

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HILPERTON PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL, WHADDON LANE, HILPERTON,  
at 7.30 pm on Tuesday, 20<sup>th</sup> June, 2006**

There were no members of the public present.

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

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:** Mrs. Jenny Sinclair

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Mr. V. Bielecki, Mr. D. Drewett and County Councillor S. Content

**2 DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL/PREJUDICIAL INTEREST**

There were none at this stage of the meeting.

**3 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on the 16<sup>th</sup> May, 2006, and the Planning Committee meeting held on the 6<sup>th</sup> June, 2006, were approved and signed

**4. MATTERS ARISING** (from the 16<sup>th</sup> May Annual Meeting)

Minute 7c – The Chairman said that a temporary tree preservation order had now been placed on the Ash tree in question. He thanked Mrs. Beckett for bringing the matter to his attention and Mrs. Hayes who attended the site meeting in May.

Minute 9 – Development at Marsh Farm: The Clerk had been informed by WWDC's senior enforcement officer that the owners of Marsh Farm had 87 hectares of arable land and a holding certificate. The barn in question was to be used only for agricultural storage, e.g. fertilizer/feed.

Minute 9 – The Mead School: The Clerk had written to the Bursar of the school about the matter of cars parking on the grass verges and she had received a reply to say that this issue had become a priority for the school and it was causing them a great deal of concern. Mrs. Sinclair (school governor), who was in attendance, said that too many people were driving their children to school, despite efforts to encourage them to walk and, because the car park was relatively small, they constantly parked on the verges. The school was worried about the safety aspects of the situation, mainly at the beginning and the end of each school day, and would welcome any help from the Parish Council to alleviate the problem. After some discussion it was agreed that the Clerk should contact the highway authority and suggest they might consider putting in metal bollards and zig-zag lines. It was further agreed that copies of her letter should be sent to Councillor Content, The Mead School itself, and the police. Mrs. Sinclair said that the reinstatement measures following the churning up of the grass after the removal of the temporary school buildings had not yet taken place and the Clerk said she would contact the contracts officer at WCC.

Minute 10 – Village Hall Plans: Mrs. Sawyer said that the plans had gone back to the architect who would be dealing with the points raised in the letter of refusal.

Minute 14a: The Clerk had reported the matter of the travellers to WWDC and they had now left.

Minute 14b: The Clerk had been informed by WWDC that there had been a problem a few weeks back with the recycling arrangements and a letter had been sent to residents in the Devizes Road area saying that there had been mistakes and giving them a new calendar of collection times.

## **5. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIR**

The Chairman said that two items had been added to the agenda after it had been prepared:- there was another request for a Section 137 grant and revised plans had been received in respect of a recent planning application.

## **6. COUNTY COUNCILLOR, DISTRICT COUNCILLORS AND POLICE**

### *County Report*

Councillor Content had given her apologies and e-mailed her June parish report, copies of which the Clerk tabled. The report centred mainly around the issues of the budget and the problems facing WCC. A new interim director had been appointed for the Department of Adult and Community Services (DACS), who would be commencing his appointment at the beginning of July for at least five months. The Chief Executive was also in the process of recruiting a permanent Director.

### *District Report*

The District Centre, Paxcroft Mead: The Chairman said that Marshgate Developments had presumed that the District Council would discharge the Section 106 agreement dated 6<sup>th</sup> February, 2004, but the planning committee, at its meeting on the 1<sup>st</sup> June, had decided not to do this because insufficient evidence had been put forward to demonstrate that the owners of the site had used all reasonable endeavours to procure the establishment of a medical practice and retail pharmacy. As work had already begun on the site, the owners had been informed by WWDC's Development Control Services Manager that this should cease immediately and the site returned to the condition required by the 2004 agreement, i.e. it should be grassed over and maintained. The owners had been given fourteen days to start the reinstatement and the Chairman said that that period had just expired. He would have more information on this matter by the next meeting.

### *Police*

There was no police officer present.

## **7. ITEMS FOR REPORT AND DISCUSSION**

### **War Memorial**

The Clerk was pleased to report that she had recently received a telephone call from the Conservation Officer at the War Memorials Trust to say that the Trustees had now approved a grant to the Parish Council towards the necessary works and he would be sending a formal letter to her shortly to say how much the grant would be. After a short discussion it was agreed that the Chairman and the Clerk should go to see Mr. Potts and contact Nimbus Conservation to accept their revised quote.

### **West Wilts. NHS – Primary Care Trust**

The draft letter which the Clerk had sent out to each parish councillor was approved and it was agreed that it could now go to the Primary Care Trust. Copies should be put on all the parish council notice boards, urging individuals to also write to the PCT with their views. Copies should be sent to the local press/radio, WWDC and Dr. Andrew Murison MP, and a copy should be put on the parish council's website. Mr. Jackson asked the Clerk to send him a few extra copies for the Central Area Parish Councils' Liaison Group.

### **Street Trading – West Wiltshire**

A letter had been received from WWDC to say that they were reviewing the way street trading was regulated within the West Wiltshire area and they were asking the parish council to take part in a consultation exercise. After a short discussion it was agreed that the Clerk should respond to the effect that if the District Council was considering street trading in Hilperton then there would be nowhere suitable. With regard to the towns in the district, that was a matter for town councils to decide.

### **Introduction of Neighbourhood Policing Teams – West Wilts. Consultation on Neighbourhood Area Boundaries**

The Chairman reported that Wiltshire police were engaged in a national project to introduce neighbourhood policing into all areas of the county by the 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2008. Defining the boundaries of the neighbourhoods was considered an important part of the project in order to deliver an effective and resilient 24-hour policing service. WWDC had sent a map illustrating the proposed boundaries for NPTs in the area and the Parish Council was being asked whether the proposed neighbourhood areas sat comfortably within the community they were intended to serve.

Looking at the map it appeared that the proposal for many villages in West Wiltshire was to place them within a large ‘Trowbridge Rural’ area but Hilperton and Staverton had an area to themselves. The Chairman had had an opportunity to discuss the matter with several Staverton parish councillors and the Clerk to Staverton Parish Council, and it was unofficially agreed that as both villages had much in common (e.g. a lot of new residential development) the proposal for them would appear to be acceptable. It was agreed that this could be discussed further at the July meeting.

### **Requests for Section 137 Grants**

#### **a) Victim Support Wiltshire**

The Clerk read a letter from the Director of Victim Support Wiltshire and informed members that during the last year they offered support to thirteen victims of crime in the parish. They needed to raise over £40,000 to maintain their current levels of service during the coming year.

After a short discussion it was agreed that a grant of £200 should be given (proposed by Mr. Jackson, seconded by Mr. House, all in favour)

*Both the Chairman and Vice Chairman declared a prejudicial interest in the following item and left the room. Mrs. Hayes was elected temporary Chairman.*

#### **b) C3**

The Clerk read a letter from Mrs. Jacqui Bates, youth leader of C-cubed, a Hilperton-based youth group who meet every Sunday evening to socialise and learn about and discuss issues relevant to them. As part of their programme they were going to attend an event at the Shepton Mallet showground later in the month, this being a summer conference for all ages with seminars, sport, music, and other activities aimed at young people and intended to promote friendship, team building and self development.

After a short discussion it was agreed that a grant of £150 should be given (proposed by Mr. Willis, seconded by Mr. Jackson, all in favour). In the letter accompanying the grant cheque the Clerk would ask Mrs. Bates to confirm that the youth group was open to young people of all denominations. *Mr. Clark and Mr. House returned to the meeting and Mr. Clark again took the chair.*

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

Mr. Jackson confirmed that the next meeting would be on the 4<sup>th</sup> July at the Village Hall, West Ashton. Police Inspector David Cullop would be in attendance to talk about community safety and neighbourhood policing, and other agenda items included recycling, maintenance of footways, traffic

issues, and sites for mobile travellers. Mr. Jackson said he would be happy to welcome any member of Hilperton Parish Council to the meeting.

## **8. PLANNING MATTERS**

### **Applications**

06/01660/LBC: Mr. D. Chapman, 49 Marsh Road

Retrospective application for timber porch and replacement of UPVC windows with timber casement windows

It was agreed that no objection would be made to this application and the Parish Council totally endorsed the measures to be taken to replace the UPVC windows.

06/01665/FUL: Mr. Tom Oatley, Paxcroft Farm, Paxcroft

Single storey extension of free range poultry building

It was agreed that no objection would be made to this application and the Parish Council fully supported and encouraged the increase in free-range hens and the continuation of agriculture in the countryside.

06/01668/FUL: D. Wickham, 130 Wyke Road

Single storey extension to dwelling

This applicant had recently submitted an application for a single storey extension (06/00855/FUL) which had been turned down. The Parish Council had objected on the grounds of over-development of the site as the proposed extension would come up to the boundary on the northern side and would have adverse implications re. maintenance on that side.

This application was similar and it was agreed that an objection would be made on the grounds of over-development of the site and the fact that the proposed extension, by reason of its form and scale, would affect and be detrimental to the street scene.

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 – amendments to plans

The Chairman said that the Parish Council had made no objection to this application and, on looking at the amended plans, it was agreed that - again - no objection would be made.

### **Decisions**

06/00735/FUL: Mr. M. Wirtz, 186 Devizes Road

Extensions to dwelling – permission with conditions

06/00918/FUL: Mr. R. Harris, 221 Church Street

Erection of chimney – permission with conditions

06/01148/EUD: Trojan Engineering, Whaddon

Steel fabrication workshop – lawful use

06/01156/FUL: Mr. J. Shipton, 190 Devizes Road

Extensions – permission with conditions

06/01171/FUL: Mr. A. Mould and Ms. S. Scott, 170 and 172 Wyke Road

Erection of ground floor extensions – permission with conditions

06/01219/FUL: Mr. and Mrs. F. P. Hinks, Woodcote House, 112 Church Street  
Variation/change of conditions to allow the coach house to be let separately – refusal

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 approved) – listed building consent and planning permission with conditions

## 9. CORRESPONDENCE

- a) Letter from WCC concerning Hilperton/Staverton footbridge. WCC were proposing to carry out works on the railway bridge in October/November, 2006, which would require a road closure of approximately four weeks' duration. The highway department was planning to take the opportunity to refurbish the steel footbridge adjacent to Staverton Canal bridge and had asked both Hilperton and Staverton Parish Councils for their help in choosing a colour to paint the bridge. Staverton had suggested dark green and Hilperton was happy to agree with this suggestion.
- b) Letter of thanks from the Wiltshire Bobby Van Trust concerning their recent grant.
- c) Letter from Buckingham Palace thanking the Parish Council for congratulating Her Majesty The Queen on her 80<sup>th</sup> birthday.
- d) WALC County Newsletter – June, 2006 (tabled)

## 10. PUBLICATIONS

- a) WCC – Community Area Highway Information
- b) WCC – Emergency Planning Newsletter, June, 2006
- c) South West Regional Assembly – Draft Regional Spatial Strategy for the South West 2006/2026
- d) SPLASH – summer activities, July, 2006
- e) Arc Theater posters

## 11. ACCOUNTS

Payments authorised:-

Clerk's Salary for June	£411.63)	
Clerk's Expenses	£130.40)	£542.03
Victim Support Wiltshire		
Section 137 Grant approved earlier in the meeting		£200.00
C3 – Section 137 Grant approved earlier in the meeting		£150.00

## 12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS AND VILLAGE MAINTENANCE

- a) Reference was made to the missing letter box at Marshmead which had been reported to both the Post Office and Postwatch. The Chairman and the Clerk said they would chase this up and find out when it would be put in place again.
- b) Mrs. Sawyer said that Wessex Water had put right the leakage of water in the vicinity of the play area and had addressed the problems over the rubberised safety landing area. This had been done at their expense.
- c) Mrs. Sawyer reported blocked drains throughout the village.
- d) Mr. Cullern reported weeds in the gutter of the unadopted Helpswell Road approaching one metre high. The Clerk was asked to find out from WCC why it was taking so long to adopt this particular stretch of road and make mention of the Section 38 agreement. She would also ask WWDC if they would clear the weeds.

- e) Mrs. Beckett reported grass which needed cutting on the triangular section off Ashton Road, near Newhurst Park – Clerk to report.
- f) Mr. Willis said that at 84 St. Mary’s Gardens there was a bush overhanging the pavement by about two feet which made it difficult for anyone with a pushchair to walk along the pavement – WCC to be asked to write to the house owner concerned.
- g) Mr. House made the point that if worked commenced in the near future on the War Memorial his wife should know so that she could rescue the plants.
- h) Mr. Jackson referred to an e-mail he had received from the Chairman in which he had written to George Batten at WCC to say that he had recently read in ‘The Times’ an article on ‘cameras to catch side-street speeders’. The theme of the article was that linked cameras at the entry/exit points of 20 mph areas could replace speed humps etc. The article continued by stating that trials had proved that the technology was reliable and that the Home Office was due to approve the system in November. It further stated that dozens of authorities across Britain had been closely watching the trials. The Chairman had asked Mr. Batten whether or not WCC had taken an interest in these trials and was awaiting a reply from him. Mr. Jackson said this was interesting because the Parish Council had always been told that 20 mph speed limits were not enforceable and he wondered if legislation was about to change.
- i) Huge growth in the elderberry bush by Kathi Walker’s house in Church Street was reported – a matter for the Parish Lengthsmen on their visit in July if the Clerk could not get it cut down beforehand.

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

The Chairman, following consultation with the Clerk, had submitted some notes for the parish magazine, owing to time constraints for the parish news. Items included were:-

- a) Grant for the War Memorial
- b) Letter to the PCT
- c) Requests received for Section 137 grants
- d) Paxcroft Mead Public House
- e) B3105 closure in October/November

**14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:**

**Tuesday, 18<sup>th</sup> July, 2006**

**The meeting ended at 8.45 p.m.**

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

