (Minute 5 refers) and it was suggested that, should the Standards Committee be required to meet again to consider this subject, members of the Parish Council should attend and speak at the open forum.

PWWDC – Review of Constitution relating to Planning Applications

The Chairman informed members that WWDC had set up a constitution review working group and suggestions had been made concerning the area of planning. The Clerk read out the suggested changes, with members of the Parish Council giving their views on them:-

- a) Open forum – members of the public should be limited to two minutes each.
 - It was felt that this was unfair and too short and the three-minutes should stay.
- b) Restrict registration for open forum to filling in the form immediately before the meeting rather than allowing people to register by a variety of reasons.
 - It was felt that this was also unfair and contrary to WWDC's Corporate Plan in which it was stated that 'people matter'.
- c) Suggestion that applications referred to the planning committee at the request of a ward member should be agreed with the chairman of the planning committee and the development control manager.
 - It was felt that this was totally undemocratic.
- c) Scheme of delegation – recommendation for a simpler delegation arrangement with the emphasis firmly on council members and officers controlling what goes to committee, rather than Town and Parish Councils. Move towards a 90% delegation target and contribution to performance figures.
 - The feeling was that the Parish Council was not interested in the District Council's targets. There was a need for wider consultation with the public, not less.
- d) Recommendation for all authorities to go for a simpler delegation scheme, all applications to be delegated unless the Development Control Manager decides to refer it to committee or any member of the council refers it; the suggestion being that this would put the control over what goes to committee back where it belongs.
 - The feeling was totally against this suggestion. As in the previous suggestion there should be much wider consultation with the public, not less.

It was agreed that the Clerk should forward these comments to WWDC.

Parish Councils' Liaison Group

The Clerk had not yet received a letter from the Secretary of the PCLG concerning a) recycling, b) rights of way and c) maintenance and repair of footpaths adjacent to highways, and it was agreed that this should be discussed at the March PC meeting. Mr. Jackson said that the next meeting of the PCLG would be at the beginning of April.

Mobile Library Service

A letter had been received from WCC's Library Services to say that a review of their mobile library routes was being carried out and the results would be considered by the Children, Education and Libraries Advisory Panel in June, 2005.

As far as the proposals for Hilperton were concerned, there would be a mobile unit on alternate Fridays in the car park at Budgens on Paxcroft Mead from 2.45 until 3.00 pm. The Clerk had telephoned the community librarian at Warminster and she had been told that the mobile unit which used to stop at The Giffords would be taken over by a new 'homes' van, i.e. one which would visit old peoples' homes with books in larger print, making them easier to read. The couple of people from the village who used to use the mobile library unit at The Giffords would still be able to use the facilities of the homes van.

It was felt that as long as this facility was confirmed there would be no other comment to make on the proposals.

Parish Council Dog Wardens

An enquiry had been made about the role of a parish council dog warden and the Chairman had contacted Pete Lavis, former Chairman of Staverton PC, who used to undertake this role. He had been informed by Mr. Lavis that parish dog wardens were volunteers (unpaid) with authority to give fixed penalty fines to anyone caught allowing their dog to foul public areas and failing to clear it up. They were issued with a book of penalty notices and authorisation. Volunteers were normally retired people and very anti dog fouling. Persistent offenders could be fined £1,000 but this had to be done through the District Council's legal department, with the dog warden providing the evidence.

It was agreed that details of the scheme should be included in the parish news/local press.

Parish Lengthsmen's Visit – 9th and 10th February

All the work the Lengthsmen had been asked to do had been carried out with the exception of the manhole outside Mrs. Sawyer's house. The Lengthsmen had reported that the WCC's big vacator machine would need to be brought in to clean this out.

In addition, the Lengthsmen had relaid a kerb in Wyke Road and cut back some brambles; repaired a pothole in King's Gardens; repaired damaged verges, grips and drains along Devizes Road; and had re-dug drains and grips along Whaddon Lane, also putting in position 'uneven road' signs in Whaddon Lane.

It was agreed that a letter of thanks should be sent to WCC thanking them for the Lengthsmen's attention to detail on their recent visit and asking when they would be coming again.

Request for Section 137 Grant

A letter had been received from two girl guides from Hilperton requesting a small grant to help fund a community project in Poland. The Clerk pointed out that grants could not be given to individuals and it was agreed that a letter should be sent to the girls to this effect, and wishing them luck with their fund-raising.

8. PLANNING MATTERS

Applications

(The Chairman pointed out that the following two applications, both in Staverton, should have been sent to Hilperton PC automatically for comment, as the proposed development was on the boundary between the two parishes, and it was only at his request that the District Council's planning department had sent plans to the Clerk)

05/00063/FUL: Charles Church Western, land adjoining canal, The Slipway, Staverton
Proposed residential development of 34 dwellings with associated access, car parking, open space, landscaping and other works

This application, a resubmission of an identical application, was refused planning permission by WWDC in October, 2004. After a short discussion it was agreed that the Parish Council should object to this latest application on the grounds that the height and density of the buildings was inappropriate to the site and generally not in keeping, particularly adjacent to Parson's Bridge, and the application was incompatible with existing planning permission. There was also no change in circumstances since the refusal of WWDC last October to grant planning permission.

05/00064/OUT: Persimmon Homes (Wessex) Limited, land adjoining canal, The Slipway, Staverton
Variation of condition no. 2 attached to outline planning permission 01/01611/OUT

When planning permission was originally granted a condition was attached by WWDC to restrict the height of the buildings to no more than two storeys. The applicant submitted a section 73 application to vary this condition but permission was refused in October, 2004. This latest application again sought to vary the condition.

It was agreed that the Parish Council should object to this application, again pointing out that there was no change in circumstances since the refusal of WWDC last October to grant permission to vary the condition.

05/00091/LBC and 05/00092/FUL: C. Holden and S. Beck, 16 Horse Road

First floor extension

It was agreed that an objection should be made to this application unless a condition was imposed by the planning authority specifying that the materials to be used should match the existing building.

Decisions

04/02204/FUL: Edward Oatley and Sons, land north west of Paxcroft Farm

Change of use of grain stores and poultry house to light industrial

This application was refused because it did not include sufficient information to enable a full and proper assessment of the proposal in terms of the scale and nature of the development and details of existing and proposed traffic generation, parking and circulation arrangements.

04/02263/TPO: Mr. K. Willett, 75a Hill Street

Crown thinning of Austrian Pine tree

The application had been given consent subject to a condition that this decision was valid for one year; climbing spikes should not be used whilst undertaking any form of work on living trees, except on trees to be felled; any tree surgery works should not be carried out during the period of bud burst or leaf fall.

04/01925/FUL: Mr. R. Wheatley, Waterside Barn, Maxcroft Lane

Removal of condition 'linked residential ancilliary accommodation occupied as part of or an extension to the main dwelling' of permission 02/00569

This application was given permission with a couple of conditions imposed to protect trees in the area; traditional materials should be used in windows and doors; there should be no further extensions, no further windows or any other development; no fenestration or other elevational alterations to be carried out without the consent of the planning authority

04/02282/FUL: Mr. and Mrs. Brock, 9 Hanover Close

Two side extension and extension to porch

This application was given permission with the usual condition that the development should begin before the expiration of five years from the date of permission and that the materials to be used should match those used in the existing building.

04/02385/FUL: Mr. Hyde, 19 Cresswell Drive

Erection of conservatory

This application was given permission with the usual condition that the development should begin before the expiration of five years from the date of permission and that the materials to be used should match those used in the existing building.

Notification of Planning Appeal

An appeal had been lodged by Miss K. C. Miller against the refusal of WWDC to allow permission for a new two-bedroomed dwelling and retention of outbuilding with demolition of garage, improvement of existing access and formation of car parking spaces at land west of 9 Whaddon Lane (planning application 04/01686/FUL).

9. CORRESPONDENCE

- a) Letter of thanks from Mr. R. Pybus re. donation towards the Cloth Road Arts Week
- b) WALC County Circular – February (copies tabled)

10. PUBLICATIONS

- a) The Arc Theatre – programme for January to April, 2005
- b) The Arc Theatre – various promotional fliers
- c) Wiltshire Music Centre – concerts at a glance, spring/summer, 2005
- d) Rural Arts Wiltshire – programmes January to May, 2005
- e) WWDC – Corporate Plan, 2005 to 2010

11. ACCOUNTS

Payments authorised:-

Clerk's Salary for February	£385.75)	
Clerk's Expenses)	£71.87)	£457.62
Society of Local Council Clerks – Annual subscription for 2005		£82.00
File-It Limited – various items of stationery (including £7.41 VAT)		£49.76
Local Council Review renewal		£26.00

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS AND VILLAGE MAINTENANCE

- a) Mrs. Hayes reported that the litter bins in Horse Road and Wyke Road had not been emptied. She was informed that the topliner (dog) bins were only emptied when reported full to the District Council and each bin should have on it a sign to this effect. The Clerk said she would contact Rob Powell at WWDC to see what the position was.
- b) Mr. Cullern reported grass growing in the gutters in Birch Gardens. This was a job which could have been carried out by the Parish Lengthsmen but the road was not yet adopted. The Clerk said she would see what could be done to clear them out.
- c) Mr. Tucker reported seriously deep potholes in Whaddon Lane near the Cradock's yard – the Clerk to report to Clarence.
- d) Mr. House said that the footpath by the cemetery and Hilperton House between church fields and the gate was a total quagmire. People were cutting through the cemetery rather than using the footpath – the Clerk to report to WCC's footpath warden.

13. ITEMS FOR PARISH NEWS/LOCAL PRESS

- a) Parish dog warden
- b) Mobile Library units
- c) Update on the Hilperton Relief road application and notification of a new application
- d) Dog litter bins – the number to ring to report them full and needing emptying

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, 15th March, 2005
The meeting ended at 9.05 p.m.

Signed Date