

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HILPERTON PARISH COUNCIL
HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL, WHADDON LANE, HILPERTON,
at 7.30 pm on Tuesday, 16th February, 2010**

PRESENT	Mr. E. Clark	Mrs. S. Sawyer
	Mrs. K. Hayes	Mr. K. Jackson
	Mrs. J. Waring	Ms. P. Turner
	Mr. V. Bielecki	Mr. R. House
	Mr. B. Cullern	Mr. T. Carbin
	Mr. W. Jameson	

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Mr. J. Willis, Mr. D. Tucker, PC M. Hough and PCSO Ellen Wickenden.

2. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL/PREJUDICIAL INTEREST

Agenda Item 8 – Allotments: Mrs. S. Sawyer and Ms. P. Turner, both personal, being members of the Village Hall committee; and Mr. E. Clark, personal, being the Parish Council representative on the Village Hall committee.

3. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 26th January, 2010, were approved and signed.

4. MATTERS ARISING

Minute 6 – Grit Bins: The Parish Council's request for grit bins in various areas of the village and Paxcroft Mead had been sent to Wiltshire Council and acknowledged.

Minute 8 – Planter for Hilperton Road: The Clerk said she was meeting Karl Buckingham from Trowbridge Town Council the following day to discuss this and would report back to the March PC meeting.

Minute 8 – Speed Limit Review: The Parish Council's comments had been sent to Wiltshire Council and acknowledged.

Minute 8 – Roundabout Sponsorship: The Clerk said this was another matter she would be discussing with Karl Buckingham and would report back to the March meeting.

Minute 13b: Mrs. Sawyer said that Paul Stadden was trying to find some more substantial, vandal-proof glass for the bus shelter windows. The Clerk said she would contact him to try to make arrangements for the work to be done.

Minute 13c: Mrs. Sawyer was able to report that the hole had been filled in.

Minute 13d: Mrs. Hayes said that the problem continued with the Apetito drivers. The Clerk was asked to contact Apetito, and the Chairman said he would also get in touch with their transport manager.

Minute 13g - waste consultation: The Chairman said that the planned public consultation into possible changes to Wiltshire's waste and recycling service would not now take place until after the General Election. The consultation had been due to start shortly, but differing national policies emerging from Whitehall had caused confusion and uncertainty regarding future waste recycling services, and it had been decided that it would not, therefore, be appropriate to hold a consultation until Wiltshire Council had a clear steer on the national policy.

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIR

- a) The Chairman thanked Mr. House for chairing last month's meeting and also asked him to pass on the Parish Council's thanks to his wife, Lesley, for looking after the trees, due to be planted along the Trowbridge Road.
- b) The Chairman said that the holes left after the removal of the burnt out post boxes had now been filled in.

6. WILTSHIRE COUNCILLOR

Councillor Clark said that Wiltshire Council would not now be defending the appeal lodged by Marstons plc. against the refusal of the Council to allow permission for an application to discharge clauses within the Section 106 agreement dated 6th February, 2004, at land adjacent to Hackett Place. The public inquiry would still be going ahead on the 23rd March.

7. POLICE

PC Mark Hough and PCSO Ellen Wickenden had sent their apologies, as well as a short report. During the past month Hilperton had suffered from eight anti-social behaviour incidences (predominantly in the Towpath area and youth-related), two domestic incidences, five traffic-related incidences, two welfare-related incidences, together with one communications and one suspicious incident. There had been numerous high visibility patrols conducted in the Paxcroft Mead area, with no further calls reported with reference to criminal damage, and the area seemed to be settled at the moment.

Mrs. Hayes said that the next Task Group meeting would be held on the 10th March.

Speeding along Devizes Road

Following a request from the Clerk for an update, PC Hough had reported that he had been looking at a number of roads in the area affected by speeding motorists. Devizes Road was one of those mentioned but, due to the traffic calming measures, it would not qualify for actions like community speed watch. PC Hough had rung highways recently, expressing his concern about the mini-roundabout junction with Stourton Park and the way cars were speeding across it on the wrong side. It was his hope that they would modify the roundabout, thereby slowing traffic down somewhat.

Community Speed Watch

The Chairman said he had not yet contacted Mrs. Whitfield, the owner of Palmers Close, but would do so in the next few days.

8. ITEMS FOR REPORT AND DISCUSSION

Parish Newsletter

The Chairman said he had been extremely busy lately and had not been able to find time to compose a draft. He would, however, do so by the March meeting. Discussion then took place on the distribution of the newsletter, with a number of parish councillors volunteering to help. The Chairman said he would also contact Gillian Lucas.

Allotments

Mr. Bielecki said that the tenancy agreement had been sent to every parish councillor, with comments made by them being taken on board, resulting in a few changes being made. One point, however, which was causing some concern was the issue of parking.

A lengthy discussion then took place on the car parking question, resulting in the following proposal being made by the Chairman: 'that the Village Hall committee should be contacted by the Parish Council with the request that, if any of the nine new car parking spaces on the other side of the yellow

hatchings were not occupied at any particular time, then the allotment holders should be allowed to use them on a non-exclusive, first-come, first-served basis'. The committee should also be assured that if, for any reason, the gates to the car park were shut, then it would be accepted that the car park could not be used by anyone. This proposal was seconded by Mr. Carbin, with nine in favour and two abstentions.

Further discussion took place on the fencing and the water supply, with the Clerk saying that she would now contact Wessex Water to arrange a date/time for the supply to be brought in.

As far as the option to purchase another one-acre of land was concerned, the Clerk had had a conversation with the Chairman, resulting in a letter being sent to the land owner, pointing out that if he was not willing to state an amount which he would be prepared to accept from the Parish Council for the extra land, it would be hard for the Parish Council to budget for it. There would need to be at least some upper limit on the price he would want for the land as, if the option agreement, was 'open-ended' it would make things somewhat difficult. She had asked if he would think about this again and she would contact him in a few weeks' time. This action, and the instruction given to the Parish Council's solicitors to put the option issue 'on hold' for the time being, was approved by members. It was also agreed that, until this was settled, there would be no reason to approach the Area Board for any funding.

Mr. House said that a way forward on the price issue would be to suggest an amount index-linked to that which the Parish Council had paid for the 1.5 acres.

Parish Steward

The Clerk said the stewards were still busy filling in potholes, and she had made an urgent request for the pot holes at the top end of Horse Road, in Trowbridge Road (westbound carriageway) and in The Knap (opposite the War Memorial) to be attended to. The next visit would be on the 16th and 17th March.

Tree Planting

The Clerk said that a start would be made on the planting of the sixteen trees the following day, and both she and the Chairman would be meeting the contractors on site at 10 am. In answer to Mr. Jameson's query about the activities of the tree wardens, he was informed that Ross Kavanagh was, regrettably, not in the best of health but Jean Grayshon had been working with Hilperton Primary School.

Trowbridge Community Area Parish Council's Liaison Group

Mr. Jackson reported on both the AGM and the general meeting which followed, on the 4th February, 2010, at Southwick Village Hall. The Annual General Meeting had included the election of officers, chairman's report and finance report (including future PCLG funding); and the general meeting had discussed, among other matters, the harmonisation of waste and recycling policies, the reduction of speed limits in built-up areas, the state of the car park at Trowbridge railway, and neighbourhood tasking groups.

The next meeting of the Liaison Group would be on the 29th April, at Southwick Village Hall, followed by a meeting on the 8th July (venue to be agreed).

Village Clean-Up

Mrs. Waring had suggested that a date might be set aside for a clean-up of the village, and this idea was supported by members. After a short discussion it was agreed that this should be arranged for either Saturday, 17th April or Saturday, 24th April, with both morning and afternoon sessions. The Clerk was

asked to contact Gareth Banks at Wiltshire Council to see how many litter pickers and bags were available on those days and, once a date was agreed, publicising the clean-up should be via the Parish Council website, the local press and parish news, with posters being put up on the village notice boards.

Proposed Community Centre for Hilperton/Staverton

Unfortunately neither Maria Goodwin nor Irene Berry, campaigners for the above, had been able to attend the meeting to give an update, but the Chairman was able to do so and he said that, in his capacity as Chairman of the Trowbridge Area Board, he would be meeting both ladies later in the week to discuss their plans. Their original hopes to use the old children's home on Towpath Road had been dashed as they had been told there were other plans for the building, but there might be an opportunity to site some portacabins in a suitable place

9. PLANNING MATTERS

Applications

There were none.

Decisions

There were none.

Notice of Appeal Decision

The appeal which had been lodged by Mr. Bryan Whale, 7 Birch Gardens, against the refusal of Wiltshire Council to allow permission for a single storey extension (planning application 09/01214/FUL) had been dismissed.

10. CORRESPONDENCE

- a) Swindon Borough Council/Wiltshire Council: Letter re. Wiltshire and Swindon draft waste site allocations development plan.
- b) Invitation from Wiltshire Council to a health and well-being presentation and workshop by Wiltshire NHS on the 24th February, 6.30 – 8.00 pm, at the Civic Hall, Trowbridge, together with an invitation to have a stand/exhibition at the fair to be held from 3.00 pm until 6.00 pm on the same day.

11. PUBLICATIONS

- a) Wiltshire Wayfarer – Winter, 2010
- b) Wiltshire Council Town and Parish Newsletter – February, 2010
- c) Society of Local Council Clerks: Wiltshire Branch Newsletter – February, 2010
- d) Arc Theatre – Spring and Summer, 2010, programme
- e) Minutes of the Trowbridge Area Board meeting held on the 28th January, 2010

12. ACCOUNTS

Payments authorised:

Clerk's salary and expenses for February, 2010	£492.15
Trowbridge Town Council – Parish Council's share of the cost of the new Leap Gate bus shelter (including £122.46 VAT)	£822.21
Mr. E. Clark – mileage (Chairman's allowance) <i>(the Chairman abstained when members authorised this payment)</i>	£13.60

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS AND VILLAGE MAINTENANCE

- a) The Chairman reported on the reappearance of the hole in the road, along Hilperton Drive. This area of the A361 had been inspected by Wiltshire Council officers and there were not any recordable highway defects as set out in the Council's highway inspection manual, so there would be no planned action at the present time. They would, however, continue to monitor the area as part of the normal highway inspection regime.
- b) The footpath warden, Paul Millard, had agreed to lay some planings along the bridleway between The Knap and St. Thomas's Road sometime during June or July.
- c) Mr. Jackson reported on the drainage problems along Devizes Road. He said that some heavy equipment had come in to do work from no. 128 Devizes Road down to the Lion and Fiddle, and he was awaiting a report from Mr. Snook, Wiltshire Council.
- d) Mrs. Sawyer reported a lot of broken glass in the new Hill Street bus shelter.
- e) Mr. Cullern reported a lot of rubbish in the road at Birch Gardens/Cresswell Drive, which never appeared to be cleared away.
- f) Mr. Cullern also said that the Cresswell Drive sign was loose and kept flapping about in the wind.
- g) The Chairman said there had been heavy car transporters driving up and down Devizes Road recently, apparently going to and from the Grangeside Business Centre. He had contacted the enforcement team and they were looking into the matter.

14. ITEMS FOR PARISH NEWS/LOCAL PRESS

- a) Allotment update
- b) Tree planting update
- c) Village Clean-Up
- d) New Leap Gate bus shelter

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, 16th March, 2010, with a Planning Committee meeting on **Tuesday, 2nd March, 2010** (Mr. Jackson gave his early apologies for this).

The meeting ended at 9.00 p.m.

Signed Date

