

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HILPERTON PARISH COUNCIL
HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL, WHADDON LANE, HILPERTON,
at 7.30 pm on Tuesday, 18th April, 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
 Mr. M. Duff
 Mrs. K. Hayes
 Mr. V. Bielecki
 Mr. D. Tucket

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Mr. K. Jackson, Mr. B. Cullern, Mr. J. Willis, Mrs. C. Beckett, Councillor S. Content and APs S. Ralph.

2. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL/PREJUDICIAL INTEREST

Mr. D. Tucker: Planning application 06/01067/FUL – prejudicial as the owner of the land in question.

3. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 21st March, 2006, and the Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on the 11th April, 2006, were approved and signed.

4. MATTERS ARISING (from the 21st March PC meeting)

Minute 7 – Parish Lengthsmen: The Clerk had again spoken to WWDC about the bin at the cemetery not being emptied. She had also reported that the green in Marshmead had been churned up. She had been told that both would be attended to.

Minute 7 – Boundary Committee: The Clerk had written to the Boundary Committee and had received an acknowledgement.

Minute 7 – WWDC Leisure and Recreation Development Plan Document: The Clerk had written to WWDC.

Minute 7 – WWDC Council owned development sites for the Housing PFI scheme: The Clerk had written to WWDC.

Minute 7 – WCC Revising the Strategy for Wiltshire: The Clerk had completed the questionnaire on behalf of the Parish Council.

Minute 7 – Accounts: The Clerk had written to all three people who had responded to the Chairman's approach for them to quote, and she had also written a letter of thanks to Roy Forsey on behalf of the Parish Council.

Minute 8 – Consultation in respect of replacement trees to be planted on land adjacent to Wyke House, Wyke Road: The Clerk had written to WWDC's Landscape Officer, accepting his advice and thanking him for consulting the Parish Council.

Minute 12a: The Clerk had not yet written to Wessex Water because she had not received a copy of the letter which the Secretary of the Village Hall Committee had sent to them. Mrs. Sawyer said she had a copy and the Clerk agreed to pick this up from her and write to the company.

Minute 12c: The Clerk had written to WWDC's Enforcement Officer who was looking into the matter.

Minute 12d: The Clerk had written to the Head Teacher of The Mead School but had not as yet received a reply.

Minute 12f: The Clerk had written to Paul Stadden, which had resulted in him starting work on the bus shelter. It was agreed that she should get in touch again to ask him to take down the old notice board inside the shelter and either wash down the stone or paint it with white emulsion, whichever he felt was more appropriate.

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIR

- a) On the suggestion of the Chairman, it was agreed that the Parish Council should write to Her Majesty The Queen, congratulating her on her 80th birthday on the 21st April.
- b) The Chairman reported that the 'Wiltshire Community' website was in its testing phase and it was agreed that when it was completed there should be a link to the Parish Council. It was also agreed that there should be a link to WWDC's and WCC's websites.

6. COUNTY COUNCILLOR, DISTRICT COUNCILLORS AND POLICE

County Report

Councillor Content had given her apologies and had sent the Clerk her Parish Report for April, copies of which were tabled.

District Report

Mr. Clark reported that the WWDC Cabinet had made a decision recently concerning the Housing PFI scheme and this had been called in for discussion by the Scrutiny Committee of the District Council on Wednesday, 19th April.

The District Council had called on the Primary Care Trust Management Committee to resign en masse over the appalling state of affairs regarding community hospitals.

Police Report

APs Sandy Ralph had given her apologies and had e-mailed a short report to the Clerk.

She had been trying to chase up speeding statistics and had received the following reply from the analyst, Mr. Bolan:- 'We never give out enforcement details or number of offences detected for an individual site and this information is exempt under the Freedom of Information Act, the reason being that a member of the public given this information would be able to calculate their chances of being caught. To put it another way, it would be similar to you publishing details of your duties sheet and the amount of time each officer would be spending on a particular street. We are quite open about the total number of tickets issued throughout the year and the amount collected in fines as we have nothing to hide. We just do not give the details on a site-by-site basis.'

In conclusion, APs Ralph reported that crime levels in Hilperton remained low and asked the Clerk to advise her of the next meeting, which she would endeavour to attend. It was agreed that she should also be sent details of the Annual Parish Assembly and be asked to make an effort to come to that.

7. ITEMS FOR REPORT AND DISCUSSION

Exercising of Dogs/Dog Fouling

The Clerk had written to the newly appointed head of Legal Services, but had not received any reply. She had therefore written a letter of complaint to WWDC's Chief Executive and would report back at the May meeting.

War Memorial

a) Meeting with a representative from Nimbus Conservation Limited

The Clerk and the Chairman had had a very constructive meeting on site on the 29th March with a Mr. Jez Fry from Nimbus Conservation, and had now received an estimate. Parts of the estimate were common to both Nimbus's and Young Johnson's quotes, but the main difference in the quote from Nimbus was for the installation of a French drain, which had been recommended by the War Memorials Trust. Nimbus's quote did not include the supply and fixing of a new section of stone seat, nor the removal of all spoil from the site, and it was therefore agreed that the company should be asked to give an estimate for this work. When this was received the Clerk and the Chairman should liaise, go to have a word with Mr. Harry Potts and then apply again for a grant from the War Memorials Trust.

b) Plants and sweeping

As had been arranged for the last three years, it was agreed that an allowance of £5 a week should be made between the beginning of April until the end of October, 2006, for thirty weeks of maintenance of plants at the War Memorial and the sweeping.

Best Kept Village Competition

The Clerk had sent in the application form and other details to CPRE for the large village category of the competition and had received an acknowledgement to say that judging would take place in early summer. It was agreed that every effort should be made to encourage householders in the village to keep their gardens clean and tidy.

West Wilts. Central Area Parish Council's Liaison Group

Mr. Jackson had attended the last meeting which had taken place on the 4th April at Steeple Ashton, and had sent a report to the Clerk.

The meeting had commenced with a visit to the Community Shop in the village, followed by a visit to the Steeple Ashton e-Trowbridge site located in the Clerk's office. This was only just up and running so it was a little early to assess interest.

There had then been a presentation by the Town Clerk of Trowbridge on the Boundary Committee recommendations, and it was interesting to note that Trowbridge Town Council was objecting to the recommendations and that in terms of Hilperton was proposing that Paxcroft should only include Semington and Hilperton, less Staverton. A number of other parishes appeared to support Trowbridge.

The next meeting would be held on the 4th July, 2006, and members of the Parish Council expressed their thanks to Mr. Jackson, in his absence, for attending this latest meeting.

WCC – Partnership Funded Schemes

Following the Parish Council's request towards the end of 2005 for the installation of a pedestrian refuge in Horse Road, a letter had been received from Andrew Wyatt, Traffic and Road Safety Group Manager, to say that WCC's cabinet member for the environment, transport and economic development had agreed an allocation of £50,000 for partnership schemes in 2006/7. A new policy had been agreed whereby traffic management measures which accorded with County Council policy and practice could be undertaken in partnership with Town or Parish Councils with costs being shared on a 50/50 basis. The contribution would be limited to one scheme per Town/Parish each year up to a maximum of £10,000.

Mr. Wyatt was looking for confirmation from the Parish Council that it wished to proceed with a scheme for a pedestrian refuge, and arrangements could then be made for a suitable scheme to be

developed and costed for the PC's consideration. After a short discussion it was agreed that such confirmation should be given.

Local Works – Campaign for the Sustainable Communities

An update from Local Works had recently been received, with details of public meetings to be held throughout the summer, none of which being in the area.

Wiltshire Highways Partnership – Annual Highways Meeting on the 26th April

The Clerk said that this meeting would take place at Melksham Town Hall at 2 p.m. and would conclude at around 4 p.m. Mr. Tucker agreed to attend, and the Chairman said he would also go along.

West Wilts. Housing Society – Garage Review

A letter had been received from West Wiltshire Housing Society to report the findings of its review of its garage holdings and related services in the WWDC area.

The Clerk had then contacted the New Initiatives Manager at the Housing Society to find out what the implications were in relation to Hilperton. She was told that in Newleaze the plans were to demolish garages 6 – 25 (half were currently empty) and build two or three more houses. Garages 1 – 5 in Newleaze would stay (one was currently empty). In Greenhill Gardens all would be repaired and let. She had also been told that any new development would have proper parking provisions but most of the garages were used as storage and not for parking.

Although the review was not a consultation document, it was agreed that a reply should be sent to the Housing Society, welcoming the fact that garages 1-5 in Newleaze would stay and the Greenhill Gardens garages would be repaired. Although it should be recognised that any decisions taken by the Housing Society would be purely commercial, it should be pointed out that parking was an issue in Hilperton and consideration should be given to this in any planning application for more houses. The Housing Society should also be reminded that the area by the school in Newleaze was used extensively for temporary parking.

8. PLANNING MATTERS

Applications

06/00988/TCA: Colonel and Mrs. R. R. Moss, Thiridacre, Church Street
Deadwooding of Beech trees

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

At this point the Chairman adjourned the meeting and invited Mr. Mosley to give a short presentation concerning his planning application and Mr. Tucker left the room. The Chairman reconvened the meeting after Mr. Mosley had spoken in favour of his application.

06/01067/FUL: Mr. D. K. Mosley, Unit 12, 84a Whaddon Lane

Change of use of unit 12 to recreational use (fitness and martial arts)

Members of the Parish Council had listened to what Mr. Mosley had to say and, after a short discussion, it was agreed that an objection should be made to the application for change of use unless a condition was imposed stating that no recreational activity should be allowed to operate on site after 9 pm on any evening. This condition should be personal to the applicant and not generic to the unit in question. The planning authority should be reminded about the Parish Council's concern over the substandard condition of the highway and the growth of traffic along Whaddon Lane and, should they be minded to grant planning permission, they should be asked to give temporary permission for, say, three years, this permission again being personal to the applicant and reviewed after this period. It

should be pointed out that the Parish Council did not regard this as a precedent for further change of use of units granted permission - on appeal - for domestic storage.

Mr. Tucker returned to the meeting.

Decisions

There were none.

9. CORRESPONDENCE

- a) WALC Newsletter, April, 2006 (already circulated)

10. PUBLICATIONS

- a) Wiltshire Fire Brigade Performance Summary, 2005/2006
 b) Pillar Talk – Postwatch, Winter, 2006
 c) In Focus – Spring, 2006
 d) RSS (Regional Spatial Strategy) Update - March, 2006
 e) First News – Spring, 2006-04-19
 f) The Arc Theatre – programme April to July, 2006

11. ACCOUNTS

Payments authorised:-

Clerk's Salary for April	£411.63)	
Clerk's Expenses	£129.21)	£540.84
Allianz Cornhill – Annual Insurance Premium		£856.95
WALC Annual Subscription 2006/7 (including £104.92 VAT)		£704.45
Community First Annual Subscription 2006/7		£32.00
Mrs. L. House – upkeep of plants/sweeping at War Memorial		£150.00
Clerks and Councils Direct – annual subscription		£9.00
Revision 4 - Web Hosting		£107.88
Louise Walker (distribution of Newsletter)		£40.00

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS AND VILLAGE MAINTENANCE

- a) Mr. Bielecki reported a fallen tree on the cycle path behind Faverolle Way. He had cut some of it back but the remainder needed attention.
 b) The Clerk was asked by Mrs. Sawyer to find out when the bus stop clearway would be put in place in Hill Street, by the slipway to Newleaze.
 c) The Clerk had received a telephone call from John Earney at WWDC to say that the seat in Trowbridge Road had been reported broken and would the Parish Council like a quote to have it mended. It was agreed to go ahead with this.

13. ITEMS FOR PARISH NEWS/LOCAL PRESS

- a) West Wiltshire Housing Society Garage Review
- b) Details of Annual Assembly
- c) War Memorial
- d) Best Kept Village Competition
- e) Possible pedestrian refuge at Horse Road
- f) Letter of congratulations to HM The Queen
- g) The addition of the PC's website address on the end of the list of items

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS:

Tuesday, 2nd May – Annual Parish Assembly

Tuesday, 16th May – Annual General Meeting of the Parish Council

The meeting ended at 8.43 p.m.

Signed Date