

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HILPERTON PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL, WHADDON LANE, HILPERTON,  
at 7.30 pm on Tuesday, 18<sup>th</sup> September, 2007**

There were no members of the public present.

**PRESENT**

- Mr. E. Clark (in the Chair)
- Mrs. S. Sawyer
- Mr. Trevor Carbin
- Mrs. J. Waring
- Mr. R. House
- Mr. W. Jameson
- Mr. K. Jackson
- Ms. P. Turner
- Mr. V. Bielecki

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:** Acting Police Sergeant Marj. MacCallum – Force Contact Centre Supervisor.

*At the start of the meeting Councillor Jackson 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**

Mrs. K. Hayes, Mr. J. Willis, Mr. D. Tucker and County Councillor S. Content.

### **2. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL/PREJUDICIAL INTEREST**

Planning Application 07/02841/FUL: Mrs. J. Waring – personal, the applicant being known to her.

Planning Application 07/02883/TCA: Mr. K. Jackson – prejudicial

Planning Application 07/02883/TCA: Mr. E. Clark – personal, the applicant being known to him.

### **3. MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 17<sup>th</sup> July, 2007, and the Minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on the 14<sup>th</sup> August, 2007, and the 11<sup>th</sup> September, 2007, were approved and signed.

### **4. MATTERS ARISING (From the July Parish Council meeting)**

Minute 6 – WCC Unitary Status: The Clerk had written to the senior solicitor at County Hall, referring to the judicial challenge against the government by a local authority in England, and asking for his comments on this, particularly in respect of costs which might be incurred by tax payers. A reply had been received which stated that the government had decided to continue with the bid process notwithstanding the judicial review challenge, and even if the court were to find against the government it was doubtful that this would result in any significant delay in the process as the position would be rectified by the enactment of the Bill, which was due to happen in October, 2007. The letter went on to say that WCC did not consider that there would be any significant risk of costs being unnecessarily incurred by the Council.

Minute 7 – Enlargement of Village Hall Car Park and New Access: The Clerk confirmed that the building regulations fee had been paid by the Parish Council on behalf of the Village Hall and the Parish Council had been reimbursed by the Village Hall with the capital sum minus the VAT.

Minute 7 – Conservation Areas: The Clerk had written to David Hubbard, WWDC's Development Control Service Manager, to say that a sub-committee had been set up, comprising councillors Jackson, House, Clark and Hayes, to consider the Hilpertons conservation areas. He had replied to say that he

looked forward to hearing from the Parish Council when the working party had looked into issues in the conservation area.

Minute 7 – Damaged Safety Kerb opposite the Lion and Fiddle: The Clerk had written to WCC to express the Parish Council’s dissatisfaction with another repair when it had asked for the kerb to be replaced. She had received a reply stating that at the present time it remained more economical to patch repair the safety kerb rather than replace it which was labour intensive because of its size.

Minute 7 – Clarification of recent WWDC planning decision: The planning officer concerned had now written to say that she had made a mistake in the wording of one particular aspect of the refusal and she apologised for her error.

Minute 7 – Cattle in The Gap fields: Mrs. Hayes had spoken to Steve Leonard from WCC on the 17<sup>th</sup> September who had said that the installation of the new gates would start on the 18<sup>th</sup> September.

Minute 7 – Parish Council representative on the Standards Committee: The Chairman said that Ms. Turner had put her name forward but a representative from Codford Parish Council had been elected.

Minute 12a – Footpath 15: The Clerk had reported fly tipping of newspapers near the Horse Road end of the footpath.

Minute 12b – The Clerk had reported litter in the turning at the head of the Hilperton end of Ashton Road.

Minute 12c – The seemingly abandoned car on the verge outside 130 Wyke Road had been reported to the police. Mrs. Waring said that the car was actually taxed but the tax disc had not been displayed. The car had now been moved onto the owners’ land.

Minute 12d – The Clerk had reported the brambles at The Mead end of the underpass.

Minute 12e – The overflowing litter bins on Paxcroft Mead had been reported.

## **5. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIR**

The Chairman said that it was likely there would be parish council elections in May, 2009, which would coincide with the date of the proposed unitary authority elections.

Mr. Clark had been invited to the AGM of Victim Support Wiltshire on the 18<sup>th</sup> October in Devizes but was unable to attend. He said he would be happy for anyone to go along in his place but if not he asked the Clerk to give his apologies.

## **6. COUNTY COUNCILLOR, DISTRICT COUNCILLORS AND POLICE**

### *County Report*

Cllr. Content was not in attendance, had given her apologies, but the Clerk had not received a report from her.

### *District Report*

Mr. Clark said that the request to vary the Section 106 agreement on the public house site on Paxcroft Mead had again been refused by WWDC’s planning committee, this time unanimously. Officers of the Council had been instructed to work with the applicant (rather than the agent) to try to resolve this matter.

The District Council had recently agreed to vary the Section 106 agreement in respect of Blue Hills which had resulted in £46,000 being promised to the Hilperton Village Hall development fund.

In conclusion, Mr. Clark said that the West Wilts. Housing Society was planning to change its name to Selwood Housing Limited.

*Police*

Acting Sergeant 1357 Marj. MacCallum, force contact centre supervisor, was in attendance and spoke at length about the problems surrounding the 0845 telephone number. Parish Councillors expressed on behalf of parishioners the frustration experienced by people trying to get through to report a crime, whilst not wishing to use the 999 emergency number. Clearly this was a very unsatisfactory state of affairs, which the police were trying to resolve.

**7. ITEMS FOR REPORT AND DISCUSSION****Hilperton and Staverton Tasking Group – Report on the Inaugural Meeting set up by the Neighbourhood Policing Team**

Mrs. Hayes had attended this meeting and sent in a short report, copies of which the Clerk tabled. Included in the report was the new direct number to the policing team (01380 734001 ext. 725552). The Chairman said he would bring details of this new group to the Village Hall committee because they had not been included in the list of invitees to the inaugural meeting. Mrs. Hayes had suggested in her report that Mr. Jackson might like to go along to the next meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup> October but he said that he would not have time to attend these meetings as well as those of the Parish Councils' Liaison Group. He also expressed the concern of the PCs Liaison Group that now this new tasking group had been set up police would not attend parish council meetings.

**Parish Forum – 10<sup>th</sup> October**

Details of the Parish Forum had been received from WWDC and Mrs. Hayes had indicated her willingness to attend. However, Mr. Carbin had learned that this meeting had now been cancelled.

**Wiltshire County Council's Unitary Bid**

Now that the County Council's submission had been approved by the Secretary of State, WCC wished to ensure that the implications of moving to 'One Council' were explained and discussed with town and parish councils so that their views and concerns could be taken fully into account. With this in mind five 'Meet and Greet' evenings had been arranged around the county in October, starting at 6.30 p.m. and lasting for about two hours. The one in Trowbridge would be on Thursday, 18<sup>th</sup> October, in the members' room at County Hall. It was agreed that the Clerk should ask Mrs. Hayes if she would like to attend, and the Chairman said he would also go along.

(In her report concerning the WWDC meeting held on the 8<sup>th</sup> August, Mrs. Hayes had stated that there had been unanimous support for the judicial review. The District Council had voted for an election date of the 9<sup>th</sup> May, 2009, with the vesting date August, 2009. All five district councils must agree to election and vesting dates by the end of September, otherwise the government would set the dates. The Boundary Commission had said they could put resources into a review of boundaries during 2008 with a view to one member wards. Once the unitary authority had been given the final green light there would be financial ceilings for contracts - £100,000 for land, £1 million for buildings and £100,000 for revenue. These contracts would need to be signed off by a local board. Town the parish councils could have more powers but whatever changes made must make sense and be value for money).

**WWDC – Parliamentary Constituency Boundary Review**

The District Council had received a consultation document from the Boundary Commission in mid-August. The proposed changes followed the fifth general review of parliamentary constituencies in England completed on the 31<sup>st</sup> October, 2006. The changes proposed were now quite minor and did not appear to affect Hilperton. The Chairman reiterated the view that Hilperton strongly identified with Westbury rather than Chippenham but it appeared that Semington would be transferred from Chippenham to the South West Wiltshire parliamentary constituency.

### **WWDC – Statement of Licensing Policy**

WWDC had written to say that they were required as the licensing authority to prepare and publish a statement of licensing policy every three years. The first statutory three-year period began on the 7<sup>th</sup> January, 2005, and they were obliged to have a new policy agreed and in place by the 7<sup>th</sup> January, 2008. They had prepared a draft statement of licensing policy for consultation and had sent a copy to the Parish Council. After a short discussion it was agreed that the receipt of this should be acknowledged and the contents noted.

### **West Wiltshire Central Area Parish Councils' Liaison Group**

Mr. Jackson said that the next meeting would be on the 4<sup>th</sup> October and asked members of the parish council to contact him if they had any suggestions for agenda items.

### **Newsletter**

The Chairman said he had found someone to distribute the Newsletter and he would produce a draft shortly.

### **WCC – Bus Stop Clearway**

On behalf of WCC, Mouchel Parkman were intending to install bus stop clearways on opposite sides of the road by the bus stops at the Marsh Road end of Horse Road. There had been some local opposition from nearby residents but, after a short discussion, it was agreed that the Parish Council would support this initiative.

### **Play Areas**

- a) Play Area Grant: The Clerk informed members that a play area grant of £2,425 had been received from the District Council towards the cost of the new play equipment at the Village Hall.
- b) Playful Ideas Lottery Fund: Details of this fund had previously been given to the Parish Council and the Clerk reminded members that the Big Lottery Fund had a programme in place for the development and delivery of innovative and creative play for children. Grants were between £10,000 and £250,000 and could be applied for by town and parish councils, voluntary or community groups, charitable or not-for-profit companies and social enterprises. She said she would keep the details on file.

### **Parish Steward's Visit on the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> September**

The Clerk said that the following jobs had been given to Dave Self to do during his two-day visit:-

- a) Generally clear pavements of weeds and attend to brambles around the village, particularly those growing in the grounds of the empty house opposite the old nursery site along Marsh Road where the brambles are coming over and onto the pavement.
- b) Clear vegetation around the village pump in Church Street.
- c) Cut back again the Marsh Road boundary to the former garden nursery as visibility when exiting from the lane down the side of this site is not good.
- d) Generally cut back overhanging vegetation throughout the village.
- e) Clear where necessary the footpath around the cemetery.

The Clerk had asked WCC to let her know future Parish Steward visit dates.

### **Post Office Closures**

Ms. Turner said that she had no more information as yet except that this controversial programme would see the closure of some 2,500 post offices across the UK and the introduction of 500 outreach sites hosted in village halls, pubs etc. to replace some offices. Nothing would be happening in the area for some months yet and there would in any event be a period of public consultation.

### Requests for Grants

a) 1<sup>st</sup> Hilperton Brownies: A request for a grant had been received from the 1<sup>st</sup> Hilperton Brownies towards the cost of a day trip to Legoland in November. After a short discussion Mr. Carbin proposed a grant of £100 but this proposal fell because there was no seconder. Mr. Bielecki then proposed a grant of £220 and this was seconded by Mr. Jameson. After some discussion this proposal was put to the vote and was carried with five in favour and four against.

b) A request for a grant had also been received from the friends of the Bath and District Samaritans to help them with their lifesaving work in the region. The Clerk informed members that the last grant to the Samaritans had been in March, 2003, for £200. Mrs. Sawyer proposed a grant of £250 and this was seconded by Mr. House. This was put to the vote with all in favour.

### Swindon and Marlborough NHS Trust – NHS Foundation Trust Consultation

A letter had been received from the Swindon and Marlborough NHS Trust to say that the Trust was about to apply for Foundation Trust status and they were now out to public consultation on their proposals. A consultation document was also enclosed. After a short discussion it was agreed that this information should be noted.

### Affordable Housing

The Chairman said that Community First were in the process of carrying out a housing needs survey in the area and was seeking the views of all residents on where and how to deliver affordable housing in Hilperton. It was agreed that this should be discussed further at the October meeting when the results of the survey should be known.

## 8. PLANNING MATTERS

### Applications

07/02841/FUL: Mr. and Mrs. Hall, 1B Horse Road

Erection of Conservatory

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

### *Mr. Jackson left the room whilst the following planning application was discussed*

07/02883/TCA: Mr. and Mrs. K. Jackson, 126 Devizes Road

Felling of Beech and Conifer trees and crown raising and pruning of Yew tree

It was agreed that the Parish Council should be guided by WWDC's Landscape Officer's comments

*Mr. Jackson returned to the meeting*

### Decisions

07/02365/FUL: Mrs. P. Butler, 36 Princess Gardens

Demolition of existing single storey extension and erection of a new single storey extension including all other associated works – Permission with conditions

## 9. CORRESPONDENCE

a) Letter of thanks from Cloth Road Artists re. grant (from Chairman's allowance)

b) Letter of thanks from Trowbridge Amateur Swimming Club re. Section 137 grant

c) Letter of thanks from Victim Support Wiltshire re. Section 137 grant

d) WALC County Newsletter for July, 2007 (copies tabled)

## 10. PUBLICATIONS

a) Wiltshire Local Transport Plan, 2007 – Progress report

b) First News – Summer, 2007



postage. After a short discussion it was agreed that the Clerk should write to the Chief Executive of WWDC:-

- a) to find out under what statutory power the parish councils were being charged
- b) to ask for a breakdown of the costs
- c) to ask how these costs were determined
- d) to ask if there was a formula (i.e. were the charges determined by the numbers of parish councillors)
- e) to ask why the Parish Council had not been given any formal notification that these charges were to be made.

## **12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS AND VILLAGE MAINTENANCE**

- a) Mrs. Hayes had reported that the hedge at Sonus House, Horse Road, needed cutting back and the Clerk was asked to contact WCC, the owners of this property.
- b) A request had been made for a dog litter bin at Princess Gardens/St. Mary's Gardens. It was agreed that the Clerk should ask Mrs. Hayes (through whom the request was made) exactly where a bin was required.
- c) A request had been made through Mrs. Waring for two dog litter bins at the Wyke Road end of Horse Road, by the bus stops (opposite St. Mary's Church and the clearway). It was agreed that this should appear as a formal agenda item in October but the Clerk could make contact with WWDC in the meantime.
- d) Mr. Jackson spoke about the lack of maintenance of footpaths between one development of properties and another and these areas adjacent to highways and public footpaths were not being maintained properly, causing the footpaths themselves to get gradually narrower. It was agreed that the Commercial Services department of WWDC should be approached on this issue and that the Parish Steward could be asked to clear any particular area causing a problem.
- e) Mr. Jackson said that one of the power companies had come into the village a few weeks ago and cut back anything growing near or under the power lines. As some trees had been cut back quite severely, he wondered if the company had the right to do this in a conservation area and if qualified tree surgeons were called in to do this work. The Clerk was asked to contact WWDC's planning department on this matter.
- f) The Chairman had brought along a photograph of the recycling centre around the corner from Budgens, where litter was overflowing from the containers. Although this had no doubt been cleared since the picture was taken, the Clerk was asked to inform WWDC that this was a continuing problem.

## **13. ITEMS FOR PARISH NEWS/LOCAL PRESS**

- a) Details of the new telephone number of the NPT and the problems experienced with the police force's 0845 number
- b) Grants made earlier in the meeting
- c) Bus Stop Clearway proposal
- d) Play Area Grant for new equipment at the Village Hall
- e) Affordable Housing survey
- f) Completion of the audit of accounts

**14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, 16<sup>th</sup> October, 2007**

**The meeting ended at 9.23 p.m.**

Signed ..... Date .....