

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HILPERTON PARISH COUNCIL
HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL, WHADDON LANE, HILPERTON,
at 7.30 pm on Tuesday, 17th January, 2006**

There was one member 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
 Mr. M. Duff
 Mr. K. Jackson

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Mr. Bielecki, Mr. Cullern and Councillor Content.

2. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL/PREJUDICIAL INTEREST

The Chairman said that a letter had been received from the Treasurer of the Village Hall Committee requesting a grant, and this would be discussed later. He therefore declared a personal interest as the Parish Council representative on the Committee. Mr. Duff and Mrs. Sawyer also declared a personal interest as members of the Village Hall Committee. Mr. House, Mr. Willis and Mr. Drewett declared a personal interest as members of the Village Hall.

3. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 13th December, 2005, and the Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on the 10th January, 2006, were approved and signed.

4. MATTERS ARISING

Minute 7 – Local Works: The Clerk had written to the co-ordinator and all that needed to be sent now was a copy of the latest Newsletter.

Minute 7 – Exercising Dogs/Dog Fouling: The Clerk had written to the Head of Legal Services, WWDC, at the end of December, and understood that Mr. George Curran was dealing with the matter and was awaiting a report from the Leisure Services Officer, Trevor Savage, before responding. It was agreed that this matter would be discussed further at the February meeting.

Minute 12a – Blocked Drains: The Clerk had asked drains throughout the village to be cleared by the Parish Lengthsmen.

Minute 12b – Dog Fouling along the slipway from Hill Street to Newleaze: The Clerk had reported this to WWDC on three occasions.

Minute 12c – The Clerk had contacted WWDC and asked for the hedge on the grass verge at Cresswell Drive/Helpswell Road to be cut down.

Minute 12d – Bus Shelter at the Church Street end of Hill Street: The Clerk had left a number of messages for PS Property Services but had not received a reply. Mrs. Sawyer said that Mr. Stadden had now started work on the bus shelter.

Minute 12e – The Clerk had contacted Wessex Water about the bad road surface in Hill Street opposite No. 69 and they had responded quickly and had repaired the hole.

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIR

The Chairman reminded everyone that this year's 'Hilperton Presents' would be on the 27th and 28th January, with all proceedings going to the Village Hall and local charities.

6. COUNTY COUNCILLOR, DISTRICT COUNCILLORS AND POLICE

County Report

Councillor Content had given her apologies and had e-mailed her County report to the Clerk (this is held on file). The main point of concern was that the County Council was facing an overspend for 2005/6 of £5.5 million and was recommending writing this off using a revenue budgeting contingency reserve made up from one-off capital and PFI reserve transfers. In order for them to maintain council tax at 5% they would have to reduce their spending by £2.146 million and their medium term financial plan would now have to be re-adjusted. A public meeting to discuss the budget would be held at the Civic Hall on Thursday, 26th January, commencing at 6.30 p.m.

District Report

Councillor Clark said that work on the budget for the District was ongoing and would be discussed at a meeting of the Scrutiny Committee on the 18th January.

A new Legal Services Manager had now been appointed and was expected to take up her post in March, 2006.

Police Report

No police representative was present and the Clerk was asked to remind them that the Parish Council at the very least required crime statistics for the parish each month.

7. ITEMS FOR REPORT AND DISCUSSION

Traffic Management and Speeding

The Chairman adjourned the meeting to give time for Mr. Paul Hammond, a resident of Devizes Road, to talk about the problems, as he saw them, regarding traffic through the village and the need to have a whole village approach to traffic management. At the end of his address the Chairman reconvened the meeting.

A discussion then followed, with suggestions being made concerning traffic calming, the closing off of certain roads to prevent them becoming 'rat-runs', weight restrictions etc. Although it was generally acknowledged that the highway authority would not consider any of these measures until the completion of the Hilperton relief road, it was felt that it would be useful and constructive for the Parish Council to have a strategy in place which could lead any discussion with WCC. It was therefore agreed that, in the first instance, an approach should be made to the County Council, informing the highways department that the Parish Council was being lobbied by parishioners who were greatly concerned over the future of the village roads once a relief road was in place and asking them what plans they had to restrict traffic using all the 'B' roads in Hilperton, plus Horse Road. A response should be sought from them for discussion at the February meeting.

Parish Lengthsmen's December visit

The Clerk had been informed by the office manager of the Wiltshire Highways Partnership that all the work the lengthsmen had been asked to do had in fact been carried out. The Clerk informed members that the next visit would be for one day only, on the 13th March, and at the February meeting she would like members to come forward with tasks for the lengthsmen.

Whaddon Lane

The Clerk had written to Andy Cadwallader of the Wiltshire Highways Partnership to say how concerned members of the Parish Council were at the extent of the road's deterioration and asking how much worse a rural road like this would have to get before something was done to remedy the situation. He had informed her that there were plans to resurface the road during 2006/2007 but this would depend on the allocation of funding during the budget preparing process. He was also talking to the landowners about their ditches and the problem of drainage.

Mr. Tucker was planning to get all the residents of Whaddon Lane to write to WCC about the state of their road and he was hoping for some support from the local MP.

The Clerk was asked to report to Clarence a number of large potholes in the area between the Thomason's house and the Cradock's yard.

West Wilts. Central Area Parish Councils' Liaison Group

Mr. Jackson had attended the last meeting on the 10th January (*his report is held on file*) when the following matters were discussed:-

- a) e-Trowbridge with a demonstration to be arranged on how the process was set up.
- b) Dates and content of future meetings.
- c) Maintenance of footways, in particular the inadequate maintenance of pavements adjacent to highways. (Mrs. Sawyer at this point intervened to say that the pavement from Marsh Road to Horse Road was particularly bad).

In addition, the secretary had written to the Clerks of all the Parish Councils in the group asking for details of any traffic problems they were experiencing, and it was agreed that a copy of the letter the Clerk would be writing to WCC concerning traffic management and speeding should be sent to the secretary.

Mr. Jackson had been elected Chairman for the next twelve months, for which he was congratulated.

Emptying Waste Bins – Paxcroft Mead

The Chairman had received a number of e-mails from people on Paxcroft Mead complaining that the bins on the estate were not being emptied. He had informed them that this was not the responsibility of the Parish Council but that of WWDC. It was pointed out that not only were the bins emptied regularly but there was also a note on each bin giving the number to ring at the District Council if a bin was full and someone would be sent out to empty it almost immediately. The Chairman said he would reply to the e-mails with this information.

Approval of the Budget and Setting of the Precept for 2006/2007

The Clerk tabled copies of the proposed budget for 2006/2007 and informed members that the estimated number of Band D properties in the parish had risen slightly to 1804.45. Based on this estimate, if the levy again remained at £10.99 this would produce a precept of £19,831. After a short discussion the Chairman proposed the adoption of the budget and the setting of the precept at the figure of £19,831. This was seconded by Mr. House with all in favour.

Section 137 Grants

The Chairman had been expecting a letter from a local youth group, asking for a grant, but this had not materialised. However, a letter had been received from the Treasurer of the Village Hall Committee asking for help towards the purchase of new tables for the hall.

After a short discussion it was agreed that a Section 19 Grant should be made to the Village Hall Committee to cover 50% of the cost of the new tables (six members voted in favour and there were four abstentions, including the Chairman). It was also agreed that the Village Hall Committee should still feel free to approach the Parish Council for help in funding the annual grounds maintenance charges.

Newsletter

The Chairman had prepared a draft which had been sent to all members. A few additions were suggested and it was agreed that the Chairman should send the completed version for approval to those members who had access to e-mail, so that the Newsletter could be printed and sent out during February.

Hilperton Village Hall

At the August PC meeting Mrs. Sawyer had said that the Village Hall Committee were in the process of putting plans together for a downstairs meeting room, and she had been told that it was cheaper for a parish council to submit plans than a village hall. She had asked at that time if the Parish Council would consider submitting the plans, when ready, on behalf of the Village Hall. These plans were now completed, Mrs. Sawyer had ascertained that the cost of submitting them to the planning authority would be halved if this was done by the Parish Council, and the request was again made. After a short discussion it was agreed that the Parish Council, as Custodian Trustee, would be happy to submit the plans on behalf of the Village Hall Committee, with the Committee paying the cost of the submission to the Parish Council.

Date for the December, 2006, Parish Council Meeting

It was generally felt that it had been sensible to change the date of the December, 2005, meeting to the second Tuesday, and members agreed that the meeting in December, 2006, should also be on the second Tuesday (i.e. the 12th December). Mr. Drewett suggested that if this was to be a regular occurrence then there should be an amendment made to Standing Orders, and it was agreed that this should be included on the agenda for the February meeting.

8. PLANNING MATTERS

Applications

05/02873/HDG: Persimmon Homes Limited, land south of Hilperton Marsh, Middle Lane
Removal of potential nesting habitat on road alignment

The Chairman informed members that he had been in correspondence with the Development Control Officer at WWDC and it was agreed that this application, together with the following two applications were somewhat premature. The District Council had already issued a hedgerow retention notice in respect of this particular application in view of the fact that the hedgerow was important and worthy of protection at this time. The Chairman pointed out, however, that when planning permission for the Hilperton relief road was issued, this would override any hedgerow retention notices on hedgerows identified to be felled as part of the development.

05/03021/HDG: The Fare Trust, land south of Middle Lane
Removal of potential nesting habitat on road alignment

In view of the Chairman's comments above, it was agreed that the Parish Council should object to this application on the grounds that the Hilperton relief road had yet to receive planning permission and this application was therefore premature. The District Council should be asked to issue a hedgerow retention notice quoting the fact that this hedgerow was important and worthy of protection at this time.

06/00017/HDG: Mrs. Kisielewski and Mrs. Parkinson, land south of Hilperton Marsh, Middle Lane
Removal of potential nesting habitat on road alignment

It was agreed that the Parish Council should object to this application on the grounds that the Hilperton relief road had yet to receive planning permission and this application was therefore premature. The District Council should be asked to issue a hedgerow retention notice quoting the fact that this hedgerow was important and worthy of protection at this time.

06/00016/TPO: Mr. D. Welch, 8 Stuart Close
Fell Horse Chestnut Tree

It was agreed that an objection should be made to this application as there was no expert's report on the condition of the tree accompanying it and no valid reasons put forward by the applicant to justify its felling.

Decisions

There were none

Notification of Inquiry Date (Reminder)

05/01709/FUL: 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 would be combined at the Inquiry with two other appeals, namely 04/02221/FUL and 05/00194/FUL.

The Chairman said he would be attending the Inquiry and Mrs. Hayes said she might be able to go along.

9. CORRESPONDENCE

WALC December Newsletter (already circulated).

10. PUBLICATIONS

- a) WCC – A to Z of Highway Services, 2006
- b) WCC – Emergency Planning Newsletter, December, 2005
- c) In Focus – West Wiltshire Voluntary Sector Newsletter, Winter, 2005
- d) Clerks and Councils Direct – January, 2006
- e) ODPM – Standards and Conduct in English Local Government: the future
- f) Local Government Review – January, 2006
- g) Arc Theatre – Programme for January to April, 2006
- h) Wiltshire Music Centre – Concerts for Spring/Summer, 2006
- i) WCC – Wiltshire Local Transport Plan 2006/2007 – Consultation Responses

11. ACCOUNTS

Payments authorised:-

Clerk's Salary for January	£411.63)	
Clerk's Expenses	£86.87)	£498.50
Society of Local Council Clerks - Membership Renewal		£84.00
I. R. Cradock, removal of existing notice board at Marsh Stores and fitting of new board (including £9.19 VAT)		£61.69

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS AND VILLAGE MAINTENANCE

- a) Drains still blocked on roads in the village and pavement outside Mrs. Sawyer's house a mess.
- b) Large pothole in Princes Gardens/Marsh Road.
- c) Fallen trees still not removed along Middle Lane
- d) Rubbish dumped down Ashton Road where the road is blocked off. An abandoned carpet has been there for a week.

13. ITEMS FOR PARISH NEWS/LOCAL PRESS

- a) Details of the Precept.
- b) Traffic Management and Speeding – the action to be taken by the Parish Council
- c) Grant for the Village Hall
- d) Date of the December, 2006, meeting
- e) Newsletter shortly to be produced
- f) Notice Board at Marsh Stores

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, 21st February, 2006

The meeting ended at 8.55 p.m.

Signed Date