

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HILPERTON PARISH COUNCIL
HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL, WHADDON LANE, HILPERTON,
at 7.30 pm on Tuesday, 17th July, 2007**

There was one member of the public present.

PRESENT

- Mr. E. Clark (in the Chair)
- Mrs. S. Sawyer
- Mrs. K. Hayes
- Mr. Trevor Carbin
- Mr. J. Willis
- Mrs. J. Waring
- Mr. R. House
- Mr. W. Jameson
- Mr. D. Tucker
- Mr. K. Jackson

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: District Councillor David Binding

At the start of the meeting Councillor Tucker used his right, under the new Code of Conduct, to address the meeting 'as a member of the public' and answer questions put to him by members of the Parish Council.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Ms. P. Turner, Mr. B. Cullern, Mr. V. Bielecki and County Councillor S. Content.

2. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL/PREJUDICIAL INTEREST

Agenda Item 7 – Village Hall Car Park:-

Mr. E. Clark – Personal as a member of the Village Hall and Parish Council representative on the Management Committee.

Mrs. S. Sawyer – Personal as a member of the Village Hall and a member of the Management Committee.

Mr. R. House and Mr. J. Willis – Personal as members of the Village Hall.

Planning Application 07/02151/FUL: Mr. D Tucker – Prejudicial

3. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 19th June, 2007, were approved and signed.

4. MATTERS ARISING

Minute 7 – Bus Shelter: The Chairman, Clerk and Mr. Willis had met representatives from WCC on site on the 22nd June. It was found that, due to the minimal width of footway at this particular site, there was no room to erect a bus shelter, even of cantilever style. It was suggested the footway be built out in order to make enough room for a shelter but this was not considered possible because it would reduce the already minimal carriageway width at the location. It was also suggested the bus stop be moved to accommodate a shelter but the footway along this stretch of road was too narrow to accommodate one.

Minute 7 – Play Strategy: A letter had been sent to WWDC, as requested.

Minute 7 – Play Area Grants: This matter was now drawing to a satisfactory conclusion, with two new items of play equipment (a pirate ship and rope walk) having recently been installed at the Village Hall. This equipment would now be inspected by WWDC and then a cheque raised for the amount of the grant.

Minute 7 – Bus Stop Clearway, Hill Street: WCC would inform the Parish Council when the work was expected to start.

Minute 7 – Local Authorities Model Code of Conduct: Notification of the Parish Council's adoption of the Code (with the inclusion of paragraph 12(2) had been sent to the Standards Board for England.

Minute 7 – Grant for Trowbridge Amateur Swimming Club: A cheque had been sent but no acknowledgement received to date.

Minute 7 – Affordable Housing Requirement: Letters had been sent to both the District Council and West Wiltshire Housing Society but no replies had yet been received.

Minute 11 – Accounts: Notification of the forthcoming audit was now on all the notice boards and the Clerk had sent new members copies of the budget.

Minute 12b: Traffic speeding along Leap Gate had been reported to PC Pelling.

Minute 12c: The planters which had been made to the wrong size had now been taken away from the War Memorial and the new ones would be ready in about a month.

Minute 12f: The overgrown brambles along Horse Road had been reported to Clarence.

Minute 12g: The bus stop sign which was knocked over had been reported to Eric Egar at WCC and a new one was now in place.

Minute 12h: The Clerk had spoken to WWDC and had been informed that if a building was not listed then they had no control over what colour owners decided to paint their properties.

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIR

In answer to a question from the Chairman, members confirmed that they had received their new monthly copy of the Local Council Review.

The Chairman informed members that there might need to be a meeting in August if the planning application for Church Farm was received.

6. COUNTY COUNCILLOR, DISTRICT COUNCILLORS AND POLICE

County Report

Cllr. Content was not in attendance, had given her apologies and had sent the Clerk a short report. The County Council was waiting for a response from DCLG concerning its unitary bid and this was expected on or around the 25th July. There was, however, a judicial challenge against the Secretary of State on the whole unitary issue on the basis that she did not have the power to change authorities in this way, the hearing for this challenge being set for September. WCC had said that the case against the state would not affect them at the present time. Councillor Content wondered how the residents of Wiltshire would feel if WCC obtained the go-ahead in July and added further costs (on top of the approximately £400,000 allocated to the change to unitary status and the costs of moving to unitary itself) to the tax payers only to find that the Secretary of State was found to be acting unlawfully and councils could not proceed. Councillor Content's report went on to say that she suggested that if the Parish Council had any concerns on this issue re. the judicial review they should contact Stephen Gerrard, Senior Solicitor to the Council, for the formal WCC view on the matter. It was agreed that this should be done.

Other matters in Councillor Content's report included the audit on gypsy and traveller sites in Wiltshire, changes to the PMCC management committee and the work of NPTs across the county. *(Councillor Content's report is held on file)*

District Report

The Chairman said that the District Council had agreed to make a donation to the council challenging the Secretary of State over the unitary issue. He believed it was in the order of up to £5,000.

Police

There was no-one in attendance but PC Lee Pelling had sent an e-mail to the Clerk to say that he was aware of the speeding problem along Leap Gate and other areas on Paxcroft Mead and he would keep an eye on this.

He and his team were deep into organising the Police Tasking Group under the umbrella of the Parish Councils' Liaison Group. There was a presentation on the 9th July where it was agreed to run the Police Tasking Group for the NPT one hour before the Parish Councils' Liaison Group meeting and the plan was for this to start on the 19th July. However, this had been postponed due to insufficient time to get things sorted, but PC Pelling's priority was to get the group going and the right people attending. (This Tasking Group is in effect a community partnership group with representatives from parish councils (Hilperton and Staverton), Paxcroft Mead community centre, housing officers, councillors and other key members of the community).

7. ITEMS FOR REPORT AND DISCUSSION**Enlargement of Village Hall Car Park and New Access**

After a discussion on this matter, it was resolved that the Parish Council would pay the building regulations fees of £992.51 plus £173.69 VAT. The Village Hall would reimburse the Parish Council with the capital sum of £992.51, and the Parish Council would then reclaim the VAT.

Conservation Areas

A letter had finally been received from WWDC's Development Control Service Manager, David Hubbard, in which he thought it might be helpful to point out the limited powers available to all councils under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990. The Chairman read out Mr. Hubbard's letter, after which it was agreed that a sub-committee be set up, comprising councillors Jackson, House, Clark and Hayes, to consider the Hilperton conservation areas. Mr. Hubbard should be informed of this action.

Biodiversity Seminar

The Chairman had recently attended this seminar which he found interesting and informative.

Newsletter

The Chairman had still not found time to prepare a draft but said that he would do so in August and send to parish councillors. (Suggested items for inclusion - new parish councillors, WCC's bid for unitary status, war memorial, parish steward)

Damaged Safety Kerb opposite the Lion and Fiddle

Since the last meeting the Clerk had spoken to Mr. Paul Snook at WCC who said he would take a look at the damaged kerb and decide how to deal with it. Since then the kerb had again been repaired. Members expressed their dissatisfaction with yet another 'bodge', especially as they had asked for the kerb to be replaced, and it was agreed that WCC should be informed of the Parish Council's view.

Clarification of recent WWDC Planning Decision

Despite three letters being written by the Clerk to the officer in charge of a recent planning application, no reply had been received, and it was agreed that the Development Control Manager should now be informed of this unacceptable state of affairs.

West Wiltshire Central Area Parish Councils' Liaison Group

Mr. Jackson reported that the meeting which was going to take place on the 19th July had been postponed but no new date fixed as yet. The next scheduled meeting would be on the 4th October.

Playful Ideas Lottery Fund

It was agreed that this item should be deferred to the September meeting.

WWDC Core Strategy Issues Paper

A working group had been set up comprising Mrs. Hayes, Mr. Jameson and Mr. Carbin. They went through in detail their suggested responses and it was unanimously agreed that the Parish Council should endorse the findings of the working group. Mrs. Hayes said she would complete the response form and send it back to the District Council, for which she was thanked.

Post Office Closures

It was agreed that this matter should be carried forward to the September meeting if new information came to hand.

Parish Steward

All the jobs the Steward had been asked to do on the 19th and 20th June had been completed satisfactorily. He would be back in Hilperton on the 19th July, mostly attending to ragwort problems, but he had also been asked to generally cut back anything overgrowing or untidy. The Chairman reminded members that there would be no visit in August and the Parish Steward would next be in the area on the 18th and 19th September. Some suggested jobs for him were given to Mr. Willis as the co-ordinator.

Cattle in 'The Gap' Fields

Mrs. Hayes had recently met with Steve Leonard from WCC and Richard Fyffe. Mr. Leonard had agreed to replace two stiles (one at the north end of footpath 11 and the other in the middle of footpath 10a) with hooped gates at a cost of £200 each. This would be done within a month. He said that the County Council would pay for one of the gates and Mr. Fyffe said he would pay 50% of the cost of the other. After a short discussion it was agreed that the Parish Council would pay the balance of 50%, i.e. £100 (proposed by Mr. Willis, seconded by Mrs. Hayes, all in favour).

Results of the Best Kept Village Competition

Hilperton came third out of four in the large village category and, with a score of 70, this was better than some of the top scores in the small and medium village categories. The judges' comments were pleasing and the result praised. They especially liked the Village Pump, a nice reminder of 'yesteryear'.

Parish Council Representative on the Standards Committee

The Chairman said that a copy of the papers received from WWDC had been forwarded to Ms. Turner who might be interested in applying. No other interest was expressed.

WWDC – Waste and Recycling Review Consultation

The responses to this consultation were agreed and the form completed, ready to be sent back to WWDC.

WWDC – Review of Area Seminars

It was agreed that as the deadline date of 13th July had passed, the Parish Council would not make any comment on the review.

Request for a Grant from Victim Support Wiltshire

After a short discussion it was agreed that a Section 137 grant of £200 should be given (proposed by Mr. Willis, seconded by Mr. Jackson, all in favour).

8. PLANNING MATTERS

Applications

07/03020/TPO: Mr. W. Ryan, 32 Foxglove Drive

Pruning and crown thinning of Horse Chestnut tree

It was agreed that the Parish Council would support the view of WWDC's Tree and Landscape officer.

07/02117/OUT: H. J. Knee Limited, Durlston, Hilperton Road

Replacement of existing dwelling and erection of three additional dwellings (outline)

It was agreed that an objection should be made to this application on the following grounds:-

The proposal would, because of the size and location of the dwelling closest to Hilperton Road, result in a building intruding into this corridor of open space at the entrance to Trowbridge that would be harmful to the street scene and would neither preserve nor enhance the setting of the adjacent conservation area, contrary to policies H1, C17 and C31a of the West Wiltshire District Plan – 1st Alteration 2004 and policies DP9 and HE7 of the Wiltshire and Swindon Structure Plan 2016.

Mr. Tucker left the room whilst the following planning application was discussed

07/02151/FUL: Mr. D. Tucker, Units 1 to 2, 75 Whaddon Lane

Variation of condition 5 on planning consent 06/00633/FUL.

After a short discussion it was agreed that an objection should be made to this application. There had been no material change in circumstances since this condition was made and the Parish Council did not wish to see any increase in traffic using the lane, especially with the inadequacy of the road system and poor visibility at the junction with the B3105.

Mr. Tucker returned to the meeting

07/02200/VAN8: Mr. and Mrs. B. Olding, 40 St. Mary's Gardens

Single storey rear extension to replace existing conservatory

It was agreed that there should be no objection to this application

Decisions

07/01060/LBC: Mr. and Mrs. Weaver, Maxcroft House, 3 Maxcroft Lane

Subdivision of existing house to form two dwellings

Refusal of listed building consent

07/01284/FUL: Edward Oatley and Son, The Bungalow, 63 Paxcroft

Conservatory – Permission with conditions

07/00372/FUL: Mr. M. and Mrs. K. Sturrock, 45 Wyke Road

Erection of conservatory at rear of property – Refusal

07/01282/FUL: Mr. and Mrs. I. Lucas, 33 Cresswell Drive, Paxcroft Mead

Formation of two bedrooms and a shower room in the roof space with new roof trusses and dormer windows – Permission with conditions

07/01678/TCA: Mrs. Sturrock, The Old Bakery, 216a Church Street

To fell hedge of leylandii – No TPO made

Notification of Planning Appeals

06/02473/FUL: Land between 47 and 49 Princess Gardens

Appeal by Silverwell Developments against WWDC's refusal to grant planning permission for the construction of a three-bedroomed detached house with integral garage and alternative parking for 49 Princess Gardens.

06/03851/FUL: Retail Unit 3, New Unit at Hackett Place, Paxcroft Mead

Appeal by Marshgate Investment Limited against WWDC's refusal to grant planning permission for change of use from A1 (retail) to A5 (sale of hot food)

9. CORRESPONDENCE

Letter from WWDC concerning confirmation of Orders with regard to dog fouling.

10. PUBLICATIONS

- a) Clerks and Councils Direct – July, 2007
- b) In Focus – Summer, 2007
- c) Bridge House Training Programme – Autumn, 2007
- d) Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service – Annual Plan, 2007
- e) Wiltshire News – July, 2007
- f) The Clerk – July, 2007
- g) Local Council Review – July, 2007

11. ACCOUNTS

Payments authorised:-

Clerk's Salary for July	£434.71)	
Clerk's Expenses	£160.79)	£595.50
Cloth Road Arts Week (Chairman's Allowance)		£25.00

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS AND SUMMER VILLAGE MAINTENANCE

- a) Footpath 15 still obstructed by packages of free newspapers approximately 10 metres from the Horse Road end.
- b) Litter in the turning at the head of Ashton Road (Hilperton end)
- c) Car on verge outside 130 Wyke Road – seemingly abandoned and tax out of date, registration number K 980 RLA.
- d) Brambles at The Mead School end of the underpass.
- e) Litter bins on Paxcroft Mead regularly over full and no-one responds to the number given on the bins.
- f) It was agreed that summer maintenance should now be switched to spring maintenance in readiness for the Best Kept Village competition.

13. ITEMS FOR PARISH NEWS/LOCAL PRESS

- a) Grant to Victim Support Wiltshire, b) Hooped gates to replace stiles in The Gap fields
- c) Results of Best Kept Village competition, d) New play area equipment

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, 18th September, 2007 *(unless anything received requiring the urgent attention of the Parish Council, in which case an August meeting may be required).*

The meeting ended at 10.00 p.m.

Signed Date

