

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HILPERTON PARISH COUNCIL
HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL, WHADDON LANE, HILPERTON,
at 7.30 pm on Tuesday, 17th April, 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
- Mrs. K. Hayes
- Mr. K. Jackson
- Dr. C. Beckett
- Mrs. M. Keates
- Mr. D. Tucker

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: P. C. Lee Pelling and Cllr. T. Carbin

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Mr. V. Bielecki, Mr. B. Cullern and Cllr. S. Content.

2. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL/PREJUDICIAL INTEREST

Planning application 07/00850/FUL: Mr. E. Clark – Prejudicial

Planning application 07/00850/FUL: Mr. R. House – Personal, the applicant being known to him.

3. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 20th March, 2007, were approved and signed.

4. MATTERS ARISING

Minute 7 – Bus Stop Clearway: The Clerk had sent a letter of objection to Mouchel Parkman who would be sending all the responses to WCC. They in turn would contact the Parish Council in due course.

Minute 7 – Parish Steward: The Steward was asked to do as much as possible on his day's visit on the 13th April, such as checking and tidying pavements where necessary, clearing out any blocked drains and sweeping out the bus shelters. He had also been asked to cut the grass on the opposite side of the entrance to Marsh Farm but the Clerk had been told that this patch of grass belonged to WWDC and they had in fact since cut it. The grass in Greenhill gardens also needed cutting but the Clerk said that this belonged to the West Wilts. Housing Society and it was their responsibility. No report on the visit had yet been received.

Minute 7 – Best Kept Village Competition: The entry form had been sent in and acknowledged by CPRE. Judging would take place in early summer.

Minute 7 – Double Yellow Lines: The Clerk had written to WCC and had received a reply to the effect that new waiting restrictions were not currently being progressed in West Wiltshire as staff resources were committed to progressing the introduction of a decriminalised parking enforcement in the area in April, 2008. This is when responsibility for enforcing parking controls would transfer to the local authority from the police. The introduction of this decriminalised enforcement would take some time to achieve but part of the preparation work would also involve refreshing the existing lines on the

ground. Hackett Place and Hill Street had been added to the list of requests for parking controls that would be considered when decriminalised parking enforcement took place.

Minute 8 – Consultation in respect of planning decision-making: The Clerk had sent the Parish Council's views to WWDC.

Minute 12a – The broken dog bin on the cycle path opposite Fieldways had been reported to WWDC.

Minute 12b – The Parish Council's request for weight limit signs in Horse Road had been acknowledged by WCC and they would respond shortly.

Minute 12c – The vandalism of the cycle safety barriers along the path to the football pitch at Paxcroft Mead had been reported to WCC.

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIR

a) The Chairman informed members that four parish councillors had decided not to put their names forward for nomination at the forthcoming local elections on the 3rd May. Mr. Duff felt that now he was living in Holt he would prefer to become more involved in that area; Mrs. Keates' work commitments meant that she did not have the time to become involved in the work of the parish council, but she intended to come back in four years' time; Mr. Drewett also had other commitments and Dr. Beckett's increasingly busy work load had led to her decision not to stand again. All four members were thanked for their support over the years and Dr. Beckett was handed a gift of garden vouchers in appreciation of her sixteen years of service on the Parish Council. In addition to these four councillors, Mr. Willis had been unable to send in his nomination paper in time. This left eight original councillors standing, together with two new ones – Trevor Carbin, known of course to everyone on the Parish Council, and Wolsey Jameson, a resident of Ashton Road. Three co-opted councillors would therefore be needed and Mr. Willis had already expressed his willingness to be one of them.

b) The Chairman said that the grant given to C-Cubed last year had been returned because the group had been able to raise enough money to cover their expenses via an appeal at their local church. The Clerk had acknowledged receipt of the cheque and had said that they should feel free to contact the Parish Council again if another need arose.

6. COUNTY COUNCILLOR, DISTRICT COUNCILLORS AND POLICE

County Report

Cllr. Content had given her apologies and had sent a report, copies of which were tabled.

The debacle of the Staverton railway bridge was continuing, with the work being unable to be completed in one go, despite the recent five-week closure. There was currently a debate as to whether there should be a full three-week closure from the 23rd April or a longer but partial closure. After a short discussion it was agreed that a partial closure would be better and the Clerk was asked to contact WCC.

The unitary debate had moved on with the Secretary of State inviting all County Councils who had entered bids to go into the consultation round. It was agreed that the bid made by Wiltshire County Council should be discussed at the May PC meeting and at the Annual Assembly on the 1st May.

Cllr. Content's report is held on file.

District Report

Mr. Clark said that the final pre-local election meeting had taken place the previous Wednesday. The issue of the green wheelie bins which was causing concern amongst residents in the district would be discussed at a cabinet meeting in August. Mr. Carbin added that it was worth putting pressure on the County Council concerning the closure of the Staverton railway bridge.

Police

PC Lee Pelling, the NPT Beat Manager for Staverton and Hilperton, was in attendance and tabled copies of his report on general issues covering the period 16th February to 20th March. *This report is held on file.* In addition, PC Pelling said that the 0845 police contact number would hopefully provide a better service in the near future. He also informed members that the proposed Staverton and Hilperton beat was now to be increased to a much larger area with only one beat manager, which was obviously disappointing and only time would tell how his team would be able to cope with the situation. A short discussion followed, with members reporting various incidents throughout the village.

The Chairman said that it would be helpful if a member of the Neighbourhood Policing Team could attend the annual Parish Assembly on the 1st May and the Clerk said she would let PC Pelling have the names and addresses of the owners of land within the Hilperton Gap.

7. ITEMS FOR REPORT AND DISCUSSION

Notice Board for Church Street

The Clerk said that this had been ordered and would be delivered to the Chairman's address shortly.

Local Elections

The main points had been covered under 'Announcements from the Chair' but, in addition, the Chairman reminded members to fill in their (nil return) election expenditure sheets and either let the Clerk have them or send them direct to the District Council.

The Mead Primary School

The Clerk had not yet received a copy of the Land Registry search which showed which land belonged to the District Council, but Mr. George Curran from the Legal Services department was now dealing with this matter and would be in touch with her shortly. It was agreed that this should be discussed at the May PC meeting.

Conservation Areas

Mr. Jackson had not yet met with planning officers and it was agreed that this should be included on the May agenda.

Traffic using Middle Lane – Update

Since the re-opening of Victoria Road there had not been many vehicles using Middle Lane.

West Wilts. Central Area Parish Councils' Liaison Group

Mr. Jackson said that the next meeting of the group would be on the 26th April and he asked members to contact him if they wanted any item included under 'any other business'.

WCC – Annual Area Highways Presentation

The Chairman said that this year's meeting would be held on Tuesday, 24th April, at Holt Village Hall, commencing at 2 pm. Both Mr. Duff and Mr. Tucker said they would endeavour to attend.

Request for a Grant

This had come from Wiltshire St. John Ambulance, with the focus of their fundraising being a much-needed new ambulance to replace one which was nearing the end of its useful life. The Clerk reminded members of the grants given to this organisation over the last couple of years and, after a short discussion, Mr. Jackson proposed that £250 should be given. This was seconded by Mr. House. Mr. Willis then proposed that £300 should be given and Mrs. Hayes seconded this amendment. When put

to the vote the amended proposal had six in favour and four against and was therefore carried, and it was agreed that a Section 137 grant of £300 would be made to Wiltshire St. John Ambulance.

War Memorial – Plants and Sweeping

As in previous years it was agreed that an allowance of £5 a week should be made between the beginning of April until the end of October, 2007, for thirty weeks of maintenance of plants at the War Memorial and the sweeping.

The Clerk was asked to contact James Long to find out when the new planters would be ready.

8. PLANNING MATTERS

Applications

07/00601/FUL: Mr. N. Dunlop, 2 Stourton Park

Two storey side extension

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

07/00849/FUL: R. Hodgson, 26 St. Mary's Gardens

Extension to form disabled shower room, adaptation of existing garage roof and covered way and conservatory

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

Mr. Clark left the room during discussion of the following application and Mr. House took the chair

07/00850/FUL: Mr. and Mrs. Huggins, 17 Dymott Square

Two storey extension to provide accommodation for an elderly parent

After a short discussion it was agreed that an objection should be made to this application unless the planning authority imposed a condition stating that 'the property as a whole shall be occupied as one dwelling unit, with the accommodation hereby permitted occupied as part of, or an extension to, the main dwelling, and it shall not be let or sold as separate accommodation.'

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

07/00880/FUL: Mr. R. Dyer, 136 Wyke Road

Construction of single garage

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

07/01058/FUL and 07/01060/LBC: Mr. and Mrs. Weaver, Maxcroft House, Maxcroft Lane

Subdivision of existing house to form two dwellings – minor amendments to approved

The Chairman reminded members that planning permission for the subdivision of Maxcroft House had been allowed on appeal and there had already been a further application for minor amendments in May, 2006. On looking at the list of proposed amendments, it was agreed that no objection should be made to the actual application but an objection should be made in respect of listed building consent as it was felt that the amendments would not enhance this listed building.

07/01122/TPO: Mr. G. Richards, Ashton Lodge, 125c Ashton Road

Crown lifting of Eucalyptus tree

This tree had been the subject of a recent TPO and it was agreed that the Parish Council would defer to any decision made by the Tree and Landscape Officer on the proposed crown lifting.

07/00324/FUL: Edward Oatley and Son, Marsh Farm, Marsh Road

Conversion of agricultural building to four light industrial units and one other building – additional information received.

This additional information included a letter from the applicants to the Clerk to say they had been advised of the Parish Council's concerns regarding speed limits on their drive. They had precisely the same worries and once they had consulted with the Traffic Department, they would wish to undertake steps to ensure traffic movements were slow and safe. They would, in the first instance, erect signs advising of a 10 mph speed limit and, if this failed to reduce traffic speed, then they intended to build speed humps. Whilst it was appreciated that the applicants shared the Parish Council's concerns, it was agreed that the original comments on this application should stay the same.

Decisions

06/00633/FUL: Mr. D. Tucker, Units 1 to 2, 75 Whaddon
Change of use of agricultural building to domestic storage units – permission with conditions

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) – refusal

07/00277/FUL: David Anderson, 18 Dymott Square
Extensions to dwelling – permission with conditions

01/01971/OUT: J. J. Gallagher, land off Hackett Place
Residential development and associated roads – refusal

07/00511/TPO: George Wimpey, Bristol, land adjoining 5 and 7 Foxglove Drive
Pruning of Oak tree – consent with conditions

Proposed Telecom Mast Installation – Update

The Chairman said that he had nothing further to report at this time as the situation had gone quiet all of a sudden.

9. CORRESPONDENCE

- a) Letter from WWDC regarding Play Strategy. It was agreed that the Clerk should ask for a copy of the first consultation draft regarding this Big Lottery launch and this initiative should then be discussed at the May meeting.
- b) WWDC – Local Government reorganisation (opposition to WCC's bid for unitary authority status), to be discussed at the May meeting.
- c) WCC – Paper on planning/development control developed by the County Council in respect of its bid to government for the creation of One Council for Wiltshire – to be discussed at the May meeting.
- d) WCC – Update on railway bridge at Staverton
- e) Letter of thanks from the Wiltshire Bobby Van Trust in respect of the recent grant made.
- f) Letter from Bridge House concerning West Wilts. Voluntary Sector's forum on the 2nd May on the future role of the voluntary sector in health and social care.

10. PUBLICATIONS

- a) Wiltshire News – April, 2007
- b) Westminster Report – Dr. Andrew Murrison MP: Spring, 2007
- c) In Focus – Spring, 2007

11. ACCOUNTS

Payments authorised:-

Clerk's Salary for April	£434.71)	
Clerk's Expenses	£165.72)	£600.43

WALC Annual Subscription 2007/08 (including £110.36 VAT)	£740.98
Clerks and Councils Direct – Annual subscription	£9.50
Allianz Cornhill – Insurance renewal	£877.71
Mr. L. House (maintenance of War Memorial Plants and sweeping – approved earlier in the meeting)	£150.00
Wiltshire St. John Ambulance – Section 137 Grant Approved earlier in the meeting	£300.00

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS AND VILLAGE MAINTENANCE

- a) Mr. Tucker said that the letter the Clerk had sent to British Waterways had had some effect because there were now very few cars about.
- b) Mr. Willis reported fly tipping of bundles of paper on the footpath from Marsh Road to Horse Road.
- c) Mr. Willis said that there was a very high hedge at No. 14 Horse Road which needed cutting back.
- d) Mr. Willis had again received a request for a bus shelter at the Marsh Road/Hill Street end of Horse Road – the Clerk to contact WCC.
- e) A letter had been received from a resident of Marsh Road complaining about the removal of white posts down a lane off Horse Road. This was discussed and members were informed that the posts had been taken away years ago and it was felt that it would not be possible to have them replaced without causing parking problems for residents.

13. ITEMS FOR PARISH NEWS/LOCAL PRESS

- a) Police NPT teams: e-mail address
- b) Local elections: co-option of three people to the Parish Council (anyone interested should contact the Clerk)
- c) Grant to St. John Ambulance

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

Tuesday, 15th May, 2007

Annual Parish Assembly – Tuesday, 1st May

The meeting ended at 9.13 p.m.

Signed Date

