

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HILPERTON PARISH COUNCIL
HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL, WHADDON LANE, HILPERTON,
at 7.30 pm on Tuesday, 20th November, 2007**

There was one member of the public present.

PRESENT

Mr. E. Clark (in the Chair)
Mrs. S. Sawyer
Mr. Trevor Carbin
Mrs. J. Waring
Mr. R. House
Mr. K. Jackson
Ms. P. Turner
Mr. B. Cullern
Mr. J. Willis
Mrs. K. Hayes
Mr. V. Bielecki
Mr. W. Jameson
Mr. D. Tucker

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: PC Lee Pelling

At the open forum Mr. Don Durbridge spoke about his concerns at the erection of a metal fence on the other side of his back garden wall. The meeting commenced at 7.40 p.m..

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were none.

2. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL/PREJUDICIAL INTEREST

Agenda item 7 – Letter from resident of Hill Street concerning the erection of a metal fence: Mr. E. Clark, prejudicial.

Agenda item 7 – Request for a grant from the Village Hall committee: Mr. E. Clark, Mrs. S. Sawyer, Mr. R. House and Mr. J. Willis, all personal as members of the Village Hall.

3. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 16th October, 2007, were approved and signed.

4. MATTERS ARISING

Minute 6 – WCC's unitary bid: The Chairman said there would be a full meeting of the District Council on the 21st November where there would be a discussion on whether or not to continue to challenge WCC's bid.

Minute 7 – Recharge of election expenses: Following a further letter to WWDC's Chief Executive, a reply had been received which stated that a letter had been sent to all parishes in December, 2006, advising of budget implications relating to local elections. The Clerk read out the relevant part of the letter and the Chairman went through in detail the breakdown of the costs for Hilperton Parish Council. After a short discussion it was agreed that part of the bill should be paid immediately, in the amount of £93.64, but the part relating to expenses incurred by the returning officer would continue to be contested.

Minute 7 – Litter Bins: The Clerk reported that two litter bins had been ordered for Horse Road and they should shortly be put in place.

Minute 7 – War Memorial: The Chairman said that the four small planters had been given to St. Michael's Church and the others had gone to new owners. Thanks were given to Mrs. House for the attractive way she had arranged shrubs in the new planters.

Minute 12a: The Clerk said the local number for English Landscapes was 01225 767909.

Minute 12b: The problem with rubbish at the cemetery had been reported.

Minute 12c: The Clerk had written to Persimmon and new post and rail fencing had been erected.

Minute 12d: The flattened road sign at Horse Road had been reported and dealt with.

Minute 12e: Mrs. Hayes had nothing to report as yet regarding the matter of apparent unofficial access by some people at the top of the lane leading to her property, but she would pursue this matter.

Minute 12g: The Chairman had been in touch with Richard Rogers at WWDC concerning the Section 106 agreement with regard to the public house site on Paxcroft Mead, and would give him a couple of weeks to get back to him.

Minute 12h: The matter of the alleged use of Delta Kitchens as living accommodation had been reported to WWDC and their compliance officer would be investigating.

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIR

The Chairman said he had nothing of importance to announce.

6. COUNTY COUNCILLOR, DISTRICT COUNCILLORS AND POLICE

County Report

Cllr. Content was not in attendance and had not sent a report to the Clerk.

District Report

Mr. Clark said that both he and Mr. Carbin would be witnesses against the developers, Gallaghers, at the Inquiry concerning the proposal for residential development adjacent to the badger sett site on Paxcroft Mead.

Police

PC Pelling had brought along copies of a map showing the boundary of his NPT area and, whilst these were not totally up to date, it showed how large his team's patch was. He said it might be possible to renegotiate the boundaries in April, 2008, in order to reduce the area covered.

The meeting of the Neighbourhood Tasking Group (NTG) on the 18th October had clashed with the WWDC's Parish Forum/WCC's Meet and Greet evening, which had resulted in a number of apologies having to be given. However, PC Pelling said the meeting had been positive and he looked forward to the next one on the 17th January, 2008.

Problems with boy racers at Hackett Place still continued. PC Pelling was aware of the efforts of the Parish Council, on behalf of the school, to try to get barriers erected and he said he would continue to put pressure on the local authority to have some in place, especially as there were people willing to oversee them. It was agreed that the Parish Council would support the police in this matter.

There had been no feedback as yet from the safety camera unit regarding speeding along Marsh Road and PC Pelling said he would get some statistics from them. It was agreed that the Clerk should contact WCC to see what their current stance was concerning the possible introduction of traffic calming measures along Marsh Road, as there was no indication of when the relief road would be built.

Mr. Cullern said he would like to see the safety camera unit monitoring traffic speeds towards the Green Lane area from time to time and he also voiced his concern at the number of cars parking on the pavement at The Mead school. PC Pelling said he would liaise with the school on this matter.

In conclusion, PC Pelling said that a new neighbourhood watch scheme was being set up.

7. ITEMS FOR REPORT AND DISCUSSION

Mr. Clark left the meeting during discussion of the following item. Mr. House took the chair.

Letter from resident of Hill Street concerning the erection of a metal fence

Mr. Durbridge had spoken at the open forum about his dismay at the erection of a metal fence on the rear boundary of his property. The Parish Council had been able to assist some time ago when a large vehicle had been parked on the other side of his back garden wall, thereby obstructing his view of open fields, and the owner had agreed to remove it. Members of the Parish Council were sympathetic to Mr. Durbridge's concern, although if there was no breach of planning rules concerning the height of the fence, there might be nothing the Parish Council could do about the situation. After a short discussion it was agreed that, in the first instance, Mr. House would contact the landowner who had erected the fence to see if he could persuade him to take it down. If this proved unsuccessful, the Clerk would then contact the planning authority to establish whether or not the fence was in breach of planning regulations. This matter would be brought to the next meeting.

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

WWDC Parish Forum/WCC Meet and Greet Evening – 18th October

Both the Chairman and Mrs. Hayes had attended this event and Mrs. Hayes had produced a report, copies of which were tabled. She said that the parish forum part of the evening had been quite short, the main part of the time being taken up by the Leader and Chief Executive of WCC giving an update on the progress towards a unitary authority. One matter which concerned Mrs. Hayes was on the subject of area boards which would make decisions on whether planning applications should be referred to the planning committee. When asked about planning applications automatically being referred when parish councils objected, the Leader of WCC did not even know that this procedure existed in West Wiltshire. Mrs. Hayes was thanked for attending the meeting on behalf of the Parish Council.

Newsletter

The Chairman had not received any communication from members concerning the content of the next Newsletter and it was agreed this should be brought to the January meeting.

Parish Steward

The Parish Steward appeared to have done all the jobs he was asked to do on the 18th October. The following jobs had been given to him for the 13th and 14th November visit:-

- a) Clear debris around the Village Pump in Church Street
- b) Continue to cut the undergrowth back to the inside kerb along Horse Road (an on-going job).
- c) Generally check drainage grips and gullies throughout the village and tidy up/cut back anything overgrown.

The Clerk said that the Parish Steward's next visit would be on the 13th December.

Sir William Roger Brown's Coal Charity

Under Standing Order 68 this item was classed as confidential. Although discussion took place later in the meeting it is minuted here, in line with the agenda.

The Clerk again read out the list of the 2006 recipients who had received £10 each. Two new names were added, making a total of eleven, and it was agreed that these should receive £10 each, this amount to be paid out of the interest that had accrued (£40) and the remainder from the Chairman's allowance (£70).

WWDC – Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places

The Chairman said that as the District Council required comments by parish councils in order to report to the full Council meeting on the 21st November, he and the Clerk had looked at the review and had agreed that the arrangements currently in place appeared to be satisfactory. A letter to this effect had been sent to WWDC and the Chairman requested that this action be ratified by the members present.

West Wiltshire Central Area Parish Councils' Liaison Group

Mr. Jackson confirmed that the next meeting would be held on the 24th January and any items members would like included on the agenda should be brought to the December parish council meeting.

WWDC – Historic Buildings and Areas Grant System

A letter had been received from the conservation officer at WWDC informing the Parish Council about the adoption of a new grant system for funding repairs to historic buildings and areas. The system would differ from the previous town orientated Historic Building Joint Committees in that any grant enquiries or applications would now need to be submitted directly to the District Council. The main emphasis of the new system would be to focus on the historic buildings in the worst condition within the district. In order to give towns and parishes the opportunity to consider grant applications and – in some cases – provide financial assistance, all applications would now be taken to an informal partnership meeting.

Currently three priority 'at risk' structures had been identified in the parish of Hilperton and it was agreed that this matter should be discussed at the December meeting to give members a chance to add anything else to the list.

West Wilts. Housing Society – Neighbourhood Planning

A letter had been received from the West Wiltshire Housing Society concerning a new neighbourhood planning policy recently adopted and about to be implemented. This highlighted the relationship between the index of multiple deprivation and satisfaction with neighbourhoods and services. The Navigator area of Hilperton (including Towpath Road, Navigator Close, Tudor Drive and Foxglove Drive) had been identified as one of the housing society's key initial priorities for 2007/08 and the Parish Council had been identified as important in helping to get key messages out to residents. A project group would be set up shortly to develop an action plan to detail the work that the housing society intended to undertake and contact would be made again with the Parish Council to discuss this in more detail.

Request for a Section 19 Grant - Hilperton Village Hall Committee

The Clerk had received a letter from the Treasurer of the Village Hall committee requesting funding to help with the maintenance of the playing field. For the benefit of new members of the Parish Council, the Chairman gave the background to what had become an annual request. After a short discussion it was agreed that a Section 19 grant of £1,375.38 should be made to the Village Hall, made up as follows:-

Grounds maintenance	£1,982.81
Public Liability insurance (25%)	<u>£272.57</u>
	£2,255.38
Less football income	<u>£880.00</u>
	<u>£1,375.38</u>

Vehicles parking in Newleaze

Again, the people who had complained about this problem were not present and it was agreed that this should be deferred to the December meeting.

8. PLANNING MATTERS

Applications

07/03377/FUL: Mrs. S. Key, 3 Whaddon Lane

Single storey extension

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

07/03557/FUL: Mr. M. Bailey, 8 Carisbrooke Crescent

Single storey rear extension

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

Decisions

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

Conservatory – permission with condition

07/03087/FUL: Mr. A. Mabey, 19 King's Gardens

Conservatory – permission with condition

05/00822/FUL: Trowbridge Rugby Football Club – land opposite Paxcroft Farm

Rugby ground including clubhouse, groundsman's store, sports pitches with floodlighting and associated landscape bunding, access and parking - permission with conditions

07/02699/FUL: Doric Developments (Bath) Ltd., land west of Jasmine House, Hilperton Road

Erection of detached house and garage – refusal

Town and Country Planning Act 1990 Section 198(6)

The Chairman was sorry to report that the large Cedar of Lebanon tree in St. Michael's churchyard was dying from honey fungus and must be felled. The PCC were in the process of finding a suitable contractor to take on this work and once this had been done a replacement tree would be planted, the species to be agreed with WWDC's Landscape officer.

Planning Inspectorate

a) Appeal by Marshgate Investments Limited against a decision by WWDC to refuse to grant planning permission for change of use from A1 (retail) to A5 (sale of hot food) at 15 Hackett Place, Paxcroft Mead – Appeal allowed, subject to conditions

b) Appeal by Silverwell Developments against a decision of WWDC to refuse to grant planning permission for the construction of a three-bedroomed detached house with integral garage and alternative parking for 49 Princess Gardens – Appeal allowed subject to conditions

9. CORRESPONDENCE

a) WALC Newsletters for October and November, 2007 (already circulated)

b) Paper from the Standards Board entitled 'Predisposition, Predetermination or Bias, and the Code' (already circulated)

c) e-mail from Revd. Richard Hicks, former Rector of the Hilperton and Staverton benefice, concerning one of the few surviving members of the self build group at Marshmead owning an archive of project material, comprising full photograph albums, committee minutes, newspaper cuttings etc. Revd. Hicks felt this should be taken into the County Record Office for safe keeping and he would also send photocopies to the Parish Council for its own records.

d) Letter from WWDC concerning a proposal to introduce a designated public places order within Trowbridge town centre. It was agreed that this proposal should be supported provided there were sufficient police to make it worthwhile.

10. PUBLICATIONS

- a) WCC leaflets – Helping to drive safely in adverse weather 2007/08
- b) West Wilts. In Focus – Autumn, 2007
- c) Wiltshire Magazine – issue 20
- d) WCC – 4ward, November, 2007
- e) West Wilts. Matters – November, 2007
- f) Clerks and Councils Direct – November, 2007
- g) Local Council Review – November, 2007
- h) The Clerk – November, 2007
- i) Paxcroft Mead News – November, 2007-11-23
- j) WCC Transport Times and Telegraph Newsletter – November, 2007

11. ACCOUNTS**Payments authorised:-**

a) since the last meeting –		
Mrs. L. House, plants and compost		£95.69
b) this meeting –		
Clerk's Salary for November	£605.54)	
Clerk's Expenses	£221.60)	£827.14
WCC – PC's contribution towards new kissing gate (including £14.90 VAT)		£100.00
Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal – Wreath for Remembrance Day		£17.00
WWDC – Parish election charges		£93.64
Hilperton Village Hall – Section 19 Grant		£1,375.38
Cash for the Coal Charity recipients		£110.00

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS AND VILLAGE MAINTENANCE

- a) Mr. Jackson said that Delta Kitchens along the Devizes Road was up for sale by auction, which would take place on the 27th November. He wondered what would happen to the building afterwards, it being within the conservation area. It was agreed that this should be discussed at the December meeting.
- b) Mrs. Hayes wondered if Hilperton Parish Council, like a couple of other parish councils in the country, might wish to hold a vote on the subject of the EU Constitution and the government's refusal to hold a referendum. It was agreed that this should be discussed at the December meeting.
- c) Mr. Tucker said that Wessex Water had, in the course of carrying out works along Whaddon Lane, dug a trench which they had left unfilled. The Clerk was asked to contact them and to get them to reinstate the trench.
- d) The Chairman said that rubbish in the cemetery waste area was bad again and he agreed to contact English Landscapes about the continual problem. Mr. Carbin said he would also get in touch with the contractor.

13. ITEMS FOR PARISH NEWS/LOCAL PRESS

Some pre-meeting notes for the parish magazine had been submitted by the Clerk, owing to time constraints for the parish news. Items included:-

- a) Parish Newsletter
- b) Grant application by the Village Hall
- c) Parish Steward scheme in operation for a year
- d) List of other matters to be discussed at the November meeting
- e) Date of the December PC meeting

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, 11th December, 2007

The meeting ended at 9.12 p.m.

Signed Date