

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HILPERTON PARISH COUNCIL
HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL, WHADDON LANE, HILPERTON,
at 7.30 pm on Tuesday, 19th February, 2008**

There were no members of the public present.

PRESENT

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

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: PC Lee Pelling

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Mr. V. Bielecki, Mr. K. Jackson and Mr. B. Cullern

2. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL/PREJUDICIAL INTEREST

There were none.

3. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 15th January, 2008, and the Minutes of the special Parish Council meeting held on the 4th February, 2008, were approved and signed.

4. MATTERS ARISING (from the January Parish Council meeting)

Minute 7 – Recharge of election expenses: The cheque had been sent back to WWDC, together with a covering letter from the Clerk. To date no reply had been received, nor had the cheque been presented by the District Council.

Minute 7 – WWDC’s consultation on changes to standards arrangements in West Wiltshire: The Clerk had sent a letter to WWDC, as requested.

Minute 7 – WALC training day for new councillors, Saturday, 15th March: Details had been sent to all parish councillors by the Clerk.

Minute 7 – Beyond the parish boundaries workshops, 2008: Mrs. Sawyer and a colleague had attended a workshop on the 5th February dealing with local transport and village halls. The Clerk said that the planning workshop arranged for the 20th February would now be held on the 26th March. The other two would be on the 5th March (parish planning) and the 19th March (funding).

Minute 12a – The problems with drains had been reported to WCC and the Clerk said she would say more about this under the ‘Parish Steward’ agenda item.

Minute 12b) – It appeared that problems with recycling were experienced by all local communities as there seemed to be no consistency. The views of the Parish Council had been made known and the Parish Councils’ Liaison Group would be asking the District Council’s waste/recycling manager to attend a meeting in April or May.

Minute 12c) The compost at the cemetery had been cleared away.

Minute 12d) Flooding in the by-pass leading to The Mead Primary school had been reported.

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIR

The Chairman thanked everyone who attended the public meeting the previous night and the special meeting on the 4th February.

He informed members that there would be a Trowbridge Area Seminar meeting on Wednesday, 27th February, at 7 p.m.

6. COUNTY COUNCILLOR, DISTRICT COUNCILLORS AND POLICE

County Report

The Chairman, in his capacity as the new county councillor for the Holt and Paxcroft division, said that there would be a 4.8% increase in the county precept.

District Report

Mr. Carbin said that the District Council would be setting the council tax the following night.

Police

PC Lee Pelling produced copies of his recent report for Hilperton, which were tabled. Speed statistics for Marsh Road had been received and the most recent seven-day survey showed the average speed had fallen to 31.7 mph. In addition the 85th percentile (the top 15 speed results) had also shown a fall from 39 mph to 36.7 mph (35 mph at the 85th percentile is considered normal). PC Pelling said that Marsh Road remained one of the 'core sites' in the county and would continue to get regular attention.

PC Pelling had also brought along statistics for Leap Gate speeding and details of incidents of theft over the past weeks. He believed that the fly tipping problem relating to stripped cable would shortly cease and he also asked the Parish Council to consider where NPT post boxes might be sited in the area. These would be lockable, metal boxes for members of the public to use and would be regularly emptied.

PC Pelling's report is held on file.

Points raised during the short discussion which followed included 'boy racers' in the vicinity of the Village Hall, problems with the Hammond Way play area and the location of bus stops along Hilperton Drive.

7. ITEMS FOR REPORT AND DISCUSSION

West Wiltshire Core Strategy – Issues and Options Paper

The Chairman thanked the sub-committee for their work and the resulting report, and he also referred to the public meeting held the previous evening at the Village Hall, which was attended by around 100 people. Forty-three questionnaires concerning matters relating specifically to Hilperton had been filled in and the Clerk had collated these and tabled a report on the comments made.

A detailed discussion followed where it was agreed to take on board the response recommended by the sub-committee with just two amendments:- The word 'preferably' in Q24 should read 'definitely' and Q81 option 8, second sentence, should begin 'This open area prevents the coalescence of Hilperton and Trowbridge and....' Further discussion took place on matters relating to Hilperton and the full response to questions 81 and 82 were agreed. The Clerk said she would ensure that all members of the Parish Council received a copy of the letter she would shortly send to the District Council and would also attach a copy to the Minutes as an official record of what was approved.

Boundary Review

a) Report on the Presentation by the Boundary Committee on the 15th February

Mrs. Hayes and Mrs. Waring had attended this presentation, for which they were thanked. Mrs. Hayes said that the starting point was the number of councillors to be elected to the new unitary authority and 98 had been proposed, equating to one councillor per 3,700 electors. The review aimed to achieve electoral equality over five years with easily identifiable boundaries. The timetable would be in five stages ending with final recommendations submitted to the Electoral Commission later in the year. It was agreed that a copy of the electoral review briefing which had been handed out at the meeting should be sent to all members and this matter should be discussed further at the March Parish Council meeting.

b) Proposal by Trowbridge Town Council for the Trowbridge Community Area

A letter had been received from Trowbridge Town Council enclosing a copy of one option for the Trowbridge Community Area which the Town Council wished to share with Hilperton. It was agreed that this letter should be acknowledged and the Town Council informed that the matter would be discussed further at the March PC meeting, following which the Parish Council would send in their comments.

Newsletter

The Chairman had prepared a draft Newsletter and parish councillors had received a copy. Subject to a few amendments it was agreed that printing and distribution should go ahead as soon as possible.

School Governors' Reports

a) Hilperton Church of England Primary School: Ms. Turner said that the most important development at the school had been the arrival in September, 2007, of Mrs. Ruth Farrell as Head Teacher. Her drive and energy was already well known in the village and the school was a veritable 'hive of industry' with pre and post school activities in abundance. As Chairman of Governors, Ms. Turner was delighted to report that numbers on role were up, interest in placement at the school had increased and the whole profile of the school was looking up. The Head had generated huge commitment and energy from the staff and was working the governors hard. Mrs. Farrell was also a regular monthly contributor to the Hilperton Parish magazine.

b) The Mead Primary School: The Clerk said she would remind Mrs. Sinclair to prepare a report for the March PC meeting.

2008 Best Kept Village Competition

Details of this year's competition had been received from the CPRE and it was agreed that Hilperton should again be entered

WCC Meet and Greet Evening

Following the parish meet and greet evenings last autumn, WCC would be hosting others around the county in the spring, the Trowbridge event being in the Chestnut Room, County Hall, on Thursday, 17th April. It was agreed that members should be reminded of this date at the March PC meeting.

Parish Steward

The Clerk reported that the Parish Steward had checked and cleared drains as necessary during his two-day visit on the 22nd and 23rd January. He had also removed some illegal signs and swept out one of the bus stops and redirected a sign there.

The Clerk had spoken to Denise Bunce at county hall about problems with drains in certain parts of the village and had been informed that:-

- a) Devizes Road: The county's vactor machine would be attending as soon as priorities permitted.
- b) Hill Street: There were problems with a ditch at the rear and WCC would be writing to the landowner to ask him to take action.
- c) Newleaze: There was a cover in the layby in Hill Street which was discharging. This was a Wessex Water problem and they had been informed.
- d) Church Street/The Knap: A ticket had been raised for the gully tanker to attend as soon as possible.

The Clerk had asked for gullies in Whaddon Lane to be attended to on the Parish Steward's next visit on the 21st February. He would also check drains throughout the village.

Mrs. Sawyer said that the soak-away at the War Memorial needed emptying. If the Parish Steward was unable to do this job, the Chairman and Mr. Carbin said they would clear the soak-away and disperse the contents somewhere away from the site.

West Wilts. Central Area Parish Councils' Liaison Group

In the absence of Mr. Jackson, the Clerk reported that both the Annual General Meeting and General Meeting had been held on the 24th January, 2008. At the AGM Gaynor Polglase agreed to act as Chairman with Alan Spreadbury as Vice Chairman. It was agreed that a secretary should be employed to carry out secretarial duties. At the General Meeting Police Sergeant Sandy Ralph spoke on the subject of NPTs, and other issues discussed included speeding and parking problems, post boxes and youth groups. Peter Dunford from WCC explained how the unitary authority would affect parish councils and how they might work together, and during the question and discussion period Mr. Jackson spoke about the inconsistency of the present recycling arrangements. The next meeting of the group would be on the 24th April, 2008.

Paxcroft Mead Community Centre – Deed of Trust

The Chairman reminded members that a few years ago the Parish Council had agreed that he and one other parish councillor should be authorised to sign the Transfer/Trust Deed relating to the Paxcroft Mead Community Centre, and this had duly been done in April, 2005. However, problems had arisen with regard to the extent of the land given by the developers, and this Deed of Trust had never been sent to the Charity Commission by the Management Committee. The new Chairman of the Committee, Mr. John Marples, was endeavouring to rectify this matter, and had been told by the Charity Commission that the old trust deed was out of date and would not be accepted unless a new one was prepared based on the 2005 edition of the Acre Model A. Mr. Marples had done this and the Clerk had read through it and brought it along to the meeting. She said she had no hesitation in recommending the Parish Council's approval of this new deed and, after a short discussion, it was agreed that the Chairman and one other parish councillor should sign the deed after careful perusal by the Chairman beforehand.

Post Office Closures/Cutbacks

The Clerk had received a copy of a letter sent by WWDC to the network development manager objecting to the proposed closures and cutbacks in post office services in West Wiltshire. Ms. Turner said that postwatch was opposing some closures but in fact Wiltshire had come off reasonably lightly compared with other parts of the country.

Paxcroft Mead Recycling Centre

A letter had been received from Linda Conley, environment portfolio holder at WWDC, to say that a new location for the recycling centre at the back of the car park within the shopping complex was being trialled for a few months to see if a change of location would stop the waste being dumped. This recycling centre had been a constant source of complaint because of the litter and rubbish left beside

the containers and by relocating them it was hoped that there would be an improvement in the cleanliness of the surrounding area.

Local Works – Update on the Sustainable Communities Act

After more than five years of campaigning the Sustainable Communities Bill had become law and was now an Act of Parliament. The organisers/co-ordinators of the campaign had written to thank their supporters and to inform them that by October, 2008, the government would have to ask every council to submit suggestions of ways that it could help local communities to become more sustainable.

Traffic Management in Hilperton

Back in November the Clerk had written to WCC about the future of the village roads once a relief road was in place and voicing the concern of the Parish Council about the number of vehicles speeding along Marsh Road. A letter had now been received from WCC's local transport and development manager saying that the development of any traffic management scheme on Marsh Road would need to take account of the impact of the proposed relief road as it would alter traffic patterns on Marsh Road and Hill Street to a significant degree, which in turn would affect the function and design of any scheme. The letter went on to talk about the timing and delivery of the link road. Both PC Pelling and the Chairman asked for copies of this letter.

8. PLANNING MATTERS

Applications

08/00344/FUL: Mr. R. Weiland, 58 Lacock Gardens, Paxcroft Mead
Erection of Conservatory

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

08/00379/FUL: Mrs. A. Robinson, 1 Apsley Close, Paxcroft Mead
Two storey side and rear extension

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

Decisions

07/03822/LBC: Mr. Warren Smith, 209 Church Street
Internal alterations – Consent with conditions

08/00046/FUL: Mr. and Mrs. Tuite, 80 Lacock Gardens, Paxcroft Mead
Two storey side extension – Permission with conditions

Notification of Planning Appeals

a) 07/02699/OUT: Appeal lodged by Doric Developments (Bath) Limited against the refusal of WWDC to allow permission for the erection of a detached house and garage at land west of Jasmine House, Hilperton Rod

b) 07//01060/LBC: Appeal lodged by Mr. and Mrs. Weaver against the refusal of WWDC to allow permission for subdivision of existing house to form two dwellings at Maxcroft House, 3 Maxcroft Lane

9. CORRESPONDENCE

WALC Newsletter for February, 2008 (already circulated)

10. PUBLICATIONS

a) WCC draft Rights of Way improvement plan. This was given to Mr. House to peruse and it was agreed that discussion should take place on the draft plan at the March PC meeting.

- b) Local Council's Update – January/February, 2008.
- c) WCC 4ward – February, 2008.
- d) The Way Ahead – Ramblers' Association, March, 2008 (first edition). Mr. House said he would be happy for the association to have his contact details as footpath representative for the Parish Council.
- e) Arc Theatre – Spring/Summer programme, 2008

11. ACCOUNTS

Payments authorised:-

Clerk's salary and expenses for February	£543.95
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12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS AND VILLAGE MAINTENANCE

- a) Mr. Sawyer said that the bus shelter at the bottom end of Hill Street had been smeared with graffiti and she was having difficulty getting anyone to clean it. She had already been in touch with CLARENCE but had been told it was not a WCC responsibility. The Clerk was asked to contact WWDC in the first instance but if they could not assist the Chairman said he would ask Paul Stadden to paint the inside.
- b) Mrs. Sawyer wondered if the dog litter bin at the same bus shelter could be moved as it was being used by a resident of Hill Street for domestic waste. It was agreed that this should be included on the March PC agenda.
- c) Mr. House said that it was possible that someone in the village might bring up the subject of allotments at the next Annual Assembly.
- d) Mrs. Hayes was concerned that PC Pelling and his team of one had to deal with a population of 10,000 and it was generally agreed that this was too big an area for the neighbourhood policing team.
- e) Mrs. Hayes said that Pound Farm House along Horse Road had eighteen students living there. As it was a Grade 2 listed building, she wondered if planning permission had to be sought for this change of use to rented accommodation. It was agreed that the Clerk should contact WWDC to ask if listed building consent had been given and a licence agreed.
- f) On behalf of Mr. Cullern, the Clerk reported that a sign which had been erected at 31 Woodhouse Gardens, Paxcroft Mead, displaying 'No Parking – Turning Area Only' had been defaced. This was a 2' x 2' sign on a nearby lamp post at the walkway near the underpass. She said she would investigate.

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) Result of the election of a county councillor for the Holt and Paxcroft Division.
- b) West Wiltshire District Council's Core Strategy.
- c) Spring Newsletter.
- d) Paxcroft Mead Recycling Centre.
- e) Traffic Management in Hilperton.
- f) Sewers/Drains in Hilperton

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, 18th March, 2008

The meeting ended at 9.25 p.m.

Signed Date

