

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HILPERTON PARISH COUNCIL
HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL, WHADDON LANE, HILPERTON,
at 7.30 pm on Tuesday, 16th January, 2007**

There were no members of the public present.

PRESENT

- Mr. E. Clark (in the Chair)
- Mrs. S. Sawyer
- Mr. R. House
- Mr. M. Duff
- Mr. J. Willis
- Mr. K. Jackson
- Mr. V. Bielecki
- Mrs. K. Hayes
- Mrs. M. Keates
- Mr. B. Cullern

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Cllr. S. Content and Cllr. T. Carbin

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Dr. C. Beckett and Sergeant S. Ralph (this last apology was sent by e-mail late on Tuesday afternoon but not received until Wednesday morning).

2. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL/PREJUDICIAL INTEREST

Planning application 07/00042/FUL: Mr. E. Clark – Prejudicial.

Agenda Item 7 – Hilperton Village Hall request for a grant:

- a) Mr. E. Clark, personal, as the Parish Council representative on the management committee.
- b) Mrs. S. Sawyer, personal, as a member of the Village Hall committee
- c) Mr. M. Duff, personal, as Treasurer of the Village Hall

3. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 12th December, 2006, had been circulated. The Chairman said that Minute 12g should have read ‘Mr. House had received a request for a dog fouling notice to be placed adjacent to the main gates of Hilperton House, as the path running between this property and the church was often fouled by dogs’. Subject to this amendment, the Minutes were approved and signed.

4. MATTERS ARISING

Minute 6 – Police: The Clerk had sent another e-mail to Sergeant Sandy Ralph but had not received a response at the time of the meeting.

Minute 7 – Notice Board, Church Street: The Clerk had contacted WCC and had been told that, if a sketch of the exact preferred location was produced, they could consider it and, if approved, advise if any further planning consent were needed. The notice board must not cause a visibility problem and people should be able to walk past it freely. It was agreed that the new notice board should be placed near the re-positioned telegraph pole outside Woodcote House and the Chairman said he would provide a sketch of this location.

Minute 7 – War Memorial Planters: The Clerk was sorry to say that the stonemason, Alan Hawkins, had made a mistake in the quote he had sent because he had worked on external measurements rather than internal. The quote which had been approved at the last meeting, in the amount of £990, had risen

to £1,245, which was only £57 short of the James Long quote for York stone. After a short discussion it was agreed that the Clerk should contact James Long and ask them if they felt able to match the revised quote made by Mr. Hawkins. If they could, they should be given the order and asked to start work as soon as possible on the new planters.

Minute 7 – Strengthening of Staverton Railway Bridge: A letter had been received in late December from WCC stating that work on the railway bridge would not now start until the end of February. An article in the Wiltshire Times since the receipt of that letter suggested that work would be delayed until March.

Minute 12a: The bad state of the pavement in Kings Gardens had been reported to Clarence.

Minute 12b: The bad state of the pavement outside 61 Hill Street had been reported to Clarence.

Minute 12c: Mrs. Sawyer had not had an opportunity to speak to Paul Stadden about the bus shelter but it was agreed that he should do any work necessary to mend the damaged shelter.

Minute 12d: The missing litter bin on the cycleway behind Faverolle Way and Castley Road had been replaced but there was no sticker on it. Mr. Bielecki asked the Clerk to let him have the telephone number of the department at WWDC which people could contact to report when a bin needed emptying.

Minute 12f: Mrs. Hayes had not yet viewed the original planning application re: works at 22 Horse Road but would do so shortly.

Minute 12g: The Clerk had contacted WWDC's dog warden, Simon Cleaver. She had been informed by him that the 'Clean Neighbourhoods Act' would come into force in June, 2007, and all existing signs were in the process of being taken down so that they could be replaced at that time with signs showing the new £80 fine on them. He would ensure that a sign was put up adjacent to the gates of Hilperton House, as requested by the Parish Council.

Minute 12i: The Clerk had written to Cllr. Content who was looking into the matter of the cutting of the hedgerows.

Minute 12j: The paper which had been dumped on the footpath leading from Marsh Road to Horse Road had been reported to WCC.

Minute 12k: The Clerk had written to the landlord of the Lion and Fiddle and asked him to dispose of the mattress.

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIR

a) The Chairman informed members that the Parish Council website had 174 pages downloaded from 62 visits during December.

b) He said that Hilperton Presents were putting on the pantomime 'Aladdin' on the 25th, 26th and 27th January at the Village Hall and some tickets were still available.

c) The Chairman had received two invitations to the launch of 'African Horizons' at the Arc Theatre in a few days' time. As he was unable to attend he wondered if any parish councillors would like the tickets.

6. COUNTY COUNCILLOR, DISTRICT COUNCILLORS AND POLICE

County Report

Councillor Content had made some investigations concerning Mr. Jackson's complaint over the cutting of the hedgerow backing onto the Barratt site along Devizes Road between Southfield and Blue Hills. She had found out that the machine in question was a flail cutter and it did in fact leave behind detritus, although this should have been cleared up. She added that there were issues regarding the ownership of these hedges as the landowner should have taken care of them. Mr. Jackson said that this cutter was huge with an 8' long blade which had totally savaged the hedge. Members of the Parish Council were fairly sure that the hedgerow in question was county-council owned and Councillor Content said that she had raised this issue as an official complaint and further action would have to be taken if this occurred again.

Councillor Content had noted the problem the Parish Council was having in contacting the police. She said that PC Lee Penning was the new local constable and she would be happy to contact him on behalf of the Parish Council.

She had no detailed county report to hand out but the most important issue concerning the County Council at the present time was that of unitary authority status and, earlier in the afternoon, the County Council had voted (26 for and 16 against) to submit a unitary proposal to the Secretary of State by the end of January. Public consultation with towns, parishes, stakeholders etc. would follow, all sorts of legal issues would have to be addressed but, if given the go-ahead after all this, unitary elections would take place in 2008. Councillor Content went on to say that much money and officer-time had already been spent on this exercise which she did not believe had been included in any figures

District Report

On the same subject, Councillor Clark said that West Wilts. District Council had debated these proposals recently, they had been rejected and a referendum was being asked for. Other district councils, including Kennet and Salisbury, were also anti-unitary.

Police

No officer was in attendance but the following report from Sergeant Sandy Ralph has since been received:-

‘The Hilperton area remains a relatively low crime area as there has only been a total of 80 matters reported for police attention between the beginning of November to date. However, there are some issues which continue to cause policing problems, namely,

- a) Towpath children’s home continues to be a problem for the police at Trowbridge and a considerable drain on resources. There are daily missing person reports and the subsequent enquiries that need to be done seem endless.
- b) There have been problems with youths entering the Budgens development site at Paxcroft Mead which have resulted in a guard being employed on site at night which will be beneficial to the whole estate.
- c) There continues to be a problem with youths using the school playground as a meeting area but whenever the police attend there have been no identified offences. Neighbours allege a problem with drug misuse but this has been difficult to prove.
- d) There continues to be low level crime in the Towpath/Navigator Close area but nothing to become concerned about as a parish council at this time.

28th January will see the amalgamation of the police areas but this will not affect the policing of the Hilperton area at all. Trowbridge Inspector Dave Cullop will be taking over as Sector Inspector and will oversee the implementation of the Neighbourhood Policing teams (NPTs) across Trowbridge. You may or may not have met one of the current PCSOs but we see them as an extremely valuable resource. They provide great resilience and we get very positive feedback from the general public. With effect from the end of March we will be allocated additional PCSOs to help with the NPT roll-out. It is going to be a time of great change but, hopefully, you will be happy with the service.’

7. ITEMS FOR REPORT AND DISCUSSION

Hilperton Village Hall

a) Charity Commission

The Clerk had read through the Charity Commission booklet given to her by Mr. Duff but no mention was made of corporate trustees. Mr. Duff said he would continue to list the trustees by name in each annual return.

b) Request for a Grant

A request for a grant had been received from the Village Hall treasurer to assist towards the cost of a new gas cooker which had been installed in the hall (at a cost of £1,490) and also towards loft insulation which needed to be installed over the suspended ceiling to the hall, starting at the front of the hall next to the entrance and finishing at the rear of the snooker room (at a cost of £2,075).

After a short discussion it was agreed that a Section 19 grant of £2,000 should be made to the Village Hall, this money to be allocated at the discretion of the management committee. (Proposed by Mr. Jackson, seconded by Mr. Willis, all in favour).

Paxcroft Mead Community Centre

Mr. Bielecki declared a personal interest in this matter as the Parish Council Paxcroft Mead Community Centre representative.

The Secretary of the Paxcroft Mead Community Centre had written to the Parish Council requesting a grant of £2,000 towards essential maintenance and health and safety works which were expected to cost in the region of £4,345.

After a short discussion it was agreed that a Section 19 grant of £2,000 should be made to the Paxcroft Mead Community Centre towards these works, details of which are held on file. (Proposed by Mr. Jackson, seconded by Mr. Willis, all in favour)

Bus Stop Clearways

The Clerk was waiting for confirmation from WCC that a) a bus stop clearway would be approved in Hill Street, at the alleyway leading to the primary school and that b) they would also approve another clearway on the opposite side of the road. WCC's Infrastructure Liaison Officer had informed her that the second site was being looked at by Mouchel Parkman and she would contact the Clerk again once they had completed their survey.

Raised Flower Bed, Newleaze

The Clerk had not made any headway with WWDC over this matter as the Area Environmental Health Officer had said that they had no power to deal with problems on the public highway and the Clerk should therefore contact WCC. This she had done and was awaiting a reply. It was suggested that some photographs could be taken as the hazard was right in the middle of the footpath, and these could be sent to Environmental Services at County Hall.

Conservation Areas

Mr. Jackson still had further enquiries to make and he said that as he would be unable to attend the February meeting, he would report back at the March PC meeting.

Parish Steward

a) Report on visit on the 18th December

The Parish steward had cleared out the gully at the War Memorial, cleared weeds on pavements throughout the village, cleared drains as he came across them, cleared weeds opposite the Lion and Fiddle and weeds on the pavement on The Grange side of Devizes Road, and had cleared leaves around the bus shelters in Hill Street. Mr. Willis said he had done a thorough job.

b) Confirmation of jobs asked to be carried out on the 16th and 17th January

The Parish Steward had been asked to:-

- a) clean out the bus shelters along the Trowbridge Road and Hill Street
- b) clear vegetation behind the seat opposite the bus stop on the Trowbridge Road

- c) cut the grass at the end of St. Michael's Close
- d) clear drains throughout the village
- e) clean pavements throughout the village

The Clerk said she would find out the dates of future Parish Steward visits over the coming months.

West Wilts. Central Area Parish Councils' Liaison Group

Mr. Jackson said that the 9th January meeting had been deferred to the 6th February. He would send a resume to the Clerk so that she could give a report at the February PC meeting.

Approval of the Budget and Setting of the Precept for 2007/8

The Clerk tabled copies of the proposed budget for 2007/2008 and said that the estimated number of band D properties in the parish had risen only slightly since the previous year. Based on the estimate given of 1842.13, if the levy again remained at £10.99 this would produce a precept of £20,245. After a discussion the Chairman proposed the adoption of the budget and the setting of the precept at this figure. This was seconded by Mr. House with all in favour.

Spring, 2007, Newsletter

The Chairman asked members if they would like a spring newsletter produced or whether it would be better to wait until after the May local elections. After a short discussion it was agreed that a newsletter should be prepared immediately for distribution in March, followed by a post-election, summer Newsletter. The Chairman said he would put something together shortly for the first one.

8. PLANNING MATTERS

Applications

06/03851/FUL: Marshgate Investments Limited, Retail Unit 3, New Unit Hackett Place

Change of use from A1 (retail) to A5 (sale of hot food)

After some discussion it was agreed unanimously that an objection should be made to this application on the following grounds:-

- a) the proposed change of use would generate noise, disturbance, smells and pollution. The existing food units are situated away from the new residential units which are being built as part of this new development.
- b) With incidences of vandalism in the Community Centre area, this proposal for a further fast food outlet would undoubtedly exacerbate the problem.
- c) the proposal would have an adverse effect on economy and businesses. If this proposal went ahead there would be (excluding Budgens), out of seven small units, three for the sale of food, and this would create an imbalance of usage and would become incompatible with existing planning permission as the application was originally purely for retail and residential use.

07/00024/FUL: Mr. H. Demski, 158 Wyke Road

First floor extension

After a short discussion it was agreed unanimously that no objection would be made to this application.

Mr. Clark left the room while the following application was considered. Mr. House took the chair.

07/00042/FUL: Mr. and Mrs. Coles, 4 Nursery Close

Single storey extension/garden room

After a short discussion it was agreed that no objection would be made to this application (seven in favour, two against).

Mr. Clark returned to the meeting and took the chair.

Decisions

05/01092/FUL: Edward Oatley and Sons, land north west of Paxcroft Farm
Change of use of grain stores and poultry houses to light industrial - Permission with conditions

06/02679/FUL: Mrs. J. Roberts, 26 Horse Road
Replacement dwelling and garage - Permission with conditions

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 – Permission with conditions

Town and Country Planning act 1990

- a) Removal of two dying Beech trees within the grounds of Third Acre, Church Street, to be replaced with two new Beech trees within 5 metres of the position of the felled trees.
- b) Removal of a Horse Chestnut tree with an advanced stage of canker within the grounds of Fieldways, to be replaced with a Lime tree within two metres of the position of the felled tree.

Dates of possible future Planning Committee Meetings

The Chairman and the Clerk had identified one date on which there could be a planning committee meeting between now and the May local elections and this might be on Tuesday, 13th February. The Clerk would confirm or otherwise nearer the time.

9. CORRESPONDENCE

- a) Further letters of thanks from Coal Charity recipients.
- b) WALC Newsletter for December, 2006 (already circulated)
- c) Invitation to Village Hall briefing days (given to their Treasurer, Mr. Duff)
- d) Wiltshire Forum of Community Area Partnerships – Annual Conference on the 27th January.

10. PUBLICATIONS

- a) WWDC – Newsletter re. Government White Paper on local government reorganisation
- b) WCC – Parish Newsletter, January, 2007
- c) Clerks and Councils Direct – January, 2007
- d) WWDC – Corporate Plan 2006/2010
- e) Local Council Review – January, 2007
- f) Wiltshire Music Centre – Spring/Summer 2007 programme
- g) WCC – Wiltshire Emergency Planning handbook
- h) The Clerk - January, 2007
- i) The Arc Theatre – programme for the Spring, 2007

11. ACCOUNTS

Payments authorised:-

- a) Since the last meeting:

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| Mrs. M. E. Timms, computer contribution April – December, 2006 | £135.00 |
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- b) This meeting:

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| Clerk's Salary for January | £425.12) | |
| Clerk's Expenses | £144.82) | £569.94 |
| File-It Limited – Stationery (including £21.25 VAT) | | £142.79 |

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| WCC – Horse Road amendments | £4,000.00 |
| Hilperton Village Hall – Section 19 Grant approved earlier | £2,000.00 |
| Paxcroft Mead Community Centre – Section 19 Grant approved earlier | £2,000.00 |

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS AND VILLAGE MAINTENANCE

- a) Mrs. Sawyer said the drain needed clearing outside the bus stop at the top of Hill Street but the Parish Steward may well have seen to this.
- b) Mr. Jackson had received complaints about vehicles being parked directly at the junction of Ashton Road/Devizes Road and this was dangerous. The Clerk was asked to report this to the police.
- c) Mr. Cullern voiced his concern that in Cresswell Drive the street was not being cleaned. Mr. Bielecki said it was the same in Faverolle Way because these roads had not yet been adopted. The Clerk said she would contact WCC about this.
- d) Mr. Cullern said that at the underpass on Paxcroft Mead the graffiti had still not been cleaned off. The Clerk had already reported this but would do so again.
- e) Mr. Cullern reported rubbish constantly being dumped at the car park outside The Mead school. The Chairman said that the police were aware of problems associated with this area and the Clerk was asked to contact WCC to see if the car park could be gated.
- f) The Chairman said it had been reported to WWDC that some trees had been cut down at the Lion and Fiddle without any prior consent. The Landscape Officer, Chris Kirk (who has now returned to WWDC) investigated the matter and, having seen what had been done, it was his opinion that the trees/hedgerow elements removed were dead, dying and – in some cases – dangerous. Each of the trees that had been removed with their stumps attached were rotten at the base and a significant danger. The owner would now be served with a notice acknowledging the problem and the work carried out and be issued with a notice to replant a hedge along the affected section, which was the best way to deal with this particular problem.

13. ITEMS FOR PARISH NEWS/LOCAL PRESS

- a) Request for a volunteer at The Mead primary school to take care of their allotment.
- b) New ward name of 'Avonside'.
- c) Newsletter shortly to be produced.
- d) Telephone number of the WWDC department to contact when dog bins need emptying.
- e) A note to let people know that sections of Victoria Road in Trowbridge will be closed from the 21st January to the end of March and the bus service routes will be altered during this time.

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

Tuesday, 20th February, 2007 (apologies given by Mr. Jackson).

The meeting ended at 9.20 p.m.

Signed Date

