

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

Mike James from Trowbridge Rugby Football Club was present.

**PRESENT**

- Mr. E. Clark (in the Chair)
- Mrs. S. Sawyer
- Mr. R. House
- Mrs. K. Hayes
- Mr. J. Willis
- Mrs. M. Keates
- Mr. D. Tucker
- Nr. V. Bielecki
- Mr. M. Duff

**Also in attendance:** Councillor Trevor Carbin

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Mr. Cullern, Mr. Jackson, Mr. Drewett, Mrs. Beckett and Councillor Content.

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

There were none.

**3. MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 20<sup>th</sup> September, 2005, were approved and signed.

**4. MATTERS ARISING**

Minute 7 - War Memorial: The Clerk was awaiting photographs and another estimate from Young Johnson and, on receipt of these, she would send this further information to the War Memorials Trust in time for the deadline date of the 31<sup>st</sup> October. The Chairman had also spoken to Mr. Potts who seemed agreeable to the intended work being carried out behind the wall, on his property. The Clerk had ordered a wreath for Remembrance Day and had asked the grounds maintenance people at WWDC if they would ensure that the Knap was swept beforehand.

Minute 7 – Celebration/Open Day at Paxcroft Mead Community Centre: The Chairman had been invited to the Celebration/Open Day, together with the Lord Lieutenant of Wiltshire, the Mayor of Trowbridge and Councillors Carbin and Content. He said that everything had gone off well and the day had been very well supported.

Minute 7 – Trees in a Conservation Area: A reply had now been received from Tim Darsley, Corporate Director of WWDC, who had said that, in respect of The Old Bakery, he was satisfied that the case officer had acted properly and had considered the amenity value of the trees. He had reported that the trees were immature, not prominent in the street scene, and were still quite diminutive and did not add greatly to the special character and appearance of the conservation area. The felling of the trees would not have a detrimental adverse effect on the special character and appearance of the conservation area and individually the trees were not established enough to warrant protection for amenity reasons. He had also enclosed an extract from WWDC's constitution which set out the functions relating to Town

and Country planning and development control. Notifications to carry out works to trees in conservation areas fell within the section headed 'all other powers under the following legislation' and the constitution gave the Planning Committee no role in considering these notifications. Mr. Darsley's comments were noted.

Minute 7 – Boundary Committee: Following the last meeting, the Chairman had written to the Boundary Committee setting out the Parish Council's feelings on the review. His letter had been acknowledged by the Senior Review Leader.

Minute 7 – Parish Forum (19<sup>th</sup> October): The Chairman had sent e-mails to those parish councillors who were 'on line' to ask if they had any points for submission, but none had been received. Mrs. Hayes said she would be willing to attend on behalf of the Parish Council.

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

The Chairman had gone along to the Trowbridge Area Seminar meeting on the previous evening but, as it had started late, he was only able to stay for the first few agenda items, i.e. the Clarendon Sports Centre Management Committee, who were investigating a report to review the terms of reference and function of the management body; and the provision of public convenience facilities in Trowbridge.

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

*County Report* – Councillor Content was not present at the meeting but had e-mailed her October Hilperton Parish Report, copies of which the Clerk tabled. Mrs. Hayes had been intending to ask Councillor Content about the ongoing problem with weeds now that strong weedkillers were not allowed to be used. It was agreed that the Clerk should contact Councillor Content on this issue and also discuss the problem with Peter Woodcock at WWDC.

### *District Report*

Councillor Carbin had also attended the Trowbridge Area Seminar meeting. The provision of public convenience facilities had been discussed as it was hoped to provide these (somewhat expensive) facilities on the development at Riverside. Parish Councillors voiced their concern at the lack of disabled public toilets in the area.

### *Police Report*

There was no police officer in attendance and no crime statistics had been sent to the Clerk.

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

### **Horse Road – Pedestrian Safety**

The Clerk had written to the Director of Environmental Services at WCC about the problem of safely crossing Horse Road at its junction with Hill Street/Marsh Road, and was awaiting a reply. It was agreed that this should be discussed further at the November PC meeting.

### **Projecting Sign in Hill Street**

Nothing further had been heard from the compliance officer at WWDC and it was agreed that this matter should be chased up and discussed at the November PC 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. Since the last meeting the Clerk had sent copies of the paper and accompanying information to all parish councillors. After a short discussion it was agreed unanimously to support the resolution, to ask Dr. Andrew Murison, MP, to support the Bill by signing parliamentary resolution Early Day Motion 641, and to inform Local Works of the Parish Council's support.

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

Mr. Jackson had informed the Clerk that the 4<sup>th</sup> October meeting had been postponed and would now be held on the 25<sup>th</sup> October. He would attend and give a report at the November PC meeting.

### **Sir William Roger Brown's Coal Charity**

The Clerk read out the list of the 2004 recipients - ten in all - who had received £10 each, and she was informed that two of these people had since died. Mr. Willis put forward the name of another possible recipient and it was agreed that this should be discussed further at the November meeting. The Chairman reminded members that the Parish Council could only pay out the interest which had accrued and this year this amounted to only £48.17 so he proposed to take the rest of the money required from the Chairman's allowance.

### **WCC – Adoption of Gibbs Leaze**

Details of the recent adoption of Gibbs Leaze as public highway by WCC had been received by the Clerk.

### **Website**

A letter had been received from Mrs. G. Polglase, with the information that Hilperton Parish Council now had a page under the parishes section of the Town information pages of the Trowbridge community website, and suggesting that this might be an ideal opportunity for the PC to promote the parish and provide general news from the area etc. It was agreed that the Clerk should reply, pointing out that the Parish Council had its own website and all that was needed was a link from theirs to the PC's.

### **Bus Stop Clearways – update from Mouchel Parkman**

Mouchel Parkman had been commissioned to examine the renewal and implementation of bus stop clearway markings at bus stops located within the parish, and had enclosed details of the bus stops where it was proposed to install bus stop clearways, seeking the views of the Parish Council. These clearways would be at:- The Community Centre, Paxcroft Mead; Greenhill Gardens; Newleaze, Hill Street; and Tudor Drive, Hammond Way.

After a short discussion it was agreed that the Clerk should contact Mouchel Parkman, welcoming their suggestions but querying the necessity for a clearway at Tudor Drive. Further bus stop clearways should also be requested at the Marsh Road end of Horse Road, at the bus shelter in Hill Street and in the vicinity of St. Mary's Church, Horse Road.

### **Request for a Litter Bin**

Councillor Carbin had received a request from residents in Wyke Road for a litter/dog bin by the footpath, now that the vegetation had been cut back – the Clerk to contact WWDC.

### **Devizes Road Speeding**

Further discussion took place on the issue of the Devizes Road weight restrictions and 20mph hour speed limit, both of which were being flouted at times by inconsiderate car and lorry drivers. It was felt that the time had come for the Parish Council to take a stance on the matter and it was therefore agreed that, whilst sympathising with residents, members of the Parish Council felt that the traffic calming measures now in place - particularly those positioned along the narrow parts of the road – had, by and large, reached their desired objectives and any enforcement was the responsibility of the police, the road being a public highway. It was also pointed out that there was now far less traffic using the road, travelling a good deal slower than it did years ago before the Paxcroft Mead estate was developed and

Hilperton Drive constructed. There were other places within the village which could benefit by the provision of similar traffic calming measures but residents were obliged to cope without these.

### **Greater Western Passenger Rail Franchise**

The Chairman had brought along a newspaper cutting stating that the Office of Fair Trading had asked the Competition Commission to look into the separate proposals for the acquisition of the Greater Western passenger rail franchise by FirstGroup plc, National Express Group plc, and Stagecoach Holdings plc. The Commission had been asked to consider whether in each case the proposed acquisitions might be expected to result in a substantial lessening of competition in the market, particular concern being on the supply of passenger transport services on point-to-point routes within the area covered by the Greater Western passenger rail franchise .

As the Commission had requested comments from interested parties by the 4<sup>th</sup> November, it was agreed that the Chairman should make further investigations and, if it turned out that whichever company running the Waterloo service was in fact a subsidiary of one of the above companies, the Parish Council should write to the Competition Commission.

## **8. PLANNING MATTERS**

### **Applications**

WCC – Extension to provide staffroom and stand-alone activity centre plus removal of mobile classroom at Hilperton CE Primary School.

It was agreed that the Parish Council should support this application.

05/02242/TCA: Colonel R. R. Moss, Thridacre, Church Street  
Felling Oak, Ash and Willow trees

The Clerk had contacted the new Landscape Officer at WWDC, Mark Goodwin, and he had given his views on the current state of the trees in question. It was therefore agreed that the Parish Council would agree with his recommendations, i.e. that all three trees should be felled.

05/00822/FUL: Trowbridge Rugby Football Club and Caldecote Consultants  
Land to the north of the A361, Devizes Road

Proposed rugby ground including clubhouse, groundsman's store, sports pitches with floodlighting and associated landscape bunding, access and parking – additional/amended plans

The Chairman informed members that the new plans received showed:-

- a) two gaps appearing in the bund on the eastern side, because of the presence in the area of badger setts.
- b) the repositioning of the groundsman's store
- c) a view of how the buildings would look after landscaping etc.

The Chairman also reminded members of the views of the Parish Council when this application was last discussed in June, 2005.

*The meeting was adjourned at 7.45 pm so that members could speak to Mike James from Trowbridge Rugby Football Club about the application. It was reconvened at 7.50 pm*

After further discussion it was agreed that the Parish Council should inform WWDC that:-

- a) the amended plans were welcomed but the Parish Council would still wish there to be a formal condition of consent that the height of the bunding and subsequent planting should be such that the impact of the clubhouse would be substantially reduced.
- b) the Parish Council would still object to the application unless the planning authority imposed a condition to the effect that the land in question must remain in perpetuity for recreational use only.

**Decisions**

05/01594/LBC: Mr. I. M. Greatwood, The Old Corner Stores, Hill Street  
Revised application for listed building consent in relation to windows and glazing  
Consent with conditions

05/01738/FUL: Mr. and Mrs. W. Turner, 28 Kings Gardens  
Single storey rear extension for second bedroom en-suite - permission with conditions

05/01791/LBC: Mr. W. Smith and Ms. E. R. Field, 209 Church Street  
Renovations to kitchen – consent with conditions

05/01796/TPO: Mrs. P. Jones, land rear of 9 – 10 Stuart Close  
Felling of Chestnut tree – consent with conditions

**Notification of Planning Appeal**

Planning application 05//01085/FUL: Appeal lodged by Mr. D. Tucker against the refusal of WWDC to allow permission for a poultry house at Whaddon Grove Farm, Whaddon Lane

**Other Planning Matters**

Referring to a specific planning application, Mrs. Hayes voiced her concern that at times the Parish Council did not always have enough information regarding the true picture surrounding some applications, and Mrs. Keates said that neighbours were not always consulted on planning applications which might affect them and their property. It was therefore agreed that there was a need for the Parish Council to have the same history of a site as that given to members of the planning committee of the local authority when plans were put before them. The Clerk was asked to request any site history on future applications, the Chairman said he would also bring this to the attention of the planning department at WWDC, and Mrs. Hayes said she would bring this matter up at the Parish Forum.

**9. CORRESPONDENCE**

a) WALC County Circular for October, 2005 – tabled.

**10. PUBLICATIONS**

- a) In Focus – Autumn, 2005
- b) Clerks and Councils Direct – September, 2005
- c) Youth Action Wiltshire – Annual Report 2003/2004
- d) The Clerk – September, 2005
- e) Rural Arts Wiltshire – programme September to December, 2005

**11. ACCOUNTS**

Payments authorised:-

Clerk's Salary for October	£368.73)	
Clerk's Expenses	£130.72)	£499.45

**12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS AND VILLAGE MAINTENANCE**

- a) Mr. House referred to the bill he had produced at the last meeting regarding plants for the War Memorial – the Clerk and the Chairman to ascertain what happened to it and pay Mrs. House the required sum.
- b) Mrs. Sawyer asked if it were possible to have some signage in place to indicate which roads led off from Ashton Road at the Hilperton Drive roundabout end – the Clerk to contact WWDC.

- c) Mrs. Hayes referred to the state of a couple of houses owned, she understood, by Persimmon Homes and situated along Horse Road/Wyke Road. Mr. Carbin said that one of the houses did not belong to Persimmons but to another landlord, who had been asked to tidy it up. He said he would find out about the other house in question if Mrs. Hayes would give him the exact address.
- d) Mr. House referred to the WALC newsletter regarding the showing of feature films in village halls and wondered if this would be of interest to the Village Hall Committee – Mrs. Sawyer to find out.

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

- a) Support for Local Works – campaign for the Sustainable Communities Bill
- b) Greater Western Rail Franchise
- c) Seasonal request for residents to cut back their hedges and trees

**14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> November, 2005.**

**The meeting ended at 8.57 p.m.**

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