

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HILPERTON PARISH COUNCIL
HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL, WHADDON LANE, HILPERTON,
at 7.30 pm on Tuesday, 15th September, 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 | Mr. R. House |
| | Mr. W. Jameson | Mr. V. Bielecki |
| | Mr. J. Willis | |

Also in attendance: PCSO Ellen Wickenden

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Mr. T. Carbin and Ms. P. Turner.

2. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL/PREJUDICIAL INTEREST

There were none.

3. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 21st July, 2009, and the Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on the 18th August, 2009, were approved and signed.

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

Minute 8 – Staverton School Travel Plan: A letter of support had been sent to the school.

Minute 8 – Grant requests: A new ‘Tidy Bear’ litter bin had been ordered, delivered and installed at the Village Hall play area.

Minute 8 – Best Kept Village Competition: Hilperton came fourth out of five in the county round of the competition. The Clerk said that the acting Chairman of the West Wiltshire Group would be contacting her shortly to arrange a mutually suitable date when the certificate could be presented.

Minute 8 – Charles Arnold Baker: Local Council Administration – This publication had now been received.

Minute 13a: The missing posts on the area of green outside The Manor House had been replaced.

Minute 13b: The Clerk had sent an appropriate letter to the proprietors of Marsh Stores.

Minute 13c: The weeds in the gutters at Birch Gardens had been reported to Clarence.

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIR

a) The Chairman referred to the recent spate of graffiti on the notice board in Hill Street and areas on and around the Village Hall. The Village Hall Committee had arranged for some of their members to clean up the graffiti at the Village Hall but someone had tried to erase the graffiti on the notice board and this had not been a great success. It was agreed that the Clerk should get a quote for a new front and this would be discussed at the next PC meeting.

b) The Chairman said that, in the latest edition of the Paxcroft Mead Newsletter, thanks had been given to the Parish Council for their help in purchasing the new stage.

c) The Chairman pointed out that, if the December PC meeting was held on the second Tuesday, this would fall on the 8th December, leaving six weeks until the January meeting. It was therefore agreed that this year the December meeting should be held on the 15th December (i.e. the third Tuesday).

6. WILTSHIRE COUNCILLOR

Mr. Clark said that, following the death of Councillor Tony Phillips in June, the new councillor for Southwick was now Francis Moreland, an Independent.

7. POLICE

PCSO Ellen Wickenden informed members that P. C. Rebecca Nixon was on sick leave and was unlikely to return to the post. Mark Hough, who had been in the police force for some years, was now acting as a temporary beat manager and was enjoying the position, so it was hoped he would remain on a more permanent basis.

Police concerns in the Hilperton area were a) the latest incidences of graffiti, b) parking issues in various parts of the village, and c) vandalism of cars in the Hill Street area. There had also been incidences of anti-social behaviour in Princess Gardens.

Mr. Jackson said that he had had some milk stolen at the weekend and he also asked PCSO Wickenden if she could ascertain whether or not off-road parking was required for a local van hire business.

The Tasking Group meeting, due to take place on the 16th September, would centre around the problem of vandalism on the White Horse Park Business Centre, and anti-social behaviour by youths in Hackett Place and Chantry Gardens. The Chairman gave his apologies, as he would be unable to attend this meeting, but said that the graffiti problems should also be brought to the forefront.

8. ITEMS FOR REPORT AND DISCUSSION

Allotments

The Clerk confirmed that the Wessex Water bill had been paid in readiness for the supply to be brought onto the site. A cheque had also been sent to the Parish Council's solicitors to cover the cost of anticipated searches and disbursements.

She had recently spoken with Mr. Roger Pike, who had indicated that he would be happy to give access to the site before completion of the purchase, for the purpose of digging over the area, fencing it off and grass-seeding it. Mr. House said that the Parish Council would need a licence to have access to the land and the Clerk was asked to contact the solicitors about this.

It was agreed that the allotment committee should meet to discuss who might be able to carry out the above works, together with the creation of a trench for the water supply.

Trowbridge Community Area Parish Council's Liaison Group

Mr. Jackson reminded members that the next meeting would take place on Thursday, 1st October, at Southwick Village Hall, commencing at 7 p.m. He was asked to bring up the subject of graffiti, as this was affecting everyone, and he said he would report back at the October PC meeting.

Parish Steward

The autumn Parish Steward programme had now been received, with visits expected in Hilperton on the 15th October, 11th and 12th November and the 10th December. The Clerk read out a letter from the Service Manager, outlining the programme.

The next visit would be for one day only, on the 21st September, and, in response to the Clerk asking members what they would like the Steward to do, the following list of jobs was agreed:-

a) Cut back the trees and shrubs on the footpath opposite Mr. House's property, as these are obscuring the signs.

- b) The drain at the water pump is half-way full of leaves and dirt and needs cleaning. Also cleaning is required around the pump (in the alcove).
- c) Clear out weeds in the guttering in The Knap.
- d) Cut back the elderberry bush outside 100 Church Street.
- e) Cut back the overhanging apple tree at the bus shelter at the top end of Hill Street.
- f) The road sign at the top of Cresswell Drive is leaning over and should be straightened.
- g) Brambles in places along Horse Road need cutting back.

Tree Planting

The Clerk said that a small grant of £213 had been agreed by Wiltshire Council's Countryside Manager (i.e. £13.33 per tree – 16 trees) and it was agreed that the Copper Beeches and Silver Birches should be ordered from the Shaw Trust. Unfortunately, it appeared that there would be no volunteers from the Shaw Trust to come along and assist in the planting, so the Clerk was asked to contact the tree wardens on this issue.

Mr. House said that it might be necessary to hire a machine to dig the sixteen holes but everything else could be done with the help of volunteers.

Proposed new Bus Shelter at Paxcroft Mead

The Town Council had recently submitted a joint TCC/Hilperton PC application, under the 'Community Area Grant' scheme, for a new bus shelter at Leap Gate, close to Hackett Place. The Chairman said that it might have to be re-submitted to Wiltshire Council's Transport and Leisure department, as it was felt that this might be a more appropriate avenue to take.

Drainage Problems along Devizes Road

Problems continued to be experienced whenever heavy downpours came, and Mr. Paul Snook from Wiltshire Council had been in close communication with Mr. Jackson. Mr. Jackson said that Mr. Snook's team had now put in two new access chambers in an effort to try to identify the problem and he would keep in touch with him.

Paxcroft Mead Community Forum

The Clerk informed members that this organisation had been set up recently to:-

- a) improve the quality of life for local residents
- b) act as a forum for the residents of Paxcroft Mead, and
- c) seek to represent the views and promote the interests of all Paxcroft Mead residents.

The next meeting would be on the 14th October, at the Community Centre, commencing at 7.30 p.m.

Paxcroft Mead Community Centre – Boundaries

The Clerk said that it was almost a year since Tim Smith of John Ryde Commercial had said he would meet representatives on site to discuss the boundaries. During this time the Community Centre Committee's position had changed on what it actually wanted. It no longer wished to own the paths down the blind sides of the building, because ownership would bring with it the responsibility of weeding, cleaning and repairing, as well as raising questions over drains and lights. Instead, it would like an established right of access along those paths.

It was agreed that the Clerk should again try to set up a site meeting with the parties concerned.

Trowbridge Community Area Future

The Clerk said that the next meeting would be on the 17th September, at 6 p.m. An agenda had been received. Future meetings would take place on the 3rd December, 2009, and the 18th March, 2010.

Wiltshire Council: Consultation on the Harmonisation of Concessionary Travel

A communication had been received from Wiltshire Council, saying that it had inherited different arrangements from the former districts. In West Wiltshire, for example, a voucher to be exchanged for a rail card was available to anyone qualifying, and taxi vouchers to the value of £30 were available to people who could not use a bus.

Wiltshire Council now proposed to withdraw the alternative concessions currently available in North and West Wiltshire, whilst being aware that there might be people for whom withdrawal could result in hardship. It welcomed the views of local town and parish councils.

After a discussion, it was agreed that no objection would be made to the possible phasing out of the railcard vouchers, but the Parish Council should strongly object to the removal of taxi vouchers as there were many people, especially in rural areas, who could not use a bus. It was felt that the taxi vouchers, to the value of a minimum of £30, should most definitely stay in force (eight votes in favour, one against).

Grant Request – Bath and District Samaritans

A letter had been received from the friends of the Bath and District Samaritans asking if the Parish Council could help in the life-saving work of their teams in the region. It was agreed that a Section 137 grant of £250 should be given (proposed by Mr. Jackson, seconded by Mr. Bielecki, all in favour)

‘Welcome to Hilperton – Please Drive Carefully in our Village’ sign

It had been suggested to the Chairman that a sign for the Trowbridge side of the village might be erected. There used to be a sign by the gate to the fields by the roundabout but there was nothing there now.

The Clerk had contacted Mark Stansby at WC who had said that the Council could produce a sign for the Parish Council at a cost of around £400 installed.

It was agreed that this should be discussed further at the October meeting.

Community Speed Watch Scheme

The Clerk was asked to ascertain the results of the trial in Hilperton, as nothing had been heard from the police since the middle of July. The Chairman said there were still a number of police officers who did not like the scheme as they felt it could lead to participating members of the public receiving insults or even being assaulted.

Wiltshire Council Area Boards

The Chairman said that the inaugural meetings of the county’s Area Boards had gone reasonably well. Eighteen Area Boards met for the first time during June and July, giving local councillors, parish councils, partners and the public the chance to come together to tackle community concerns.

The next Trowbridge Area Board meeting would be on the 24th September, at West Ashton Village Hall, commencing at 6.30 p.m. Mr. Willis said he would try to attend on behalf of the Parish Council.

9. PLANNING MATTERS

Applications

There were none. It was agreed that there should be a Planning Committee meeting on Tuesday, 29th September, commencing at 6.30 p.m.

Decisions

09/02095/FUL: Miss H. Maytom Jones, 91 Church Street
First floor bathroom extension – permission with conditions

Planning application 08/01447/FUL: Marsh Farm

The Clerk said that Sarah Butler, Wiltshire Council's Corporate Complaints Manager, was dealing with this case. In a letter to the Clerk dated 21st August she had said that she would write in two week's time with a response or an update. She was sorry that she could not be more specific with a timescale but the corporate complaints team consisted of just herself at the moment and she had a significant workload.

The Clerk had e-mailed her the previous day, as more than three weeks had passed and she had not received a response. She said she would write to her again.

10. CORRESPONDENCE

- a) Letter from Age Concern re. their 60th Anniversary Appeal
- b) WALC Newsletter for September, 2009, (already circulated)
- c) Letter of thanks from the Chairman of the Paxcroft Mead Community Centre Management Committee re. their grant for £1,000 towards the purchase of a new stage.

11. PUBLICATIONS

- a) Wiltshire Council: 'The Good Councillor's Guide' plus 'A Short Guide to the Code of Conduct'
- b) Clerks and Councils Direct – September, 2009
- c) Paxcroft Mead Community Centre: Minutes of meetings held on the 1st July and the 5th August, 2009
- d) Arc Theatre – Autumn and Winter programme 2009/2010
- e) Paxcroft Mead News – August, 2009
- f) Age Concern Wiltshire – Summer, 2009
- g) Wiltshire Involvement Network
- h) First News – Community First, Summer, 2009
- i) Local Council Review – Autumn, 2009

12. ACCOUNTS

Payments authorised:

a) Since the last meeting –

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| Withy, King – funds on account of anticipated searches and disbursements re: allotments | £650.00 |
| Wessex Water – water supply for allotments | £794.65 |
| Clerk's Salary and Expenses for August, 2009 | £521.62 |
| Mr. E. Clark: Chairman's Allowance <i>(the Chairman abstained when members authorised this payment)</i> | £15.98 |

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| b) This meeting – | |
| Clerk's Salary and Expenses for September, 2009 | £494.69 |
| Glasdon UK Limited – new litter bin for Village Hall Play area (including £24.35 VAT) | £186.73 |
| Bath and District Samaritans – Section 137 grant approved earlier in the meeting | £250.00 |
| Mrs. L. House – plants and compost for War Memorial | £58.97 |

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS AND VILLAGE MAINTENANCE

- a) The Clerk informed members that the new footpath officer was Paul Millard. Steve Leonard had moved to cover the Chippenham area.
- b) Mr. Jackson said that the advertising signs recently agreed under planning application 09/01896/ADV: 129 Devizes Road, were higher than what had been approved, and the Clerk was asked to contact Wiltshire Council's enforcement officer.
- c) Mrs. Sawyer said that one of the trees in the cemetery (on the left hand side) looked as if it was dying, and the Clerk was asked to contact Wiltshire Council.
- d) Mrs. Sawyer said that there was water in the road in an area of Hill Street, but it had also been noticed that Wessex Water had put a blue mark around the spot, so they were obviously aware of the problem and were planning to do something about it.
- e) Mrs. Sawyer asked the Clerk if she could arrange for leaf-sweeping to be done in The Knap prior to the Remembrance Day service. The Chairman also reminded her to order the wreath.
- f) Mrs. Hayes said that the old nursery site in Horse Road had still not been cleared.
- g) Mr. Willis said that the hedge alongside the footpath leading to the cemetery needed cutting back and the Clerk was asked to report this to English Landscapes.

14. ITEMS FOR PARISH NEWS/LOCAL PRESS

- a) Results of the County round of the Best Kept Village competition.
- b) Allotments update
- c) Grant given to the Bath and District Samaritans
- e) Date of the December, 2009, PC meeting
- f) Trees to be planted along Trowbridge Road.

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, 20th October, 2009, with a planning committee meeting on Tuesday, 29th September, 2009.

The meeting ended at 8.50 p.m.

Signed Date

