

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HILPERTON PARISH COUNCIL
HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL, WHADDON LANE, HILPERTON,
at 7.45 pm on Tuesday, 17th January, 2023**

PRESENT	Cllr. E. Clark	Cllr. P. Turner
	Cllr. R. House	Cllr. S. Sawyer
	Cllr. D. Smokcum	Cllr. T. Carbin
	Cllr. S. Uncles	Cllr. R. Allan
	Cllr. C. Prevett	

Before the start of the meeting, members were informed that Geoff Richards, a former chairman of the Parish Council, had recently died, and one minutes' silence was held in his memory. The meeting was declared open by the Chairman at 7.47pm.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs. Fisher, Boreham and Hayes.

2. DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

There were none.

3. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 20th December, 2022, were approved and signed.

4. CLERK'S REPORT ON ACTIONS FROM THE PREVIOUS PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minute 8 – Wiltshire Council Local Plan – EIR request: The Clerk had sent the request to the Information Officer at Wiltshire Council, and her letter had been acknowledged. A detailed response was expected early in February.

Minute 8 – Beat the Street: The Clerk had contacted Hayley Bell and informed her that the Parish Council had decided not to take part.

Minute 8 – WALC: The Clerk had responded to Deborah Bourne's request, as agreed, and had given her the e-mail addresses of both Cllr. Hayes and the Chairman, so that they could be contacted regarding the Zoom meeting in January. Further details had been received from WALC, which she had sent on to them.

Minute 8 – Paxcroft Farm Road Traffic – Byway by the Rugby Club: The Chairman had contacted Kirsty Rose at WC about the problem with excess traffic, and the possibility of a six-month suspension of any motorised vehicles using the byway (a TRO). She had said she would need to take this up with senior colleagues but their latest survey recording usage had not highlighted a big increase in vehicle use. However, she would see if there could be a longer survey to gather more information. She was currently waiting for the final road safety audit report from Atkins, which was due imminently. Cllr. Allan said that local farmers were upset at the amount of traffic using the byway.

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIR

The Chairman wished members a Happy New Year. He said that an e-mail had recently been received from Wiltshire Council concerning future election costs, in which notice was given that from 2025 local councils would be required to meet the financial costs of both uncontested and contested elections.

6. WILTSHIRE COUNCILLOR

Cllr. Clark said that from April, 2023, a new contractor would be running the Parish Steward scheme, but it was likely that the current Parish Steward, Reuben, would still be on board in the Hilperton area. Regarding 'Beat the Street', he said that North Bradley had contributed £100, and the Area Board had been approached for a grant of £5,000.

7. POLICE

Inspector Andrew Lemon had come along to the meeting to address members on the many challenges and changes that had taken place over recent years regarding policing in Wiltshire. He was aware that lack of visibility of police officers was an area of concern in every parish, and he would try to make improvements, especially in informing councils about local crimes and other significant matters. He said he would send an e-mail to the Chairman, giving details of how to make contact with him, which could be passed on to members.

8. ITEMS FOR REPORT AND DISCUSSION

Wiltshire Council Local Plan – Update

Dr. Beckett was present at the meeting and gave an update on all she and her team had been doing lately. She voiced her frustration at not being able to get more information from Wiltshire Council and was confused that there were no clear answers from officers, despite the need for more detail about sites and houses. But she felt that Wiltshire Council was now at least beginning to realise that local communities were getting together to put pressure on them. She concluded by saying that the next meeting of HAAG was on the 19th January.

Agreeing the Budget and Setting the Precept for 2023/24

The Chairman addressed members and said he welcomed their opinion on the options in the draft budget which he and the Clerk had prepared. These were a nil % increase in the Precept, a 10% increase and an increase of £10. He spoke about the probable need for legal representation regarding opposition to the Wiltshire Council Local Plan, and this would come at a cost. He then made a formal proposal that the Precept should be increased by £10 and this was seconded by Cllr. Allan. When put to the vote, there were no further parish councillors in favour of this proposal.

There then followed a detailed discussion, at the end of which Cllr. Carbin proposed a nil increase in the levy, which would bring in a Precept of £23,775. This was seconded by Cllr. Turner, with eight in favour and one against. Those who voted in favour were Cllrs. Sawyer, Turner, Allan, Uncles, House, Carbin, Prevett and Smokcum, with the Chairman voting against. Notwithstanding this decision, it was appreciated that adequate provision should be made for legal costs, and the Chairman and Clerk were asked to make amendments to the budget that could accommodate these costs by reducing other items of expenditure. This revised budget could then be agreed at the February PC meeting.

Casual Vacancy – to consider the co-option of a new Parish Councillor

As there were no suggestions on who might be approached, it was agreed that the Clerk should put a notice on the PC website.

Allotments/Community Orchard

Cllr. House had nothing to report since the last meeting.

Works for the Parish Steward

The Chairman asked parish councillors to contact him, as usual, with details of jobs that needed to be done on the steward's next visit, which would be on the 2nd and 6th February. His March visit would be on the 2nd and 6th.

Greenhill Gardens: Grit Bin update

Cllr. Uncles had spoken to Andrew Perrett, who had agreed that the bin should be moved. As Cllr. Uncles was finding it a little difficult to get in touch with Helen Mansell from Selwood Housing, and as he had found a more suitable spot for it, he was considering getting on with the job of moving the bin as soon as possible, especially in view of the wintry weather.

Paxcroft Mead Play Areas: Update, to include Assets Transfer

Following the December PC meeting, the Chairman had been in touch with Wiltshire Council to say that the Parish Council would only consider taking over the play areas at Foxglove Gardens, Lacock Gardens, Millards Close and Stourton Park, plus – possibly - the open area of land near Towpath. He had also asked for a definitive plan, showing exactly where these play areas were situated. As he had yet to receive a response, it was agreed that further discussion should take place at the February PC meeting.

SIDS Update

The Chairman had e-mailed Kirsty Rose, following the last PC meeting, and was awaiting a response from her.

Neighbourhood Plan – update

Having now heard from the consultant who had worked on the current Neighbourhood Plan, the Chairman said it appeared that rather than updating it, it would be necessary to go back to square one and create a new Plan, which would cost in the region of £22,000. He said he would contact a few other local parish councils, who were also considering updating their Plans, to see if they had found a way which was more economical.

Street Naming: Barratt Homes (another four names needed for their development off Elizabeth Way) and Bellway Homes (Weavers Meadow, off Elizabeth Way (nine names needed)

Cllr. Boreham was unable to attend the meeting, and Cllr. Turner said they had not made any further progress regarding the possibility of street names being dedicated to servicemen who gave their lives in the two world wars. The Chairman said this should be discussed again at the February meeting and a decision would need to be made then.

Hilperton War Memorial – As no names had come forward for a volunteer to maintain plants and sweeping at the War Memorial, the Chairman suggested this should not be put on the agenda again at the present time. Cllr. House said that he and his wife would do what work was necessary for the time being.

King Charles 111 Coronation in May, 2023

After a short discussion, it was agreed that coronation mugs should be given to all children in both the C of E Primary School and the Pre-School, as was done to celebrate the late Queen's Platinum Jubilee. These would cost £1,641.60 (ex VAT). This would leave around £400 to be put towards the cost of a bouncy castle for the village fete. (Proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Cllr. Carbin, four in favour, four against, one abstention. The Chairman used his casting vote in favour of the proposal).

Request for a Pavement between Fieldways Roundabout and Newhurst Park Roundabout

This request had come from a local resident, and the Chairman reminded members that when Paxcroft Mead was designed, a conscious decision was made that the main roads (Hilperton Drive/Leap Gate) would not have pavements, in order to separate vehicle/pedestrian usage. A discussion followed, at the end of which Cllr. Carbin said he was happy to support this request, in principle, and this was seconded by Cllr. Prevett. When put to the vote, two supported the proposal, with six against and one abstention.

The Chairman said he would go back to the resident concerned and let him know the Parish Council's decision.

9. PLANNING MATTERS

Applications

PL/2022/09658 – 23 Hanewell Rise: Single storey rear extension and garage conversion.

It was agreed that a 'no comment' response should be made. In the meantime, the Chairman said he would call the application in to see if there were any restrictions on the garage conversion part.

Decisions

PL/2022/08786 – Woodcote House, 112 Church Street

Works to trees in a conservation area: one Willow and one Beech - no objection.

PL/2022/09236 – Ashton House, 259 Hill Street

Works to trees in a conservation area: 2 Leyland Cypresses to be felled due to proximity to house – no objection.

PL/2022/08713 - 16 Newhurst Park: Demolition of rear conservatory, single storey rear and side extensions with internal alterations and garden landscaping – approval given.

PL/2022/08548 – 40 Newhurst Park: Two storey side extension – application refused.

10. CORRESPONDENCE

Letter of thanks from one of the charity recipients.

11. PUBLICATIONS

a) Clerks and Councils Direct – January, 2023.

12. ACCOUNTS

Payments authorised since the last meeting

Water2Business – Allotments supply (4/11/22 to 1/12/22)	£49.49
Id Verde – Planters and maintenance for December (including £20.27 VAT)	£121.60
Hilperton Village Club – PC Christmas refreshments	£59.45
Hilperton Village Club – HAAG Christmas refreshments	£22.30
Water2Business – Allotments supply (2/12/22 to 3/1/23)	£56.34

Payments authorised this meeting

Clerk's Salary for January, 2023	£533.00)	
Clerk's expenses	£220.00)	£753.00

13. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

a) There were none.

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, 21st February, 2023.

The meeting ended at 9.35 p.m.

Signed Date

