

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HILPERTON PARISH COUNCIL
HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL, WHADDON LANE, HILPERTON,
at 7.30 pm on Tuesday, 17th October, 2006**

There was one member of the public present.

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

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Mr. V. Bielecki, Cllr. Sarah Content and APs. Sandy Ralph

2. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL/PREJUDICIAL INTEREST

Planning application 06/02869/FUL: Mr. House – personal interest as he sold the house to the applicant.

3. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 19th September were approved and signed.

4. MATTERS ARISING

Minute 5 – Proposed Pedestrian Refuge, Horse Road: The Clerk had heard from Sarah Baldwin at WCC to say that she had received the street lighting survey and was expecting the topological survey back shortly. The Clerk had arranged for her and the Chairman to meet Ms. Baldwin before the November PC to look at the design and costs so that the scheme could be considered at the November meeting.

Minute 6 – Police Report: The Clerk had received a communication from APs Sandy Ralph which she would report on later in the meeting.

Minute 7 – War Memorial: The contractors had now finished the work they had been asked to do but the Chairman said that they had found out that one area of the back wall was bulging and its poor condition was due to previous cement render repairs, pointing and ivy growth. In their opinion the wall should be taken down some time in the future and rebuilt with lime mortar. The Clerk said she would take some photographs of the newly-pointed front section of the wall and send them to English Heritage, together with the application for the grant of £1,100 to be released.

Minute 7 – Paxcroft Mead Community Centre: The Clerk had now received a reply to her letter to the Managing Director of Marshgate Developments, who said he did not accept the drainage systems to be substandard. They had been designed and installed in conjunction with the local building control authority and statutory bodies and were perfectly acceptable systems in terms of design and installation. He suggested looking at the ‘inappropriate use of the Community Centre facilities by its patrons’ as an alternative cause of problems. A copy of this reply had been sent to Sarah Content who felt that the remarks by Mr. Warburton were both unsubstantiated and inaccurate. It was generally agreed,

however, that nothing further could be done until the full survey of the drainage system had been completed.

Members of the Paxcroft Mead Community Centre Management Committee had indicated on an Ordnance Survey map the area of the Community Centre they would be happy to take on, and the Clerk said she would now send a copy to Withy King, Solicitors.

Minute 7 – Local Area Agreement Seminar: The Chairman had attended the seminar on the 2nd October in his role as a district councillor and he, along with many other attendees, had found the whole evening a complete waste of time.

Minute 7 – Parish Forum, 18th October: Mrs. Hayes confirmed her intention to attend. She had received an agenda and would bring a report to the November meeting.

Minute 7 – West Wilts. Police Community Consultative Group: Mrs. Hayes had attended the meeting on the 3rd October, which she had found interesting. Items discussed included a) the costs incurred in the restructuring of the police force exercise, b) force policing model, c) local policing, d) major and serious crime, e) contact management, and f) response to calls for help. (Her report is held on file). An open session followed where various issues were raised and discussed. Ms. Hayes said that no future date was set for this group as WWDC would be establishing oversight and scrutiny committees, and the police authority were in discussion with the District Council as to how future meetings would be undertaken.

Minute 7 – Horse Road (Works by Persimmon): The Clerk had received a letter from Persimmon's Senior Operations Manager to say that they had arranged for a chestnut paling fence on strained wires to be erected to fill the gap in the hedgeline where the archaeological dig took access from Horse Road. They were aware of the burglary which had taken place which was the work of a confidence trickster.

Minute 7 – Future Electoral Arrangements: The Clerk had written to the Electoral Commission in respect of the name of the proposed new ward and had received an acknowledgement.

Minute 12a – The Clerk had spoken to an officer at WCC who said she had received several complaints about cars parking by the bus stop at the alleyway to Hilperton Primary School in Hill Street, and this would be put on a list for a bus stop clearway in the next financial year. The Clerk was asked to ascertain the cost of painting clearway lines on the highway.

Minute 12b – The problem with cars being parked half on the pavement in Church Street and Whaddon Lane and the car regularly parked outside the Lion and Fiddle had been reported to APs Sandy Ralph, who in turn had contacted the police area officers for attention during patrols. Hopefully they would be able to get on top of the problem.

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIR

a) The Chairman had enlisted the assistance of County Cllr. Content concerning fixed speed cameras in 20mph zones. She had been informed that the installation costs alone of an over-distance camera would amount to something in the region of £50,000 and they were mostly used on heavily trafficked roads such as A roads and motorways.

b) The Village Hall Committee had met recently and had thanked the Parish Council for the repairs they had paid to have carried out in the play area.

6. COUNTY COUNCILLOR, DISTRICT COUNCILLORS AND POLICE

County Report

Councillor Content had given her apologies and the Clerk tabled copies of her October parish report.

District Report

The Chairman said that a letter would shortly be sent from the Chief Executive of WWDC to the Electoral Commission, asking the Commission to defer the implementation of the final recommendations of the Boundary Committee until after the May, 2007, local elections. This would enable appropriate corrective action to address the concerns expressed in his letter.

Police

APs Sandy Ralph had given her apologies and had sent the Clerk a report on crime in the area over the last few months. (This is held on file) She said that trouble was a daily occurrence in the Towpath Road area which was a massive drain on police resources. The crime there did not really impact on non-estate residents but obviously had an effect on police response times to other reported matters.

7. ITEMS FOR REPORT AND DISCUSSION**Parish Steward Scheme**

The Clerk had forwarded to parish councillors details of the new Parish Steward and had asked them to let her know what work they would like him to do on his first visit on the 19th October. A list had been sent to WCC and the Clerk said she would report the outcome at the November PC meeting.

Speeding along Whaddon Lane

The Chairman adjourned the meeting to give time for Mrs. Pam Fisher, a resident of Whaddon Lane, to talk about the problems of vehicles speeding along the road. At the end of her address the Chairman reconvened the meeting.

Members discussed Mrs. Fisher's concerns and it was suggested that she should take down the registration numbers of offending vehicles and give them to the police (the Chairman to e-mail her details of local police contacts) so that officers could have a quiet word with the offenders. It was also agreed that WCC should be asked to bring in a 30mph speed limit for the hamlet of Whaddon.

Sir William Roger Brown's Coal Charity

The Clerk read out the list of the 2005 recipients – nine in all – who had received £10 each, and she said that one of these people had since died. Members were asked to bring the names and addresses of any further possible recipients for 2006 to the November meeting. The Chairman reminded members that the Parish Council could only pay out the interest which had accrued and this year this amounted to £49.79 so he proposed (as last year) to take the rest of the money required from the Chairman's allowance.

War Memorial Planters

Mr. House said that his wife had been unsuccessful so far in her hunt for more substantial planters. It was suggested that she might call in at a place along the Bradley Road which sold all types of garden/park ornaments etc. and also find out from a firm such as James Long how much new, suitably engraved, stone planters would cost. This could then be discussed further at the November meeting.

Road Defects in Hilperton

The Clerk referred to the following road defects which she had again reported:-

- a) Broken manhole cover adjacent to the Cradock's field, Whaddon Lane, caused by the recent resurfacing team. This had now been repaired.
- b) Drain cover in the pavement outside 73/74 Hill Street. A temporary cover had been put in place.
- c) Tilted manhole cover in the middle of the road outside 59 Hill Street. This had now been repaired.
- d) Grass in the drain outside the old Methodist chapel. It was understood that this had been cleaned out.
- e) Overgrown hedge at the cul-de-sac where Marshmead comes into Hill Street (opposite the farm entrance). The Clerk had been informed that English Landscapes were responsible for the maintenance of this hedge, they had been sent photographs and had been asked to cut it back.

Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act, 2005 – Dog Control Order – Initial Consultation

Consultation notes had been sent out to parish councillors and the responses to the questions asked by the Environmental Health department of WWDC were agreed. A copy of these responses is held on file.

West Wilts. Central Area Parish Council's Liaison Group

Mr. Jackson had chaired the meeting on the 3rd October which had taken place at Southwick C of E Primary School. Mr. Jackson said that the e-Trowbridge scheme was available at the school to the local community but it was difficult to access when people wanted to use the facilities. Also there was no available future budget.

A representative from the Police had attended the meeting to talk about the Trowbridge Community Area Future projects and community safety groups. There should be fourteen community safety officers in place by April, 2007, but so far only three had been appointed.

Recycling was an issue and the group was now trying to get someone from WWDC and WCC to attend a meeting to talk about the problems regarding recycling of plastics in particular. An officer from WCC Highways would also be invited to attend a future meeting to discuss maintenance of footpaths.

Future possible bypasses had also been discussed and action which might be taken to avoid 'rat runs' in certain areas.

In conclusion, Mr. Jackson said that the next meeting would be the AGM on the 9th January, 2007, representatives from eight parishes attended the group meetings on a regular basis and if anyone was interested in any of the community action groups they should contact the secretary, Gaynor Polglase.

Request for additional Dog Litter Bins, Paxcroft Mead

A request had been received from a resident of Stourton Park for an additional litter bin/s in the vicinity. After a short discussion it was agreed that WWDC should be asked to provide one at a location off Cresswell Drive, near the footpath. The resident should be asked to contact the Parish Council again if this did not alleviate the problem

Request for a Bench in the vicinity of the large Play Area, Paxcroft Mead

The Clerk had received a request for some seating around the play area but because of the slopes this could be impractical and there might be health and safety issues. She was therefore asked to go back to the person who had made the request and ask him to suggest suitable locations for a bench.

Local Authorities and Empty Houses

Mr. Willis had previously voiced his concern at what he had read in the national press about the government's proposals to allow local councils to take over houses which had been empty for six months and keep them for up to seven years. There was some doubt as to whether or not this was actually the case, Mr. Jackson believing that this would only apply to derelict properties which could be used for social housing.

After a short discussion it was agreed that the Clerk should write to WWDC (copy to the Leader of the Council) to seek clarification of the government's policy and also to ask if the District Council intended to follow it.

8 PLANNING MATTERS

Applications

06/02799/FUL: Mr. and Mrs. T. Rudge, 318 Marsh Road

Single storey rear extension

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

06/02806/LBC: Christine Simpson, 234 Church Street,

Renew underfelt to make roof watertight

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

06/02867/FUL: Mr. R. Boardman and Miss P. Brinkworth, 104 Church Street

Erection of rear conservatory

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

06/02869/FUL: Mr. and Mrs. Shepherd, West Wing, Southfield, Devizes Road

First floor and loft extension above existing ground floor and new double garage to replace existing shed

It was agreed that an objection should be made in respect of the proposed two velux lights on the north elevation as it was felt that these would be inappropriate and out of character with the street scene.

(Mr. House wished his abstention from voting on this application to be recorded)

06/02963/FUL: Mr. and Mrs. Waller, 20 Horse Road

UPVC Conservatory

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

06/02987/FUL: Ms. C. Gale and Mr. J. Parfitt, 2 St. Michael's Close

Shallow oriel bay window to front of dining room

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

Decisions

06/01918/FUL: Miss J. S. Scott and Mr. C. P. Shape, The Old Rectory, 78 Whaddon

Detached garage and stores – Permission with conditions

06/01932/FUL: Mr. D. Shepherd, land west of West Wing, Devizes Road

Replace existing stable with four loose boxes and store – Permission with conditions

06/02526/TCA: Mrs. B. Mayell, land between 3 and 4 Dymott Square

Crown thinning and reduction of two Rowan trees – No TPO made

05/00554/OUT: J. J. Gallagher Limited and Heron Land Developments Limited

Land rear of The Grange, Ashton Road

Residential development and associated roads, cycleway and open space

Planning permission to be granted at a future date, subject to conditions and the completion of a legal agreement

Tree Preservation Order

TPO placed on an Ash tree situated on land at the rear of 41 and 43 Princess Gardens

9. CORRESPONDENCE

- a) WALC Newsletter for October, 2006 (already circulated)
- b) Letter from the Wiltshire Strategic Board concerning the revised framework for the Sustainable Strategy for Wiltshire and the list of Local Area Agreement outcomes

10. PUBLICATIONS

- a) In Focus – Autumn, 2006

11. FINANCIAL MATTERS**a) Completion of the Audit of the Accounts for the year ended 31st March, 2006**

The Clerk had received notification from Mazars that the audit for the year ended 31st March, 2006, had been completed, and the Annual Return, incorporating the signed audit certificate, had been returned to her. Notices of the conclusion of the audit had been put up on the parish notice boards.

b) Accounts

Payments authorised:-

Clerk's Salary for October	£411.63)	
Clerk's Expenses	£184.83)	£596.46

Nimbus Conservation Limited –Works on War Memorial (including £380.63 VAT)		£2,555.63
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Mazars – Professional fees re: audit for the year ended 31/3/06 (including £21.00 VAT)		£141.00
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12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS AND VILLAGE MAINTENANCE

- a) It was reported that there were Tawny Owls in the grounds of Blue Hills and it was agreed that the planning officer dealing with the planning application for residential development should be made aware of this. Dr. Beckett said she would make enquiries of the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust as to what could be done to protect them.
- b) Mr. Jackson reported that along the lane running down to Paxcroft (alongside Southfields) a large mechanical hedge-trimming vehicle had left a terrible mess of branches, lengths of timber and other debris which had not been cleared up. The Clerk was asked to contact WWDC about this.
- c) Mr. Jackson asked if it could be ascertained when the Order was made regarding the two conservation areas in Hilperton and what were the legal terms. The Clerk said she would contact WWDC's legal department.
- d) The Clerk said she would report a dip in the road outside No. 215 Church Street as it kept filling with water when raining.

13. ITEMS FOR PARISH NEWS/LOCAL PRESS

- a) Completion of works on the War Memorial
- b) Request for a bus stop clearway in Hill Street (by alleyway leading to Hilperton Primary School)
- c) Date of December meeting

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

Tuesday, 21st November, 2006.

The meeting ended at 8.58 p.m.

Signed Date