

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HILPERTON PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL, WHADDON LANE, HILPERTON,  
at 7.30 pm on Tuesday, 21<sup>st</sup> February, 2006**

There were no members of the public present

**PRESENT**

- Mr. E. Clark (in the Chair)
- Mrs. S. Sawyer
- Mr. R. House
- Mr. D. Tucker
- Mr. D. Drewett
- Mrs. C. Beckett
- Mr. M. Duff
- Mr. K. Jackson
- Mr. V. Bielecki
- Mrs. M. Keates
- Mr. Brian Cullern

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Mrs. K. Hayes and Mr. J. Willis.

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

There were none at this stage of the meeting.

**3. MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 17<sup>th</sup> January, 2006, and the Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on the 14<sup>th</sup> February, 2006, were approved and signed.

**4. MATTERS ARISING (from the 17<sup>th</sup> January meeting)**

Minute 7 – Potholes along Whaddon Lane: The Clerk had reported these and some had been filled in. Mr. Tucker said he had sent a petition to WCC, signed by a number of Whaddon Lane residents, expressing their concern at the state of the road.

Minute 7 – West Wilts. Central Area Parish Councils' Liaison Group: The Clerk had written to the Secretary enclosing a copy of the letter she had sent to WCC concerning traffic management and speeding. She had also written to WCC about the state of the pavement from Marsh Road to Horse Road and had received a reply from the Environmental Services department to say that the two particular locations to which the Clerk had referred could do with some improvement. Contact would be made with the developers of Millards Close to ask them to carry out some temporary work on the road surface at the crossing point, and the depressed areas of the footway at Marsh Stores at the vehicular crossing to the filling station would be patched.

Minute 7 – Newsletter: Copies of the final version were tabled. The Clerk had already photocopied 1,000 for distribution, and the Chairman said that Kathi Walker's daughter, Louise, had offered to do this for a donation of £40 which would come from the Chairman's allowance.

Minute 7 – Village Hall Plans for a downstairs meeting room etc: These had now been completed and sent to the planning authority.

Minute 12a – Blocked drains: These were reported and Mrs. Sawyer said hers had been cleaned out.

Minute 12b – Pothole in Princess Gardens/Marsh Road: This had been reported.

Minute 12c – Fallen trees along Middle Lane: This had been reported again.

Minute 12d – Rubbish dumped down Ashton Road: This had been reported and the rubbish cleared away.

## 5. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIR

- a) The Chairman informed the meeting that Professor Ron Tottle, who had been a member of the Parish Council some years ago, had died. Members stood for a few moments silence.
- b) At the last meeting, when a Section 19 grant had been made to the Village Hall Committee, members agreed that the Committee should still feel free to approach the Parish Council for help in funding the annual grounds maintenance charges. A letter had now been received from the Committee Treasurer asking for a grant and, after a short discussion, it was agreed that a Section 7 Grant of £1,136.50 should be made to the Village Hall, made up as follows:-

Ground Maintenance	£1,586.00
Public Liability Insurance (25%)	<u>£380.50</u>
	£1,966.50
Less football income	<u>£830.00</u>
	<u>£1,136.50</u>

*Councillors Clarke and Sawyer declared a personal interest in this matter.*

## 6. COUNTY COUNCILLOR, DISTRICT COUNCILLORS AND POLICE

### *County Report*

Councillor Content was not in attendance and the Clerk had not received a report from her.

### *District Report*

- a) Councillor Clark reminded members that the Boundary Committee had been looking at changing wards in the District and were suggesting that the Paxcroft ward should lose Semington but incorporate Holt and Broughton Gifford. The changes would most probably take effect in time for the May, 2007, local elections.
- b) The District Council would be meeting on the 22<sup>nd</sup> February to fix the annual Council Tax.

### *Police Report*

No police representative was present but the Clerk had heard from Sergeant Mark Kent that he had been posted to Melksham custody unit at the end of last year and APs Sandy Ralph, who had attended the November PC meeting, had taken over from him. He had also stated that a total of 58 crimes had been reported for the Hilperton and Staverton area from 1<sup>st</sup> November, 2005, to 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2006, including eight assaults (one to a police officer), two dwelling burglaries, fifteen reports of criminal damage, three drug offences and a number of thefts. Sergeant Kent had made enquiries with the Camera Safety Unit at Chippenham regarding figures for speeding problems encountered in Devizes Road and Marsh Road but had been unsuccessful in getting the latest.

After a short discussion it was agreed that the Clerk should write to APs Sandy Ralph to ask if she could spare ten minutes or so to attend the monthly PC meetings and to bring with her crime statistics for Hilperton only (not Hilperton and Staverton). She should also be asked to follow up Sergeant Kent's enquiries of the Camera Safety Unit.

## 7. ITEMS FOR REPORT AND DISCUSSION

### **Exercising Dogs/Dog Fouling/Dog Wardens**

The Clerk had recently spoken to the Leisure Services Manager at WWDC, Mr. Trevor Savage, who had informed her that he was in the process of liaising with the Environmental Health Department on this issue. He would respond to the Clerk's original letter as soon as possible and it was agreed that the Clerk should make sure that he did so without any undue delay.

### **Traffic Management and Speeding**

Following the last meeting, the Clerk had written to the Director of Environmental Services at WCC on this issue and had received a reply from Phil Tilley, the Transportation and Development Manager. The concerns of Hilperton residents about the use of roads in the area were recognised and if the Hilperton Relief Road was constructed it would be as a result from, inter alia, the grant of planning permission for housing development on land at east Trowbridge. Inevitably a material number of additional houses in the area would lead to a demand for greater use of local roads and the County Council would take what action it could to ensure that local residential roads would not be unnecessarily affected.

The County Council was now seeking to secure an agreement with the developers to provide for future traffic management that would secure the principal objective of the provision of the Hilperton Relief Road, namely a reduction in the traffic flows on the B3105 through the village, and to ensure that Marsh Road, Hill Street and Church Street did not experience inappropriate traffic speeds as a result of such changes. The County Council was also seeking to ensure that heavy lorry traffic would not use these roads as a through route.

WWDC resolved, when determining the planning application for the Hilperton Relief Road, to include in a planning agreement with the developers a requirement to consider a ban on heavy goods vehicles using the B3105 through Staverton. The County Council would consider how to take this matter forward in due course.

No decisions had been made as to how the local issues would be addressed in detail but there would, of course, be a process of public consultation before any Orders were pursued and the impacts of individual measures considered in their wider context, thereby adopting a 'whole village approach'. If the Hilperton Relief Road was constructed, it would be the County Council's intention to classify it as part of the B3105 and the part of the existing B3105 - Marsh Road, Hill Street, Church Street and part of Trowbridge Road - would be downgraded to a classified un-numbered road. (It was generally agreed that there would be an issue regarding maintenance if these roads were downgraded).

Members felt strongly that the Parish Council should be involved in the formulation of WCC's initial draft proposals before they went out for public consultation and the Clerk was therefore asked to respond to Mr. Tilley's letter pointing this out to him. Members also fully endorsed WWDC's decision to put pressure on the developers to consider a ban on heavy goods vehicles using the B3105 through Staverton.

### **Parish Lengthsmen – Visit on 13<sup>th</sup> March**

The Clerk pointed out that the next visit would be for just one day and asked members to let her know what they wished the Lengthsmen to do. Mrs. Sawyer said that the grass in The Knap needed attention and the fallen trees in Middle Lane should be tackled. Mr. House said that there were a lot of brambles by the gate and stile opposite No. 117 Trowbridge Road and Mr. Tucker said the gullies along Whaddon Lane should be cleared.

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

Mr. Jackson had already given a report on the last meeting held on the 10<sup>th</sup> January, and all Parish Council Clerks in the liaison group had received a copy of the Minutes of this meeting and a draft agenda for the next meeting on the 4<sup>th</sup> April. Mr. Jackson said that there would be an item on each future agenda to deal with comments from parish councils and it was agreed that it would be useful to let all parish councillors have a copy of the agenda.

### **War Memorial**

The Clerk reported that the re-submitted application for a grant from the War Memorials Trust had been turned down. She had met Nick Young from Young Johnson Monumental Masons on site last autumn and they had had a full discussion on the work that was necessary so that the second submission provided the Trust with fuller information and appeared to answer all the points about which they were concerned. However, the Grants Panel still felt that the proposed treatment would not adequately resolve the current drainage problem and might impact on the surrounding structure. They felt that the installation of a French drain would be a more appropriate option and some details had been sent to the Clerk.

After a short discussion it was agreed that the Clerk should approach one of the contractors on the War Memorials Trust's list of practitioners known by them to have undertaken conservation/restoration work of a type applicable to war memorials and speak to them about the Trust's suggestion of a French drain. She should also get back to Young Johnson and find out what they thought of this idea. In addition, Mr. Tucker suggested an approach to Denis Pocock.

### **Best Kept Village Competition**

The invitation to enter the 2006 Best Kept Village competition had been received and it was agreed that Hilpertons should enter. The closing date for the competition was Saturday, 1<sup>st</sup> April.

### **Projecting Sign – Hill Street**

*The Chairman declared a personal interest in this item.*

As the sign was still in place, the Clerk had contacted the planning compliance officer at WWDC. She had been told that if the person in question was selling logs and hay from his property no planning consent was required and she had not received any planning application. It was agreed that the correspondence relating to this matter should be brought to a close.

### **Ashton Road Street Signs**

The signs the Clerk had requested were now in place and she was asked to thank John Earney at WWDC for putting them up. A new sign indicating The Knap had also recently been put up and the Clerk was asked to see if another one could be positioned near Kathy Walker's house so that traffic coming from the other end of Church Street could see it.

### **St. John Ambulance – Request for a Grant**

A letter had been received from Wiltshire St. John Ambulance requesting support in the purchase of a replacement ambulance. This vehicle, fully equipped and ready to use, would cost nearly £50,000. After a short discussion Mr. Tucker proposed that £500 should be given and this was seconded by Mrs. Beckett. Mrs. Sawyer then proposed that £100 should be given and this was seconded by Mr. House. A vote was taken on the amended proposal, with three in favour and eight against, so the amendment fell. Mr. Bielecki then proposed a grant of £250 and this was seconded by Mr. Jackson. A vote was taken with six in favour and five against, so this further amendment was carried. The Chairman therefore stated that the substantive motion was that the Parish Council should make a Section 137 grant of £250 to Wiltshire St. John Ambulance to be used specifically to help purchase the new ambulance. A vote was taken and there were eight in favour and three against.

### **SPLASH – Request for Support for their 2006 Fundraising Appeal**

The Clerk had recently received details of Splash's 2006 fundraising appeal and a donation had been requested from the Parish Council. Mrs. Keates spoke in support of this organisation which helped many young people and Mr. Bielecki proposed a grant of £200. This was seconded by Mrs. Keates, with ten in favour and one against, so a Section 137 grant of £200 would be made.

### **Standing Orders**

At the last meeting Mr. Drewett had suggested that if the December meeting was always going to be held on the second Tuesday, there should perhaps be an amendment made to Standing Orders. The Chairman therefore proposed (Mr. Bielecki seconded) that Standing Order 1a) should be varied as follows:- add after ) and December, when the meeting will be held on the second Tuesday. The Chairman informed members that, under Standing Order 80, a resolution permanently to add, vary or revoke a Standing Order should, when proposed and seconded, stand adjourned without discussion to the next ordinary meeting of the Council. This would therefore be included on the March agenda.

## **8. PLANNING MATTERS**

### **Applications**

06/00013/FUL: Mr. S. Collins, The Boatyard, 5 Hammond Way  
Conversion of existing roof space into two bedrooms  
It was agreed that no objection would be made to this application

06/00327/FUL: Mr. C. Neate, 48 Newhurst Park, Paxcroft Mead  
1000mm wall with 2m high fence on top  
It was agreed that no objection would be made to this application

06/00362/FUL: Mr. and Mrs. A. Cohen, 18 Foxglove Drive  
Two storey extension to side of property  
It was agreed that no objection would be made to this application

06/00372/FUL: Mr. S. McKeown, 132 Devizes Road  
Extensions to dwelling  
It was agreed that no objection would be made to this application

06/00375/FUL: Mr. Benbow, 42 Princess Gardens  
Extension to dwelling  
It was agreed that no objection would be made to this application

### **Decisions**

05/02895/OUT: Maplegrove Homes Limited, 303 Marsh Road  
Residential development: application withdrawn

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

06/00017/HDG: Mrs. Kisielewski and Mrs. Parkinson, land south of Hilperton Marsh, Middle Lane  
Removal of hedgerows: application withdrawn

### **Notification of Inquiry Date**

05/01709/FUL: Erection of public house with ancillary staff flats, car parking, landscaping and access arrangements, land adjacent to Hackett Place

The Chairman said that this Public Inquiry started on the 7<sup>th</sup> February but was adjourned until the 23<sup>rd</sup> February, and it would commence at 10 am and probably last for two days. This appeal would be combined at the Inquiry with two other appeals, namely 04/02221/FUL and 05/00194/FUL.

**9. CORRESPONDENCE**

- a) The Cloth Road Arts Week – letter enclosing financial statement, annual report and minutes of the first general meeting.
- b) WWDC – letter promoting payment of council tax and non-domestic rates by direct debit.
- c) Wiltshire Police – letter re. the new single non-emergency number.
- d) WALC Newsletter – February, 2006, (already circulated)
- e) Letter from Shaw Trust re. the workablewiltshire project.
- f) Letter from West Wiltshire Volunteer centre enclosing posters for notice boards

**10. PUBLICATIONS**

- a) The Clerk – January, 2006.
- b) Rural Arts Wiltshire – programme from February to April, 2006

**11. ACCOUNTS**

Payments authorised:-

- a) Since the last meeting:

Mobile International Limited – tables and trolley for Village Hall      £2,047.79  
 (including £304.99 VAT) *Minute 7 ( Section 137 Grants) of the PC meeting of the 17<sup>th</sup> January refers.*  
*The Parish Council has*  
*now received a cheque from the Treasurer of the Village Hall Committee to cover their contribution..*

- b) This meeting:

Clerk's salary for February	£411.63)	
Clerk's expenses	£83.45)	£495.08
File-It Limited – stationery items (including £29.95 VAT)		£201.18
Mrs. L. House – plants for the War Memorial		£6.88

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

- a) Mr. Drewett asked what progress had been made to the refurbishment of the bus shelter at the Church Street end of Hill Street. Mrs. Sawyer said that work had started but the cold weather had made it difficult to carry on.
- b) Mr. Cullern said that dog fouling was getting worse in the Cresswell Drive area and he had received a number of complaints. The Clerk was asked to get some stickers.
- c) Mr. House reported that a lorry had driven into the kerb at the Lion and Fiddle and had shattered the kerbstone.

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

- a) Death of Professor Tottle.
- b) Two grants made
- c) Newsletter shortly to be distributed
- d) Hilperon to be entered for the Best Kept Village competition.

**14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2006**

The meeting ended at 8.55 p.m.

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

