

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HILPERTON PARISH COUNCIL
HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL, WHADDON LANE, HILPERTON,
at 7.30 pm on Tuesday, 17th February, 2009**

There were no members of the public present

PRESENT	Mr. E. Clark (in the Chair)	Mrs. S. Sawyer
	Mr. W. Jameson	Mr. R. House
	Ms. P. Turner	Mr. J. Willis
	Mr. T. Carbin	Mr. D. Tucker

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: P. C. Lee Pelling

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Mrs. K. Hayes, Mr. V. Bielecki, Mr. K. Jackson, Mrs. J. Waring and Mr. B. Cullern.

2. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL/PREJUDICIAL INTEREST

Agenda Item 7 – Allotments: Mr. E. Clark, personal, as Parish Council representative on the Village Hall Committee; Ms. P. Turner, personal, as a member of the Village Hall Committee; and Mrs. S. Sawyer, personal, as a member of the Village Hall Committee.

Agenda Item 7 – Request for a grant from Carers Support, Wiltshire: Mrs. S. Sawyer, personal, on account of her receiving support from this organisation.

3. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 20th January, 2009, and the Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on the 10th February, 2009, had been circulated. It was pointed out by the Chairman that, in the minutes of the planning committee meeting, the address for planning application 09/00228/FUL should have read ‘Pound Farm House, Horse Road’ and not 162a Wyke Road. Subject to this amendment, both sets of Minutes were approved and signed.

4. MATTERS ARISING (from the January PC meeting)

Minute 7 – Delta Kitchens: The Clerk said that WWDC’s planning compliance officer was still investigating this matter, which could take some time. Mr. Jackson had reported several incidences of the owner entering the property over the last few weeks.

Minute 7 – Notice Board: The Chairman said that the new notice board should be in position along the Trowbridge Road in the next few weeks.

Minute 7 – Street naming: The Clerk had written to WCC saying that the Parish Council would like to take on responsibility for street naming under the new Wiltshire Council.

Minute 12c: The dead badger had still not been removed, despite calls from both the Clerk and Mrs. Waring, but the Chairman had been informed that steps would be taken to get rid of the animal.

Minute 12d: The state of the bins at Hammond Way had been reported.

Minute 12e: The Clerk had put forward Mr. Bielecki’s suggestion about placing anti fly-tipping notices at either end of Middle Lane. She had been informed that it did not tend to make any difference as people were aware that what they were doing was illegal and, given the secluded nature of the site, it made it an easy target. It might be something to be considered by the new Authority but would not be looked at until after the 1st April. In the meantime WWDC would continue to deal with any incidences of fly-tipping when reported to them.

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIR

- a) The Chairman was pleased to report that former councillor Dennis Drewett was recovering well after his heart operation.
- b) The Chairman had been in correspondence with WCC's Highways department about the problems with the drains by the War Memorial. He had been told that these had been cleared in December but this had obviously not been done properly as they were constantly flooding.

6. COUNTY COUNCILLOR, DISTRICT COUNCILLORS AND POLICE

County Report

- a) Mr. Clark said that the council tax would be set on the 24th February and there was likely to be an increase of 3.5%.
- b) The new unitary authority would be consulting parish councils shortly on the subject of introducing double yellow lines during the next financial year. Two potential trouble spots might be considered by the Parish Council : in Hill Street opposite Dymott Square and the Devizes Road/Ashton Road junction.

District Report

Mr. Carbin referred to the possible introduction of lighting at the teenage meeting shelter on Paxcroft Mead. The problem was that this would be very expensive and would not be considered at the present time.

It was agreed that, with the introduction of the new unitary authority on the 1st April, the District Report would be removed from the agenda after the March PC meeting.

Police

PC Pelling said that he was trying to deal with the car parking problem at the junction of Devizes Road and Ashton Road, which was causing a hazard. He was also aware of the problems at the Dymott Square/Hill Street junction and at Carisbrook Crescent.

There had been an increase in anti-social behaviour by teenagers congregating around the Village Hall area, which PC Pelling was endeavouring to resolve, and he asked people to report any problems to him. In the longer-term he saw that 'boy racers' needed somewhere to meet where they could not cause a nuisance.

In conclusion, PC Pelling said that a new PCSO, Ellen Wickenden, had recently joined his team.

7. ITEMS FOR REPORT AND DISCUSSION

Trees at Foxglove Drive

The Clerk had been informed by WWDC's Landscape Officer, Chris Kirk, that Claire Pullan at the Riverway Depot was dealing with this matter, but when she had approached her she had been told that Mr. Kirk's permission would be needed before different trees could be planted. It was agreed that the Clerk should get back to Mr. Kirk and speak to him about possible alternatives to the willows.

Allotments

A response had now been received from the Secretary of the Village Hall Committee. Whilst welcoming the proposal to establish allotments in the village, it appeared that the Committee was unwilling to allow potential allotment holders, arriving by car, to access their plots via the Village Hall car park. Instead it had been suggested that they should access the allotments by the easterly vehicular access to the reservoir via Devizes Road. It was agreed by members of the Parish Council that this would not be a practical arrangement.

The Clerk had been in contact with the owner of the land, who had unofficially agreed that he would sell one acre for the sum of £9,500. The Parish Council would, however, need to erect a stockproof fence around the allotment area.

Given the number of people who had expressed an interest in becoming allotment-holders, it was generally felt that one acre of land would not be sufficient, and it was therefore agreed that both the Chairman and the Clerk should negotiate a purchase price with the landowner for an area of 1.5 acres. They should also arrange another meeting on site with him to establish exactly where this area should be. Mr. House could then ask his colleague to value the plot and quotes for a stock-proof fence could be sought. In the meantime, the letter from the Village Hall Committee Secretary should be acknowledged, the views of the Committee should be taken on board by the Parish Council and negotiations should continue to try to resolve the access issue.

West Wilts. Central Area Parish Councils' Liaison Group

Mr. Jackson had sent in copies of the Minutes of the 29th January meeting and the AGM which had been held beforehand, and the Clerk gave a brief report on matters which had been discussed. She had also received from Mr. Jackson an extract from the regional spatial strategy for the south-west which included government policies relating to Trowbridge and surrounding areas in relation to the growth of housing, jobs, town centre expansion and redevelopment. It was generally agreed that, in the current economic climate, projected growth was optimistic.

Parish Steward

Just when the Clerk had forwarded details of the jobs to be carried out by the Parish Steward on the 17th and 18th February, she had received a letter from WCC's Highway Service Manager to say that the February programme had had to be cancelled because of the demands of the recent bad weather. The list of jobs would therefore be carried forward to the March visit, although this would be for one day only, on the 19th.

Tree Planting

The Clerk said that Mr. Ross Kavanagh had attended the Wiltshire Tree Warden Launch on the 31st January, which he found very interesting. Another resident, Mrs. Jean Grayshon, had also expressed an interest in becoming a tree warden. It was agreed that it would now be beneficial to meet both volunteers and that they should be invited to the next PC meeting in March.

In the meantime, the Clerk had been in contact with both primary schools, offering each twelve trees of their choice for planting where they wished, the only stipulation being that these should be native British hardwoods. She was waiting to hear back from them. In addition to these 24 trees, another 16 or so would be needed for the north side of Trowbridge Road, probably 8 Silver Birches and 8 Copper Beeches. Mr. House had bought a list of trees and their prices if they were purchased from the Shaw Trust. In addition to the trees, stakes ties and tree guards would be needed. As soon as costs for these could be established, the Clerk could begin to make enquiries concerning possible grants.

Requests for Grants

a) Carers Support Wiltshire

The Clerk reminded members that Carers Support West Wilts. Had been established in 1989 and had grown to support over 1,600 carers in West Wiltshire. They provided a unique service to help with looking after relatives or friends who, because of a disability, illness or the effects of old age, could not manage at home without help. The Parish Council had given £250 to the charity in May, 2007.

After a short discussion, it was agreed that a Section 137 grant of £300 should be made (proposed by Ms. Turner, seconded by Mr. House, all in favour).

b) Paxcroft Mead Community Centre

A request had been made by the Chairman of the Community Centre Management Committee for assistance with the cost of a) replacement of damaged guttering (£453.44 - parts only) and/or b) redecorating in various parts of the Community Centre (£560).

It was generally considered that the re-decorating of the centre should be budgeted for but the damaged guttering was an exceptional case, for which the Parish Council could help. It was therefore agreed that a Section 19 grant should of £453.44 should be made (proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Mr. House, all in favour).

Following a suggestion made by Mr. Carbin, it was also agreed that consideration should be given to providing an annual grant to the Community Centre and the Village Hall, and this should be discussed at the March PC meeting.

Pound Farm House

It had been decided at the last Planning Committee meeting to bring up the subject of possible infringement of grade two listed building status, as concern had been expressed that there may have been internal alterations taking place over the years without listed building consent. The Clerk informed members that, apart from the recent planning application for retrospective internal alterations to form a downstairs bathroom and shower room (to which the Parish Council had not objected), the only other application had been in 2004 when consent had been given to the erection of a conservatory (again the Parish Council had not objected). It was agreed to discuss this further at the March Parish Council meeting.

CPRE – Best Kept Village Competition 2009

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

Street Lighting – Hill Street

Mr. Willis had expressed his concern at what he felt was the inadequacy of street lighting in Hill Street, particularly in the Newleaze to Greenhill Gardens area. After a short discussion it was agreed that, first of all, the Clerk should ascertain from WCC what rules were applied when deciding the positioning of lamp posts and this matter could then be discussed further at the March PC meeting.

8. PLANNING MATTERS

Applications

09/00325/TCA: Mrs. A. J. Price, 10 St. Michael's Close

Pruning of two Yew trees and two Thuja trees at rear of property

It was agreed that, provided WWDC's Landscape Officer approved of the works to be undertaken, no objection would be made to the application.

09/00374/FUL: Mr. C. Benbow, 42 Princess Gardens

Front extension to garage and front porch

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

Decisions

08/03518/FUL: Selwood Housing, former Nursery Site, Marsh Road

Erection of twelve dwellings with associated access and car parking – refused

Planning Application 08/01447/FUL

A response had now been received from the acting Development Control Manager, Robert Young, following the Parish Council's formal complaint on how this application had been handled. His explanation did not meet with the approval of members as he had intimated in his letter that the Parish Council's response to the consultation was not considered to be an objection as such, simply a suggestion concerning the condition. It was agreed that the complaint should be taken further.

Development Control between 1st April and 8th June, 2009

a) Presentations to Parish Council

The Chairman informed members that two seminars were to be held during March to present the proposals for the operation of the Development Control service under the new Wiltshire unitary council, which would come into being on the 1st April.

The seminars would take place on: Tuesday, 3rd March, 6 p.m., at Warminster Town Council offices and Wednesday, 11th March, 6 p.m., at the council chamber, WWDC. Mr. House said that he might be able to attend the Warminster seminar and he would contact the Clerk to confirm.

b) Scheme of Delegation

The Chairman said that, from the 1st April, parish and town councils would lose their right to 'call-in' planning applications. After March, the Parish Council would have to ask its Wiltshire Council Division Member to make a request in writing for any application to which objections had been made by the PC to be determined by the relevant area committee.

9. CORRESPONDENCE

a) WALC County Newsletter for February, 2009 (already circulated)

10. PUBLICATIONS

- a) Wiltshire Council – Leaflets and Posters promoting new Authority
- b) WCC – Handbook for Area Boards
- c) WCC 4ward – February, 2009
- d) Details of a 'Greener Living Roadshow' on the 21st February, 2009
- e) Paxcroft Mead Community Centre News – January, 2009
- f) Paxcroft Mead Community Centre management committee – Minutes of 7th January, 2009, meeting

11. ACCOUNTS

b) Payments authorised:-

Since the last meeting:-

Hilpertion Presents – ad. for pantomime (Chairman's Allowance)	£50.00
--	--------

This meeting:-

Clerk's Salary and Expenses for February, 2009	£603.44
--	---------

BT Payphones: First annual payment for kiosk in Greenhill Gardens (including £75.00 VAT)	£500.00
--	---------

Revision 4 – West hosting	£131.37
---------------------------	---------

Carers Support Wiltshire – Section 137 grant approved earlier in the meeting	£300.00
--	---------

Paxcroft Mead Community Centre – Section 19 grant
approved earlier in the meeting

£453.44

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS AND VILLAGE MAINTENANCE

- a) The Chairman had been in touch with WCC's Area Highway Engineer, Andy Cadwallader, about problems with HGVs at the junction of Hill Street and Church Street, as HGV drivers found the bend very tight. There was scope to alter the centre line but it would appear that the lorry drivers already ignored the existing centre line or, at best, only used it as a guide. After a short discussion it was agreed that there was little advantage to be gained in altering the centre line.
- b) Following the recent snow falls, the Chairman, in his role as a county councillor, had received a request for a grit bin to be provided in the Helpswell Road area of Paxcroft Mead. It was agreed that there should be a grit bin in this area, and the Chairman said he would now go back to the County Council to say that this request had come from the Parish Council.
- c) The Chairman said that speeding was becoming a problem along Horse Road. As there was a layby towards the Marsh Road end of Horse Road, it should be possible to ask for a camera van to be placed there for community reasons. PC Pelling said he would make a request to the Camera Safety Unit and the Clerk was asked to do the same.
- d) Ms. Turner reported problems with recycling bins in the vicinity of Hilperton Primary School. The school did not want them there and they were causing health and safety problems. She informed the Parish Council that a request would soon come from the school to the local authority, asking for their removal.
- e) Ms. Turner said that the car park at the Village Hall needed re-lining. The committee had investigated and found the best price to be £800. It was agreed that the Parish Council would arrange payment.
- f) Mr. Tucker said that the grips along Whaddon Lane had become blocked – the Clerk to report.
- g) Mr. Tucker reported a blocked pipe under the road in Whaddon Lane, at the sharp bend where byway 21 and footpath 23 joined Whaddon Lane – the Clerk to inform WCC.

13. ITEMS FOR PARISH NEWS/LOCAL PRESS

- a) Tree planting
- b) BT Telephone kiosk
- c) Speeding in Horse Road
- d) Best Kept Village Competition
- e) Grants approved

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, 17th March, 2009

The meeting ended at 9.15 p.m.

Signed Date