

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HILPERTON PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL, WHADDON LANE, HILPERTON,  
at 7.30 pm on Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> November, 2005**

There were no members of the public present

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

**Also in attendance:** Councillors Trevor Carbin and Sarah Content, and P. C. Sandy Ralph

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Mr. Cullern, Mrs. Beckett and Sergeant Mark Kent.

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

Planning application 05/02145/FUL: Mr. Duff, personal (the applicant being known to him)

**3. MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 18<sup>th</sup> October, 2005, were approved and signed. Mr. Jackson made mention of the item relating to speeding in Devizes Road and, on being informed that this would be mentioned under 'matters arising', he said he would wish to say something on this issue under 'any other business'.

**4. MATTERS ARISING**

Minute 6 – Weeds in Hilperton: The Clerk had written to both Councillor Content (in her role as a county councillor) and Peter Woodcock at WWDC about this ongoing problem. She had been informed by Councillor Content that an agreement had now been reached between WCC and WWDC, the purpose being to alleviate the current issue which was causing confusion to many, in that WCC was responsible for one part of the road and WWDC was responsible for another. So the agreement would be that WWDC would adopt all of the weed control, to which WCC would pay a sum of money to the District Council for this service. This would not come into place until 2006, but Councillor Content had been assured that if parish councillors had areas of specific concern where weeds were tall and multiple, then the District Council's commercial services department would investigate and ensure that those areas were cleaned up. Mr. Woodcock had also confirmed this new arrangement and welcomed feedback from the Parish Council towards the end of 2006 so it could be seen how effective the new approach had been during the summer months.

Minute 6 – Police Report: The Clerk had received an e-mail from P. S. Mark Kent to say that there had been little change in circumstances since September regarding crime rates. He had started to look at some of the issues raised regarding traffic in the last meeting, these being speeding in Marsh Road and the use of LGVs in Devizes Road. In order to assist with the latter he felt it would be useful to have the company names of the goods vehicles using the route so he could consider a direct approach to them.

He suggested this could be put out in one of the parish newsletters or direct from those who raised the concerns initially. With regard to the speeding issues, several area officers were aware of these and Sgt. Kent was trying to get appropriately trained officers with speed detection equipment to the area.

Minute 7 – Website: The Clerk had written to Mrs. Polglase on this matter.

Minute 7 - Bus Stop Clearways: The Clerk had written to Mouchel Parkman and had received an acknowledgement.

Minute 7 – Request for a Litter Bin: The Clerk had driven along Wyke Road and there was a litter bin already in place between Foxglove Drive and Saxon Drive at the entrance to the footpath leading down to the play area. As she wasn't sure where the Wyke Road residents wanted a new bin she had asked Councillor Carbin if he could be more specific and he had replied that the suggested spot was at the other end of the footpath near the play area, on lamp post 447/3. It was agreed that the Clerk should go to see if there were any litter bins in the play area and, if there were, there would be no necessity to have another one in the vicinity.

Minute 7 – Devizes Road Speeding: The Clerk had written to Mr. and Mrs. Hammond of Devizes Road, pointing out the general feeling of the Parish Council on this issue. She had also included the suggestions of Sgt. Mark Kent (mentioned above) about a direct approach being made to the companies owning the offending LGVs.

Minute 7 – Greater Western Passenger Rail Franchise: The Clerk had made some enquiries and was able to confirm that this had nothing to do with the Waterloo service.

Minute 12a: Mrs. House had now received the money for the War Memorial plants.

Minute 12b: The Clerk said she would be meeting John Earney from WWDC the following morning on site.

Minute 12d: Mrs. Sawyer had not brought this up at the last meeting because there had been a very full agenda but she would ensure it was discussed next time.

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

The Chairman reminded members that the December PC meeting would be on the 13<sup>th</sup> and there would be festive drinks afterwards.

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

*County Report* – Councillor Content apologised for the fact that she had not prepared a newsletter but she had been unwell for the last few weeks.

### *District Report*

Councillor Clark had come to the meeting direct from attending a public inquiry into the Persimmon planning application to build on the stretch of road which Staverton village was trying to protect as a prospective relief road route.

Mr. Willis wondered what would happen to the library in Trowbridge when new developments in the area commenced, and Councillor Clark said it would be roughly in the same place and would most definitely not be lost to the town. He then went on to speak about other issues relating to the area around the old Tesco site, Court Street etc.

### *Police Report*

Acting Sgt. Ralph said that between the beginning of September and the middle of November there had been 652 reported crimes in the Trowbridge area, 31 of these being in Hilperton. These included criminal damage to vehicles, non-dwelling burglaries and some incidences of petty theft. There had also been four assaults (actual bodily harm).

Sgt. Kent had had an update into the goods vehicles in Devizes Road and speeding in Whaddon Lane. Devizes Road was still being looked at to identify any companies breaching the restrictions and officers had spent time in Devizes Road monitoring the traffic movement. With regard to Whaddon Lane, an officer was looking to put in place a metrocount, used to support speed enforcement. Also of note was that the Camera Safety Unit had been used in Marsh Road over recent weeks.

Referring to the 'Initial Police Learning and Development Programme', Sgt. Ralph said that the primary aim of the programme would be to improve police performance and inspire public confidence in local police. This new method of training newly-recruited police officers would be community based and citizen-focussed.

On the issue of Police Community Support Officers, Sgt. Ralph said that many more PCSOs were to be recruited nationally but the government was looking for help towards their funding.

Sgt. Ralph then answered a few questions about parked cars and the issue of the establishment of regional forces throughout the country. She was thanked for coming along to the meeting.

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

### **Police Community Support Officers**

The Chairman referred to Sgt. Ralph's comments and said that the police in Wiltshire were finding that a good way forward for local areas was to join together to part fund PCSOs. This was becoming quite successful in helping the constabulary to make the best value of this resource. Discussion then took place on where the Parish Council would stand on this issue, as it was pointed out that if any help towards funding was agreed, this would in fact be 'double taxation', as residents already paid for police services in their council tax. Included in the discussion was the amount of time a PCSO would be able to spend in the Hilperton area if he/she was part-funded by the Parish Council. The general consensus of opinion was that members did not wish at present to consider the matter of funding, and it was therefore agreed that the Parish Council would decline, at this time, any approach made for the part-funding of PCSOs.

### **Police Learning and Development Programme**

Following on from the report by Sgt. Ralph on this matter and a letter which had been received from the community engagement co-ordinator at Wiltshire Constabulary, it was agreed that, as the Parish Council was unaware of the current training programme, it was difficult to comment on the new learning and development initiative. Members were fully in favour, however, of more concentration on local areas, as it was important that police officers should get to know their local area to be able to deal with its issues and problems. The Clerk was asked to reply to the letter in this vein.

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

Mrs. Hayes had attended the recent Parish Forum on behalf of the Parish Council and had prepared and read out a short report on what was now to be an annual event (this report is held on file). There had been presentations on customer services, market town regeneration, affordable housing, development control, recycling and an assessment on recreational needs.

At the start of the meeting awards were presented for the Best Kept Village competition and it was agreed that the Parish Council should consider entering this in 2006.

Mrs. Hayes was thanked for going along to the forum.

### **Horse Road Pedestrian Safety**

The Clerk had written to Environmental Services at WCC and had received a reply to say that the integrated transport budget for the current financial year 2005-6 had been allocated and the County Council would be assessing schemes for inclusion in future works programmes. The Parish Council's request for a pedestrian safety crossing facility would be assessed against the government's transport objectives and would be put forward for consideration for a future year.

The Clerk had telephoned Mr. Drinkwater at WCC to say that all that was needed was a small pedestrian refuge and he agreed to make a site inspection. He also said it would be helpful if the Parish Council could indicate how much money might be available to put towards the provision of a refuge and he had sent the Clerk a copy of the County Council's 'Guide to the Costs of Highway Works in Wiltshire'. This guide showed that a typical pedestrian refuge, including electrical works and all other associated works, would cost between £6,000 and £8,000. After a short discussion it was agreed that, subject to the WCC's feasibility study, the Parish Council would be prepared to make a contribution towards whatever the cost might be up to a maximum of 50% of the cost, with a 'cap' of £4,000.

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

The Clerk informed members that the District Council's planning compliance officer had written to the owner of the property in question to inform him that an application for advertisement consent was required because the goods being advertised for sale on the sign were not sold from the premises on which the sign was placed. She had enclosed a set of application forms and said that the application should be received within twenty-one days of the date of her letter. It was agreed that this matter should be included on the agenda for the meeting in February, 2006.

### **West Wiltshire Central Area Parish Councils' Liaison Group**

The latest meeting on the 25<sup>th</sup> October had been attended by Mr. Jackson who said that the main item of concern was the issue of maintenance (or lack of it) of pavements in the area. A presentation was proposed to look at this and other highway issues to coincide with the AGM on the 10<sup>th</sup> January.

*The following item was considered as a confidential item*

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

No new names had come forward since the last meeting and it was therefore unanimously agreed that the eight surviving recipients from 2004, plus the one which Mr. Willis had put forward in October (making nine in total) should each receive £10 each, partly from the charity and partly from the Chairman's allowance.

### **Parish Lengthsmen – Visit on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> December**

The Chairman asked members for their comments on work which needed to be done, and the feedback was as follows:-

- a) clearing of gutters throughout the village
- b) removal of spoil around the village pump on the wall of Hilperton House
- c) clearing of weeds from the traffic island opposite Fieldways
- d) clearing and cutting back brambles from the footpath by the entrance to The Grange

The Clerk said that if any members wished to make any additions to this list they should contact her within a week.

## **WWDC – Leisure and Recreation Development Plan Document: Issues and Options Consultation**

The Chairman reminded members that the Parish Council's comments at the commencement of the survey had been that there was a lack of hard-surfaced tennis facilities in the parish, and it was agreed that these comments should be reiterated. Mrs. Hayes said that the document seemed to concentrate more on formal leisure and recreation facilities rather than informal ones and it was agreed that this should also be pointed out to WWDC.

## **Wiltshire Draft Municipal Waste Management Strategy – Consultation**

A copy of the strategy overview had been received from Wiltshire County Council with comments invited by the 16<sup>th</sup> December. It was agreed that the content of the letter and document should be noted.

## **WCC – 20mph Various Speed Limit Orders**

A copy of WCC's order and public notice had been received relating to 20mph speed limits along the complete lengths of Castell Close, Cornbrash Rise, Moyle Park, Orpington Way, Parsonage Road and Stokehill.

## **8. PLANNING MATTERS**

### **Applications**

05/02395/FUL: F. Thomas, 299 Marsh Road – Two storey side extension

It was agreed that no objection would be made to this application as long as neighbours had been properly consulted.

05/02474/FUL: Mr. and Mrs. Ibbotson, 164 Devizes Road – ground and first floor extensions

It was agreed that no objection would be made to this application

05/02145/FUL: Mr. Mark Packer, Hilperton Post Office, 222 Church Street

Change of use from redundant post office stores to re-integrate part of ground floor with existing residence

Members again expressed their regret at the loss of the post office and stores but agreed that no objection would be made to this application.

05/02396/FUL: Mr. and Mrs. Thomas, 3 Ashton Rise – conservatory

It was agreed that no objection would be made to this application.

05/02532/TPO: English Landscapes, land rear of and adjacent to 18 – 34 Foxglove Drive

Works to Aesculus (Horse Chestnut) and Salix (Willow) trees

The Chairman referred to the previous application by George Wimpey (05/02028) which had been withdrawn. The Clerk had spoken to WWDC's Landscape Officer about, in particular, the state of the five Horse Chestnut trees leading from the road down towards the play area. After a short discussion it was agreed that no objection would be made to the application as long as a) the report from the applicant was supported by the WWDC Landscape Officer, b) the trees being felled would be replaced with semi-mature trees (standard condition TROREP) and c) the pollarding work would be carried out in accordance with standard condition TPOWKS.

Turning to the replacement of trees, the Clerk said that the Landscape Officer had spoken to WWDC's open space maintenance department and they all felt that, as and when the trees were felled, it might be worth considering the planting of a new avenue of native hardwoods, and he wondered what the Parish

Council thought about this idea. There was general agreement with this, as long as the trees in the new avenue were planted at the same time, and it was further agreed that any such avenue should consist of the same species of tree. The Parish Council would seek the Landscape Officer's advice on what particular species would be appropriate in this setting.

### Decisions

05/01709/FUL: Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries plc. Land adjacent to Hackett Place  
Erection of public house with ancillary staff flats, car parking, landscaping and access arrangements  
Refusal

05/01762/FUL: Mr. A. McConaghy, 3 Faverolle Way  
Two storey side extension – Permission with conditions

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

05/02067/LBC: Exors. Of Mr. Brian Shuker's estate, Little Ashton, 259 Hill Street  
Demolition of existing and re-building of chimney stack – consent with conditions

05/01575/FUL: Mr. D. and Mrs. K. Fastnedge, land rear of 28 St. Mary's Close  
Dwelling – refusal

05/02242/TCA: Colonel R. R. Moss, land at The Coach House and Thirdacre, Church Street  
Felling of Oak, Ash and Willow trees – no TPO be made

### 9. CORRESPONDENCE

Letter from WCC re: mobile library services – the Clerk was asked to put the accompanying poster on the notice board at Budgens on Paxcroft Mead.

### 10. PUBLICATIONS

- a) Ringway Parkman – Annual Review of Services 2004/2005
- b) Wiltshire Rural Housing Association – Annual Report and Accounts 2004/2005
- c) West Wilts. Matters – October, 2005
- d) The Clerk – November, 2005
- e) Clerks and Councils Direct – November, 2005
- f) Local Council Review – November, 2005

### 11. ACCOUNTS

Payments authorised

- a) Since the last meeting:-
 

Mrs. L. House, flowers for the War Memorial	£28.00
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- b) This meeting:-
 

Clerk's Salary for November	£420.71)	
Clerk's Expenses	£173.64)	£594.35
File It Limited – stationery (including £7.24 VAT)		£48.64
Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal Wreath for the War Memorial		£18.00

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

- a) A complaint had been received regarding the play area on Paxcroft Mead. The two sets of seats had no hardstanding under them and swinging feet had worn away the grass and earth, leaving a hollow trench that kept filling with water. The Clerk had reported this to WWDC, and they would be dealing with the matter by putting some concrete slabs under the seats.
- b) The drains throughout the village were in a bad state and the Clerk was asked to report this to WCC.
- c) Whaddon Lane was discussed because it was in such a bad state, especially from the point of view of pedestrian use, with water lying on the surface of the road and not draining away, because the ditches had not been dug. The pedestrian refuges were also full of mud, although WCC had cleared them not long ago. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to the owners of the fields along the road (the Oatleys and the Pikes) to ask them to either dig their ditches or pipe them in and also contact WCC's highways department again about the ongoing problem with Whaddon Lane.
- d) Mr. Jackson voiced his concern at the contents of the minutes of the last meeting in respect of Devizes Road speeding and the fact that it had been reported that other places within the village could benefit by the provision of similar traffic calming measures to those that were in place along Devizes Road but that residents had to cope without these. He felt that traffic management and speeding in the village as a whole were important issues which should be addressed as a single agenda item. It was agreed that this should be included on the agenda for the meeting in January, 2006.

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

- a) Devizes Road – suggestion by Sgt. Mark Kent about identifying the company names on offending LGVs.
- b) The date of the December meeting.
- c) Information about the mobile library service and dates/times when the 'homes' library unit would be at The Giffords.
- d) Attempts by the Parish Council to have a traffic island in Horse Road.
- e) Attention to seats on the Paxcroft Mead play area.
- f) PCSOs

**14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, 13<sup>th</sup> December**

**The meeting ended at 9.22 p.m.**

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

