

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HILPERTON PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL, WHADDON LANE, HILPERTON,  
at 7.30 pm on Tuesday, 11<sup>th</sup> December, 2007**

There were no members of the public present.

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

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:** PC Lee Pelling

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Mrs. J. Waring and Mr. V. Bielecki.

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

Planning application 07/03654/FUL: Mr. Jameson, personal, the applicant being a neighbour of his.

Planning application 07/03685/FUL: Mr. Tucker, prejudicial.

Planning application 07/03685/FUL: Mr. Clark, personal, his son being a member of the Colts team.

**3. MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 20<sup>th</sup> November, 2007, were approved and signed.

**4. MATTERS ARISING**

Minute 6 – District Report: Both the Chairman and Mr. Carbin gave evidence at the public inquiry concerning the proposal for residential development adjacent to the badger sett site on Paxcroft Mead. The Chairman said the outcome would be known some time in January.

Minute 6 – Police: The Clerk said she had written to WCC concerning traffic along Marsh Road but had not yet received a reply.

Minute 7 – Erection of metal fence: Mr. House said he had been unsuccessful in persuading the landowner to take the fence down. His reason for erecting it was that he had cattle in the field and was concerned that, with merely a low stone wall separating the field and Mr. Durbridge's garden, his cattle might eat shrubs growing in the garden on the boundary. Mr. Durbridge had since written a letter of complaint to the planning authority, as the fence was over two metres high, and the Clerk had asked him to let the Parish Council know the outcome.

Minute 7 – WWDC Parish Forum/WCC Meet and Greet evening: Mrs. Hayes said that WCC wished to consult with parish councils about what responsibilities they might wish to take on when the unitary authority was formed and it was agreed this should be discussed at the January meeting.

Minute 7 – Sir William Roger Brown's Coal Charity: The Clerk had sent Christmas cards and money to all eleven recipients and had already received a few letters of thanks.

Minute 9c – Marshmead self-build group: The Clerk had received photocopies of the project material from Revd. Richard Hicks and said she would shortly contact the lady who had the originals with a view to these documents being lodged at the county record office.

Minute 12c: The Clerk had written to Wessex Water who did not appear to be able to find any record of works carried out in the Whaddon Lane area. She had since been given contact details by Mr. Tucker and would investigate further.

Minute 12d : The Chairman said that rubbish was still piling up at the cemetery waste area but English Landscapes were aware of the situation and would, hopefully, clear it away shortly.

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

The Chairman wished everyone the compliments of the season and asked them to join him for a few drinks and refreshments which would be served after the meeting in the Village Hall bar.

## **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 he had learned that if the unitary authority came into being there would be no parish council elections until 2013.

On the subject of post office closures, he understood that Hilperton Marsh was not under threat. Ms. Waring said that public consultation had now begun and there was already quite a lot of publicity about this.

### *Police*

PC Pelling reported a reasonably quiet month crime-wise, although there had been a theft of staddle stones at Palmers Close where iron gates had been forced open.

He had not yet received statistics from the safety camera unit regarding Marsh Road but he had been assured that speeding was a problem here and he had asked for mobile units to be in the area more often. Drivers using Devizes Road as a 'cut-through' was also a problem and it was agreed that this should be discussed at the February Parish Council meeting, when an officer from WCC could be invited to attend.

Problems continued around The Mead school area and the head teacher was still of the opinion that barriers would be beneficial. There was a rumour that the recycling centre currently situated around the corner from Budgens might be moved near to the school and it was considered that this would be highly undesirable. The Clerk was asked to write to WWDC, asking for clarification of the situation.

When asked about trailers and lorries being parked in Newleaze, PC Pelling said it would be helpful to know when these were in the area as he had done some spot checks and had not found any such vehicles around. The Chairman said he would investigate further.

## **7. ITEMS FOR REPORT AND DISCUSSION**

### **Parish Steward**

The Clerk said the Parish Steward would be visiting for one day only on the 13<sup>th</sup> December and would be doing a general clear up, looking out especially for blocked drains. Details of the winter programme had been received with the following dates of his visits: 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> January; 21<sup>st</sup> February; 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> March.

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

Mr. Jackson said that the meeting on the 24<sup>th</sup> January, 2008, would be held at WWDC's offices and would follow the Annual General Meeting which would commence at 7 p.m.

### **Trowbridge Community Future**

A letter had been sent from this organisation to all parish councils in the area, asking each of them to consider making a small financial contribution to the partnership of £200 for this year, and again next year. This funding would go to the Parish Councils Liaison Group to offset their costs. After a short discussion it was agreed that the partnership should be asked for a breakdown of distribution of funding received, together with examples of what they did to influence 'the improvement of the quality of life and wellbeing of people in the Trowbridge community area', this being their aim.

### **WWDC – Historic Buildings and Areas Grant System**

Mr. House had brought along a list of buildings of special architectural or historic interest in the parish, copies of which the Clerk was asked to send to all members. In the meantime it was agreed that details of the buildings at risk, as identified by WWDC, would be kept on file, and the Chairman said he would talk to the PCC about the Hooper monument in St. Michael and All Angels churchyard.

### **Delta Kitchens**

The Clerk reported that WWDC's compliance officer had written to the proprietor asking him to contact her to arrange an inspection. To date she had not received a reply. Mr. Jackson said that the premises still appeared to be occupied on frequent occasions, as lights were on during the night.

The premises were due to be sold by auction and were being marketed as a development opportunity. As the site was within the conservation area and therefore part of the village employment and existing street scene, Mr. Jackson wondered if the Parish Council should be pro-active in reminding the planning authority of their policies in this respect. After a short discussion it was agreed to wait and see what planning applications were submitted and then make appropriate comments.

### **EU Constitution**

Coincidentally details of parish polls had appeared in the latest WALC county newsletter, copies of which were tabled. It appeared that a parish poll could only be called at a parish assembly and the object of a parish poll was to check that the opinion expressed by a parish assembly was shared by all the electors in a parish. Holding a parish poll would be expensive and the cost ultimately borne by the local electorate.

A short discussion followed and it was agreed that the parish council member who brought up this subject should decide nearer the time of the next parish assembly (in May, 2008,) whether she wanted to pursue the matter.

### **Vehicles parking in Newleaze**

This had been discussed with PC Pelling earlier in the meeting.

### **Cereal Partners, Staverton**

The Chairman had been informed by Peter Smith, the Cereal Partners factory manager, that production from the factory in Staverton had been increasing over the past six months. In late October a new distribution centre was opened in Bowerhill, Melksham, operated by Great Bear Distribution Limited. It was the aim of Cereal Partners to keep in contact with parish councils in order to minimise the impact on villages.

### **Community First – Beyond the Parish Boundaries Workshops**

Details of workshops being offered to parish councillors and other community representatives had been received, the first session being on the 9<sup>th</sup> January on the subject of ‘unitary status and how it impacts on community partnerships’. There were no volunteers for this particular workshop but the Clerk said she would send details of the others to members of the Parish Council.

### **Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service**

The Service’s annual consultation process was about to begin and it was the intention of the Chief Fire Officer to put together two focus groups made up of parish council members to meet on the 21<sup>st</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> January at the HQ in Potterne. There were no volunteers to attend either group but the Clerk was asked to acknowledge the letter.

## **8. PLANNING MATTERS**

### **Applications**

07/03596/FUL: Mr. and Mrs. Green, 7 Newhurst Park, Paxcroft Mead  
Conservatory

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

07/03621/ADV: AAH plc., Unit 2, 15 Hackett Place, Paxcroft Mead  
Fascia sign and projecting sign displaying Lloyds’ new corporate image

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

07/03654/FUL: Mr. I. Thomas, land adjoining 3 Ashton Rise  
Erection of new dwelling adjacent to No. 3 Ashton Rise

The Chairman had received three letters from neighbours whose main objection appeared to be the size of the proposed dwelling. After a short discussion it was agreed that there would be no objection to this application and the Clerk was asked to acknowledge the letters.

### ***Mr. Tucker left the meeting before discussion took place on the following application.***

07/03685/FUL: Trowbridge Rugby Football Club, land east of Units 1 and 2, 75 Whaddon  
Change of use from agricultural to sports pitches with associated parking and machinery shed

The Chairman said that the rugby club saw this application as a temporary measure whilst the new club plans were being considered. After some discussion it was agreed that, whilst the Parish Council sympathised with the club’s need for temporary sports pitches, this particular site was not appropriate. The junction of Whaddon Lane and the B3105 had always been substandard, and the Parish Council would not wish to see any increase in numbers of vehicles using the single track of Whaddon Lane which would be totally unsuitable for the proposed volume of traffic. It was felt that the allocated parking provision was inadequate and this would result in roadside parking which would not only be a nuisance but a danger when other vehicles were using the road. In conclusion it was agreed that, if the planning authority was minded to approve the application, the Parish Council should seek a condition stating that floodlights should be extinguished at 9 p.m.

### ***Mr. Tucker returned to the meeting.***

07/03694/FUL: Mr. and Mrs. S. Woodger, 99 Church Street  
Rear porch extension to provide ground floor WC

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

07/03764/FUL: Mr. and Mrs. W. Salisbury, 23 Gibbs Leaze, Paxcroft Mead  
Two storey side extension

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

**Decisions**

07/03118/FUL: Edward Oatley and Son Limited, Paxcroft Farm  
Change of use of houses 3 and 8 from poultry houses to light industrial – permission with conditions

07/03377/FUL: Mrs. S. Key, 3 Whaddon Lane  
Single storey extension – permission with conditions

**Notification of Planning Appeal**

Planning application 05/00967/OUT: Notification of appeal by J. J. Gallagher Limited against the decision of WWDC to refuse to grant planning permission for residential development, extension to country park, children's play area, roads and associated infrastructure work at land H8 north of Paxcroft Way.

**9. CORRESPONDENCE**

- a) Letters/cards of thanks from the recipients of the Coal Charity donations
- b) WALC County Newsletter for December, 2007 – tabled earlier

**10. PUBLICATIONS**

- a) First News – Winter, 2007-12-12
- b) WCC – 4ward, December, 2007
- c) Paxcroft Mead News – December, 2007

**11. ACCOUNTS****Payments authorised:-**

Clerk's Salary for December	£438.36)	
Clerk's Expenses	£137.39)	£575.75
WWDC – Two topliner bins for Horse Road (including £40.60 VAT)		£272.60
Society of Local Council Clerks – Annual subscription		£91.00

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

- a) Mrs. Sawyer reported problems with blocked drains near her property.
- b) The Chairman reported that the expected Nationwide/Portman building society merger bonus would not be paid to the Parish Council as it had a corporate account and not a share account.

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

- a) No parish council elections until 2013 in the event of the formation of a unitary authority
- b) Start of local public consultation regarding the Post Office network change programme – this consultation to run until 4<sup>th</sup> February, 2008.
- c) Brief details of other matters discussed at the PC meeting

**14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> January, 2008**

The meeting ended at 9.07 p.m.

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

