

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

There was one member of the public present

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. W. Jameson	Mr. D. Tucker
	Mr. J. Willis	

Also in attendance: PC Mark Hough

Before the start of the meeting, Mr. Kendrick Jackson spoke, as a member of the public, about planning applications 10/00628/CAC and 10/00165/FUL and said he would be declaring a prejudicial interest when these applications were discussed. The Chairman declared the meeting open at 7.37 p.m.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Mr. B. Cullern and Mr. T. Carbin.

2. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL/PREJUDICIAL INTEREST

Agenda item 8 – Grant request from ‘Hilperton Presents’: Ms. P. Turner, personal, being a director of the group, Mr. E. Clark, personal, being an actor in the group, and Mrs. S. Sawyer, being a member of the Village Hall committee.

Agenda Item 9 – Planning applications 10/00628/CAC and 10/00165/FUL: Mr. K. Jackson, prejudicial due to his residing opposite the site in question.

Agenda item 8 – Allotments: 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 16th February, 2010, and the Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on the 2nd March, 2010, were approved and signed.

4. MATTERS ARISING

Minute 8 – Tree planting: The Chairman said that the sixteen trees had now been planted, with stock-proof fencing around each one.

Minute 13d: The Clerk had reported the broken glass in the new Hill Street bus shelter.

Minute 13e: The Clerk had reported the rubbish in the road at Birch Gardens/Cresswell Drive.

Minute 13f: The Cresswell Drive sign had now been mended.

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIR

a) The Chairman said that there was a new finger sign at the Marsh Road end of footpath 44.

b) Local Development Framework: The Chairman said he would be meeting with Jim Sherry of Wiltshire Council shortly to speak about the apparent disappearance of the Village Policy Limit.

c) Leap Gate Bus Shelter: The Clerk had reported to Trowbridge Town Council that there was no mention whatsoever of the fact that Hilperton Parish Council was one of the sponsors of the new

shelter. She had been told, with profuse apologies, that this was a mistake and would be rectified without delay.

6. WILTSHIRE COUNCILLOR

Trowbridge Road: Councillor Clark said that officers from Wiltshire Council had taken a look at the road and agreed that it needed resurfacing, although they could not say when exactly this would be done.

One Love Campaign: Councillor Clark said that a Tenants and Residents Association (TARA) was being set up and it seemed likely that St. Mary's Church in Horse Road could be used as a meeting venue.

Marsh Road: Councillor Clark had used his best efforts to ensure that residents from Hilperton would be given preference when considering applicants for the proposed affordable housing on the Marsh Road site.

Trowbridge Library: In response to a question from Mrs. Hayes, Councillor Clark said that the move into County Hall would be permanent and that the Area Board had been looking into the matter.

7. POLICE

PC Mark Hough said that the crime figures for the past three months had shown a significant improvement. Anti-social behaviour by youths in the Towpath Road/Navigator Close area had been causing concern and priority was being given to this problem. Speeding in some areas was also causing a problem, especially the speeding and tailgating along the Devizes Road. It was generally agreed that the road layout was bad and the roundabout had been offset too far, but PC Hough said he was unsure whether this could be changed.

Mrs. Hayes said that speeding issues had been discussed at the last Task Group meeting. She added that the meeting in June was scheduled to be held at the Village Hall, and the Chairman said that any hiring cost could be met from his allowance.

Community Speed Watch

The Chairman said that the owner of Palmers Close had not agreed to allow a speed partnership motorcycle to be parked at the end of her drive, so he had contacted Mr. Pike who had said he would be happy to allow either a van or motorcycle to park on his land just off the Fieldways roundabout. In view of this and in view of the fact that only a couple of people had come forward so far to volunteer for community speed watch, it was agreed that this should become a 'community concern site' rather than a speedwatch site, at least for the time being.

8. ITEMS FOR REPORT AND DISCUSSION

Parish Newsletter

The Chairman had brought along copies of the draft he had prepared and asked for comments. With a couple of additions/amendments, it was approved and discussion took place on the subject of circulation. The Chairman had broken down the parish into areas and he asked the Clerk to send a copy of the breakdown to each parish councillor. A number of councillors volunteered to help with the distribution of the newsletter and a suggestion made that any areas uncovered by them could be given to Gillian Lucas to distribute.

Allotments

Mr. Bielecki said that all the Tenancy Agreements had been sent out to prospective allotment-holders and already many signed copies and cheques had been sent to the Clerk. The water supply had now been connected and all that needed to be done now was the pegging out of the plots.

Mr. Bielecki suggested that a small, quarter-sized, plot might be set aside for St. Michael's pre school free of charge for the first year and this was agreed.

On the subject of car parking, the Village Hall committee had agreed with the Parish Council's suggestion that if any of the nine new car parking spaces on the other side of the hatchings were not occupied at any particular time, then the allotment-holders would be allowed to use them on a non-exclusive, first-come, first-served basis. The Committee had been 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.

Parish Steward

The Clerk said the Parish Steward had been asked to do a general clean up/tidy up around the village on his two day visit (16th and 17th March) and sweep out both the bus shelter at the Marsh Road end of Hill Street and the alcove by the village pump. In addition, a request had been made for him to trim the bushes etc. on the footpath by the cemetery and the kissing gate on the Trowbridge Road.

Trowbridge Community Area Parish Council's Liaison Group

Mr. Jackson reminded members that the next meeting would take place on the 29th April, at Southwick Village Hall, followed by a meeting on the 8th July.

Village Clean-Up

Saturday, 17th April, had been agreed as the 'clean-up' day. The Clerk had established that there would be twenty litter-pickers available, together with ten hoops. Wiltshire Council also had five childrens' litter pickers available on the day. The Clerk was asked to put notices up on the village notice boards, advertising the clean-up and asking for volunteers. Details should also be put on the website, sent to schools, Wiltshire Radio and the Wiltshire Times. The Clerk was also asked to ascertain whether or not the bags of litter could be left on the side of the road, ready to be collected by the local authority.

Hill Street Bus Shelter Windows

The Clerk was happy to report that the vandalised, broken windows had now been replaced and the new window for the notice board had been fitted by Paul Stadden.

Apetito Lorries

Both the Clerk and the Chairman had been in touch with Apetito's transport manager, who said he would contact his Portbury depot to tell them to stop lorry drivers using Marsh Road/Horse Road. Since then a photo had been taken of a driver turning into Horse Road from Marsh Road, his registration number had been taken and he had been reported. Hopefully this problem had now been resolved.

Planter for Hilperton Road

The Clerk had been in touch with Karl Buckingham from Trowbridge Town Council, who had told her that their planters were supplied by the Consortium and they were bespoke. The Clerk had contacted the Consortium and was waiting to receive from them some details of their recycled plastic containers.

Roundabout Sponsorship

The Clerk had had a useful meeting with Karl Buckingham on the subject of roundabout sponsorship. Basically, English Landscapes could be contracted to supply and maintain any extra plants/flowers on the roundabouts at a cost to the sponsor of around £200 a year for each roundabout. The Clerk had passed this information on to Hans Tober who said he would discuss this with his business partner. After a short discussion, it was suggested that if Mr. Tober did not wish to pursue this, then the Parish Council might consider sponsorship of at least one of the roundabouts.

Wiltshire Council – Delegation of Services to Town and Parish Councils

The Chairman informed members that Wiltshire Council's cabinet had recently considered a report on the transfer of community assets to town and parish councils. The report outlined proposals to test the feasibility of delivering services at a local level by initially running a pilot scheme in partnership with a town and/or parish council(s). To progress this work, the Parish Council had been asked to complete a questionnaire, which the Clerk had brought along to the meeting. The Chairman went through the questionnaire which listed the powers which had been vested in town, parish and community councils by parliament so that details could be given of any services which the Parish Council provided, which were funded by the precept and which it might be interested in providing (a copy is on file).

Grant Requests

a) Victim Support

A request had been received from Victim Support for a grant to help support the services offered to victims of crime and witnesses attending court, who were residents of the parish. The Clerk reminded members that £200 had been given during 2007, and £250 in December, 2008. After a short discussion it was agreed that a Section 137 grant of £300 should be made (proposed by Mr. Willis, seconded by Mr. Jackson, all in favour).

b) Hilperton Presents

A request had been received from Hilperton Presents for a grant towards a) the further enhancement of the sound and lighting facilities at Hilperton Village Hall and b) towards fire resistant theatrical tabbing (black curtains for the sides and back of the stage). Mr. Jackson wondered why this request had not come from the Village Hall committee, as presumably both the sound/lighting and curtains would be permanent and therefore the property of the Village Hall. It was therefore agreed that the request should be declined but a suggestion made to Hilperton Presents to approach the Village Hall committee and ask them to put forward the grant request, which would be looked at sympathetically by the Parish Council (proposed by Mr. Jackson, seconded by Mr. House, four in favour, one against and six abstentions, including that of the Chairman).

CPRE – Best Kept Village Competition

Details of this year's competition had been received and it was agreed that Hilperton should again enter in the large village category. As Hilperton had done well in last year's competition, the Chairman suggested that a plaque might be placed on the Blind House to commemorate this, which could be paid out of his Chairman's allowance. This was agreed.

9. PLANNING MATTERS

Applications

Mr. Jackson left the room before discussion took place on the following planning applications

10/00628/CAC: Mr. K. Wilkins, Delta Kitchens, 202a Devizes Road

Demolition of existing buildings and erection of a single detached dwelling

10/00165/FUL: Mr. K. Wilkins, Delta Kitchens, 202a Devizes Road

Construction of a single dwelling using traditional building techniques. Demolition of the main building and subsidiary buildings at the rear.

A discussion took place on this application, with members mindful of the comments made by Mr. Jackson prior to the meeting. Generally speaking, they were in favour of the site being developed but the design appeared to be out of keeping with the area. It was therefore agreed that the planning authority should be informed that, although the Parish Council supported the redevelopment of the site for residential use, it objected to the design of this particular property, as it was felt the quality was below what should be expected within the conservation area and it did not blend well with existing surrounding properties. Objections should also be made regarding the design, which it was felt was not

in tune with the Village Design Statement, and the proposed property was overbearing, exacerbated by it being on an elevated site. The same comments should be made for each of the applications.

(Proposed by Mr. House, seconded by Mr. Bielecki, with six in favour and three abstentions. The Chairman did not vote or take part in the discussion)

Mr. Jackson returned to the meeting.

10/00673/TCA: Mr. N. Millar, 226 Church Street

Crown reduction of three fir trees

It was agreed that the Parish Council should endorse the decision of Wiltshire Council's landscape officer.

Decisions

There were none.

10. CORRESPONDENCE

a) Letter of thanks from the Secretary of Hilperton Village Hall committee for the Parish Council's support over the past year.

11. PUBLICATIONS

- a) Paxcroft Mead Community Centre: agenda for the 3rd March, 2010, meeting, and minutes of the 3rd February, 2010, meeting
- b) Wiltshire Council – Trowbridge Area Board: Just a Minute, March, 2010
- c) The Pound, Corsham – events programme April to September, 2010
- d) The Clerk – March, 2010
- e) Paxcroft Mead Community Forum: agenda for the 10th March, 2010, meeting and minutes of the 18th January, 2010, meeting
- f) WALC Newsletter – February, 2010
- g) Wiltshire Council – Town and Parish Newsletter, March, 2010
- h) Clerks and Councils Direct – March, 2010
- i) Local Council Review – Spring, 2010

12. ACCOUNTS

Payments authorised:

Clerk's salary and expenses for March, 2010	£502.94
Futurform Group – stationery (including £7.32 VAT)	£49.12
Landcare – planting of 16 trees and erection of stock guards (including £341.60 VAT)	£2,293.60
Victim Support – Section 137 Grant approved earlier	£300.00

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS AND VILLAGE MAINTENANCE

a) Mrs. Waring had received a request from a resident in Marsh Road for the Parish Council to ask the owner of Marsh Stores if he could clear the litter - as a gesture of goodwill – outside 10 Marsh Road (the house next to Marsh Road garage). The occupant of the house had had a stroke so could not do this himself.

b) Mr. Tucker said the gullies along Whaddon Lane were still blocked up.

c) Mrs. Hayes said she had asked PC Hough to attend the Parish Assembly and to give a report.

- d) Mrs. Sawyer said that there was a broken piece of play equipment in the play area which needed mending and making safe. It was agreed that the bill should be made out to the Parish Council and sent to the Clerk.
- e) Mrs. Sawyer said that in Greenhill Gardens the grass was growing, in places, over the pavements. It was agreed that this was a job that the Parish Steward could do on his next visit.
- f) Mr. House said he would be happy to make sure that the newly-planted trees were watered when necessary. Mr. Pike had indicated to the Chairman that the troughs in his field could be used, but it was felt that a formal request should be made via the Clerk.
- g) Mr. House said that there would be an 'open gardens' day in Hilperton during the summer.
- h) Mr. Jackson said that he had received a report from Mr. Snook at Wiltshire Council about the Devizes Road drainage problems. It had been established that part of the drain had collapsed and was acting like a flap, letting water in. Mr. Snook was now waiting to see what could be done to remedy the situation, so it seemed that the problem might be sorted out once and for all.

14. ITEMS FOR PARISH NEWS/LOCAL PRESS

- a) Allotment update
- b) Village clean-up
- c) Grant given to Victim Support
- d) Details of the Annual Parish Assembly
- e) Parish Newsletter

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, 20th April, 2010, with a Planning Committee meeting on **Tuesday, 30th March, 2010**.

The meeting ended at 9.20 p.m.

Signed Date

