

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HILPERTON PARISH COUNCIL
HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL, WHADDON LANE, HILPERTON,
at 7.30 pm on Tuesday, 13th December, 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. D. Drewett
 Mrs. C. Beckett
 Mrs. M. Keates
 Mr. B. Cullern

Also in attendance: Councillor Trevor Carbin

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Mr. Duff, Mr. Bielecki, Mr. Jackson, Councillor Content, and the two school governors, Pam Turner and Jenny Sinclair.

2. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL/PREJUDICIAL INTEREST

Planning application 05/02693/TCA: Mr. Clark (prejudicial) and Messrs. House and Drewett (personal).

3. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 15th November, 2005, were approved and signed.

4. MATTERS ARISING

Minute 6 – Police Learning and Development Programme: The Clerk had replied to the letter from Wiltshire Constabulary.

Minute 7 – Horse Road Pedestrian Safety: The Clerk had written to WCC to say that, subject to a County Council feasibility study, the Parish Council would be prepared to make a contribution towards the cost of the installation of a pedestrian refuge up to a maximum of 50%, with a ‘cap of £4,000. She had received a reply from the Traffic and Road Safety Group Manager saying that an initial assessment of the carriageway width of Horse Road near to the Marsh Road junction showed that a pedestrian refuge could be accommodated but alterations to the existing kerb line would be involved. The cost of the scheme would be in the region of between £12,000 and £15,000. The money approved for partnership schemes in 2005/6 had been allocated to projects and it was anticipated that a budget would be agreed for partnership schemes in 2006/7. The request for a refuge had therefore been added to the list of potential partnership projects to be considered when a budget had been approved, and the Parish Council would be contacted again at that time.

Minute 7 – Sir William Roger Brown’s Coal Charity: The Clerk had sent money and Christmas cards to each of the recipients and she had already received a number of letters of thanks.

Minute 7 – Parish Lengthsmen: The Clerk said she would report on the work the Lengthsmen had done on the 12th and 13th December at the January meeting.

Minute 12b – Drains throughout the village: The Clerk had included the clearing of drains in the list of work for the Parish Lengthsmen to do.

Minute 12c – Whaddon Lane: The Clerk had written to Andy Cadwallader at WCC about the state of Whaddon Lane and he had replied saying that the fears he had in 2003 when the refuges were constructed had come to fruition. Vehicles were using the refuges and eroding the verges and they were therefore covered in mud. Also the large machinery and delivery vehicles using the lane were overrunning the verges, bringing mud out into the lane. He felt that it was almost impossible to stop this in a rural area such as Whaddon Lane as it had a large number of working farms along its length, and WCC did not have the funds available to clear the lane of mud and prevent the verges from eroding. With regard to the drainage of the land, the adjacent landowners were fully aware of their duty to ensure the ditches were in working order and Mr. Cadwallader had asked Wiltshire County Council's contractor to clear the highway grips to ensure water could get off the highway into the ditches.

A discussion took place on this sorry state of affairs and it was agreed that the Clerk should write again to WCC to say how concerned the Parish Council was at the extent of the road's deterioration, especially in view of the fact that the lane was frequently used by people wishing to access the canal, the church and walkers in general. The County Council should be asked to write to the adjacent landowners and stress that they must keep their ditches in working order and should also be asked how much worse the road had to get before something was done to remedy the situation. A copy of this letter should be sent to County Councillor Content.

Mr. Drewett added that this was another reason for restricting any development along the lane.

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIR

The Chairman wished everyone a happy Christmas. He also informed members of the Planning Committee that there would probably be a planning meeting early in January as Persimmon Homes had just put in an application to remove a length of hedgerow by Middle Lane.

6. COUNTY COUNCILLOR, DISTRICT COUNCILLORS AND POLICE

County Report – (given by Councillor Carbin on behalf of Councillor Content)

- a) There was likely to be an overspend of some £3.8 million in the County Council's budget and next year's allocation would be very tight.
- b) Consultation was continuing in respect of childrens' centres.
- c) A review of village schools was taking place, with schools having to put together a business plan which would include a forecast of class numbers in the foreseeable future, the condition of buildings etc.
- d) Future waste programme: it was possible that an incinerator might be built to burn biomass in order to reduce the amount of landfill waste.
- e) Highways contract confirmed.
- f) New corporate plan to 2009 was now available on the County Council's website

District Report

Councillor Carbin said that a grant allocation of £800,000 had been announced by central government, which was more than last year. They had also announced the figures for the following year to enable short-term planning to take place.

Police Report

No police representative was present. The Clerk said she had received a letter from WCC concerning the reorganisation of the police. The County Council's cabinet had met in November and had passed a

resolution on this issue, which the Clerk read out to members. The cabinet noted the current high performance of the Wiltshire Constabulary, recognised the importance of improved arrangements to enable the police to safeguard the public in the face of terrorism threats and major organised crime but questioned whether the two options now proposed by the Home Secretary would lead to an overall improvement in the performance of the police service in Wiltshire, and were concerned that reorganisation could lead to the interests of principal urban areas taking precedence over those of Wiltshire and similar areas.

7. ITEMS FOR REPORT AND DISCUSSION

Reports from Hilperton School Governors

The Clerk read out reports from Pam Turner and Jenny Sinclair, as neither was able to attend the meeting.

- a) Hilperton Primary School: The most important news was that the school facility was to be enhanced with a major building project. Plans had been posted in the school and the builders were already on site. Key stage 1 and 2 results had been very pleasing. Pam Turner had now taken over from Bobby Magill as Chairman of Governors and she hoped she would be able to commit sufficient time to develop a close working relationship with all involved with the school.
- b) The Mead Primary School: The new school extension had been finished on the children's return to school in September. It had the benefit of not only the extra permanent classrooms but the addition of a fantastic music/dance studio and library area. The school continued to excel in music with many children playing an instrument. The school now had a specialist language teacher and French was taught right across the school from reception to year 6. This year the school had applied for the Artsmark award in recognition of the quality of art teaching. Benefits already included art workshops by visiting specialists. The Mead had been selected as one of a handful of schools in the country to a showcase of good anti-bullying practice in St. Pauls in London. Being part of a European network of schools, teachers had been able to share best practice with colleagues from the Ukraine, Malta and Berlin as part of their professional development.

The Chairman, on behalf of the Parish Council, voiced his appreciation of the work the governors did.

Litter Bin – Wyke Road

The Clerk had visited the site and noted that there were two bins in the small play area. These were open bins, not dog bins. Lamp post 447/3 where it was suggested a new dog bin should be put in place was not very far from the road where there was already a bin. It was therefore agreed that there was no necessity for another bin due to the existing provision in the area.

Street Signs – Ashton Road

Since the last meeting the Clerk had met John Earney from WWDC on site and he had agreed to put signage in place to indicate which roads led off from Ashton Road. It was agreed that this should be included on the agenda for the February PC meeting.

Local Works – Campaign for the Sustainable Communities Bill

The Parish Council's support for the Bill had been acknowledged and appreciated and the campaign co-ordinator said it would be helpful if his team could get a 'feel' of what was happening in the area by receiving a copy of one of the PC's newsletters. The Chairman said he would bring along a draft to the January meeting.

The co-ordinator also requested information on the problems the Parish Council saw its local area facing in terms of community decline and it was agreed that the Clerk should send a letter incorporating:-

- a) The closure of the post office and the last village shop, bringing about a loss to the community - especially for the old and frail - and a loss of community identity.
- b) The closure/threat of closure of community hospitals in the district. Although the parish did not have its own community hospital, they were a huge asset to local areas and there was great concern about the possible loss of any of these.
- c) Loss of rural amenities in terms of open spaces, i.e. development on Greenfield sites.
- d) Lack of maintenance of rural (c-class) roads due to budget cuts.
- e) Increase in traffic along country roads.
- f) The concern that police reorganisation would mean few local policemen – there were already no actual village policemen any more and villages seemed to be disenfranchised.
- g) Travelling time to schools and lack of public transport.
- h) Lack of adequate medical facilities because of new development.

West Wilts. Central Area Parish Councils' Liaison Group

Mr. Jackson had prepared a report for the Clerk to read out in his absence. The next meeting (the AGM) had now been re-arranged for the 16th January, 2006, the venue likely to be Steeple Ashton. With regard to the presentation that was to be arranged for that meeting, due to speakers' commitments etc. it looked as though the subject was now likely to be about e-Trowbridge and how it had been developed and its future, including sites for access etc. (i.e. not on footpath maintenance as previously intended). If anyone was interested in attending on the 16th they should contact Mr. Jackson and he would pass on details as and when confirmed. The Clerk said that if the meeting was at Steeple Ashton she would be happy to go along.

The secretary of the PC Liaison Group was trying to get someone from WCC and/or WWDC Highways to cover the subject of footpath maintenance across the parishes at the April meeting.

Exercising of Dogs/Dog Fouling within the Paxcroft Mead Parklands

The Chairman had received an e-mail from a resident of Paxcroft Mead, on behalf of fellow residents, asking if the Parish Council would give consideration to the trialing/introduction of a byelaw which would recommend that dogs were kept on leads in parts of the Paxcroft Mead parkland, in particular the footpaths close to the community centre and the area around the playground and The Mead school. The request was made because of the problems created by dogs off leads, namely:-

- a) dogs frightening small children/jumping up on other walkers
- b) dogs fouling the footpaths because they run freely
- c) dogs fighting
- d) dogs chasing joggers

As frequent users of the footpaths, the residents had become increasingly aware of the proliferation of dog walkers also using this space. They had spoken with considerate/respectful dog owners, who appreciated their view and who exercised common sense. However, it was felt that some dog walkers lacked respect. They all agreed that the park area was a lovely place for everyone to use and they felt it would be of mutual benefit if some rules were introduced. They would welcome designated dog areas and areas/times where it would be more considerate to have them on leads.

A discussion took place on this issue, during which it was pointed out that not all of the parkland areas were in the parish of Hilperton, (i.e. the flood plain area was outside the control of the parish). The Clerk herself had spoken to the legal department of WWDC and had been told that any request for a byelaw should be sent to the Head of Legal Services, setting out the concerns, and it would be taken on from there.

Byelaws, however, were often difficult to enforce, and it was finally agreed that the Clerk should write to WWDC, setting out the Parish Council's concerns in respect of the area known as the village green and the playground and asking for the District Council's recommendations as to whether a byelaw or signage would be better. Discussion then took place on whether or not the byelaws in respect of the Village Hall were still valid (it was generally thought that they were not), and it was agreed that the Village Hall playing field should be included as needing either a byelaw or a sign in respect of dogs.

Discussion also took place on the subject of dog wardens and it was agreed that this should be discussed further at the February, 2006, meeting.

8. PLANNING MATTERS

Applications

The Chairman withdrew from the meeting while the following application was considered

05/02693/TCA: Mr. and Mrs. A. Comba, The Manor House, Hill Street

Felling of conifer tree

It was agreed that no objection would be made

The Chairman returned to the meeting

05/02374/FUL: Mr. E. Elkins, 28 Marshmead

Two storey extension

It was agreed that an objection should be made to the application on the following grounds:-

- a) overdevelopment of the site
- b) excessive bulk and scale of the proposed extension
- c) conflict with the character of the area

05/02827/FUL: Mr. and Mrs. K. A'Court, 184 Wyke Road

Detached garage

It was agreed that no objection would be made

Decisions

There were none

Notification of Inquiry Dates

a) 04/02307/OUT and 05/00324/REM: Residential development and associated works/link road, land between New Terrace and Marina Drove, Staverton – 8th August, 2006, at WWDC

b) 05/01709/FUL: Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries - erection of public house with ancillary staff flats, car parking, landscaping and access arrangements, land adjacent to Hackett Place. Public Inquiry to take place on the 7th February, 2006, at WWDC. This appeal to be combined at the Inquiry with two other appeals, namely 04/02221/FUL and 05/00194/FUL

Notification of Planning Appeal

05/01575/FUL: Appeal lodged by Mr. D. Fastnedge and Mrs. K. Fastnedge against the refusal of West Wilts District Council to allow permission for a dwelling on land at the rear of 28 St. Mary's Close.

9. CORRESPONDENCE

Letter from WWDC re. dog microchipping.

10. PUBLICATIONS

- a) First News – Winter, 2005

- b) SPLASH – a Snapshot of Summer, 2005
- c) Wiltshire and Swindon Waste Development Control Policies Development Plan Document – Issues and Options Report, November, 2005
- d) Wiltshire and Swindon Waste Core Strategy Development Plan Document – Issues and Options Report, November, 2005
- e) Wiltshire and Swindon Minerals Core Strategy Development Plan Document – Issues and Options Report, November, 2005
- f) Wiltshire and Swindon Generic Minerals Development Control Policies Development Plan Document – Issues and Options Report, November, 2005
- g) South West Regional Arts Network Newsletter – November, 2005
- h) Transport Times and Telegraph Newsletter – November, 2005

11. ACCOUNTS

Payments authorised

- a) Since the last meeting:-

Cash for the recipients of the Coal Charity	£90.00
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- b) This meeting:-

Clerk's Salary for December	£585.99)	
Clerk's Expenses	£86.12)	£672.11

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS AND VILLAGE MAINTENANCE

- a) Drains still blocked with leaves all through the village – Clerk to report.
- b) Dog fouling along the slipway from Hill Street to Newleaze – already reported to WWDC by the Clerk.
- c) At Cresswell Drive/Helpswell Road a large hedge on the wide grass verge needs cutting down – Clerk to report to WWDC.
- d) Bits falling off the bus shelter at the Church Street end of Hill Street – Clerk to find out if the original quote still stands and if/when the builder can do the job or, alternatively, get another quote.
- e) Bad road surface in Hill Street opposite No. 69, where there is a deep hole – Clerk to report to Wessex Water.
- f) Concern expressed about the closure of local hospitals and the possibility of parish councils being asked for support.

13. ITEMS FOR PARISH NEWS/LOCAL PRESS

In order to be in time for inclusion in the latest parish magazine, the Chairman had already sent in a short report.

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, 17th January, 2006

The meeting ended at 8.39 p.m.

Signed Date

