

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HILPERTON PARISH COUNCIL
HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL, WHADDON LANE, HILPERTON,
at 7.30 pm on Tuesday, 9th December, 2008**

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

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were none.

2. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL/PREJUDICIAL INTEREST

Planning application 08/03312/LBC: Mrs. K. Hayes, personal, a resident of a neighbouring property being known to her.

3. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 18th November, 2008, were approved and signed.

4. MATTERS ARISING

Minute 5 – The Clerk had written to Dr. Andrew Murrison MP who had informed her that he felt uncomfortable about plans to restrict ‘call in’ powers to unitary councillors. He had sent her a copy of a letter he had written to Dr. Keith Robinson, Chief Executive of WCC, in which he had pointed out that degrading the influence of parish councillors in the way proposed would make it very difficult to convince worthy people to join parish and town councils and would be less desirable from a democratic point of view.

Minute 6b – The Chairman had taken up the matter of the deep pothole along Hilperton Drive with WCC and was dissatisfied with their response that it would take over a month to fill the trench in. He had since written to County Councillor Fleur de rhe Philipe to ask for her help in speeding things up.

Minute 7 – Bus Shelter, Hill Street: The Clerk had met with Mrs. Sawyer and Mr. Jackson and they had agreed the design and colour of the new shelter. An order had been placed with Queensbury Shelters and work should commence early in the spring of 2009.

Minute 7 – Delta Kitchens: Mr. Jackson’s log sheets had been sent to WWDC under the auspices of the Parish Council, with a request for the enforcement officer to make a visit when the premises were occupied (i.e. early/late evening to approximately 6 a.m.). This matter would be discussed further at the January PC meeting.

Minute 7 – Notice Board: The Chairman had contacted the owner of the property, Mr. Hinks, who did not wish the notice board to be put on his wall. Other sites were suggested and it was agreed that this should be discussed further at the January PC meeting.

Minute 7 – Allotments: The Clerk had written to the Village Hall committee concerning access to the plot. She had contacted Mr. Bielecki, who, to date, had not any further names to add to the list of people interested in acquiring a plot. She had also commenced negotiations with the land-owner

regarding the purchase price of the land. It was agreed that this should be discussed again at the January PC meeting.

Minute 7 – Sir William Roger Brown’s Coal Charity: Cards and money had been sent to the recipients and the Clerk had already received a few letters of thanks.

Minute 7 – Standards Committee for the new Wiltshire Council: Ms. Turner had now received a recruitment pack from Yamina Rhouati at WCC, and the Clerk had also received a pack.

Minute 7 – Post Office Addresses: The Clerk had approached Royal Mail but had not as yet received a response.

Minute 12a: The blocked drain outside 73 Hill Street had been reported to CLARENCE.

Minute 12b: The enforcement officer at WWDC had been written to but no reply had been received as yet. Mr. House said that the cars parked at the old nursery site were from Islington Motors and were there with the consent of the owners.

Minute 12d: The graffiti on the underpass at Paxcroft Mead had been reported to WCC. The Chairman said that some residents had taken it upon themselves to clean up any graffiti, which was helpful.

Minute 12e: The graffiti on one of BT’s maintenance boxes had been reported and was being investigated.

Minute 12f: The Chairman had had a word with Denise Bunce at WCC and she said that the parish steward would endeavour to get rid of the graffiti. However, she still stressed that it was not the County Council’s priority to remove inoffensive graffiti from kerb stones.

Minute 12g: The state of the gullies along Whaddon Lane had been reported to Andy Cadwallader at WCC.

Minute 12h: The Clerk had contacted PC Lee Pelling about the build-up of canal people parking their cars along Whaddon Lane, and had given him Mr. Tucker’s telephone number, if he wished to speak to him about the problem.

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIR

The Chairman wished everyone a very Happy Christmas and invited them to join him for some seasonal refreshments after the meeting.

6. COUNTY COUNCILLOR, DISTRICT COUNCILLORS AND POLICE

County Report

Mr. Clark had nothing to report.

District Report

Neither Mr. Clark nor Mr. Carbin had anything to report.

Police

PC Pelling was not in attendance but would be present at the Hilperton Neighbourhood Policing team meeting the following night. Mrs. Hayes, who said she would be going along to the meeting, was asked to bring up the problems of a) speeding vehicles along the Trowbridge Road and b) cars using Middle Lane.

7. ITEMS FOR REPORT AND DISCUSSION

WWDC – Last Parish Forum

Mrs. Hayes had attended on behalf of the Parish Council and read out a short report she had prepared on the meeting (this is held on file). She was thanked for representing the Parish Council at this last parish forum.

Bus Shelter – Paxcroft Mead

The Clerk had approached Lance Allan, Trowbridge Town Clerk, and asked if the Town Council would agree to help with the funding of a new shelter. He had replied that the Town Council had a list of bus shelters which had been approved but they were waiting until April, 2009, for match funding before anything further was done. He said he would pass on the request to the Town Development Committee but anticipated that they would suggest waiting until match funding was available from the Wiltshire Council. The Clerk had asked him to keep her updated concerning any decision made by the Development Committee, and it was agreed that this should be discussed further at the January PC meeting.

Hammond Way Pedestrian Crossing

The Clerk had written to Bruce Douglas, head teacher of Staverton School, suggesting he might like to contact the head teacher of Hilperton School, who would be happy to give him some advice and assistance with his travel plan, as Hilperton now had its own in place. She had gone on to say that, once the school's travel plan had been produced, the Parish Council would approach WCC with a request to put in a crossing along Hammond Way. It was agreed that this matter should be held in abeyance until further feedback from Staverton School.

Trees at Foxglove Drive

The Clerk had received confirmation that the District Council would plant three replacement Willow trees, extra heavy standard, in line with the remaining Willows and within one metre of the position of each felled tree.

West Wilts. Central Area Parish Councils' Liaison Group

Mr. Jackson confirmed that the next meeting would be on the 29th January. It was suggested he might like to bring up the subject of 'tree planting' at the meeting.

Towards one Council: Membership of Area Planning Committees and Developing the Development Control Service

Every parish councillor now had a copy of the report by the Implementation Executive on these subjects, and it was agreed that the contents should be noted.

Parish Steward

On his visit on the 9th and 10th December, the Parish Steward had been asked to:-

- a) Clear leaves on the corner of Church Street, near Woodcote House.
- b) Clear the drain outside No. 72a Hill Street of debris.
- c) Remove graffiti in the bus shelter in Hill Street (the Church Street end).
- d) Cut back a fallen bush outside 100 Church Street, which was blocking the way for pedestrians.
- e) Cut back a hedge along the walkway at Lacock Gardens/Ashton Road which was making it difficult for people to walk around.
- f) Generally tidy up around the village.

Mrs. Hayes had met the Parish Steward recently, and they had discussed the need to re-surface Horse Road, especially from the Marsh Road end to the layby. It was agreed that the Clerk should contact WCC on this issue.

Tree Planting

Mr. Jameson reported on his recent meeting with WCC's rights of way warden, Steve Leonard, accompanied by Mr. House and Mr. Willis. Although Mr. Leonard had been helpful, he had said that planting trees in the sites suggested would not be possible either because of insufficient space or

because of the proximity to the highway. He had suggested that schools should be approached, and it was agreed that the Clerk should contact both Hilperton CE Primary School and The Mead Primary School. Mr. House said that, if the allotment land became available, some trees could be planted around the site.

Turning to the Trowbridge Road area, where Mr. Pike had kindly given his permission to allow the Parish Council to plant a row of trees behind the hedge line on his land to 'mirror' the beech trees on the south side, Mr. House said that there were 8 Copper Beeches and 8 Silver Birches on the south side, planted between 25/30 yards apart. He went on to say that the Shaw Trust (Palmer Gardens) would be happy to supply the trees and get some trainees of theirs to plant them and perhaps maintain them, as an ongoing project.

Concerning the Tree Warden scheme, the Clerk said she had written to Dr. Beckett and she had also put a note in the parish magazine. Mr. Jameson added that the intended launch in January had been postponed.

Communities in Control – Real People, Real Power: Code of Conduct for Local Authority Members and Employees – a consultation

Copies of the consultation document had been sent to every parish councillor and it was decided that a response should be sent to the Department of Communities and Local Government, as follows:-

Application of the code to members' conduct in their non-official capacity

Question 1. Do you agree that the members' code should apply to a member's conduct when acting in their non-official capacity? Answer: No.

Question 2. Do you agree with this definition of 'criminal offence' for the purpose of the members' code? Answer: Yes.

Question 3. Do you agree with this definition of 'official capacity' for the purpose of the members' code? Answer: Yes

Question 4. Do you agree that the members' code should only apply where a criminal offence and conviction abroad would have been a criminal offence if committed in the UK? Answer: Yes.

Question 5. Do you agree that an ethical investigation should not proceed until the criminal process has been completed? Answer – Yes.

Question 6. Do you think that the amendments to the members' code suggested in this chapter are required? Answer – Yes.

Question 7. Are there any aspects of conduct currently included in the members' code that are not required? Answer – No.

Question 8. Are there any aspects of conduct in a member's official capacity not specified in the members' code that should be included? Answer – No.

Question 9. Does the proposed timescale of two months, during which a member must give an undertaking to observe the members' code, starting from the date the authority adopts the code, provide members with sufficient time to undertake to observe the code? Answer – No. Some parish councils only meet a few times a year and two months is not sufficient.

Proposed amendments to the General Principles

Question 10. Do you agree with the addition of this new general principle, applied specifically to conduct in a member's non-official capacity? Answer – No.

Question 11. Do you agree with this broad definition of 'criminal offence' for the purpose of the General Principles Order? Answer – Yes.

Question 12. Do you agree with this definition of 'official capacity' for the purpose of the General Principles Order? Answer – Yes.

Model Code of Conduct for local government employees

It was agreed that this was an area where the Parish Council was not qualified to make informed judgements and so questions 13 to 22 would not be answered as members did not have the expertise to comment.

Grant Requests

- a) **Victim Support:** The Clerk read out a letter received from the Fundraising Officer of Victim Support, following which it was agreed that a Section 137 Grant of £250 should be given to the charity.
- b) **Paxcroft Mead Community Centre:** Copies of the letter from the Chairman of the Paxcroft Mead Community Centre Committee had been sent to all parish councillors. A discussion followed concerning its contents, at the end of which it was agreed that:-
- a) a letter of acknowledgement should be sent to the Chairman, noting that Trowbridge Town Council was unable to assist with any funding at the present time.
 - b) the Parish Council should make a Section 137 Grant of £185 to enable the committee to purchase a monitor required for the installation of CCTV cameras.
 - c) no contribution should be given towards the two remaining items required by the committee, as these were considered to be ‘revenue items’ to which the Parish Council could not give assistance.
 - d) the Chairman should be informed, however, that the Parish Council supported capital expenditure such as the proposed new stage and would welcome him making contact again when the committee had heard from the Gannet Foundation, to whom they had applied for a grant.
 - e) The Chairman should be asked to provide the Parish Council with a copy of their Treasurer’s most recent financial report for the committee.
- (Ms. Turner abstained from voting on this matter).*

Persimmon-Owned Houses in Horse Road/Wyke Road

Mrs. Waring said that, whilst she appreciated the reason for the houses being boarded up, they looked unsightly. The Hilperton relief road might not be constructed for many years, in view of the financial climate, and she felt that Persimmon should let the houses to tenants.

After a short discussion, it was agreed that Persimmon should be approached with a suggestion that their properties should be tenanted out, perhaps through a private sector leasing scheme. WWDC’s housing needs department should also be asked for their advice.

8. PLANNING MATTERS

Applications

08/03311/LBC: Mr. M. Oakey, Premier Training Ltd., Premier House, Canal Road
Retrospective application for two shower rooms in existing lean-to at the side of Pound Farm House.
After a short discussion, it was agreed that no objection should be made to this application.

Decisions

06/03598/OUT: WWDC, land adjoining Hilperton Drive and Ashton Road
Development of 23 new dwellings and 35 car parking spaces – Permission with conditions

08/02526/FUL: Mr. K. Ellis, 177 Devizes Road
Demolition of two-storey dwelling house and associated outbuildings to be replaced with two two-storey dwellings with two double detached garages and the formation of a new vehicular access – Permission with conditions

08/02799/FUL: Ms. Jo Deighton, 42 St. Mary’s Gardens
Erection of single storey extension – Permission with conditions

08/03101/FUL: Mr. and Mrs. Bush, 6 St. Mary's Gardens
New conservatory – Permission with conditions

08/03111/TCA: Mr. Warren Smith, 209 Church Street
Works to Walnut trees – No Tree Preservation Order made

08/02870/FUL: Land at Halfway Cottage, south of The Beeches, Kenton Drive, Trowbridge
Revised scheme to increase density and to provide 27 new dwellings – application withdrawn

08/03067/TCA: Mr. Stuart Duggan, The Old Rectory, Church Street
Felling of Ash tree – No Tree Preservation Order made

08/02881/FUL: Mr. and Mrs. N. Amor, 14 Castley Road, Paxcroft Mead
Two storey rear extension – Permission with conditions

9. CORRESPONDENCE

a) Letter from the Chairman of Cloth Road Artists, thanking the Parish Council for its continuing support of the Cloth Road Arts Week, which would now be staged biannually, the next one being in 2010.

10. PUBLICATIONS

- a) First News – Winter, 2008
- b) Paxcroft Mead News – November, 2008
- c) Wiltshire Criminal Justice Board Newsletter – November, 2008
- d) Clerks and Councils Direct – November, 2008
- e) Minutes of Paxcroft Mead Community Centre Management Committee meeting, 4th November, 2008
- f) WCC 4ward – December, 2008

11. ACCOUNTS

a) Update on the closure of the Building Society Account

This account had now been closed and a cheque for £5,121.08 received from the Nationwide

b) Payments authorised:-

Since the last meeting

Cash for Coal Charity recipients	£100.00
----------------------------------	---------

This meeting

Clerk's Salary and Expenses for December, 2008	£609.37
--	---------

Mr. R. House – mileage to Bristol auction and return (56 miles at 58.7p per mile)	£32.87
--	--------

Mr. W. Jameson – mileage to Marlborough (Tree Warden meeting and return) – 56 miles at 58.7p per mile	£32.87
---	--------

Society of Local Council Clerks – Annual Subscription	£94.00
---	--------

Victim Support – Section 137 grant approved earlier	£250.00
---	---------

Paxcroft Mead Community Centre – Section 137 grant
approved earlier £185.00

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS AND VILLAGE MAINTENANCE

- a) Mr. Bielecki said that a salt bin at Painters Mead, next to the substation, contained impacted salt and he had been unable to spread any on the road on a very icy morning.
- b) Mrs. Waring said that a tree outside No. 142 Wyke Road was shedding berries onto the footpath, making it slippery for pedestrians.

13. ITEMS FOR PARISH NEWS/LOCAL PRESS

- a) Details of the new bus shelter for Hill Street.
- b) Tree planting.
- c) Grants given.
- d) Boarded up houses in Horse Road/Wyke Road

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, 20th January, 2009

The meeting ended at 9.05 p.m.

Signed Date