

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

There were two members of the public present

<b>PRESENT</b>	Mr. E. Clark (in the Chair)	Mrs. S. Sawyer
	Mr. R. House	Ms. P. Turner
	Mrs. J. Waring	Mr. J. Willis
	Mr. V. Bielecki	Mr. B. Cullern
	Mrs. K. Hayes	Mr. K. Jackson
	Mr. D. Tucker	

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:** P. C. Lee Pelling

*The Chairman introduced Mrs. Jean Grayshon and Mr. Ross Kavanagh, both of whom had kindly offered to become tree wardens for the parish.*

### 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Mr. W. Jameson.

### 2. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL/PREJUDICIAL INTEREST

Agenda Item 7 – Pound Farm House: Mrs. K. Hayes, personal, one of the neighbours being known to her.

Agenda Item 11 – Chairman's Allowance: Mr. E. Clark, personal, this item relating to reimbursement of actual expenditure.

### 3. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 17<sup>th</sup> February, 2009, were approved and signed.

### 4. MATTERS ARISING

Minute 7 – Trees at Foxglove Drive: Both the Clerk and Mrs. Waring were able to report that the Willows had been replaced by Whitebeams (*sorbus aria lutescens*).

Minute 7 – Best Kept Village Competition: The Clerk had learned that the closing date for entries was now the 30<sup>th</sup> April, 2009.

Minute 8 – Planning Application 08/01447/FUL: The Clerk had re-iterated the Parish Council's dissatisfaction with the explanation given by the Development Control Manager at WWDC, but had been informed that he had now left the District Council as manager and had passed the matter onto Rosie Macgregor in the planning department. The Clerk said she would continue to press for a response

Minute 12c – The Clerk had contacted the camera safety unit and she reported that a survey would shortly be carried out along Horse Road to see if this was suitable for safety camera enforcement. P. C. Pelling had also been involved and had identified a lamp post opposite number 345 Horse Road, about halfway along the road, and in a spot which he felt would serve the purpose for traffic in both directions. The road being wide and straight in the main, speeding potentially would be highest in the middle. It would take six weeks for the results to come through.

Minutes 12f and 12g – The Clerk had been informed by Andy Cadwallader, Area Highway Engineer, WCC, that a gully cleaning ticket had been raised with their contractor to clear the pipe under the road, and a ticket had also been raised with the Parish Steward to cut the grips and clear any debris off the

gullies. He was aware that the ditches needed clearing and his team would be taking this up with the local land owners.

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

- a) The Chairman was pleased to report that Hill Street now had a new bus shelter. The removal of the old one and erection of the new had only taken one day and everyone was happy with the result.
- b) The Chairman gave a formal 'farewell' (in their absence) to West Wiltshire District Councillors Trevor Carbin and David Binding, and thanks were expressed by him to all present and past district councillors who had supported the work of the Parish Council

## **6. COUNTY COUNCILLOR, DISTRICT COUNCILLORS AND POLICE**

### *County Report*

- a) Mr. Clark confirmed that the increase in council tax for the forthcoming year was 3.5%.

### *District Report*

Mr. Clark said that the last meeting of the District Council would be on the 31<sup>st</sup> March.

In answer to a question raised by Mrs. Hayes, Mr. Clark said that the east of Trowbridge development had not yet been 'signed off' as there were a number of legal matters to be dealt with.

### *Police*

PC Pelling said that the new political boundary changes would not affect Hilperton and he would continue to be the beat manager. However, Hilperton would now be grouped in with West Ashton, Southwick and North Bradley and, whilst losing parts of Trowbridge, Staverton would no longer be in his area. The name of the new NPT would be 'Trowbridge Rural', and the team would be serving 9,000 residents in four parishes. One of the differences was that a large chunk of Paxcroft Mead would not be covered by PC Pelling's area but would be taken over by the 'Adcroft and Paxcroft' NPT.

Police staffing levels in Trowbridge were expected to rise from 36 to 47 officers over a two-year period, freeing up time for beat managers.

Following the recent spate of criminal damage to vehicles, PC Pelling was pleased to report that four suspects had been arrested and charged. Compensation issues would be decided by the magistrates.

In an effort to try to resolve the problems with youths in the Hackett Place area, the police were trying to get youth workers on board and this would be discussed at a meeting to be held the following week.

PC Pelling said that the Millards Close play area had been closed up. There had been problems with stones being thrown into gardens of neighbouring properties and he wondered if more fencing would stop this. The Clerk was asked to find out from WWDC why the play area was not in use.

The next meeting of the NPT was scheduled for the 1<sup>st</sup> April, but PC Pelling said he was thinking of delaying it for a couple of weeks because he would be busy making contact with the new parishes in his area.

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

### **Allotments**

Since the last meeting, the Chairman and the Clerk had again met the owner of the land on site and he had indicated that he would be willing to part with 1.5 acres at a cost of around £14,000. He had shown which part of the field could be used for allotments and this would now need to be measured

out. The Chairman said that a public footpath ran right through the middle of the potential allotment and, rather than applying for it to be diverted, which could be costly, it might be better to let it stay and put gates at either end.

A short discussion followed, with points being raised about the possible cost of getting the project up and running, what the returns might be, what the rentals should be etc., at the end of which it was agreed that, before the Parish Council committed any money, a Working Group should be set up. Mr. Bielecki, Mr. House and Mr. Jackson offered their services and said they would come up with a feasibility study by the next meeting. In the meantime, the Clerk said she would send Mr. Bielecki a list of potential allotment-holders.

### **West Wilts. Central Area Parish Councils' Liaison Group**

Mr. Jackson said that the next meeting of the group would be on the 23<sup>rd</sup> April and he asked people to contact him if they wanted anything in particular to be included on the agenda

### **Parish Steward**

The next visit of the Parish Steward was on the 19<sup>th</sup> March and the list of jobs for the cancelled February visit had been carried forward.

Details of the spring programme had been received, and the Clerk said that the Steward's visits would be on the 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> April and the 18<sup>th</sup> June (no visit in May as all Parish Stewards would be going from site to site with strimmers, weed-wands and clippers to attend to the rapid seasonal growth)

### **Tree Planting**

Both Mr. Kavanagh and Mrs. Grayshon gave their reasons for coming forward to act as tree wardens for the parish, for which they were thanked. Mr. Kavanagh suggested that he might write an article for the Parish News to introduce both himself and Mrs. Grayshon. The Clerk was asked to contact Dr. Beckett to see if she still had her list of trees which she had identified some years ago as being important to the village.

The Clerk had found out that the Tree Council would only give grants to schools if the schools applied themselves so she would let them know about this. It might be that the Parish Council could 'top up' any grant funding received from the Tree Council. She had also been in touch with Steve Russell, WCC's Countryside Manager, who had sent her an application form for a grant in respect of the trees proposed to be planted along the north side of Trowbridge Road. The Tree Council could not assist in this case as they were unable to fund planting on private land.

### **Section 19 Grants**

The Chairman reminded members that, at the last meeting, Mr. Carbin had suggested that consideration should be given to providing an annual grant to the Paxcoft Mead Community Centre and the Village Hall, and it was agreed that this should be discussed at the March meeting.

The Clerk gave details of all the Section 19 grants given since 2006 to both organisations. A discussion followed, at the end of which it was agreed that the Parish Council should maintain the status quo and consider specific requests for funding as and when they were received. (proposed by Mr. Bielecki, seconded by Mr. Jackson, all in favour).

### **Pound Farm House**

Discussion took place on the possible infringement of grade two listed building status, as it was believed that, over the years, there may have been internal alterations taking place without consent.

Nothing, however, had been altered externally, and the general feeling was that, without any concrete proof of what might have been taking place inside, the Parish Council could not realistically hope to achieve anything in this instance. This did not, however, stop nearby residents from approaching enforcement officers if they had evidence of planning infringement.

### **Street Lighting – Hill Street**

The Clerk had ascertained that there were various levels of lighting within the British Standard but there were many lamp posts across the county that pre-dated any standards. Wiltshire was essentially a rural county, with a limited lighting budget, and all improvements were dealt with on an ad hoc basis. There would not be an increase in the budget in the next financial year and lighting in the Newleaze/Greenhill Gardens area would not be rated a high priority. She had downloaded some information on the work of the street lighting team within Wiltshire, which she handed to Mr. Willis, and it was agreed that the response from the County Council should be noted.

### **Waste Collection/Recycling**

Mr. Jackson had asked for this subject to be included on the agenda as he had experienced inconsistencies with the present system and wondered if anyone else was having issues with the collection process. By and large it was felt that the system was adequate and the change to a unitary authority should not affect the current state of affairs.

### **Wiltshire Council – Development Control Seminar**

Mr. House had attended the Warminster seminar and had written a short report, copies of which were tabled.

He was able to give details of the new head for Development, Housing and Planning and the venue for services and meetings. Hilperton would be within the North section, under Mike Kilmister.

The new Council wished to increase the use of electronic communication, with all applications to be scanned and viewable on line, and planning lists sent out to parishes and towns by e-mail. There was a heated debate about how this would work, some parishes having no broadband access and the difficulty in printing out large-scale plans on A4 printers. Another aim would be for at least 90% of applications to be dealt with by delegation.

Mr. House highlighted the potential problems associated with local members only having the right to call in planning applications, he said there would be a big effort to improve communications after the 1<sup>st</sup> April and he gave details of how appeals from householders would be handled.

At the end of Mr. House's report, it was agreed that the Clerk should write immediately to David Hubbard, requesting that paper plans should continue to be sent to the Parish Council.

### **Request for a Grant from 1<sup>st</sup> Hilperton Scout Group**

A letter had been received from the Scouter in Charge, asking for help from the Parish Council in purchasing new patrol tents. The cost of these was £480 each, the group needed four and wondered if the Parish Council would help with funding for two. A discount would be expected if four were bought so there would be a maximum expenditure of £960 from the Parish Council.

After a short discussion, it was agreed that a Section 137 Grant of a maximum of £960 should be given to 1<sup>st</sup> Hilperton Scout Group (proposed by Mr. Willis, seconded by Ms. Turner) all in favour. The Clerk would ask the Scouter in Charge to let her know what discount had been achieved so that a cheque could be sent out within the next few weeks.

## 8. PLANNING MATTERS

### Applications

09/00544/FUL: Mr. and Mrs. R. Hamlen, 296 Marsh Road  
Extension to bungalow

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

09/00577/FUL: Mr. and Mrs. Wade, 184 Devizes Road  
Conservatory to rear

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

### Decisions

09/00171/FUL: Mr. K. Allberry, 110 Wyke Road  
Two storey side extension – refusal

08/03268/FUL: SPB Homes, land adjoining Hilperton Drive and Ashton Road, Paxcroft Mead  
Erection of eighteen residential dwellings and associated roads, sewers and parking  
Permission with conditions

09/00374/FUL: Mr. C. Benbow, 42 Princess Gardens  
Front extension to garage and front porch under mono pitch roof  
Permission with conditions

09/00325/TCA: Mr. A. J. Price, 10 St. Michael's Close  
Works to trees – No Tree Preservation Order made

09/00199/FUL: Mr. M. Yeates, 17 Queens Gardens  
Second storey extension over existing dining room and conservatory to rear  
Permission with conditions

## 9. CORRESPONDENCE

- a) Letter of thanks from the Chairman of Paxcroft Mead Community Centre Committee re. Section 19 Grant.
- b) Letter of thanks from Carers Support, Wiltshire, re. Section 137 grant
- c) WALC Newsletter for March, 2009 (tabled)

## 10. PUBLICATIONS

- a) Local Council Review – March, 2009
- b) Clerks and Councils Direct – March, 2009
- c) Wiltshire Wayfarer – Winter 2008/09
- d) Rural Arts Wiltshire – programme of events January – June, 2009
- e) Paxcroft Mead News – February, 2009
- f) WCC 4ward – March, 2009
- g) WWDC Arts Directory
- h) Paxcroft Mead Community Centre - Minutes of 3<sup>rd</sup> February, 2009, meeting, and agenda for the 4<sup>th</sup> March, 2009, meeting
- i) The Clerk – March, 2009

## 11. ACCOUNTS

### b) Payments authorised:-

Clerk's Salary and Expenses for March, 2009

£597.80

Ross Hillman Limited – car park lining (including £82.50 VAT)	£632.50
Clerks and Councils Direct – annual subscription	£10.00
Queensbury Shelters Limited – new bus shelter, Hill Street (including £597.45 VAT)	£4,580.45
Mr. E. Clark – Chairman’s Allowance:	
Telephone           £5.60	
Mileage             £16.44	
Miscellaneous <u>£22.45</u>	£44.49
<i>(The Chairman abstained from voting on this item)</i>	

## 12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS AND VILLAGE MAINTENANCE

- a) Mr. Jackson said that along the footpath from Lacock Gardens to Devizes Road the hedgerows had been cut down, in some cases very heavily pruned. It would appear that this had been carried out by people in the neighbouring properties but this was not their land but an area maintained by English Landscapes. Mr. Jackson said he would let the Clerk have the house numbers and then she could get in touch with the contractors.
- b) Mrs. Sawyer said that the Greenhill Gardens telephone kiosk had now been cleaned and was in working order. It was unclear how long the kiosk had not been in use but Mrs. Sawyer thought it had been at least three weeks. The Clerk was asked to contact BT and ask for an extension of the ‘sponsor a kiosk’ agreement to cover the time it was out of order.
- c) It was suggested that the new tree wardens should be invited to the Annual Parish Assembly and ‘tree planting’ should appear on the agenda.
- d) Mr. Cullern asked the Chairman if he could again take up with WCC the matter of the deep pothole along Hilperton Drive. Although it had been filled in, it was breaking up again.
- e) Mr. Cullern reported dog fouling in the Cresswell Drive area of Paxcroft Mead.
- f) Mr. Cullern said that the graffiti on the doors of one of BT’s maintenance relay boxes (no. 60) on the corner of Helpswell Road had not yet been painted over, even though BT’s Openreach team had said they would do this when next in the area.
- g) Mr. Cullern reported graffiti in the underpass, yet again.
- h) Mr. House said that some of the lime mortar was beginning to come out of the joints at the War Memorial.

## 13. ITEMS FOR PARISH NEWS/LOCAL PRESS

- a) Date of annual Parish Assembly
- b) Tree Wardens
- c) Camera Safety Unit surey – Horse Road
- d) Grant to 1<sup>st</sup> Hilperton Scout Group
- e) Changes to the NPT area

**14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, 21<sup>st</sup> April, 2009**  
**Annual Parish Assembly: Tuesday, 5<sup>th</sup> May, 2009**

**The meeting ended at 9.32 p.m.**

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

