

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HILPERTON PARISH COUNCIL
HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL, WHADDON LANE, HILPERTON,
at 7.30 pm on Tuesday, 16th June, 2009**

There were no members of the public present

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

Also in attendance: P. C. Rebecca Nixon

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Mr. R. House.

2. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL/PREJUDICIAL INTEREST

There were none.

3. MINUTES

The Minutes of the annual meeting of the Parish Council held on the 19th May, 2009, were approved and signed.

4. MATTERS ARISING

Minute 2 – School governors: The Clerk had written to Melanie Jacob, Chairman of the governors of The Mead Primary School, asking her how she felt an informal relationship with the school could be continued, bearing in mind that parish councils no longer had the right to appoint school governors. She had received a reply from Mrs. Jacob, stating that she would be more than happy to attend meetings of the Parish Council in order to provide updates and develop the relationship, as the school was keen to be part of the community. It was agreed that if she could attend two or three meetings a year, this would be helpful.

Minute 15a: The Clerk had contacted WC highways department about the traffic calming ramps along Devizes Road which were beginning to break up, together with the tarmac. She had been given a reference number (377348) and said would chase them up.

Minute 15b: The Chairman was pleased to announce that the notice board along Trowbridge Road was now in place.

Minute 15c: The Clerk had had a look at the trees in question along the main road at Marsh Farm but could see nothing wrong with them. She had contacted Ross Kavanagh, who then also made an inspection and came to the same conclusion. Mrs. Sawyer agreed that they now appeared to look quite healthy.

Minute 15d: The state of the pavements near Mrs. Sawyer's house had been reported to WC, but Mrs. Sawyer said they were still dirty and needed a manual sweep. The Clerk said she would contact Denise Bunce to see if the Parish Steward could sweep them during his visit on the 18th June.

Minute 15e: It was agreed that there should be a website mailbox in respect of allotments, and Mr. Bielecki said he would liaise with Dave Huggins on this.

Minutes 15f, g and h: The Chairman said he had not yet cleaned the notice boards but would do so shortly. Mr. Willis had not yet attended to the seat in The Knap and said he would not be able to do so until his return from holiday. It was not known whether or not Mr. House had been able to tidy the bus shelter along Trowbridge Road.

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIR

There were none.

6. WILTSHIRE COUNCILLOR

Mr. Clark confirmed his election as Wiltshire Councillor for Hilperton and thanked the many helpers who had supported him during his campaign. Mr. Jameson offered his congratulations to Mr. Clark and this was endorsed by the members of the Parish Council

7. POLICE

P. C. Rebecca Nixon spoke about the problems encountered in the setting up of a youth council for Paxcroft Mead. The police and youth offending team were hoping to use the same strategy that had worked for the youths in the Longfield area of Trowbridge, but this had not proved possible. So the setting up of a youth council at Paxcroft Mead appeared to be on hold for the time being.

P. C. Nixon said that there had been eight reported crimes in Hilperton over the past month and seven shed burglaries. There had been a recent and significant increase in the number of shed and garage burglaries over the past few weeks and she had brought along some posters for distribution, informing householders how to reduce the likelihood of becoming victims. She also gave details of her 'drop-in' surgeries, to be held on the second Tuesday of the next few months at the Lion and Fiddle and the King's Arms (both 45 minutes duration). The idea was for people to be able to meet their neighbourhood police team.

A meeting of the Trowbridge Rural Area Tasking Group would take place at West Ashton Village Hall on Wednesday, 17th June. Mrs. Hayes said she would attend on behalf of the Parish Council

8. ITEMS FOR REPORT AND DISCUSSION

Appointment of Paxcroft Mead Community Centre Representative

This item had been held over from the last meeting but, as no-one came forward to volunteer, it was agreed the matter should be left in abeyance.

BT Kiosk in Greenhill Gardens

Since the last meeting, the Clerk had contacted BT to ask them:-

a) if the current level of use continued, would they be prepared to take the kiosk out of their closure programme, and b) what level of use should there be before BT would agree to take the kiosk over again. She had received a reply stating that, although the payphone had been used 130 times since the 1st October, 2008, this was not a lot of calls and would average out at three or four a week. The revenue generated from these calls would not cover the payphone's running costs and therefore, without sponsorship, this was a detrimental box to the payphone business. On average it was costing BT £1,000 to maintain a kiosk annually and payphone usage had halved in the last three years.

Since that reply, the Clerk had received a cheque from BT for £230 and, when she called to ask why this had been paid to the Parish Council, she was told that BT had reviewed the costs on their 'sponsor a kiosk' scheme and had decided to reduce the price per annum. It was therefore agreed that, subject to no increase in this new cost of £270, the Parish Council would continue with the sponsorship and review the scheme in twelve months' time.

Community Speed Watch Scheme

The Clerk had written to the Chief Constable, Brian Moore, about the prospect of introducing a community speed watch scheme in Hilperton. She had received an acknowledgement from his office stating that a member of the police force would contact her shortly.

Allotments

The Chairman and Clerk had paid a visit to Mr. Pike on the 27th May and he had kindly indicated that he might accept an offer of £10,000 for the proposed 1.5 acre site. She had written a formal letter to him later that day, confirming this, asking if he would be amenable to selling another 1-acre of land during the first five years if the allotments proved popular, and if he would be prepared to have the area dug over prior to planting. She had not received a formal response from him and was asked to contact him and also to make a request for the area to be grass-seeded if the Parish Council provided the seed and paid the labour costs.

West Wilts. Central Area Parish Council's Liaison Group

Mr. Jackson confirmed that the next meeting would take place on the 9th July.

He would be attending and said that if there were any issues anyone wished to raised, he/she should contact him.

Parish Steward

The Parish Steward's June visit would be for one day only. He had been asked to cut back the footpath around the edge of the cemetery and generally tidy up where necessary throughout the village.

Tree Planting

The Clerk had nothing to report since she had submitted the grant application to Wiltshire Council's countryside manager.

Wiltshire Council

a) Area Boards

The Clerk had received a letter from WC inviting the Parish Council to nominate one elected representative to attend the new Area Board meetings and who could provide a link between the Area Board and their respective Parish Council. The Chairman said the Area Board would meet every six – eight weeks and the first meeting would be on the 2nd July at 7pm in the Civic Hall. Mr. Willis offered to attend the first meeting.

b) Statement of Community Involvement Consultation

Letters had been received from Wiltshire Council's Service Director concerning the Statement of Community Involvement, explaining that this was a document which would set out the various ways in which the Council would engage with Town and Parish Councils, neighbouring authorities and other bodies. The consultation period had been extended to the 3rd July (previously it was the 19th June), still not giving enough time for the Parish Council to make an informed input. After a short discussion it was agreed that the Clerk should respond by saying that the Parish Council would expect to be involved in all levels of consultation, in particular at a strategic level, so that it could have an input before recommendations gained momentum through the system.

c) Fun in the Sun 2009

Wiltshire Council 's sports development team intended to run this programme in 2009, the aim of which was to bring a variety of sporting activities to the children of local rural communities. Activities would be offered at no cost to the parish or community group for five weeks from the 27th July to the 28th August. It was agreed that details of the scheme should be passed to the Village Hall committee for consideration.

Parish Council Broadband Connection

The Chairman said that much of the Clerk's work involved being 'on line' and this would increase now that the new unitary authority had come into being. He therefore suggested that the Parish Council

should pay 50% of her monthly fee for broadband connection, which was in the region of £15. After a short discussion it was agreed that the Clerk should be paid £15 a month (proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Mr. Willis, all in favour).

9. PLANNING MATTERS

Applications

09/01550/FUL: Mr. Edward Helps, Staverton Marina

Creation of 15 moorings for temporary storage of boats in the lagoon and embankment protection works.

The Chairman explained that he had asked for plans to be sent to the Clerk as, although this application was not in the parish of Hilperton, it was adjacent to the Hilperton/Staverton boundary and could only be accessed by road from Hilperton. After a short discussion it was agreed that no comment would be made.

Decisions

09/01214/FUL: Mr. B. Whale, 7 Birch Gardens

Single storey extension – refusal

09/01033/CLP: Mr. C. Webb, 7 Carisbrooke Crescent

Lawful development certificate for a proposed development single storey detached residential annexe – the proposed development would not be lawful.

Planning application 08/01447/FUL: Marsh Farm

The Clerk had e-mailed Mr. David Hubbard to say that the Parish Council agreed with his suggested way forward in connection with the complaint made, i.e. that he should deal with the complaint under stage one. His response would be awaited when he had had a chance to look through the relative correspondence.

10. CORRESPONDENCE

a) Letters of thanks from both Age Concern and the Wiltshire Bobby Van Trust re. grants given by the Parish Council.

11. PUBLICATIONS

a) Paxcroft Mead News – May, 2009

b) Minutes of Paxcroft Mead Management Committee meeting of the 6th May, 2009, and agenda for the meeting on the 8th June, 2009.

c) WyllyeValley Art Trail – guide map.

d) WALC Newsletter for June, 2009

e) Bridge House Community Trust: West Wiltshire in Focus, summer, 2009, and training events for voluntary and community organisations and small businesses.

12. ACCOUNTS

a) Adoption of the Accounts for the year ended 31st March, 2009

The Clerk tabled copies of the Income and Expenditure Accounts, Cash Statements and Balance Sheet, and it was agreed that the accounts for the year ended 31st March, 2009, should be adopted (Proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Mr. Bielecki, all in favour).

b) Payments authorised:

Clerk's Salary and Expenses for June, 2009

£541.02

P.S. Property Services (work on Hill Street bus shelter and positioning of new notice board along Trowbridge Road)	£265.00
Futurform Group – stationery (including £9.40 VAT)	£72.04
RA Book Keeping – work on the accounts	£62.00

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS AND VILLAGE MAINTENANCE

- a) Mrs. Hayes said that the Nursery site along Horse Road had still not been cleared up by Persimmon. Mrs. Waring had also been asked to report grass and weeds 2ft. high or more outside the boundary wall of the house the squatters had occupied in Horse Road (between 120 Wyke Road and the pavement by the bus stop). The Clerk said she would contact Persimmon again.
- b) Mrs. Sawyer said that Alan Phillips, who had been Clerk to the Parish Council some years ago, had died, and the Clerk had sent a letter of condolence, on behalf of the Parish Council, to his widow.
- c) Mr. Bielecki reported what appeared to be wilful damage to the rubberised floor under the swing at the play area at Painters Mead (near Gibbs Leaze). The Clerk was asked to report this to Wiltshire Council.
- d) Marsh Farm footpath: The fence running along the footpath, put there to keep horses in check, did not display a sign indicating that it was an electric fence – the Clerk to report to the footpath warden.
- e) The rubbish dumped recently along Whaddon Lane had been reported.
- f) Mrs. Sawyer said that the hedge along the footpath leading down to the primary school in Hilperton (owned by the residents of 61 Hill Street) badly needed cutting back and trimming – the Clerk to report to Wiltshire Council.
- g) It was agreed that a complaint should be made to Westlea Housing about the state of their unoccupied house in Marsh Road.
- h) Mrs. Hayes had received a letter from a resident in Ashton Rise, complaining about the felling of two trees by the developer who had commenced work on the 15th June to construct a new access way. The hawthorn tree on the right hand side of the plot was not considered by WC's landscape officer to be worthy of a TPO being placed on it, as it was a poor specimen, and this had now been taken down. However, a cherry tree had also been felled and these trees had been replaced with what the residents felt was a totally inappropriate tree for the site, instead of another flowering tree. No-one appeared to be able to ascertain who owned the verge, although the developer seemed to be in communication with him/her. It was agreed that this matter should be passed to Chris Kirk to comment on regarding the suitability of the replacement tree. The Clerk should also get in touch with Land Charges at Wiltshire Council to ask who owned the strip of land in question.
- i) Mr. Cullern said that the BT maintenance box along Helpswell Road had finally been painted.
- j) Mr. Cullern referred to previous discussions regarding the possibility of the provision of a bus shelter along Leap Gate, opposite Budgens. It was agreed that the Clerk should contact Trowbridge Town Council to see if they had yet given consideration to a contribution being made by them towards a new shelter in this location.
- k) Mr. Jackson referred to drainage problems along Devizes Road. Highways had investigated and had discovered a length of drain, part of which had collapsed and which was blocked by roots. The collapsed part had been repaired and some of the root growth cleared but the situation would have to be closely monitored and it might be necessary to replace the entire length of drain. The Clerk was asked to contact Paul Snook at WC to say that it was questionable if the works undertaken would solve the problem and perhaps he should look at replacing the drain now before further problems were encountered.

14. ITEMS FOR PARISH NEWS/LOCAL PRESS

- a) Planning Committee meetings.
- b) New Notice Board
- c) Death of former parish clerk, Alan Phillips.
- d) Shed and garage burglaries and how to avoid being a crime victim.
- e) Community Speed Watch scheme.
- f) Neighbourhood Police News.

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, 21st July, 2009, with a possible planning committee meeting on Tuesday, 7th July, 2009.

The meeting ended at 9.16 p.m.

Signed Date