

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HILPERTON PARISH COUNCIL
HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL, WHADDON LANE, HILPERTON,
at 7.30 pm on Tuesday, 20th April, 2010**

There were no members of the public present

PRESENT	Mr. E. Clark	Mrs. S. Sawyer
	Mrs. K. Hayes	Mr. K. Jackson
	Mr. R. House	Mr. W. Jameson
	Mr. D. Tucker	Mr. B. Cullern
	Mr. J. Willis	

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Mr. V. Bielecki, Mr. T. Carbin, Ms. P. Turner and PC Mark Hough.

2. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL/PREJUDICIAL INTEREST

There were none.

3. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 16th March, 2010, and the Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on the 30th March, 2010, were approved and signed.

4. MATTERS ARISING (from the 16th March PC meeting)

Minute 5c – Leap Gate Bus Shelter: Although Trowbridge Town Council said it would rectify the situation regarding the lack of any mention of the Parish Council's sponsorship on the new bus shelter, Mr. Cullern said that nothing had been done yet.

Minute 6 – Trowbridge Library: Mrs. Hayes said she and other people were still unhappy about the move to County Hall as they felt it should be somewhere in the town centre. It was agreed that this should be discussed further at the May PC meeting.

Minute 8 – Parish Council Newsletter: Two thousand copies had been brought along and the Clerk asked members to stay behind after the meeting to pick up the ones they were going to distribute. Mrs. Hayes said she was happy to help but could do nothing until about mid-May.

Minute 8 – Village Clean Up: Unfortunately Mrs. Waring was not present at the meeting to give a report but parish councillors felt it had been a great success. The Clerk had written some letters of thanks to volunteers, which she had been intending to give to Mrs. Waring, but she said she would send them to her instead. There were reports of 92 sport drink bottles being found where the boundary of the village hall play area met the allotment site, presumably thrown away by footballers and/or their supporters, and it was agreed that a letter should be sent to the Village Hall Committee about this. It was also agreed that, due to the success of the clean-up day, it should be repeated, perhaps twice a year in late March and the autumn, and that this should be included on the agenda for the Parish Assembly.

Minute 8 – Delegation of services to Town and Parish Councils: Wiltshire Council had responded to the completed questionnaire by stating that they had assessed the situation regarding the delegation of street naming. It had been found that the current legislation and protocols were complex and would prove an onerous burden on towns and parishes for very little gain. This function would not, therefore, be delegated and Wiltshire Council would continue with the current arrangements.

Minute 8 – Grant Requests: The Clerk said she had sent a cheque to Victim Support. She had also written to Hilpertion Presents but had not yet heard whether they had approached the Village Hall committee. She said she would drop them a reminder letter.

Minute 8 – Best kept Village Competition: Hilpertion's entry had been sent in and acknowledged.

The Chairman said he would cover the question of the plaque later in the meeting.

Minute 13a – A request had been made to Mr. Duncan Hodgson, owner of Marsh Stores, to clear the litter outside No. 10 Marsh Road. He had responded to say this had been done and a member of his staff would make a periodic check to ensure that the area remained litter-free in future. The Clerk had sent an e-mail to him, expressing the Parish Council's appreciation.

Minute 13b – The Clerk had contacted Andy Cadwallader who said he would arrange for the gullies along Whaddon Lane to be inspected and cleared.

Minute 13d – Mrs. Sawyer had brought along an invoice for payment in respect of the repair of the broken piece of play equipment.

Minute 13f – a letter had been sent to Mr. Roger Pike concerning the use of troughs in his field to water the newly-planted trees.

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIR

The Chairman referred to the situation regarding the Village Policy Limit/Local Development Framework. When he had met with Jim Sherry of Wiltshire Council, Mr. Sherry had said that the VPL should be reinstated, but he had since left the employ of the Council and the situation was not at all clear. It was agreed that this should be discussed further at the May PC meeting.

6. WILTSHIRE COUNCILLOR

Mr. Clark had nothing of importance to report.

7. POLICE

PC Mark Hough had given his apologies and had sent in a short report.

Over the past month there had been 23 crimes (out of 51 rural). There had been two burglaries (insecure addresses), three cars damaged on Wyke Road, with wing mirrors smashed off, no doubt by drunken youths coming from town – all on one night 15/4. There had been twelve thefts from vehicles, mostly in the Towpath area of the village, and six other thefts. A few garden ornaments and lights had been stolen from Greenhill Gardens and Hill Street on different nights. With regard to the ASB priority on the Towpath estate, there had been two ASB counts but the police had evidence naming a couple of youths who would now be issued with ASB warnings by the council.

Ellen Wickenden, the local PCSO, had moved on to become a schools' liaison officer and had been replaced by Neil Osborne, who PC Hough felt would do a good job.

Mrs. Hayes said that the NPT would be at Hilperton School on the 21st April, between 2.45 and 3.30 p.m., and the next NPT meeting would be on the 9th June. People should contact her if there was any item they would like to see included on the agenda.

The Clerk had written to PC Colin Davies, informing him of the Parish Council's decision to have the Trowbridge Road designated a 'community concern site' rather than a speedwatch site, at least for the time being. She had yet to receive confirmation of this.

8. ITEMS FOR REPORT AND DISCUSSION

Allotments

The Clerk reported that all 38 plots had been taken up and payments made for the year, details of which she would send to Mr. Jackson. Thanks were given to the sub-committee who had all worked so hard to get the allotments up and running.

Parish Steward

The Chairman and Clerk would be meeting Denise Bunce from Wiltshire Council on the 22nd April to discuss slight changes to the parish steward scheme. The Chairman said that basically the scheme had been running for three and a half years and the stewards were now being asked to rely slightly less on the local councils and become more active in ‘scouting’ for problems, so that they would become more responsible for the areas they covered. A request had, however, been made for the Parish Steward to cut the grass in Greenhill Gardens, where it was growing over the pavements, during his two-day April visit to Hilperton. In May the stewards would be grass cutting and the June visit would be on the 23rd.

Trowbridge Community Area Parish Council’s Liaison Group

Mr. Jackson confirmed that he would be attending the meeting on the 29th April, at Southwick Village Hall.

Planter for Hilperton Road

The Clerk had been to the site and had taken some measurements to see how big a planter could be fitted between and underneath the posts. Since then, however, she had spoken to Bill Austin of Trowbridge Town Council, and had arranged to meet him and the Chairman at the site. It became clear that the space underneath the posts would not be very suitable for a planter and it would be much better to site one beyond the posts, on the grassed area leading to the roundabout. This planter could be ordered by the Town Council, on behalf of the Parish Council, with English Landscapes contracted to do the planting and maintenance. Referring back to the plaque for the Blind House, the Chairman said it would seem sensible to put this on the planter, as it would refer to the village’s success in the 2009 Best Kept Village competition. This suggestion met with the approval of members.

Roundabout Sponsorship

At the suggestion of Mr. Austin at the site meeting referred to above, the Clerk had contacted Hans Tober of the Grangeside Business Centre, and had asked him to liaise with Mr. Austin, as it appeared that the two roundabouts could be put under the ‘umbrella’ of Trowbridge Town Council. She had said that they could then discuss planting, design and making up of the signs, maintenance costs etc. Mr. Tober had done this and had sent Mr. Austin some mock-ups of the signs he would hope to place at the roundabouts’ central areas, in order to make the local business community aware of their presence and location. This matter was, of course, ongoing.

The Chairman suggested that the owners of the fish and chip shop on Paxcroft Mead might be interested in sponsoring their own local roundabout, and the Clerk said she would contact them.

Wiltshire Council – Reducing unnecessary Street Lighting for Wiltshire

The Chairman said that Wiltshire Council had been approached by a number of communities seeking to reduce energy costs and light pollution of the night sky. Street lighting and illuminated signs had been identified as a major use of energy by the Council in a recent review, and a start had been made to replace the lighting units in the county’s 1,600 illuminated bollards with new, low energy units. Dimming and turning off unnecessary lighting for part of the night had been successfully introduced in trial sites in the county, and the Council had set aside £5,000 for each Area Board to introduce schemes in their areas this year. The Trowbridge Area Board had been asked to solicit interest from town and parish councils and other interested parties to take part in the scheme and it would decide which submissions would go ahead in the area.

The Chairman asked members if they wished the parish to be considered for the scheme, and a short discussion followed. It was agreed that this issue should be discussed further at the May meeting but a suggestion could, in the meantime, be made for the lights along Hilperton Drive (A361) to be

extinguished between midnight and 5.30 am. Also, the lights along the Trowbridge Road (B3105) might be suitable for dimming between midnight and 5.30 am.

Wiltshire Council – Flooding Issues

The Clerk had completed a flooding questionnaire, on behalf of the Parish Council, which she had received from Wiltshire Council. In addition, town and parish councils were being asked to identify any known flooding issues within their respective areas. The sites identified by members were:-

- a) Parts of the Hilperton Gap by the stream, referred to as Hilperton Marsh on the accompanying map, suffering from ponding issues.
- b) The footpath running parallel to Newhurst Park, always saturated during periods of high rainfall.
- c) The ditches along Whaddon Lane
- d) The area around Marsh Farm, suffering from serious ponding issues.
- e) The garden of No. 2. Cherry Gardens, always flooding with a run-off of water from the field behind (belonging to Church Farm) during heavy rainfall. Similar problems from the same source in The Knap, with the drains unable to cope during heavy rainfall, with flooding occasionally affecting No. 100 Church Street.

Wiltshire Council - Public Consultation on Gypsy and Traveller Issues

The Chairman reported that Wiltshire Council was preparing a plan which would identify land for the travelling communities of Wiltshire and which would include a policy for assessing the suitability of other sites the Council was asked to consider through the planning application process. The Parish Council had been asked if it wished to make any comments and, after a short discussion, it was agreed that the response should be that the Parish Council had taken soundings from a local landowner and was unable to identify anywhere within the parish that might be suitable or sustainable for a site.

Wiltshire Council – Contaminated Land Strategy for Wiltshire

The Chairman said that Wiltshire Council was obliged to develop and adopt a formal strategy to deal with historic land contamination and was interested in gaining the views of partner organisations, interest groups and members of the public. After a short discussion it was agreed that the only sites which could be mentioned were:-

- a) Matthews old filling station along the Devizes Road
- b) Curtis's old scrapyards at Compton Close, Wyke Road, this site thought to have been decontaminated.

Request for a Roundabout at the junction of Hilperton Drive/Helpswell Road

A request had been received from a local resident for a roundabout to be put in at this junction because it was becoming increasingly difficult and dangerous to get out in the morning rush hour. Mr. Cullern said he would give this request his full support and it was agreed that an approach should be made to Wiltshire Council for a roundabout in this area, as it was the only junction which did not have one. It was felt that this could assist with the speeding problem of traffic coming from the Devizes direction along this part of Hilperton Drive.

9. PLANNING MATTERS

Applications

There were none.

Decisions

09/03585/FUL: Greensquare Group Limited, land rear of 303 – 305 Marsh Road
Erection of eighteen dwellings with access road and parking – permission with conditions

The Parish Council had objected to this application unless a number of conditions/legal requirements were incorporated into the permission, and the Chairman referred to each one in detail. Regarding the matter of the contribution to be made for the maintenance/improvement of play facilities, the Clerk had been informed that £12,000 had been allocated to the Parish Council. This had not been covered by a condition but by a legal agreement. This sum of money would be held in trust by Wiltshire Council for a period of up to five years and it would be up to the Parish Council to approach them with a scheme (or schemes) as to how the money should be spent. In the legal agreement it referred to the fact that the monies should be used for 'public open spaces' so it was not specific to any particular play area.

With regard to preference being given to applicants who were Hilperton based or connected, Wiltshire Council would give preference firstly to people with needs based on their priority of 'platinum', 'gold' and 'silver' and who had a local link to the parish. Even though they could be living currently in other parts of the country, if they were on the local housing list they would be given preference. If there were any spare houses left after the first 'trawl', these would be given to people currently living anywhere in the county of Wiltshire.

10/00164/FUL: Mr. S. Davis, 162 Devizes Road
Conversion of part of stable complex to form granny annexe, ancillary to main dwelling – refusal

10/00472/REG3: Hilperton Primary School, Newleaze
Timber framed covered area for external play/activity – permission

10/00673/TCA: Mr. N. Millar, 226 Church Street
Crown reduction of three fir trees – no TPO made

Other Planning Issues

Application 10/00495/FUL: land rear of 28 St. Mary's Close, proposed new dwelling
The Chairman said that this application would be considered by the planning committee on the 21st April. He asked if anyone from the Parish Council would like to attend to speak at the open forum but no-one came forward.

10. CORRESPONDENCE

- a) Letter of thanks from Victim Support for the grant received from the Parish Council.
- b) Letter from Age Concern, concerning their new brand, AGE UK. Age Concern and Help the Aged recently merged in the other three nations in the UK to create new national charities in April, 2009. These new charities would be changing their name to Age Scotland, Age Cymru and Age NI at the same time as Age UK. It was agreed that a letter should be sent, asking why there was no Age England!

11. PUBLICATIONS

- a) WALC Newsletter for March, 2010 (already circulated)
- b) Paxcroft Mead Community Forum – minutes of meeting held on the 10th March, 2010
- c) Paxcroft Mead Community Centre Management Committee – minutes of meeting held on the 3rd March, 2010, and agenda for meeting on the 7th April, 2010

12. ACCOUNTS

Payments authorised:

- a) **Since the last meeting –**

Tiger Supplies – setting out pegs for allotments
(including £28.43 VAT)

£190.93

I. R. Cradock – contract work for allotments (including £626.47 VAT)	£4,206.31
Rocks East Woodland – Newsletter photocopying/folding	£200.00
b) This meeting –	
Clerk’s Salary and Expenses for April, 2010	£624.25
NALC – Local Council Review subscription	£168.00
Clerks and Councils Direct – annual subscription	£11.00
1 st Hilperton Scout Group – Section 137 Grant approved in March, 2009	£750.00
Revision 4 – web hosting for a year	£107.88

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS AND VILLAGE MAINTENANCE

a) Mr. House said that some allotment-holders had experienced verbal abuse from football supporters, and it was agreed that if this happened again the victims of this abuse should be advised to report the matter to the Football Association.

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.

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, 18th May, 2010 (Annual Meeting)

Tuesday, 4th May, 2010 (Annual Parish Assembly), with a possible Planning Committee meeting following the Parish Assembly.

The meeting ended at 8.56 p.m.

Signed Date

