

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

There was one member of the public present.

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

At the open forum Mr. N. Hart, a resident of Whaddon Lane, gave reasons for his objection to planning application 06/00633/FUL and voiced his concern at the current state of the road. The meeting commenced at 7.37 p.m.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Mr. V. Bielecki, Mrs. M. Keates, Mr. D. Tucker, Councillor S. Content and APs S. Ralph.

2. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL/PREJUDICIAL INTEREST

Mr. E. Clark: Planning application 06/00574/PUD - Personal interest on the grounds of his knowing at least ten people who live within 100 metres of the application site. However, he had not been lobbied by them nor had he discussed the application with any of them, so was not aware of their views.

Mr. E. Clark: Boundary Committee – Personal as he is a West Wilts. District Councillor.

Mr. E. Clark: Chairman's Allowance – Personal

Mr. D. Drewett: Planning application 06/00637/TCA – Personal because of his acquaintance with the applicant.

Mr. R. House: Planning application 06/00574/PUD: Personal because of his acquaintance with the applicants.

3. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 21st February, 2006, were approved and signed.

4. MATTERS ARISING

Minute 7 – Police: The Clerk had written to APs Sandy Ralph and had received a reply from her with up- to- date crime statistics, which she would read out later in the meeting.

Minute 7 – Exercising of Dogs/Dog Fouling: The Clerk reported that her original letter, sent to WWDC's Legal Services department back in December, seemed to have been passed on to various people to deal with, from the Head of Leisure Services to an officer in Commercial Services, the last of whom had informed her that Legal Services was the correct department to deal with this matter. As WWDC had just appointed a new Head of Legal Services, it was agreed that the Clerk should take this matter back for her to deal with.

Minute 7 – Traffic Management and Speeding: The Clerk had written to Phil Tilley at WCC, seeking his assurance that the Parish Council would be involved in the formulation of the County Council's initial draft proposals before they went out for public consultation. She had received a letter from him giving such assurance.

Minute 7 – War Memorial: The Clerk had contacted Nimbus Conservation of Frome and had arranged to meet a Mr. Jez Fry on site on the 29th March. The Chairman said he would also attend the site meeting. The Clerk had also sent details of French drains to Young Johnson and was awaiting a response from Nick Johnson.

Minute 7 – Best Kept Village Competition: Further details of the competition had been received and the Clerk was in the process of completing the application form. It was suggested that a flier should be distributed to residents in some parts of the village, encouraging them to enter into the spirit of the competition by ensuring that their gardens looked clean and tidy.

Minute 7 – Street Signs: The Clerk had contacted John Earney at WWDC and he had agreed to put up another sign indicating The Knap, not immediately but when funds were available.

Minute 12b: The Clerk had sent some dog stickers to Mr. Cullern.

Minute 12c: Both the Clerk and the Chairman had reported to CLARENCE the state of the kerb at the Lion and Fiddle but this had not yet been repaired.

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIR

There were none.

6. COUNTY COUNCILLOR, DISTRICT COUNCILLORS AND POLICE

County Report

Councillor Content had given her apologies and had sent the Clerk her Parish Report for March, copies of which were tabled. It was noted that George Ward school was to receive the £20m Building Schools for Future government funding, with the County Council putting in the land at Bowerhill at nil cost.

District Report

Mr. Clark had nothing of note to report, other than bills for the coming year's Council Tax having been sent out by WWDC. He was pleased that grants would continue for a number of Arts related programmes in the District.

Police Report

APs Sandy Ralph had given her apologies and had sent the Clerk details of crime statistics in the Hilperton area from December, 2005, to the beginning of March. There had been incidences of theft, shoplifting, criminal damage, burglaries, assault and one rape which had occurred in a pub and had been detected. She had also contacted the Camera Safety Unit and asked for statistics covering the same period but to date they had not provided what she had requested.

7. ITEMS FOR REPORT AND DISCUSSION

Standing Orders

The Chairman reminded members that the proposed and seconded amendment to Standing Order 1a) made in February was adjourned without discussion to this meeting, as required under Standing Order 80. He therefore proposed that Standing Order 1a) should be varied as follows:- add after) and December, when the meeting will be held on the second Tuesday. This proposal was seconded by Mr. Drewett, with all in favour.

West Wilts. Central Area Parish Councils' Liaison Group

The Clerk had sent members a copy of the agenda for the next meeting, to be held on the 4th April in Steeple Ashton. Mr. Jackson would be attending and said that if any other member of the Parish Council would like to accompany him, they would be most welcome. He would give a report at the next PC meeting.

Parish Lengthsmen – Visit on 13th March

The Clerk reported that the report of fallen trees near Middle Lane blocking the ditch had been passed to Steve Leonard, the County Rights of Way Warden, for his attention. The work for Whaddon Lane had been passed to Andy Cadwallader of WCC as he was looking at various issues in that area. The rubbish by the bus shelter had been passed to WWDC to deal with as they had the responsibility for litter clearing.

The Lengthsmen had cleared the grass from the kerbs in The Knap and the brambles from the gate and stile opposite 117 Trowbridge Road, as requested. They had also cleared debris and weeds from the footway and applied weedkiller in Devizes Road.

Discussion took place on other matters which needed attention, such as the bin in the cemetery never being emptied, despite requests to the District Council by the Clerk for them to do so. Mr. Jackson was concerned at the weeds and brambles around the closed part of Ashton Road, which were never cut back. Mrs. Hayes said that the green in Marshmead, by the willow tree, had been churned up inadvertently by WWDC's refuse lorries who had to mount the grass to avoid hitting an untaxed (but now removed) car. It was agreed that the clearing of the Ashton Road weeds/brambles would be added to the list of tasks for the Lengthsmen on their next visit and that the Clerk would report the other matters to WWDC.

Turning to the date of the Lengthsmen's next visit, the Clerk reported that she had received a letter from the Wiltshire Highways Partnership Service Manager, saying that changes to the scheme would be coming into force shortly and details would be sent soon. The Lengthsmen would be in Hilperton next on the 24th and 25th July.

Boundary Committee – Draft Recommendations on the Future of Local Government

Parts of the draft document relating to Hilperton had been sent to all members of the Parish Council. The Boundary Committee's recommendation was for Paxcroft ward to lose Semington but incorporate Holt and Broughton Gifford.

After a short discussion the feeling generally was that this was probably the best compromise and should be supported by the Parish Council. It was therefore agreed that a letter should be sent to the Boundary Committee saying that their recommendation for a three-member ward comprising Hilperton, Staverton, Holt and Broughton Gifford met with Hilperton Parish Council's approval. However, as all the parishes were possessive of their own identities, a suggestion should be made to the Boundary Committee that a generic name should be given to the new ward, rather than using a name of a specific parish. Mr. Jackson asked the Clerk to forward him a copy of this letter in due course.

The Chairman abstained when voting took place on this matter.

WWDC – Leisure and Recreation Development Plan Document (DPB)

The Chairman informed members that this document was the result of the recreational needs assessment which was carried out by the District Council and to which Hilperton Parish Council had contributed in a small way by suggesting that the village needed a tennis court. It was agreed that a letter should be sent to WWDC noting the options put forward.

WWDC – Council Owned Development Sites for the Housing PFI Scheme

The Chairman said that there was an area within the parish of Hilperton at Paxcroft Mead, currently a rural Greenfield/S106 site, on which it was intended to build eighteen affordable houses. It was agreed that as this site was already allocated for affordable housing, the Parish Council should endorse its use as such, with the proviso that, if there was a bidding process involved, preference should be given to

local Hilperton residents. Although full plans would be submitted at some future date, it was generally agreed that the houses should be in keeping with the rest of the development in the area (i.e. no three-storey properties).

WCC – Revising the Strategy for Wiltshire

The Clerk informed members that this ‘Strategy for Wiltshire’ was an overarching strategy for the County and had come about by government legislation placing upon councils the duty to promote the social, economic and environmental well being of the areas they served. Consultees were being asked to read the draft revised Strategy and give their comments on some questions put by WCC. The Clerk said she was happy to complete the questionnaire on behalf of the Parish Council, and this was agreed.

Accounts – Appointment of External Examiner

The Chairman informed members that Mr. Roy Forsey, who had kindly taken on this role a few years ago free of charge, after his retirement from the Parish Council, now wished to stand down. The Chairman had therefore contacted three people in the parish known to him to have the correct credentials and had asked them if they would like to tender by a written quote. Three letters had been received, which he and the Clerk had opened just prior to the meeting.

Without mentioning any names, the Chairman said that one of the people approached had declined to tender, due to work and family commitments. Another was happy to tender for the post on a free of charge basis, and the third had quoted a fee of £45. After a short discussion it was agreed that the free of charge quote should be accepted (proposed by Mr. Drewett, seconded by Mr. House, all in favour). The Clerk would therefore write to all three people and also send a letter of thanks to Mr. Forsey, on behalf of the Parish Council, for his support over the last few years

8. PLANNING MATTERS

Applications

06/00562/FUL: Mr. D. Fry, 19 Saxon Drive

Single storey side/rear elderly person annexe

It was agreed that no objection would be made to this application as long as the planning authority imposed a condition stating that the property as a whole should be occupied as one dwelling unit, with the accommodation permitted occupied as part of, or an extension to, the main dwelling, and it should not be let or sold as separate accommodation.

06/00574/PUD: KCM Developments Limited, 9 Whaddon Lane

Demolition of sectional garage, demolition of existing single storey outbuilding and replacement with pitched roof single storey extension.

The Chairman informed members that the approved planning application for a house was not proceeding in the immediate future and the applicant was seeking a binding determination from the planning authority that the existing house could be extended without the need for planning permission, under permitted development rights. The accompanying letter to the District Council by the applicant’s agents stated that any part of the building as enlarged would not be nearer to any highway than the part of the original dwelling nearest to the highway.

It was agreed that the Parish Council should inform the planning authority that it was not in a position to comment on the technicalities raised in the agents’ letter but could not agree with the comments made concerning the question of the highway and any extension of the original building would be on the highway side and, accordingly, visible to the general public.

06/00633/FUL: Mr. D. Tucker, Whaddon Grove Farm

Change of use of agricultural building to domestic storage units

The Chairman reminded members that the previous application for change of use of an agricultural building to domestic storage units (05/01085/FUL) had been turned down by the District Council but had been allowed on appeal. The Inspector had, however, in her report, stated that the road from Hilperton to the site was narrow and poorly aligned and that at the junction of Whaddon Lane with the B3105 through the village, the turn from Hill Street into Whaddon Lane was substandard. The Parish Council had objected to the previous application on the grounds of:-

- a) environmental damage caused by vehicles
- b) inconvenience to pedestrians
- c) inadequacy of the road system, with Whaddon Lane being narrow and without footways, having a substandard junction with the B3105 and the inadequacy and unsuitability of the road to serve the proposed development
- d) prejudicial to highway safety

It was therefore agreed that an objection should be made to this current application on the same grounds, adding that change of use of another agricultural building to domestic storage would increase traffic even more on a substandard highway which was deteriorating rapidly.

06/00637/TCA: Mr. R. H. Cradock, 100a The Knap

Fell Leylandii and Acer trees

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

06/00646/FUL: Silverwell Developments, land between 47 and 49 Princess Gardens

Detached two storey house

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

- a) overdevelopment of the site
- b) insufficient garden
- c) incompatibility with the design of existing buildings

If, however, the District Council was minded to approve the application, as the site was within Hilperton Village Policy Limits a contribution towards affordable housing would be required.

06/00693/FUL: F. Thomas, 299 Marsh Road

Two storey extension

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

06/00743/FUL: Mr. and Mrs. C. Hubbard, 61 Hill Street

Two storey rear extension and porch to front

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

06/00744/FUL: Mr. and Mrs. R. Tucker, 2 Queens Gardens

Erection of porch, garage/wet room

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

Decisions

06/00104/TCA: J. Goodwin, 114a Trowbridge Road

Felling, pruning and crown reduction of two Golden Leylandii – no TPO made

06/00016/TPO: Mr. D. Welch, 8 Stuart Close

Felling of Horse Chestnut tree – application refused

W06.09001: Wiltshire County Council, Towpath Children's Home, 46 Towpath Road
Demolition of existing boundary wall to rear of property adjacent to Hammond Way, and rebuilding of wall – application approved

Notification of Inquiry Date

05/01347/FUL: Appeal lodged by Mr. and Mrs. Latham of 8 Gibbs Leaze against the refusal of WWDC to allow planning permission for a two storey rear extension

Consultation in respect of Replacement Trees to be planted on land adjacent to Wyke House, Wyke Road

The Clerk referred members to the Parish Council meeting held last November when discussion had taken place on trees to replace the Horse Chestnuts which needed to be felled. She had at that time spoken to WWDC's Landscape Officer about planting a new avenue of native hardwoods, and the Parish Council had agreed with this idea, as long as the trees in the new avenue were planted at the same time and consisted of the same species.

The Landscape Officer was now recommending that a single row of replacement trees should be planted, and he personally felt that Plane trees would be most appropriate for a number of reasons given in his report (which all members had been sent). It was agreed that the Landscape Officer's advice should be taken and he should be thanked for consulting the Parish Council.

9. CORRESPONDENCE

- a) Letters of thanks from Wiltshire St. John Ambulance and SPLASH.
- b) WCC/Swindon Borough Council: Wiltshire and Swindon Structure Plan 2016 – intention to adopt.
- d) WALC Newsletter – March, 2006, (wrongly printed 'February' by WALC) – tabled

10. PUBLICATIONS

- a) West Wilts. Matters – February, 2006
- b) Clerks and Councils Direct – March, 2006
- c) The Clerk – March, 2006
- d) Local Council Review – March, 2006

11. ACCOUNTS

Payments authorised:-

- a) Since the last meeting:

Hilperton Village Hall	£1,136.50
<i>(Grant to assist in funding annual grounds maintenance charges – upkeep of play equipment, insurance of public area of the playing field)</i>	
Wiltshire St. John Ambulance – Section 137 Grant	£250.00
SPLASH – Section 137 Grant	£200.00
- b) This meeting:

Clerk's salary for March	£323.50)	
Clerk's expenses	£117.90)	£441.40
Rocks East Woodland – photocopying of Newsletter		£200.00

Local Council Review – annual subscription £28.00

Chairman’s Allowance:

Telephone and postage	£11.61)	
Mileage	£21.61)	
Copying/printing	£2.80)	
Miscellaneous	£70.41)	£106.43

The Chairman abstained when approval was given to the above expenditure

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS AND VILLAGE MAINTENANCE

- a) Mrs. Sawyer said that there was some dispute with Wessex Water over who should pay for the repair of the play area surface at the Village Hall and asked the Parish Council for its support. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to Wessex Water on this matter, on behalf of the Parish Council as trustees.
- b) Mrs. Sawyer gave details of the income distribution in respect of The Wright Fund as at March, 2006.
- c) Mr. Drewett reported the construction of a large barn at Marsh Farm. It appeared that a single storey pighouse had been demolished and replaced with a steel building at least three times the width and twice the height of the previous building. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to the District Council about this.
- d) Mr. Jackson said that where the temporary school building at The Mead had been taken away the grass had been churned up and it was agreed that the Clerk should contact the school and ask if they planned any reinstatement measures.
- e) Mr. Jackson also said that from time to time ‘for sale’ vehicles appeared on the grass verge at the roundabout on Paxcroft Mead. It was suggested that the Clerk should be contacted when one next appeared so that the District Council’s enforcement officer could be informed.
- f) It was agreed that the Clerk should write to Paul Staddon to say that if he did not complete the work on the bus shelter at Hill Street/Church Street by the end of April, the Parish Council would get another contractor in to do the work.

13. ITEMS FOR PARISH NEWS/LOCAL PRESS

To be left until the April meeting .

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, 18th April, 2006

The meeting ended at 9.14 p.m.

Signed Date

