

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
OF HILPERTON PARISH COUNCIL
HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL, WHADDON LANE, HILPERTON,
at 7.30 pm on Tuesday, 16th May, 2006**

There were no members 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. K. Jackson
 Mrs. C. Beckett
 Mrs. M. Keates
 Mr. J. Willis
 Mr. B. Cullern

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Cllr. S. Content

1a. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Mr. E. Clark was re-elected Chairman
(Proposed by Mr. Willis, seconded by Mr. House, all in favour)
The Chairman signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office

1b. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

Mr. R. House was re-elected Vice-Chairman
(Proposed by Mr. Willis, seconded by Mr. Bielecki, all in favour)

2. APPOINTMENT OF PLANNING COMMITTEE AND OTHER REPRESENTATIVES

Planning Committee: Mr. R. House, Mrs. S. Sawyer, Mr. J. Willis, Mr. D. Tucker, Mrs. K. Hayes, Mr. K. Jackson and Mr. E. Clark (ex officio).

Footpath Representative: Mrs. C. Beckett

School Governors: a) Hilperton Primary School – Ms. P. Turner
 b) The Mead Primary School – Mrs. J. Sinclair

Police Representative: Mr. J. Willis

Village Hall Committee Representative: Mr. E. Clark (ex officio)

Paxcroft Mead Community Centre Representative: Mr. V. Bielecki

Parish Lengthsmen Co-ordinator: Mr. J. Willis

Flowers at the War Memorial: Mrs. L. House

West Wilts. Central Area Parish Councils' Liaison Group: Mr. K. Jackson

3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Mr. D. Tucker

4. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL/PREJUDICIAL INTEREST

Planning application 06/00674/FUL: Mr. R. House (personal, the applicant being known to him in a professional capacity)

5. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 18th April, 2006, and the Planning Committee meeting held on the 2nd May, 2006, were approved and signed. The Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held on the 2nd May, 2006, were noted.

6. MATTERS ARISING (from the 18th April PC meeting)

Minute 5a – The Clerk had sent a letter to Her Majesty The Queen, congratulating her on her 80th birthday.

Minute 5b – The Chairman had arranged the link to WWDC's and WCC's websites.

Minute 6 – Police Report: The Clerk had invited APs Sandy Ralph to the Annual Parish Assembly but she had been unable to attend.

Minute 7 – Exercising of Dogs/Dog Fouling: The latest letter from Sarah Hickey, Solicitor at WWDC, said that the District Council had set up a working group to consider the issue and she had advised Mr. Austen Peters, the legal representative on the group, of the issues the Parish Council had raised. Upon the group making a finding, she would advise of the action which the Council had decided to take in this matter.

Minute 7 – War Memorial: A further quote had been received on the 2nd May from Nimbus Construction in respect of the repair of the stone seat and the removal of spoil from the site (£250) and the Clerk had re-submitted an application to the War Memorials Trust. Although she said that grant applications were considered in six-monthly batches and the closing dates for applications were the 30th April and the 31st October, she had asked if the Grants Panel would be able to let the Parish Council have a decision as soon as possible as to whether or not they would be able to assist, bearing in mind that this was a re-submission. There was general agreement that it would be preferable to get the work completed before the autumn.

Minute 7 – WCC Partnership Funded Schemes: The Clerk had written to Andrew Wyatt, WCC's Traffic and Road Safety Group Manager, to say that the Parish Council would like to proceed with a scheme for a pedestrian refuge in Horse Road. She had recently been informed by him that this scheme was now being considered by the county engineers (along with another hundred) and he would be in touch again shortly.

Minute 7 – Wiltshire Highways Partnership – Annual Highways Meeting on the 26th April: This had been attended by Mr. Tucker who had given a report at the recent Annual Assembly.

Minute 7 – West Wilts. Housing Society Garage Review: Following the Clerk's letter she had received a reply from Paul Walsh, the New Initiatives Manager, to thank the Parish Council for their comments which were very useful. The Housing Society recognised that parking was an issue and each site would have individual circumstances. They intended to address car parking, highways and local circumstances when submitting their planning applications later this year. When they had developed their plans more and were in a position to submit them, he would be happy to meet the Parish Council to discuss them and listen to comments and observations.

Minute 12a – The fallen tree had been reported to WWDC.

Minute 12b – The bus stop clearway in Hill Street, by the bus shelter, had been completed but work had not yet started on the one in Hill Street by the slipway to Newleaze.

Minute 12c – The quote from John Earney had been for £30 and the seat had now been repaired.

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIR

a) The Chairman said that Paxcroft Mead Community Centre had held their AGM on the same night as the Annual Parish Assembly. Community Support Officer Sam Enness had attended the AGM which probably explained why there had been no police presence at the Annual Assembly.

b) Members of the Parish Council congratulated Mrs. Beckett on gaining a PhD in psychology.

c) Mrs. Beckett had contacted the Chairman concerning an Ash tree in Princess Gardens that was in danger of being felled by developers. Mr. Clark had arranged a meeting on the 17th May with WWDC's Landscape Officer to see if a TPO could be placed on the tree in question.

8. COUNTY COUNCILLOR, DISTRICT COUNCILLORS AND POLICE

County Report

Councillor Content tabled copies of her May Parish Report and spoke in particular about the budget crisis in the Department for Adult and Social Care. Initial forecasts of spending pressures in 2006/07 indicated an overspending in the department of a minimum of £7 million and the County Council were holding emergency staff briefings to discuss the crisis. Members expressed their concern over cuts that would most certainly occur in any recovery plan put forward.

District Report

- a) Mr. Clark reported that the WWDC Scrutiny Committee would be discussing the Housing PFI Scheme at a special meeting on the 17th May.
- b) Councillor Sarah Content had again been elected Leader of WWDC.
- c) Mr. Clark had been liaising with WWDC's enforcement officer regarding development at The Hatchery, Marsh Road. A condition had been imposed that when 50% of the houses had been built the play area should be completed, but he had found out that 22 out of the 40 dwellings were already occupied and the public open space and play area was being used as a builders compound with no works having been carried out at all. This was a clear breach of planning permission and the enforcement officer had written to the developers asking how they intended to rectify this breach. Mr. Clark thought more robust action should be taken, with a 'stop' order being imposed on the developers.

Police Report

APs Sandy Ralph was not in attendance but later e-mailed the Clerk to inform her that she had been dealing with an incident in Canal Road, a distraction burglary in North Bradley and a sudden death.

She had prepared some statistics over the last six weeks which were as follows:-

Burglary on the 12th April at Proby Place

Theft on the 8th April at Gibbs Leaze

Theft of a bike on the 9th April from Castley Road

Burglary of an out-house on the 12th April in Newleaze

Two harassments in the Parsonage Way area

Damage to the Community Centre on the 14th May

Burglary at The Mead School on the 16th May (a person was arrested on the premises)

9. ITEMS FOR REPORT AND DISCUSSION

Annual Parish Assembly

Points made by members of the public at the Parish Assembly were:-

- a) Concern at the quality of school meals at Hilperton Primary School
- b) Best Kept Village Competition – congratulations to the Village Hall Committee and the Parish Council for the first-class facilities at the Hall and on the playing field.
- c) Concern over the development at Marsh Farm
- d) Concern at the state of Whaddon Lane

Village Hall/Wessex Water

The Clerk had written to Wessex Water to say that the Parish Council, as Trustees of the Village Hall, fully supported the content of a letter sent to them by the Secretary of the Village Hall Committee in which he asked them to address the problems concerning the damaged kerbstones and the rubberised

safety landing area as a matter of urgency. Mrs. Sawyer said that the kerbstones had been repaired and they had just sent Wessex Water a quote for £1,600 to put right the leakage of water in the vicinity of the play area.

Development at Marsh Farm

The Clerk had asked the enforcement department at WWDC to investigate the demolition of a single storey pighouse at Marsh Farm and its replacement with a large steel building. She had been told that this was permitted development under part 6 of the General Permitted Development Order (1995).

It was agreed that the enforcement officer should be informed that there had been no farming taking place at Marsh Farm for quite some time, the development at the farm was purely light industrial, so agricultural permitted development was not appropriate in this case.

Bus Shelter, Hill Street

The work on the bus shelter at the Church Street end of Hill Street had at last been completed and members agreed that the bill submitted by PS Property Services, in the amount of £1,090, could be paid. This included extras, such as the painting of the inside walls and seat and also the replacement of the downpipe at the other bus shelter further along Hill Street.

The Mead School – Reinstatement of Grass Bank

The Clerk had written to the school asking if they planned any reinstatement measures following the churning up of the grass when the temporary school building had been taken away. She had been informed, both by the school Bursar and by Mr. Arthur Williams, Contracts Officer at WCC, that they planned to make good this area and by now this should have been done.

Mr. Cullern said that the grass was also being churned up by cars parking on the grass verges because the car park was too small. It was agreed that WCC should be contacted to see if some measures could be taken (e.g. bollards put in place) to stop this happening and the police should also be informed on safety grounds.

WWDC Development Sites for the Housing PFI Scheme

Representatives from Town and Parish Councils had been invited to a meeting on the 22nd May at WWDC to meet members of the PFI team. As the Parish Council had already written to WWDC about the one site applicable to Hilperton, (at Paxcroft Mead, currently rural Greenfield/S106) where it was intended to build eighteen affordable houses, it was agreed that it was unnecessary to send a representative along.

West Wilts. Central Area Parish Councils' Liaison Group

The Clerk had sent out copies of the draft agenda to members, and Mr. Jackson said that if anyone had any issue they would like discussed they should let him know before the meeting on the 4th July. A brief discussion took place on recycling of plastic containers and the problems arising from Government weight-driven targets.

West Wilts. NHS – Primary Care Trust

Discussion took place on the contentious West Wiltshire/Kennet and North Wiltshire NHS Primary Care Trusts' consultation document 'Pathways for Change'. It appeared that the Primary Care Trusts were not really listening to anyone, be it the County Council, District Councils or Town Councils, and members were appalled that in all three options put forward for the 'future', Trowbridge Hospital would be closed. Therefore, none of the three options was acceptable.

It was agreed that as the consultation would run until the 7th July, the Chairman and Clerk should prepare a draft letter which they would circulate to everyone and then bring the matter back to the June PC meeting as, regardless of the Primary Care Trusts' attitude, it was felt that the Parish Council should respond to the document.

Section 137 Grants

A letter had been received from the Wiltshire Bobby Van Trust, a registered charity established in 1998 to help elderly victims of burglary. This service had since been extended to support vulnerable and disadvantaged people such as those with disabilities and those threatened or were vulnerable to domestic violence or hate crimes. The Trust had recently suffered a shortfall in revenue since the cessation of a government donation of £70,000 and any donations would be gratefully received.

It was agreed that a Section 137 Grant of £200 should be made (Proposed by Mr. Willis, seconded by Mr. House, 11 in favour with one abstention).

10. PLANNING MATTERS

Applications

06/00674/FUL: Trojan Engineering, Whaddon Lane

Portacabin to be placed on site to use as an office/mess room

It was agreed that no objection would be made to this application, subject to a maximum five-year temporary permission for the portacabin

06/01244/LBC and 06/01255/FUL: Mr. and Mrs. Weaver, Maxcroft House, 3 Maxcroft Lane

Subdivision of existing house to form two dwellings (minor amendments to be made)

The Chairman reminded members that planning permission for the subdivision of Maxcroft House had been allowed on appeal and it was agreed that no objection would be made to the amendments proposed.

06/01246/FUL: Mr. and Mrs. D. Hudd, 8a Kings Gardens

Conservatory extension

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

06/01335/FUL: Mr. and Mrs. Olding, 40 St. Mary's Gardens

Single storey extension to front of property to provide ground floor WC facilities for a disabled child occupant

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

06/01340/FUL: Ms. C. Gale and Mr. J. Parfitt, 2 St. Michael's Close

Conversion of garage to dining room with front extension, new garage to side

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

Decisions

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

Two-storey side extension – permission with conditions

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

Erection of porch, garage/wet room – permission with conditions

06/00777/FUL: Hilperton Parish Council on behalf of Hilperton Village Hall

Two single storey extensions – refusal

This application had been refused under officer delegated powers. It was agreed that the plans should be referred back to the Village Hall Committee to see what action they wished to take. When they were in a position to resubmit the application, both the Chairman and Councillor Carbin could ensure that this would go before the planning committee.

06/00743/FUL: Mr. and Mrs. C. Hubbard, 61 Hill Street
Two storey rear extension and porch to front – permission with conditions

06/00988/TCA: Col and Mrs. R. R. Moss, Thirdacre, Church Street
Deadwooding of Beech trees – no tree preservation order made

06/00796/CON: Mesrs. Cox and Wynne, land adjacent to 125B Ashton Road
Take down modern section of existing wall and install timber gate – withdrawn

11. CORRESPONDENCE

- a) Letter from WWDC re. legislation changes affecting towns/parishes in the event of a by-election:-
- The hours of the poll will now be 7am to 10pm
 - Postal vote applications must be received 11 days before the day of poll (previously it was 6 days)
 - Proxy applications must still be received 6 days before the day of poll (unchanged)
 - Electors can now apply for an emergency proxy vote after the proxy application deadline up until 5 pm on the day of the poll
 - Existing postal voters who wish to change the address of where their postal vote is sent now have to put the request in writing and provide a reason as to why the address is being changed.
- b) WALC Newsletter, May, 2006 (tabled)

12. PUBLICATIONS

- a) ODPM – Local Authority Byelaws in England
b) Local Councils Review – May, 2006
c) Clerks and Councils Direct – May, 2006
d) First News – Spring, 2006
e) WWDC – Arts Directory, 2006/7
f) PAWS – April to September, 2006
g) Wiltshire Local Transport Plan, 2006/07 – 2010/11
h) The Clerk – May, 2006

13. ACCOUNTS

Payments authorised:-

Clerk's Salary for May	£411.63)	
Clerk's Expenses (including office rental)	£228.86)	£640.49
File It Limited – Stationery (including £8.20 VAT)		£55.10
Mrs. Lesley House – plants for War Memorial		£15.00

P. S. Property Services £1,090.00
 Work on bus shelters
 (approved earlier in the meeting)

Wiltshire Bobby Van Trust £200.00
 Section 137 Grant approved earlier in the
 meeting

14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS AND VILLAGE MAINTENANCE

- a) Mr. Cullern said that a group of travellers were camping on a grass verge on the road from Stoney Gutter to Paxcroft Mead (before the roundabout) – the Clerk to report to WWDC.
- b) Mr. Jackson said that people in his neighbourhood were totally confused by the recycling arrangements and they did not know what was being picked up or when. It was agreed that the Clerk should get in touch with WWDC's Riverway depot and something should be put in the parish news.

15. ITEMS FOR PARISH NEWS/LOCAL PRESS

- a) Election of officers and other representatives
- b) Dates of Parish Council meetings throughout the year
- a) Congratulations to Mrs. Beckett on gaining her doctorate
- b) Grant to the Wiltshire Bobby Van Trust
- c) Completion of the renovation of the Hill Street bus shelter

16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

Tuesday, 20th June, 2006

The meeting ended at 8.50 p.m.

Signed Date

