

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HILPERTON PARISH COUNCIL
HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL, WHADDON LANE, HILPERTON,
at 7.30 pm on Tuesday, 18th July, 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
- Mr. D. Drewett
- Mr. V. Bielecki
- Mrs. M. Keates

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Mr. D. Tucker and County Councillor S. Content

2 DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL/PREJUDICIAL INTEREST

There were none.

3 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 20th June, 2006, and the Planning Committee meeting held on the 11th July, 2006, had been circulated. The Chairman said that there should be an amendment to the Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting in that, in the absence of the Chairman of the Committee, Mr. R. House, Mr. E. Clark was elected to chair the meeting. Subject to this amendment the Minutes were approved and signed.

4. MATTERS ARISING

a) from the 20th June PC meeting

Minute 6 – District Report: The Chairman reported that work on the Paxcroft Mead public house site had now ceased. In all probability the ground would not be reinstated to its original turf but at least this was a step in the right direction.

Minute 7 – West Wiltshire NHS Primary Care Trust: Three acknowledgements had been received in response to the letter the Clerk had sent out – one from Dr. Andrew Murrison, MP, another from the Chairmen of the West Wiltshire PCT and Kennet and North Wiltshire PCT, and a third from Sir Michael Pitt, Chairman of the South West Strategic Health Authority.

Minute 7 – Grants: Cheques had been sent and letters of thanks received from Victim Support Wiltshire and C-cubed. Mrs. Jacqui Bates had confirmed that the C3 group was open to young people of any denomination.

Minute 12a: The Clerk reported that the letter box had been reinstated.

Minute 12c: The blocked drains had been reported and Mrs. Sawyer said that some work had already been carried out.

Minute 12d: Following a number of conversations with officers at WCC, the Clerk had been informed that Helpswell Road was now adopted, and highways had been asked to clear the weeds in the gutters.

Minute 12e: The grass which needed cutting on the triangular section of Ashton Road, near Hurst Park, had been reported to WWDC.

Minute 12f: The overhanging bush at 84 St. Mary's Gardens had been reported to CLARENCE.

Minute 12h: The response from WCC to the suggestion that cameras might be placed at entry/exit points of 20mph areas was disappointing and negative. The Chairman said he would approach County Councillor Sarah Content to see if she could put some pressure on the officers.

Minute 12i: The elderberry bush by Kathi Walker's house which needed chopping down had been reported to CLARENCE. Nothing had been done so this could be added to the Parish Lengthsmen's list on their imminent visit.

b) from the 11th July Planning Committee Meeting

The Chairman said that at the recent planning meeting he had not read out some of the relevant conditions attached to the change of use applications for units along Whaddon Lane but he would like to do so now. As far as application 06/00633/FUL was concerned (Mr. D. Tucker, Whaddon Grove Farm) for change of use of agricultural building to domestic storage units, planning permission had been granted at a future date in the event of the Development Control Manager being satisfied as to the prior agreement of a legal agreement to secure a contribution towards improvements to the highway in this location. In respect of application 06/01067/FUL (Mr. D. K. Mosley, Unit 12, 84a Whaddon Lane) for change of use of unit 12 to recreational use (fitness and martial arts), one of the conditions was that the use permitted should be discontinued and the building restored to its former condition on or before the 22nd June, 2008, and another condition was that the use permitted should be for the personal benefit of the applicant and should not confer any right or benefit on any other persons having an interest in the property.

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIR

- a) The Chairman said that an informal 'drop-in' session to show WWDC's proposals on affordable housing development would be held in the Civic Hall, Trowbridge, on Monday, 24th July, from 3pm to 7pm.
- b) The next meeting of the Trowbridge Area Seminar was due to take place on Monday, 24th July, at 7.30 pm in the Conference Room, WCC.
- c) The Chairman reported that during June the Parish Council website had had 125 visits and 356 pages had been downloaded.

6. COUNTY COUNCILLOR, DISTRICT COUNCILLORS AND POLICE

County Report

Councillor Content had given her apologies and e-mailed her July parish report, copies of which the Clerk tabled. Mr. Jackson referred to the problems Hackett Place was experiencing with sewers and drainage, compounded by the development works going on on site at the present time. It was agreed that the Parish Council should support the Community Centre Management Committee in whatever way it could to put pressure on the developers.

District Report

The Chairman reported that a sign had been put up at what was the old garden centre in Marsh Road advertising the Training Express Group. He had taken this up with one of WWDC's planning enforcement officers and had been informed that Training Express was renting the site from Ashford Homes. She had advised the company director that planning permission was needed for change of use and they submitted an application. This was sent back by WWDC because it had combined the application for change of use with an advertisement application for the banner sign. The second attempt was also rejected because the applications were incorrect, and WWDC now awaited the corrected submissions. At this point the Parish Council would be able to comment formally on the planning applications.

Mr. Willis expressed his concern about reports that local authorities would shortly be able to take over houses that had been empty for six months, presumably in an effort to try to cut down on the number of empty houses in areas where people were looking for places to live. It was agreed that this should be discussed further at the next Parish Council meeting.

Police

There was no police officer present.

7. ITEMS FOR REPORT AND DISCUSSION

The Mead Primary School:

a) Parking on Verges – In an attempt to get some action taken in response to the letter she had written to the Director of Environmental Services at WCC, the Clerk had earlier in the day spoken to Alan Feist's secretary. A letter was in the process of being prepared which would say that the matter of controlling vehicles was covered by the school's travel plan which had been drawn up two years ago. In the County Council's opinion, the school had a good highway infrastructure, especially as it was in a cul-de-sac location and, as most of the school's pupils came from the Paxcroft Mead area, it was basically up to the school to continue to try to dissuade parents from using vehicles to take their children to and from the school. The Travel-wise team would, however, keep an eye on the situation when the school re-opened in September after the summer break. The Clerk pointed out that the draft letter did not address the suggestion put forward by the Parish Council that metal bollards and zig-zag lines might be put in to alleviate the problem, and Mr. Feist's secretary said that she would have a word with him about this. It was agreed that nothing further could be done until the letter was received.

b) Reinstatement of Grounds after removal of Temporary Buildings

The Clerk reported that the area where the portacabins were situated had now been covered with soil and grass seed put down. However, as the weather had been particularly hot, the grass might not have a chance to grow and further reinstatement might have to take place in the autumn.

War Memorial

The Clerk was happy to report that the War Memorials Trust had agreed a grant of £1,100 towards the work and she had approached Nimbus Conservation who said they would be able to start on the 4th September. The Chairman and the Clerk would now arrange to go to see Mr. Potts to discuss the situation with him.

Discussion took place on the planters at the War Memorial and it was agreed that this should be an agenda item for the October meeting. In the meantime Mr. House would ask his wife to come up with some suggestions and cost options for more substantial planters.

Pedestrian Refuge, Horse Road

The Chairman said that he and the Clerk had met Sarah Baldwin from WCC on site on the 29th June, and the Clerk had now received a letter from her to say that she would need to arrange for a drainage investigation as, in the tightening up of the kerblines, some drains would need to be relocated. This would take a few weeks to do but it was her intention to produce a design during August and a copy would be made available to the Parish Council by the 31st August, along with a cost estimate, which could be discussed by the Parish Council at their September meeting. She was provisionally programming the construction works for some time in October.

The Chairman referred to an e-mail from a resident of Hilperton objecting to the suggestion that a refuge was needed, but it was agreed that when details of design, cost etc. had been received a decision could then be made whether or not to go ahead with the project.

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

This had been discussed at the last meeting and, as there was a time limit for responses to be sent back, the Clerk had written to Chief Superintendent Amanda Evely to say that the unofficial view of the Parish Council was that it agreed that Staverton and Hilperton should have a policing area to themselves, rather than being part of a large 'Trowbridge Rural' area. After a short discussion it was agreed that the Clerk's letter should be ratified.

CPRE – Results of Best Kept Village Competition

The Chairman reported that Hilperton had come second out of five in the 'Large Village' category, losing out by only one point to the winner, Bratton. Holt had come third, Winsley fourth and Bowerhill fifth. The remarks made by the judges were very encouraging and it was generally felt that Hilperton should enter the competition again next year.

Parish Lengthsmen's Visit – 24th and 25th July

It was agreed that the Lengthsmen should be asked to do the following:-

- a) Clear Ashton Road of weeds and brambles around the closed-off part (high priority).
- b) Clear overgrown hedgerow on the footpath along Devizes Road (between AIM and Southfields) (high priority)
- c) Clear weeds generally in gutters and on pavements around the village (high priority)
- d) Clear any blocked-up drains (medium priority)
- e) Cut down the elder by Kathi Walker's house in Church Street (medium priority)

The Clerk asked members to contact her by the 20th July if they could think of any other works that needed to be done.

West Wilts. Central Area Parish Councils' Liaison Group

Mr. Jackson had attended the meeting on the 4th July and he tabled some notes.

The meeting had been attended by Police Inspector David Cullop who had come to talk about the future structure of neighbourhood policing. This was likely to be based on 18-20 officers, with one for Hilperton and Staverton, one for the remaining parishes and the rest for the Trowbridge area.

Other items on the agenda included the Trowbridge Community Area Future where theme groups had been set up for education, community safety, economy, transport and health and social care. New members to each group from the parishes would be welcome, and Mrs. Keates said she might be interested in the education group.

Other matters discussed were re-cycling, maintenance of footways, traffic issues and sites for mobile travellers.

Mr. Jackson said that the next meeting would be held on the 3rd October.

At this point the Chairman adjourned the meeting for a few minutes to enable members to go to get some iced drinks as the weather was unusually hot. The meeting reconvened at 8.25 p.m.

Informal Evening at County Hall – 24th and 25th July

An invitation had been received from the leader of WCC for members of town and parish councils to join her and her cabinet colleagues and senior managers for an informal evening on either the 24th or

the 25th July. Mrs. Beckett and Mrs. Hayes said they would represent the Parish Council on Monday, 24th July.

West Wilts. Landscape Character Assessment – Workshop for Community and Special Interest Groups

The Chairman informed members that a firm of consultants had been commissioned by WWDC to prepare a district-wide landscape character assessment, and members of interested groups were invited to participate in a workshop as part of the study. This would be on the 26th July from 6 – 8 pm at the District Council offices in Bradley Road. There were no volunteers.

Work taking place on land at the bottom of Horse Road

Mrs. Hayes had asked for this to be included on the agenda. An archaeological survey was taking place as part of the 106 agreement conditions but she was concerned that Persimmon would not return the area back to turf when the survey was completed and would leave the two mounds of earth that had been dug up to stay as an eyesore.

Persimmon had given assurances that the mounds would be flattened and seeded but it was agreed that the Parish Council should write to the developers (Richard Briggs at Persimmon) to put a little extra pressure on them (copies of the letter to go to WCC, WWDC – Peter Westbury – and Mrs. Hayes) to ensure that the mounds would be flattened, the turf reinstated and the area fenced against trespass.

8. PLANNING MATTERS

Applications

06/01493/FUL: Roger Saxby, 44 Hill Street

New vehicular access

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

06/01867/FUL: Mrs. K. Angell, 33 Newleaze

Division of existing house into 33 and 33a, planning for 33a

The Chairman said that an application had been made for a two-storey granny annexe by the previous owners in October 1989 (application W89.1635) At that time the Parish Council had not objected and permission was given with only one condition regarding the materials to be used.

After a short discussion it was agreed that an objection should be made to this application. Although the original extension was not conditioned, as it was specifically a granny annexe it would be subservient to the main building and therefore it would be reasonable to presume that it would not be sub-divided.. Although it was the intention of the applicant that her son would be living in the proposed 33a, if both houses were sold at some future date there would be insufficient garden or amenity land for either of them.

Decisions

06/01321/LBC: W. Smith, 209 Church Street

Renovations to exterior front and side and renovations to living room and study

Consent with conditions

9. CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence.

10. PUBLICATIONS

- a) West Wilts. Matters – July, 2006
- b) The Clerk – July, 2006
- c) Clerks and Councils Direct – July, 2006
- d) Local Council Review – July, 2006
- e) Wiltshire Music Centre programme – Autumn and Winter, 2006/7
- f) In Focus – Summer, 2006

11. ACCOUNTS**a) Adoption of the Accounts for the year ended 31st March, 2006**

The Clerk tabled copies of the Income and Expenditure Accounts, Cash Statements, Loan Statements and Balance Sheet. It was agreed that the accounts for the year ended 31st March, 2006, should be adopted (proposed by Mr. Jackson, seconded by Mr. Drewett, all in favour)

b) Payments authorised:-

Clerk's Salary for July	£411.63)	
Clerk's Expenses	£129.93)	£541.56

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS AND VILLAGE MAINTENANCE

- a) The Chairman asked members to consider the employment of a contractor from time to time to carry out work unable to be done by either WWDC or WCC. He knew that several villages locally brought in people to do 'tidying up' work at a reasonable price. This would, of course, only be when the need arose. It was agreed that this should be discussed further at the next PC meeting.
- b) Mrs. Sawyer reported that the church bin at the cemetery was full again – Clerk to report to WWDC.
- c) Mr. Cullern reported constant litter problems in the car park at The Mead school caused by young people being able to access the car park and throwing empty drink cans etc. away. The only way to really alleviate the problem would be for the car park to be closed off. Mrs. Sawyer said that the Village Hall had a similar problem.
- d) Mr. Drewett said that, before the heatwave started, he had reported a flood at the entrance to Newleaze, caused by a blocked drain. When it next rained it should be checked.
- e) Summer maintenance work: Mr. House offered to teak-oil the bench by the bus stop along Trowbridge Road. The Chairman said he would see to the bench in the Knap and the Blind House. He said that the pump needed a new padlock.

13. ITEMS FOR PARISH NEWS/LOCAL PRESS

- a) The results of the Best Kept Village competition
- b) Parking problems at The Mead school
- c) Update on the War Memorial
- d) Horse Road and the reinstatement of the land after the archaeological survey.

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

Tuesday, 19th September, 2006. The Clerk said there would need to be some planning committee meetings, the first probably being on the 8th August.

The meeting ended at 8.55 p.m.

Signed Date

