

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HILPERTON PARISH COUNCIL
HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL, WHADDON LANE, HILPERTON,
at 7.30 pm on Tuesday, 21st July, 2009**

There was one member of the public present

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

Also in attendance: Mrs. Melanie Jacob, Chairman of Governors, The Mead Primary School.

Before the start of the meeting, Mr. Hans Tober spoke in favour of planning application 09/01896/ADV. The Chairman declared the meeting open at 7.34 p.m.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Mr. J. Willis, Mr. V. Bielecki, Ms. P. Turner and PC Rebecca Nixon.

2. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL/PREJUDICIAL INTEREST

Planning application 09/01896/ADV: Mr. E. Clark and Mr. R. House, both prejudicial.

Grant Request from Hilperton Village Hall: Mr. E. Clark and Mrs. S. Sawyer, both personal, Mr. Clark as parish council representative on the Village Hall Management Committee, and Mrs. Sawyer as a Member of the Village Hall Management Committee.

3. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 16th June, 2009, and the Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on the 7th July, 2009, were approved and signed.

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

Minute 7 – Community Speed Watch scheme: The Clerk had heard from PC Lucy Deakin, who had informed her that the police would need to establish if there was a speeding problem and this would be done by the Camera Safety Unit putting in safety strips for a trial period. If, after this, it was felt that the scheme would be appropriate for Hilperton, volunteers would need to come forward to be trained in the use of speeding devices. Their job would be to take the registration numbers, types of vehicles etc. of people caught speeding. The police would then send a warning letter to the registered keeper of the vehicle and, if he/she was caught speeding again, another letter would be sent and the offender would be informed that their name would be added to a list of persistent offenders. PC Deakin said the results should be known in about six weeks' time.

Minute 7 – Wiltshire Council: Trowbridge Area Board meeting: Both the Chairman and Mr. Willis had attended the first meeting on the 2nd July which was held at the Civic Hall, Trowbridge. The Chairman said that the main purpose of the meeting was to let people know how the board would operate. The next meeting would be some time in September and every other meeting would be held in villages, not always based in Trowbridge.

Minute 13a: The Clerk had contacted Mr. Nigel Jones-Gerrard at Persimmon who had informed her that the property at 120 Wyke Road had been sold, with contracts exchanged and completion expected in August. The old nursery site would be cleared of overgrown vegetation in the next few weeks.

Minute 13c: The damaged safety surface at the Painters Mead play area had now been repaired by the play facilities team at Wiltshire Council.

Minute 13d: The Parish Council's concerns over the fence at the footpath at Marsh Farm had been forwarded to the Rights of Way Warden, Steve Leonard, who would investigate.

Minute 13f: A letter had now been sent by WC to the owner of 61 Hill Street, asking for the hedge to be cut back and trimmed.

Minute 13g: The Clerk had been assured by Rebecca Davis from the Westlea Housing Association that the land would soon be cleared.

Minute 13h: The owners of the strip of land had now been identified and they had given permission for both the Hawthorn and Cherry tree to be cut down, as both trees were either dead or dying.

Minute 13j: The Clerk had contacted Lance Allan who had informed her that the location was not one of the priorities for 2009/10 and therefore no funds had been allocated. He believed that there was no money being made available from Wiltshire Council Highways Department for match funding of bus shelters this year and it might not be possible to do those which had been prioritized for funding by the Town Council. It was agreed that the Clerk should contact Wiltshire Council to see if there was any funding available and this could be discussed at the September Parish Council meeting.

Minute 13k: The Clerk had contacted Paul Snook at Wiltshire Council who had informed her that the drainage problems along Devizes Road had largely been resolved. However, Mr. Jackson said that he had spoken to Mr. Snook who had admitted that he did not know the exact state of the sewers because he did not have the appropriate equipment. The Clerk was asked to get in touch with Mr. Snook to say that the remedial works were not working adequately, and Mr. Clark said he would take this up with Wiltshire Council in his capacity as the local councillor.

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIR

The Chairman said that there would be no Parish Council meeting in August but there would no doubt need to be some planning committee meetings, with possible dates being 4th August, 18th August and 1st September.

6. WILTSHIRE COUNCILLOR

Mr. Clark said that a full council meeting had been held in June. Various committee places had been given and he was now sitting on the Western Area Planning Committee, the Standards Committee and the Area Board. He added that Wiltshire Council hoped to get back £10million which had been invested in the Icelandic Bank.

7. POLICE

P. C. Rebecca Nixon had given her apologies and had sent in a report which stated that there had been seventeen reported crimes in Hilperton over the past month, of which only six had no named offenders at the present time. These six outstanding crimes were either shoplifting, other minor thefts or damage, each below £15 in value, plus a credit card fraud. The three dwelling and two shed burglaries had now all been detected, with offenders having been bailed.

Mrs. Hayes had attended the Trowbridge Rural Area Tasking Group meeting on the 17th June. She said that the aim of the police teams was to spend 80% of their time within their own areas and to have a 24-hour response to telephone and e-mail messages. There were on-going problems to tackle, such as the Hackett Place youths and anti-social behaviour in the Towpath area of Hilperton. Residents and Selwood Housing had come together in an effort to reduce these incidences.

8. ITEMS FOR REPORT AND DISCUSSION

The Mead Primary School

The Chairman welcomed Melanie Jacob, chairman of governors at The Mead Primary School. She said that the amalgamation with Wingfield C of E Primary School had been a huge challenge and had taken considerable work to plan for. The amalgamated school would operate with Mrs. Bolton as

Executive Head. Approach and policies would be the same over the two sites. The final confirmation of the amalgamation was due from Wiltshire Council imminently.

She said that the school had a three-year cycle including technology, sustainable living and the arts. This year each year group had focused on different themes and the whole school had joined together for things like World Book week, with visiting authors, and the Community Art day.

The school was working hard to develop the grounds into an exciting and stimulating environment for learning and play. An adventure island had been installed this year – a very popular addition to the grounds – and there was much work to be done to develop the Forest School status. The aim was an increased use of grounds for outdoor learning.

‘Friends of the Mead’ were working in partnership with the school to support the three themes, and there were continued attempts to bring the community into the school through events. The Friends had successfully raised over £20,000 this year.

In conclusion, Mrs. Jacob said that a Kingfisher Church had now started at the school and it continued to offer facilities for wider use by the community, such as line dancing, Brownies etc. It was also felt important to strengthen ties with secondary schools.

Mrs. Jacob was thanked for coming along to the meeting.

Staverton Primary School – School Travel Plan

A summary of the school’s travel plan had been sent to the Clerk by Simon Nuttall. Contained in it, under the provision of safe routes to the school for cycling/walking, it was proposed to establish zebra crossings on Hammond Way (near the Consortium) and Marsh Road (outside Marsh Road Stores, using the existing pedestrian refuges). After a short discussion it was agreed that the Parish Council should support the travel plan.

Allotments

Since the last meeting a formal response had been received from the landowner, agreeing to sell the 1.5 acres of land for the sum of £10,000. The area in question had now been measured out by Mr. House, the Chairman and the Clerk. The Clerk had, on behalf of the Parish Council, instructed Mr. Angus Williams of Withy King, Solicitors, to act in respect of the sale and the setting up of an option agreement in respect of the possible purchase of another 1-acre of land within five years.

The costs involved would be in the region of £650 for the purchase of the land, plus up to £500 for the option agreement. The Clerk had been informed that there would probably be no stamp duty to pay but searches would need to be carried out. Added to these costs would be the landowner’s own legal fees, which the Parish Council had agreed to pay.

The list of potential allotment-holders was still growing and the Clerk was asked to contact Wessex Water to see how much notice they would need to bring in a water supply to the site.

The Trowbridge Community Area Parish Council’s Liaison Group

Mr. Jackson reported that new terms of reference had been considered and a new name for the group agreed. He added that the Wiltshire College proposal to relocate to the former Bowyer’s site had been delayed owing to the absence of funding from the Learning and Skills Council, although Wiltshire College was submitting a planning application for a new college there.

Mr. Jackson was disappointed to learn that the Trowbridge Station ticket machine had been removed entirely from the station because of vandalism, and he strongly felt that this was not a good advert for the County town of Trowbridge.

In conclusion, Mr. Jackson said that the next meeting would be on the 1st October, at Southwick Village Hall, followed by a meeting on the 28th January, 2010, at a venue to be determined.

Parish Steward

The jobs the Parish Steward had been asked to do on his visit in the 21st and 22nd July mainly centred around cutting back overgrown vegetation and brambles. The Clerk said there would be no visit in August and the Steward would next be in Hilperton for one day only on the 21st September. The work given to him then would be defined by the August weather. If wet, seasonable growth would remain a problem. If dry, then painting and other improvements could continue into late summer.

On behalf of the Parish Council, the Clerk had asked for the Parish Steward to be thanked for removing illegal signs when he came across them

Tree Planting

The Clerk had nothing to report since she had submitted the grant application to Wiltshire Council's countryside manager but she said she thought the time had come to chase this up.

Grant Requests

a) Hilperton Village Hall

A request had been received from the Village Hall Committee for a grant in the region of £300 to enable a new litter bin to be installed at the play area, as their 'green frog' bin had broken after ten years of use.

After a short discussion, it was agreed that the Parish Council, in consultation with the Village Hall, should purchase a new litter bin up to a maximum of £300, excluding VAT, (proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Mr. Jackson, all in favour). If the cost of the new bin was in excess of this amount, the Village Hall would be asked to reimburse the Parish Council.

b) Paxcroft Mead Community Centre

A request had been received from the Chairman of the Management Committee for assistance in the purchase of a new stage to replace their somewhat dilapidated wooden one. The cost of the replacement would be just over £3,000 (plus VAT).

After some discussion, it was agreed that the Parish Council should make a Section 19 grant of £1,000 (proposed by Mr. Jackson, seconded by Mr. Cullern, all in favour) to the Community Centre. It was also agreed that the Chairman and Clerk should arrange to meet the Clerk of Trowbridge Town Council to discuss the Town Council's apparent reluctance to give any grants to the Community Centre.

Best Kept Village Competition

The Clerk was pleased to announce that Hilperton had come first in the Large Village category in the West Wiltshire round of the competition, beating Bowerhill, Holt and Atworth. The village received considerable praise in all categories and would now go through to the County Round which would be judged later in the month.

It was agreed that thanks should be given to Mrs. Lesley House for her work in making the planted area around the War Memorial so impressive, to the Parish Steward for his efforts, and to the PCC for their work in making the churchyard attractive.

Charles Arnold Baker: Local Council Administration

The Clerk reported that the eighth edition of this reference and guidance book was now in print at a cost of £53.60 (to members of NALC) plus £5.45 postage and packing. It was agreed that the Parish Council should order a copy.

9. PLANNING MATTERS

Applications

Both Mr. Clark and Mr. House left the room before discussion took place on the following application. It was agreed that Mr. Jackson should take the chair.

09/01896/ADV: Mr. Hans Tober, Grangeside Business Centre, 129 Devizes Road

Erection of freestanding billboard on vertical posts on both sides of driveway entrance

It appeared that many of the concerns expressed in connection with the previous application had been satisfactorily addressed and eliminated in this second application, and it was agreed that no objection would be made.

Mr. Clark and Mr. House returned to the meeting and Mr. Clark took the chair.

Decisions

09/01602/TCA: Mrs. Buxton, 227 Church Street

Felling of Golden Leyland Cypress – no Tree Preservation Order made.

04/00095/OUT: Residential development involving demolition of existing house and associated roads, footpaths and open space – land at Blue Hills, Devizes Road

Permission with conditions

09/01322/FUL: Caroline Gale, 2 St. Michael's Close

Renewal of planning permission for conversion of garage to dining room with front extension, and new detached garage to side and installation of oriel bay window to front

Permission with conditions

Planning application 08/01447/FUL: Marsh Farm

A response from Mr. David Hubbard, Area Development Manager, had now been received. He confirmed that he was dealing with the Parish Council's complaint under stage one of the Council's complaint procedure. If the Parish Council was not satisfied with how the complaint was handled by the service department, it could be passed to the Council's corporate complaints team under stage two of this procedure.

Mr. Hubbard said that West Wiltshire District Council's scheme of delegation for planning applications included the provision that, if the planning officer was minded to grant planning permission but the town or parish council objected to the proposal, the application should be referred to the planning committee for a decision. He went on to say that the scheme of delegation did not directly address the situation where the town or parish council raised no objections on a conditional basis, e.g. subject to the imposition of a condition or some other stipulation. In these cases it was normal practice at WWDC for the town/parish comment to be treated as 'no objection' and the application could be considered under delegated powers, which was what had happened in this particular case.

After some discussion it was agreed that the complaint should be taken further. It was strongly felt that the Parish Council's comments, i.e. that no objection would be made to the application PROVIDED THAT the same time restriction was imposed regarding hours of operation, amounted to an objection if no such time restriction was imposed (which it wasn't) and that this application should have gone to committee to be determined.

10. CORRESPONDENCE

- a) Letter of thanks from the Wiltshire Bobby Van Trust re.grant given by the Parish Council.
- b) Letter from Swindon Borough Council/Wiltshire Council re: notification of receipt of inspectors' reports and adoption of Wiltshire and Swindon Minerals and Waste Core Strategies.

11. PUBLICATIONS

- a) Wiltshire Wayfarer – Spring/Summer, 2009
- b) Local Council Review – Summer, 2009
- c) Paxcroft Mead Community Centre: Minutes of 8th June meeting and Agenda for 1st July meeting
- d) Wiltshire Council Area Board Highway Information
- e) Wiltshire Council – Town and Parish Newsletters for June and July, 2009
- f) Paxcroft Mead News – June, 2009
- g) Clerks and Councils Direct – July, 2009
- h) The Clerk – July, 2009
- i) Wiltshire Council Department of Transport, Environment and Leisure: Service Directory 2009
- j) WALC Newsletter for July, 2009

12. ACCOUNTS

Payments authorised:

- | | |
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| a) Since the last meeting – | |
| Mrs. L. House, bedding plants and compost | £53.32 |
| | |
| b) This meeting – | |
| Clerk's Salary and Expenses for July, 2009 | £556.65 |
| | |
| Paxcroft Mead Community Centre – | |
| Section 19 grant approved earlier in the meeting | £1,000.00 |
| | |
| Lexis/Nexis – purchase of Charles Arnold Baker | |
| local council reference guide | £59.05 |

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS AND VILLAGE MAINTENANCE

- a) Mrs. Sawyer said that some of the posts on the area of green outside The Manor House, Hill Street, had gone. Also the apple tree belonging to the owners of the house was overhanging the bus stop.
- b) Mrs. Waring said that there were brambles and overgrown hedging between 188 Wyke Road and Marsh Stores which were making the pavement narrow for walkers, pushchairs etc. The Clerk was asked to contact the proprietors of Marsh Stores, Duncan and Ann.
- c) Mr. Cullern said that in the Cresswell Drive/Bitch Gardens area there were a lot of weeds growing out of gutters.
- d) Mr. House had been looking at some of the conditions imposed relating to the Blue Hills planning permission. Included in them was that existing hedgerows on the boundary of the site should be

retained at a height of no less than 1.5 metres. He asked people to be vigilant and report any signs of attempts to cut down the hedges.

e) The Clerk said that she had been in touch with Wiltshire Council because the bus shelter in Horse Road, opposite St. Mary's Church, had a lot of graffiti inside it. She had been informed that the bus shelter team would deal with the problem.

f) The Clerk had again contacted WC Highways about the traffic calming ramps along Devizes Road, which were showing signs of breaking up. She had been told that a highway engineer had inspected them and agreed that there was an issue here, albeit not a top priority issue. He would keep monitoring the situation.

14. 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. These included:-

- a) Community Speed Watch scheme
- b) Allotments update
- c) Best Kept Village Competition – local results
- d) Grant requests
- e) Chairman of the governors of The Mead Primary School's attendance at the meeting
- f) Other agenda items such as tree planting, planning applications and decisions, correspondence and publications, accounts etc.

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, 15th September, 2009, with possible planning committee meetings on the 4th August, the 18th August and the 1st September, 2009

The meeting ended at 9.07 p.m.

Signed Date