

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HILPERTON PARISH COUNCIL
HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL, WHADDON LANE, HILPERTON,
at 7.45 pm on Tuesday, 21st February, 2023**

PRESENT	Cllr. E. Clark	Cllr. P. Turner
	Cllr. R. House	Cllr. S. Sawyer
	Cllr. T. Carbin	Cllr. S. Uncles
	Cllr. R. Allan	Cllr. K. Hayes
	Cllr. G. Boreham	

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs. Fisher, Prevett and Smokcum.

2. DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

There were none.

3. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 17th January, 2023, were approved and signed, following a point clarified by Cllr. Allan concerning traffic using the byway by the rugby club.

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

Minute 8 – Request for a pavement between Fieldways Roundabout and Newhurst Park Roundabout: The Chairman had informed the resident concerned of the Parish Council's decision.

Minute 8 – King Charles 111 Coronation: The Clerk said that the coronation mugs had been ordered and paid for. The Village Hall would be organising a 'coronation eve' family fun evening on Friday, 5th May, and had reserved from a local company three inflatables for children, at a cost of £345.

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIR

The Chairman spoke about the presentation to members of the Parish Council on the evening of the 15th February by Ashford Homes, regarding the Church Farm development. This would be included on the agenda for the March PC meeting.

6. WILTSHIRE COUNCILLOR

Cllr. Clark said that Wiltshire Council had spent the day discussing and voting on the budget for 2023/24, which would bring about a 4.99% increase in council tax.

7. POLICE

The Chairman had not yet received contact details for Inspector Andrew Lemon, and he said he would chase this up.

8. ITEMS FOR REPORT AND DISCUSSION

Revised Parish Council Budget for 2023/24

All members had been sent copies of the revised budget, which now made provision for the cost of renewal of the Defibrillator scheme. The Budget for 2023/24 was then approved. (Proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Cllr. Turner, all in favour).

Wiltshire Council Local Plan – Update

Dr. Beckett was present at the meeting and talked about flooding issues in the Staverton area. She and her team were still trying to get information from Wiltshire Council and developers, and would keep up the pressure, but Spatial Planning had been more responsive. Dr. Beckett had sent a Hilperton Conservation Area Character Appraisal to the Clerk, which she, in turn, had e-mailed to parish councillors. The Chairman said that this should be put on the March agenda for the Parish Council's consideration, and – if agreed - it could then be submitted to Wiltshire Council. Cllr. Allan spoke about Wiltshire Council's response to the Information Request sent to them by the Clerk early in January, and said he could not understand the reasons why they were holding on to documents.

Co-option of a new Parish Councillor

The Clerk said she had prepared and sent to David Huggins a notice for the website, but so far no-one had come forward. The Chairman asked parish councillors to do all they could to put the message out that the Parish Council would like to co-opt someone in the near future.

Allotments/Community Orchard

Cllr. House said that all was quiet at the allotments site with just one plot re-let since the last meeting. The Clerk said that invoices for the next financial year would soon be going out to tenants, and it was agreed that at the present time there should be no increase in rentals.

Works for the Parish Steward on his visit on the 2nd and 6th March

The Chairman asked parish councillors to contact him as soon as possible with details of jobs that needed to be done.

Greenhill Gardens: Grit Bin update

Cllr. Uncles said the grit bin had been moved and to date no comments had been made by anyone.

Paxcroft Mead Play Areas: Update

The Chairman had received a plan from Wiltshire Council, showing where the play areas in question were situated, and this he had e-mailed to parish councillors. He wondered how they wished to proceed, and reminded members that it had previously been agreed that the Parish Council might pay for any new equipment/repairs. He said that there was no hurry to make any decision, he would send out the plan again (some parish councillors said they had not received it), and the matter could be discussed at the April PC meeting.

SIDS Update

The Chairman said that one of the SIDS' proposed sites was attached to a street lamp opposite Millard's Close, and Wiltshire Council officers were of the opinion that the column was strong enough to take a SID unit. He had then e-mailed Atkins Global to ask for their permission to mount the SID on the column but was still waiting for a response from them. He said he hoped that this could be resolved very shortly, the money was in the budget, and the SIDS should be in position within the next few months.

Neighbourhood Plan – update

Since the last meeting, the Chairman had spoken to a member of Holt Parish Council, who knew someone who had the necessary expertise to be able to make any updates required, at a much lower cost than any consultant. It was agreed that the Chairman should ask that person to take a look at the Hilperton Neighbourhood Plan and suggest updates, at a cost of up to £1,000. Volunteers might be needed, and Cllr. Turner offered her assistance, if necessary.

Defibrillators – Renewal of Scheme

The Chairman informed members that the defibrillator scheme with the South Western Ambulance Service would expire on the 30th April, and he had been contacted by Julia Doel to see if the Parish Council wished to renew, at a cost of £4,800 (plus VAT) for all four defibrillators. After a short discussion, it was agreed that the renewal should go ahead (Proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Cllr. Boreham, all in favour). The Chairman had informed Ms. Doel that he had been unable to secure a host for the fifth de-fib, so that would now be taken away.

WALC Zoom Meeting on the 18th January

Cllr. Hayes represented the Parish Council at this meeting, and she gave a comprehensive report of what went on (a copy of this is held on file). She said that the meeting was well attended with nearly sixty participants, and covered a good number of matters concerning WALC and its member parish councils. The next scheduled meeting was on the 9th March, which Cllr. Hayes said she would be happy to attend if it was online, and if the Parish Council would like her to. This was agreed and Cllr. Hayes was thanked for her support.

Proposed Westbury Incinerator – Update

Since this item was included on the agenda, a statement had been received from Westbury Town Council to say that the Inspector had allowed the applicant's appeal, and the building and operating of the incinerator would now unfortunately go ahead. To date Westbury TC had spent £40,800 in legal fees and other costs in order to fight this application, and Hilperton Parish Council had some time ago provisionally agreed to make a donation. A discussion followed, and it was agreed that, although the 'fight' was over, the money had still been spent, and a grant of £250 should be made to Westbury Town Council. (Proposed by Cllr. Allan, seconded by Cllr. Carbin, all in favour).

Horse Road Name Signs

The Chairman said that some time ago, when Elizabeth Way was built, some road name signs at that end of Horse Road were taken down and never put back. He had been told by Wiltshire Council that it would cost around £448 to install new signs, which the Parish Council could pay for or approach LHFIFG for a partial contribution. After a short discussion, it was agreed that the Parish Council should pay in full for new signs (Proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Cllr. House, eight in favour and one against).

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))

Since the last meeting, Cllrs. Sawyer and Turner had got together and had come up with a suggestion that the roads in the two developments could be named after past members/chairmen of the Parish Council. Thirteen road names were needed, and Cllrs. Sawyer and Turner had come up with thirteen surnames of past parish councillors:- Phillips, Wilson, Thompson, Harding, Barber, Matthews, Pennington, Forsey, Thomason, Daniels, May, Potts and Packer. These road name suggestions would, in all probability, need the consent of nearest relatives. After a discussion, it was agreed that the Clerk, Cllr. Sawyer and Cllr. Turner should set the wheels in motion by a) getting consent where needed and b) matching the names to the roads.

Cllr. Pam Fisher – Six-months absence from Meetings

The Clerk reminded members that the Covid dispensation had ended in April, 2022, but it had been agreed that some flexibility was needed and individual dispensations should be considered for a period of six months. By the PC meeting in September, 2022, Cllr. Fisher had been unable to attend any meetings and it was agreed unanimously that she should be given an extension until the end of February, 2023, in the hope that her health would improve and enable her to take part again.

Unfortunately, she had still been physically unable to attend any meetings. After a short discussion, it was - again unanimously - agreed that she should be given another three months' leave of absence, and further discussion could take place at the May PC meeting.

Procedure for Requests/Actions from Members of the Public

Back in 2017 discussion took place on a possible formal procedure for requests/actions from the members of the public. The Chairman said he had put this item on the agenda for discussion as the Parish Council sometimes received requests from residents (which should, strictly speaking, be addressed at the annual Parish Assembly). Some of these requests or suggestions, rather than coming from a number of residents, were sent to the Parish Council from 'one-only' persons. After a discussion, it was agreed that things should be left unchanged for the time being. The Chairman now wondered if this procedure should be amended, but the general feeling was again to leave things as they were.

9. PLANNING MATTERS

Applications

PL/2022/08930 – Bekson Farm, 54 Whaddon Lane: Revised submission for the retrospective permanent siting of a Biomass boiler with a 6m high flue and container for the control unit (re-submission of PL/2021/10373).

After discussion, it was agreed that the Parish Council's (strong) objections to this application, sent to Wiltshire Council on a number of occasions, should remain the same. (Proposed by Cllr. Allan, seconded by Cllr. Hayes, six in favour with three abstentions, two of these from the Chairman and Cllr. Carbin).

PL/2023/01214 – 123 Ashton Road: Single storey extension to rear elevation.

It was agreed that a 'no comment' response should be made.

PL/2023/01099 – Ashton House, 259 Hill Street: Works to trees in a conservation area – Willow shrub pollard to framework/removal, due to shrub/tree growing laterally because of lack of light. Tree to be replaced with shrubbery. Small Lawson Cypress removal to liberate Silver Birch with more amenity value. Silver Birch, crown reduction by 2.5 m to prune tree away from dwelling.

It was agreed that there should be no objection to this application, as long as the proposed works met with the approval of the tree officer.

Decisions

PL/2022/08789 – 30 Marshmead: Second floor side extension and rear single-storey extension (replacing existing conservatory) – approval given.

PL/2022/09408 – Maylands Farm, Whaddon Lane: Erection of riding arena and track – approval given.

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

PL/2022/08771 – 49 St. Mary's Close: Two storey side extension – approval given.

PL/2022/08452 – 5 Ashton Rise: Addition of workshop to rear of garage; change of flat roof to hipped pitched roof – approval given.

PL/2022/05766 – 6-7 Stuart Close: Erection of garages with flat over and associated works – application withdrawn.

10. CORRESPONDENCE

None received.

11. PUBLICATIONS

a) WALC Newsletter - January, 2023.

12. ACCOUNTS**Payments authorised since the last meeting**

CPRE – Annual membership		£36.00
The RAF Association (re. Stan Thompson deceased)		£25.00
Water2Business – Allotments supply (4/1/23 to 1/02/23)		£51.72
Id Verde – Planters and maintenance for January (including £20.27 VAT)		£121.60
Stonehill Officeright – stationery (including £9.20 VAT)		£55.18
CommuniCorp – Coronation mugs (including £281.56 VAT)		£1,689.36

Payments authorised this meeting

Clerk's Salary for February, 2023	£533.00)	
Clerk's Expenses	£162.85)	£695.85

13. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

a) Church Farm extension.

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, 21st March, 2023. (Apologies given by the Chairman).

The meeting ended at 8.55 p.m.

Signed Date

