

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HILPERTON PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL, WHADDON LANE, HILPERTON,  
at 7.30 pm on Tuesday, 20<sup>th</sup> September, 2005**

There were no members of the public present.

**PRESENT**

- Mr. E. Clark (in the Chair)
- Mrs. S. Sawyer
- Mr. R. House
- Mr. K. Jackson
- Mrs. K. Hayes
- Mr. D. Drewett
- Mr. J. Willis
- Mrs. C. Beckett
- Mrs. M. Keates
- Mr. D. Tucker

**Also in attendance:** Police Sergeant Mark Kent and County Councillor Sarah Content

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Mr. Cullern, Mr. Duff and Mr. Bielecki.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL/PREJUDICIAL INTEREST**

Boundary Committee – Review of Electoral arrangements in West Wiltshire: Mr. E. Clark (personal, as a district Councillor).

**3. MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 16<sup>th</sup> August, 2005, and the Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on the 6<sup>th</sup> September, 2005, were approved and signed.

**4. MATTERS ARISING (from the Minutes of the 16<sup>th</sup> August Parish Council meeting)**

Minute 5b: The Clerk had replied to the letter from WWDC regarding the boundary review.

Minute 7 – School bus to Paxcroft Mead: A letter from WCC's passenger transport co-ordination manager was read out. There was some discussion about timings and unsatisfactory waiting times but general acceptance that a bad decision had been made which was beyond the control of the Parish Council.

Minute 7 – West Wilts. Central Area Parish Councils' Liaison Group: The planned presentation on recycling, due to take place at Southwick School on the 6<sup>th</sup> September, was cancelled at the last minute.

Minute 7 – Devizes Road Traffic: This would be discussed later with Sergeant Kent.

Minute 12c: Mrs. Sawyer again explained the difficulties she was experiencing in crossing Horse Road at the Marsh Road/Hill Street end. After some discussion it was agreed that the Parish Council should request WCC Highways Department for help and guidance on this matter due to the concerns for the safety of pedestrians. Mr. Drewett proposed that the 'no mans land' area could be utilised as part of any safety plan. This was seconded by the Chairman and unanimously agreed.

Minute 12f: A letter from Jenny Thomson, Environmental Health Officer at WWDC, concerning the ice cream storage premises, was read out. She said that in order to investigate the issue further they would need to contact any aggrieved residents directly to establish the exact nature of their grievance and to request them to record when and how this affected them. They would then contact the operator

of the business to discuss how the operation might be impacting on the amenity of the local neighbourhood. After a short discussion it was agreed that the immediate householders who had made the complaint should be contacted by Mr. Jackson to explain the situation.

## **5. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIR**

The Chairman informed the meeting that Trevor Carbin had kindly offered to take people from The Knap at 10.30 a.m. on Tuesday mornings of the 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> October to the Post Office. Members conveyed their thanks for his initiative.

## **6. COUNTY COUNCILLOR, DISTRICT COUNCILLORS AND POLICE**

*County Report* - Councillor Content tabled her Hilperton Parish Report for September, 2005. She said that the main concerns in the past weeks had been the closure of Bradford-on-Avon Hospital and the partial closure of Westbury Hospital. She had been assured by the Primary Care Trust that there would be no more closures but said that the current PCT was due for change in April, 2006.

Councillor Content gave a special 'thank you' to the Parish Council for taking over the Paxcroft Mead Community Centre as Custodian Trustee, and outlined some of the forthcoming functions, including the Open Day on the 24<sup>th</sup> September. The Chairman thanked her and wished the committee every success with the Centre in the future.

### *District Report*

Mr. Clark gave a brief report and again mentioned the concern regarding the Primary Care Trust's decision on hospital closures.

### *Police Report*

Police Sergeant Mark Kent discussed with members the Devizes Road weight limit restrictions, and he said that two officers from the traffic division were currently investigating the situation. Mr. Jackson expressed the concern of residents about lorries flouting these restrictions and the abuse of the 20 mph speed limit. Sergeant Kent stated that the 20 mph limit was not enforceable, the speed humps were placed there as a form of self-enforcing and speed cameras were therefore not an option. Mr. House expressed his concern that the speeding continued into Trowbridge Road and onto the roundabout on the Hilperton Road. Mr. Tucker mentioned that residents were experiencing problems with excessive speed in Whaddon Lane.

The crime rate figures available from August to date were given to the meeting. For Hilperton the figures were as follows:-

26 reported crimes (6.6% Trowbridge area), 108 calls to the police, 319 reported crimes in Trowbridge and 1,141 calls to the police in Trowbridge.

The crime rate was generally low for the area and it was hoped that Sergeant Kent would be able to supply monthly statistics in the future. The Chairman thanked him for his report.

## **7. ITEMS FOR REPORT AND DISCUSSION**

### **War Memorial**

The Clerk had met Nick Young from Young Johnson on site on the 6<sup>th</sup> September. He had taken a number of photographs and, on looking at the work which needed to be done, the Clerk had asked him to quote for the removal of the built up soil and debris at the back of the wall and the digging of a trench and setting of paving stones on the other side to ensure that no water could seep again through the stonework. Both the Clerk and Mr. Young had felt that this was too big a job to be undertaken by a group of volunteers and should be done by professionals. The Clerk had also telephoned the War Memorials Trust and had been told by them that all they required was some more information and it

was not necessary to send in a fresh application. This would all be done by the next deadline date of the 31<sup>st</sup> October.

Discussion took place on the Remembrance Day service in view of the Rector leaving the village but it was agreed that this was not a matter for the Parish Council. The Clerk should be requested to order a wreath of poppies for Remembrance Day, whatever the situation.

### **Land between Hilperton and the proposed Relief Road**

The Clerk had written to Pegasus and had received a reply from Stephen Bawtree, one of the partners, saying that he would pass on a copy to his clients, Persimmon. He anticipated that it would remain premature to consider the release and/or sale of any land until all permissions had been released and construction requirements known and completed. They would, however, contact the Parish Council again in due course. It was agreed that the Chairman and the Clerk should formally deal with this matter and any future correspondence.

### **Village Hall – Plans for a downstairs Meeting Room**

Mrs. Sawyer had found out that there was, indeed, a reduction in cost if the Parish Council submitted plans on behalf of the Village Hall Committee. It was agreed that, when the plans were ready, they should be submitted by the Parish Council, providing there was full agreement from the Village Hall committee that no other liability would be incurred by the Parish Council.

### **Celebration/Open Day – Paxcroft Mead Community Centre, 24<sup>th</sup> September**

The Parish Council had been thanked for the £100 offer towards advertising, and advertisements had already appeared in The Advertiser, which also included the list of sponsors etc. The Parish Council had been informed that they were more than welcome to have a stall at the open day and tables could be provided. The Chairman asked if anyone would be willing to have a stand of some description but this was not taken up and volunteers were requested to help on the day, if possible. The Chairman said that he had been invited to the opening ceremony by the Community Centre management committee.

### **Trees in a Conservation Area**

A formal complaint had been made to the Chief Executive of WWDC, Mr. Andrew Pate, and a letter received from him to say that Tim Darsley, Director responsible for Development Control, would be investigating and would get in touch. It was agreed that this should be chased up.

### **Boundary Committee – Review of Electoral Arrangements in West Wiltshire**

Discussion took place on the electoral review of West Wiltshire, after which it was resolved that the Boundary Committee should be made aware of the following views of the Parish Council concerning the suggestions made by WWDC:-

- a) Whilst the Parish Council is dubious about the effectiveness of three member wards, the suggestion of WWDC to form a new ward comprising Hilperton, Holt and Staverton meets with guarded approval. The name of the new ward would need careful consideration.
- b) Due to our rural nature, Hilperton would object most strongly to any suggestion that we should become a ward of Trowbridge. In addition, we would point out that, in the recent review of parliamentary boundaries, Hilperton was ‘split’ from Trowbridge in the Westbury constituency and placed into a new constituency. The reason given for this was, as the Parish Council recalls, that Hilperton was physically separated from Trowbridge by the area of land known as the Hilperton Gap. (Proposed by Mr. Jackson, seconded by Mrs. Hayes, all in favour with the exception of the Chairman, who abstained from voting). Discussion of a letter from West Ashton Parish Council regarding the suggestion of the inclusion of Hilperton in the Trowbridge ward then took place but it was agreed that no further action would be taken by the Parish Council.

**Projecting Sign in Hill Street**

A site visit had been made by WWDC's compliance officer, Mrs. Morgan, who said she would write again to the Parish Council shortly. This matter to be discussed further at the October Parish Council meeting.

**Local Works – Campaign for the Sustainable Communities Bill**

This organisation was looking for support in their campaign for a 'bottoms up' approach to dealing with 'ghost town' Britain. It was agreed that the paper and accompanying information should be sent to all Parish Council members for discussion at the October meeting.

**WCC – Adoption of Various Roads**

Details of the adoption of Moyle Park, Orpington Way, Parsonage Road and Stokehill by WCC as public highways were noted.

**WCC – 20mph Speed Limit Orders**

Details of speed restriction Orders for Castell Close, Cornbrash Rise, Moyle Park, Orpington Way, Parsonage Road and Stokehill were noted. There was some discussion in view of the police sergeant's comments earlier in the meeting regarding enforceability but it was agreed that a letter of support should be sent to WCC for any 20 mph restrictions in the area.

**West Wilts. Central Area Parish Councils' Liaison Group**

Mr. Jackson said he would attend the meeting on the 4<sup>th</sup> October and anyone else was welcome to accompany him.

**Parish Forum – 19<sup>th</sup> October**

The Chairman asked for any points for discussion to be submitted by the 4<sup>th</sup> October and said that anyone was welcome to attend the meeting.

**WWDC – Local Development Framework: Draft Residential Design Guide**

It was agreed that this should be discussed at the October meeting.

**8. PLANNING MATTERS****Applications**

05/02028/TPO: George Wimpey Bristol Limited, land rear of and adjacent to 18 to 34 Foxglove Drive - Works to Quercus and Salix trees

It was agreed that no objection would be made to this application as long as a) the report from English Landscapes was supported by the WWDC landscape officer, b) the felled trees would be replaced by the applicant with semi-mature trees (standard condition TROREP) and c) the pollarding work would be carried out in accordance with standard condition TPOWKS.

05/02067/LBC: Exors. of the late Brian Shuker's estate, Little Ashton, 259 Hill Street

Demolition of existing chimney stack and rebuilding same

It was agreed that no objection would be made to this application as long as the work met with the approval of WWDC's conservation officer.

**Decisions**

05/01272/FUL: T. V. Davies, 9 Ashton Rise – First floor extension over garage: Refusal

05/01347/FUL: Mr. and Mrs. M. Latham, 8 Gibbs Leaze – Two storey rear extension: Refusal

### Appeal Decision

Planning application 04/02065/FUL: Mr. and Mrs. Weaver, Maxcroft House, Maxcroft Lane  
Appeal against the decision of WWDC not to grant planning permission for the subdivision of the existing house to form two dwellings. Appeal allowed and planning permission granted subject to conditions.

### 9. CORRESPONDENCE

- a) Letter of thanks from Carers Support West Wilts. re. grant.
- b) Letter from Eric Egar, on behalf of the VDS committee, enclosing a cheque for £155.52 representing the money not spent by the committee and given back to the Parish Council.
- c) WALC County Circular for September, 2005 – already circulated.

### 10. PUBLICATIONS

- a) Arc Theatre – programme from September to December, 2005
- b) WCC – provisional Wiltshire Local Transport Plan 2006/7 – 2010/11
- c) Local Council Review – September, 2005
- d) PAWS – Arts Workshop programme October, 2005, to March, 2006

### 11. FINANCIAL MATTERS

#### a) Completion of the Audit of the Accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2005

The Clerk had received notification from Mazars, the auditors, that the audit for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2005, had been completed, and the Annual Return, incorporating the signed audit certificate, had been returned to her. She had put up the required notices of the conclusion of the audit on the parish notice boards.

#### b) Accounts

Payments authorised:-

- |  |          |         |
|--|----------|---------|
| (a) Since the last meeting:                            |          |         |
| Carers Support West Wilts.                             |          | £200.00 |
| (Section 137 grant)                                    |          |         |
| (b) this meeting:                                      |          |         |
| Clerk's Salary for September                           | £394.26) |         |
| Clerk's Expenses                                       | £112.75) | £507.01 |
| <br>   |          |         |
| Paxcroft Mead Community Centre                         |          |         |
| Grant towards advertising for their Open Day           |          | £100.00 |
| <br>   |          |         |
| Mazars: Professional fees re. audit for the year ended |          |         |
| 31 <sup>st</sup> March, 2005                           |          | £152.75 |
| (including £22.75 VAT)                                 |          |         |

### 12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS AND SUMMER MAINTENANCE

- a) Mrs. Beckett said that the owners of 250 Church Street had complained about an uneven finish to recent works in the road, resulting in heavy traffic making a loud noise when passing over. It was suggested that Mrs. Beckett should recommend the occupiers to contact CLARENCE at WCC.
- b) Mr. Jackson gave his apologies for the October Parish Council meeting.

**13. ITEMS FOR PARISH NEWS/LOCAL PRESS**

- a) Application for a grant for the War Memorial
- b) Horse Road crossing problems
- c) Boundary changes
- d) Speeding traffic along Devizes/Trowbridge/Hilperton Roads and HGVs use of Devizes Road

**14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, 18<sup>th</sup> October, 2005.**

**The meeting ended at 9.15 p.m.**

Signed ..... Date .....