

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF HILPERTON PARISH COUNCIL
HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL, WHADDON LANE, HILPERTON,
at 7.30 pm on Tuesday, 18th May, 2010**

There were no members of the public present

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|----------------|---------------|-----------------|
| PRESENT | Mr. E. Clark | Mrs. S. Sawyer |
| | Mrs. K. Hayes | Mr. K. Jackson |
| | Mr. R. House | Mr. W. Jameson |
| | Mr. D. Tucker | Mr. V. Bielecki |
| | Mr. J. Willis | Mrs. J. Waring |
| | Mr. T. Carbin | Ms. P. Turner |

1a. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Mr. E. Clark was re-elected Chairman

(Proposed by Mr. Bielecki, seconded by Mr. Jackson, all in favour)

The Chairman signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office

1b. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

Mr. R. House was re-elected Vice-Chairman

(Proposed by Mrs. Sawyer, seconded by Mr. Bielecki, all in favour)

2. APPOINTMENT OF PLANNING COMMITTEE AND OTHER REPRESENTATIVES

Planning Committee: Mr. R. House, Mrs. S. Sawyer, Mr. J. Willis, Mrs. K. Hayes, Mr. K. Jackson, Mr. W. Jameson and Mr. E. Clark (ex officio), with Mr. V. Bielecki as a substitute.

Footpath Representative: Mr. R. House

Police Representative: Mrs. K. Hayes

Village Hall Committee Representative: Mr. E. Clark (ex officio)

Paxcroft Mead Community Centre Representative: No appointment made

Parish Steward Co-ordinator: Mr. J. Willis

War Memorial Plants/Flowers: Mrs. L. House

Trowbridge Community Area Parish Councils' Liaison Group: Mr. K. Jackson

Allotment Representative: Mr. V. Bielecki

3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Mr. B. Cullern, PC Mark Hough and PCSO Neil Usburne.

4. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL/PREJUDICIAL INTEREST

Planning application 10/00954/FUL: Mrs. K. Hayes, the applicant being a neighbour of hers and she had also been lobbied.

5. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 20th April, 2010, were approved and signed.

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held on the 4th May, 2010, were noted.

6. MATTERS ARISING (from the 20th April PC meeting)

Minute 8 – Wiltshire Council: Flooding issues, Public Consultation on Gypsy and Traveller issues and Contaminated Land Strategy for Wiltshire: Letters had been sent to Wiltshire Council and acknowledged.

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Minute 8 – Request for a Roundabout at the junction of Hilperton Drive/Helpswell Road: A letter had been received from Andy Cadwallader to say that the Hilperton bypass had been designed as a high speed road with the Helpswell Road junction having large visibility splays. The reason for there not being a roundabout at this junction was because it was the only three-way junction, and so a roundabout was not considered necessary. If the Parish Council wished to raise a request for a roundabout as a solution to a perceived speeding problem, there would need to be an assessment to find out if there was in fact a speeding issue along the Hilperton bypass. The bypass being an ‘A’ road, it formed part of the Council’s ‘A’ and ‘B’ road speed limit review being carried out, the results of which would be made available to the Parish Council. After a short discussion it was agreed that the Parish Council should not take this any further at the present time, and the resident who made the request in the first place should be informed of Wiltshire Council’s response.

Minute 10b – Age Concern: The response from Age UK was that it carried out activities in places other than England which was why it was not called Age England. Their activities benefited older people across the UK and overseas. It was expected that around 150 Age Concerns in England would adopt the Age UK brand and change their names using the formula Age UK Any Town. Although this was not an entirely satisfactory answer, it was noted.

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIR

a) The Chairman said that Trowbridge Town Council had promised that the signage would be done on the Leap Gate bus shelter earlier that day, and Mr. Bielecki was able to confirm that the shelter now showed Hilperton Parish Council’s sponsorship.

b) The Chairman said that some newsletters still needed to be delivered, and Mr. Carbin, Mrs. Waring and Ms. Turner offered to do a drop in the roads in their area.

8. WILTSHIRE COUNCILLOR

Mr. Clark had attended a full meeting of Wiltshire Council earlier in the day. The Local Development Framework and Village Policy Limits had been an agenda item, but this matter would be discussed later in the meeting. Mr. Clark was able to confirm that there was a strong opposition in the Council to the conservative majority.

9. POLICE

PCSO Neil Usburne had sent in a report which said that there had been a lot less activity in the past few weeks and things were, hopefully, heading in the right direction. There had been fewer incidents of anti-social behaviour on various estates, mainly due to this being one of the priorities the police had set about targeting.

Crimes committed over the past month:

Two lead thefts, one from the Paxcroft Mead Community Centre and one from The Knap.

Four thefts, one from a vehicle in Lacock Gardens, two scooters stolen outside Hackett Place and two thefts from homes.

Three incidences of criminal damage, all on the Towpath/Foxglove/Tudor Road areas.

Two assaults, one domestic and the other a witness report only.

Two incidences of threatening behaviour, both at Hackett Place.

In addition, there had been 45 calls regarding Hilperton, out of a total of 109 calls for the four villages covered by the Trowbridge Rural NPT, most being welfare concerns, ambulance referrals of just for information.

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Mrs. Sawyer said that lead had been stolen from the Village Hall roof and wondered if PCSO Usburne had got the facts wrong regarding Paxcroft Mead Community Centre. The Clerk said she would contact him for verification.

Mrs. Hayes said that the next NPT meeting would be on the 9th June at Hilperton Village Hall. Mr. Jackson asked if the problems regarding rogue traders could be discussed.

Community Speed Watch: The Clerk had received confirmation from the police that Trowbridge Road would shortly become an enforcement site.

10. ITEMS FOR REPORT AND DISCUSSION

Annual Parish Assembly

Three matters had been raised at the Annual Assembly:-

- a) It had been suggested that a bigger litter bin should be positioned on the corner of the car park at the Village Hall, now that the allotments had been opened. It was agreed that a request should be made for a larger bin to be located at the furthest part of the car park, on the hedge side.
- b) It was reported that the bin that used to be along Wyke Road (near Compton Close) had never been replaced, and it was agreed that a request should be made to Wiltshire Council to locate a new one in this area.
- c) Concern had been expressed about the height of the shrubs on the Fieldways roundabout, as they were beginning to have an impact on visibility for cars approaching the roundabout from the Trowbridge Road. It was agreed that Highways should be contacted.

Allotments

Mr. Bielecki gave an update on the activities/problems experienced by the allotment-holders and what had been established during their recent meetings. A Working Group had been formed, with himself as Chairman for the first six months, with a view to the setting up of a proper Allotment Association.

One matter which needed to be addressed was the lack of any toilet facilities on the site, and Mr. Bielecki said this was causing a real problem. A solution could be to supply a mobile unit and, whilst this could be something the Allotment Association could fund in the future, the problem was immediate. He had made some enquiries and found a firm which could supply a portaloos on long-term hire at £18 a week (plus VAT), with a delivery charge of £15 (plus VAT) and collection charge of £15 (plus VAT). A discussion followed, at the end of which it was agreed that the Parish Council would sponsor a portable toilet unit for a total of twenty weeks, at a cost of £360, plus the cost of the delivery and collection. This would be a 'one-off' payment and, after that time, it would be up to the allotment holders to fund the portaloos, either by themselves or by seeking alternative sponsorship. (Proposed by Mr. Bielecki, seconded by Mr. Willis, ten in favour, none against, two abstentions). It was also agreed

that the unit should be sited so that a 4x4 four vehicle could access it, which would necessitate the removal of the post at the entrance to the allotment site. The Clerk was asked to contact the Village Hall committee, as a matter of courtesy, to let them know what was happening.

Mr. Jackson gave a brief report on budget issues, and the Clerk said that the Parish Council would shortly receive an invoice from Wessex Water for the water supply. She had also spoken to Mr. Pike about the option issue and he had said that, whilst he would be willing for the Parish Council to pay an amount for an extra acre index-linked to that which had been paid for the 1.5 acres, he would not let it go for under £10,000. The Chairman proposed that the Clerk should be authorised to pursue the option issue, with the proviso that a nominal sum should be paid for the option. This was seconded by Mr. House with eleven in favour, one abstention.

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Parish Steward

The Chairman reported on a meeting he and the Clerk had attended recently with Denise Bunce and two of her colleagues. He confirmed that the Parish Stewards would in future become more active in scouting for problems, so that they would become more responsible for the areas they covered. This did not stop anyone from contacting Wiltshire Council as and when problems occurred. The Clerk said that the next one-day visit would be on the 23rd June, but the dates of future visits could be flexible. If, for instance, an emergency occurred in another village covered by the Parish Steward on a day he had intended to visit Hilperton, he would deal with that and then give Hilperton a 'day back'.

Trowbridge Community Area Parish Council's Liaison Group

Mr. Jackson gave a report on the meeting held on the 29th April. The state of the car park at Trowbridge railway station and the lack of waiting facilities had been taken up with First Great Western, with a somewhat negative response, so letters requesting support had been sent to Trowbridge Town Council, Trowbridge Area Board and Community Area Future, with another letter to First Great Western's Customer Service and Commercial Director.

A letter had also been sent to Wiltshire Council asking them to raise the profile of local cycle ways by linking them, as there was a demonstrable demand for safe transit routes.

There had been a police report at the meeting, rogue traders had been discussed as was the Village Policy limit issue. Mr. Jackson said that £500 would be needed to fund the group for another eighteen months, and the Trowbridge Area Board would be approached in the first instance with a request to assist.

The Area Board had recently given a grant of £5,000, matched funding, to West Ashton PC for the installation of photovoltaic solar panels at the Village Hall, which Mr. Jackson felt might be of interest to the Hilperton Village Hall committee.

In conclusion, Mr. Jackson said that the next two meetings would be held on the 8th July (Southwick Village Hall) and the 30th September (venue to be confirmed).

Planter for Hilperton Road

The Chairman said that he and the Clerk had been on site on the day the planter was delivered and put in place, and it would shortly be planted up by English Landscapes. The Clerk was waiting to hear

from Trowbridge Town Council with details of a sign company in Melksham so that it could be clearly shown that the Parish Council had sponsored the planter.

Roundabout Sponsorship

The Clerk said that the sponsorship of the two roundabouts at either end of Paxcroft Mead was progressing, and she had also written to the owners of Robinsons Fish and Shop shop at Hackett Place, asking them if they would be interested in sponsoring the local roundabout leading to the shopping centre.

Wiltshire Council – Reducing unnecessary Street Lighting for Wiltshire

A letter had already been sent to Wiltshire Council suggesting that lights could be extinguished between midnight and 5.30 am along Hilperton Drive (A361), and lights along Trowbridge Road (B3105) could be suitable for dimming between midnight and 5.30 am. The Chairman said that this matter had been taken off the Area Board's agenda as it was considered that the best way of driving this issue would be through the parish council liaison groups. If necessary it could be discussed further at the June PC meeting.

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Village Policy Limits/Local Development Framework

The Chairman said that there was inconsistency across the county at the present time, with some parishes losing their VPL's and some retaining them. In his opinion, he felt it was essential for Hilperton to have a Village Policy Limit due to its close proximity to Trowbridge and the very real danger of becoming a part of the town in the future. After a short discussion, it was agreed that the Chairman and the Clerk should be authorised to write a suitable letter to Wiltshire Council re-iterating the Parish Council's wish to keep the extant Village Policy Limit (proposed by Mr. Jackson, seconded by Mr. Willis, all in favour).

The Future of Trowbridge Library

The Chairman said that it was Wiltshire Council's plan to move the library from its present building over to County Hall, and this was causing concern to a great many people who felt that a better venue would be somewhere in the centre of the town. A number of parish councillors also expressed their concern over the move, but no-one had any clear indication as to how far the process of change had gone. It was therefore agreed that Wiltshire Council should be contacted and the Parish Council's concerns and reservations over the proposed move expressed (i.e. inadequate parking and the remoteness of the proposed venue). Wiltshire Council should be asked to give more information about the proposed move, so that the Parish Council could make an input into it. A copy of this letter should be sent to the Town Council, the parish council's liaison group and the local press.

Request for a Grant from Youth Action Wiltshire

The Clerk gave details of the work of this organisation in helping disadvantaged, vulnerable young people, and she had learned that in the last year Youth Action Wiltshire had supported four young carers in Hilperton and had three open cases. The Parish Council had last made a grant of £300 in September, 2008, and Mr. Willis made a proposal that £500 should be given on this occasion, which was seconded by Mr. Jameson. A short discussion followed, resulting in an amended proposal, made by Mr. Bielecki, to give a grant of £300. This was seconded by Mr. Tucker and put to the vote, with seven in favour and five against. It therefore became a substantive motion and was subsequently carried, that a Section 137 Grant of £300 should be given to Youth Action Wiltshire (eleven in favour, one abstention).

War Memorial: Maintenance of Plants and Sweeping

As in previous years, it was agreed that an allowance of £5 a week should be made between the beginning of April until the beginning of November, 2010, for thirty weeks of maintenance of plants at the War Memorial, together with the sweeping.

11. PLANNING MATTERS

Applications

10/00954/FUL: Mr. David Morgan-Richards, 16a Horse Road

Subdivision of existing plot at 16a Horse Road, construction of a separate single detached dwelling with attached single garage, parking spaces and new vehicular access.

Mrs. Hayes spoke of her concerns regarding this application and a detailed discussion followed. It was agreed that an objection should be made to the proposal on the following grounds:-

- a) gross overdevelopment of the site
- b) the proposed size, scale and siting of the ridge excessively high
- c) the positioning of the proposed dwelling out of context with properties nearby

If, however the planning authority was minded to grant permission, the Parish Council would wish the following condition imposed:- that the hedges should be no more than one metre in height and the visibility splays improved, in the interests of highway safety.

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The planning authority should also be informed that there could be a problem with the ditch and verge on the boundary to the lane and the application should clarify responsibility for this.

(When voting there were eight in favour and four abstentions, including Mrs. Hayes and Mr. Clark).

10/01246/FUL: Mr. Anthony McWade, 36 Hill Street

Erection of two storey extension and internal alterations to form additional dwelling

It was agreed that no objection would be made to this application.

Decisions

10/00635/REG3: Wiltshire Council, Hilperton Primary School, Newleaze

Retention of single mobile classroom with toilets – permission with conditions

10/00688/LBC: Mr. Simon Beck, 16 Horse Road

Demolition of existing conservatory and replacement with new kitchen/dining/living room and internal and external alterations – consent with conditions

10/00495/FUL: Mr. R. Slater, land rear of 28 St. Mary's Close

Proposed new dwelling – permission with conditions

Notification of Appeal/Costs Decision

Ref: 09/2115524 – land adjacent to Hackett Place, Paxcroft Mead

Marston's plc –v- Wiltshire Council

Appeal allowed and Wiltshire Council ordered to pay Marston's the costs of the appeal proceedings, such costs to be assessed in the senior courts office, if not agreed.

12. CORRESPONDENCE

There was none.

13. PUBLICATIONS

- a) WALC Newsletter for April, 2010 (already circulated)
- b) Paxcroft Mead Community Centre – Agenda for AGM on the 18th May, 2010
- c) Paxcroft Mead Community Centre Management Committee – Agenda for 5th May, 2010, meeting and Minutes of the 7th April, 2010, meeting
- d) Wiltshire Council – Town and Parish Newsletter for May, 2010
- e) Paxcroft Mead Community Forum – April 2010, Newsletter
- f) Wiltshire Council, Trowbridge Area Board – Just a Minute, May, 2010
- g) Clerks and Councils Direct – May, 2010
- h) The Clerk, May, 2010

14. ACCOUNTS

Payments authorised:

a) Since the last meeting –

P. Staddon – repairs to play equipment £140.00

b) This meeting –

Clerk's Salary and Expenses for May, 2010 £726.50
(including office rental)

WALC – Annual subscription 2010/2011 £776.02
(including £115.58 VAT)

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Futurform Limited – Stationery £154.73
(including £23.05 VAT)

AON Limited – insurance renewal
The Chairman and Clerk gave details of various increases
in the sum insured for a number of items, resulting in an
annual premium of: £1,454.75

Youth Action Wiltshire – Section 137 Grant approved
earlier in the meeting £300.00

Mrs. L. House – maintenance of plants and sweeping at
War Memorial – approved earlier in the meeting £150.00

15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS AND SPRING/SUMMER VILLAGE MAINTENANCE

- a) Mr. Bielecki offered to undertake work on the next Newsletter, for which he was thanked by the Chairman.
- b) Mr. Willis offered to teak oil the village seats/benches – the Chairman to purchase the teak oil for him.
- c) Mr. Tucker spoke again about the state of the gullies in Whaddon Lane and the problems with the underground pipe on the 'Dirty Lane' corner.

d) Mr. Jackson reported that Paul Snook of Wiltshire Council had cleared what he believed to be the last obstruction in a section of drainage along Devizes Road. All being well, there should now be an unimpeded flow, with no ponding up against the speed hump during heavy rain. Obviously only a downpour would answer this but he would monitor the area during heavy rain and would be grateful if Mr. Jackson could advise whether the problem continued. Whilst the line should be clear, there were sections that would benefit from replacement in the long-term, and Mr. Snook had said he would add these works to the drainage repairs list for consideration in any future programmes.

16. ITEMS FOR PARISH NEWS/LOCAL PRESS

- a) Election of officers
- b) Annual Assembly
- c) New planter for Hilperton Road
- d) The future of Trowbridge library
- e) Grant for Youth Action Wiltshire

17. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, 15th June, 2010, with a meeting of the Planning Committee on **Tuesday, 1st June, 2010**.

The meeting ended at 9.35 p.m.

Signed Date