

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HILPERTON PARISH COUNCIL
HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL, WHADDON LANE, HILPERTON,
at 7.30pm on Tuesday, 18th July, 2023**

There were two members of the public present, including Dr. Celia Beckett.

PRESENT	Cllr. E. Clark	Cllr. P. Turner
	Cllr. S. Sawyer	Cllr. T. Carbin
	Cllr. C. Prevett	Cllr. S Uncles
	Cllr. R. House	Cllr. K. Hayes
	Cllr. S. Woodard	Cllr. R. Allan

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs. Fisher and Boreham.

2. DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

There were none.

3. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 20th June, 2023, were approved and signed.

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

Minute 8 – Wiltshire Bus Review: The Chairman and Clerk had liaised, as suggested, and the Clerk had sent a response from the Parish Council.

Minute 8 – Canal and River Trust Bin Removal: The Clerk had contacted the Trust and they had assured her that the Parish Council would be informed when the bins were removed.

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIR

There were none.

6. WILTSHIRE COUNCILLOR

Cllr. Clark said that he had earlier attended a meeting of Wiltshire Council, when the Local Plan was adopted.

7. POLICE

PCSO Jack Thomas was not in attendance. Statistics from Community Speedwatch teams had been sent to the Parish Council, and these were read out to members.

8. ITEMS FOR REPORT AND DISCUSSION

Wiltshire Council Local Plan Update

Dr. Beckett gave an update on the results of the Local Plan and a WC meeting she had attended recently. She wondered how HAAG should move forward, knowing now that 600 houses would be built, and she thought the strongest argument against this should probably be on biodiversity grounds. Although the Local Plan would be in place until 2038, Wiltshire Council had strongly indicated that in the future other development would be looked at in the areas of concern to Hilperton. The Chairman said that the right time to seek legal advice would probably be towards the middle of 2024.

Local Plan – Request for the Parish Council to consider funding an Ecologist to draw together information on issues that would be impacted by the Local Plan

After a short discussion, it was agreed that the Parish Council should fund this, and Dr. Beckett said she would put this in hand.

Local Plan – Emergency Plan for Hilperton

The flood resilience officer from Wiltshire Council, having noted that Hilperton did not have an emergency plan, had wondered if this was something the parish would consider undertaking. However, there were no volunteers to take this forward. The Chairman said that the Parish Council had always considered that in an emergency the police and other agencies would know what action to take. However, he said that discussion could take place in September about the need for an emergency flood plan, considering the Hilperton Marsh flooding problems.

Local Plan – The possible involvement of Holt Parish Council with HAAG

This suggestion had come from Holt PC and a representative had been invited to the meeting. No-one had turned up, probably because any development would not have too much of an impact on the village.

Allotments/Community Orchard

Cllr. House said that one tenant had recently given up her plot and this had been taken on by new tenants.

Works for the Parish Steward on his next visit

The Chairman had not received details of the visits over the next few months, but he asked members to contact him, as usual, to let him know what work needed doing.

Co-option of a new Parish Councillor

Two residents of the parish had expressed an interest in becoming co-opted, one of whom was present at the meeting and gave a short presentation. Papers were handed out to parish councillors so that they could write down the name of their chosen candidate, and this resulted in the co-option of Steph Robinson by five votes to three, with two abstentions. The Clerk said she would get in touch with Wiltshire Council.

Retirement of Marylyn Timms and appointment of a new Clerk for the Parish Council

Discussion took place on this matter, including the best way of advertising the post. The Chairman said that he and the Clerk had recently looked at serviced offices at Grangeside, which could be considered, although the chosen incumbent might have his/her own office space. The Chairman suggested that a sub-committee should be set up to agree the wording of any advertisement, and it was agreed that he, Cllr. Turner, Cllr. House and the present Clerk should form this sub-committee. It was also agreed that, because the next full meeting of the Parish Council would not be until September, the sub-committee should be given the power to employ a new Clerk.

Marsh Road Parking Issues relating to Avonfield Nursery

A letter had been received from residents of Marsh Road concerning this problem, and discussion took place on the best way of resolving the parking issues. The Chairman said that the introduction of a 20mph speed limit had already been covered, and the Parish Council had informed Wiltshire Council that double yellow lines were not wanted. Cllr. Allan wondered if a parish councillor could have a word with the owner of the nursery, and Cllr. Woodard volunteered to do this and report back at the September PC meeting.

Driver behaviour/speed along the 30mph Section of Whaddon Lane

A petition had been signed by fourteen concerned residents of Whaddon Lane, and the Chairman, as the local Wiltshire Councillor, had contacted them about the problem. The Parish Council had recently asked for a 20mph speed limit to be imposed, and it was agreed that nothing further could be done, except to encourage residents to contact the police when they saw drivers exceeding the speed limit.

Maintenance of Bus Shelters and Notice Boards

Cllr. Woodard's contact had been to see the work that needed to be done and had decided it would be too much to take on on a regular basis. It was therefore agreed that the Clerk should put a notice on the website which might encourage someone to come forward and offer to take on the job of maintaining the bus shelters and notice boards.

Parish Council Trees in Churchfield

Cllr. House had had a look at the trees and said that the first five or six (from the Hilperton to Trowbridge direction) had been enveloped by the hedge and other undergrowth. Also the very well-constructed tree guards would soon begin to impinge on the trees. He said he would try to take some tree guards apart and use the wood at the allotments or orchard, and he would be happy to cut back the undergrowth. The Chairman offered to help with this and added that, as the former owner of the land had agreed that the trees could be planted some years ago, this work could be considered necessary to keep the trees thriving.

Results of the CPRE Best Kept Village Competition

Only two villages in the large village category of West Wiltshire had entered, and Bratton had come first. Having said that, the Clerk reported that the judges had made some very positive and encouraging comments about Hilperton.

Whaddon Farm Solar Farm – Community Benefit

The Chairman said that the Parish Council had three years to spend the £35,000 promised by the owners of the new solar farm, BSR Energy, when the farm went 'on stream'. They had requested that the agreement should include details of what the money might be spent on. After a short discussion, it was agreed that the wording 'for the improvement of the village hall and/or the village hall playing field and/or the play area/allotments' would be appropriate and would find favour with the owners. The Chairman added that the solar farm should start operating within the next couple of months.

Statutory Consultation on the draft Wiltshire Design Guide

The Chairman said that this design guide was intended to be a supplementary planning document, and had been prepared to support the Wiltshire Core Strategy and the emerging Local Plan. Comments were invited up to the 30th July, and it was agreed that the Clerk should respond on behalf of the Parish Council.

Lacock Gardens Play Area – S.106 funding for the repair of the Slide

The Chairman said Wiltshire Council had a sum of just over £256 which they would like to spend before it was too late. He said he would meet the WC officer dealing with this on site to allocate the money before it ran out.

SIDS Update

The Chairman said that the contractors had put one post in the wrong place and he would need to meet an engineer on site at the second proposed location. Whether or not the SIDS would be

needed would depend very much on the result of the 20mph speed limit requests in the village. He had contacted Trowbridge Town Council about their SIDS, and had asked them about the likely costs, but had not yet received a response.

S.106 Payments – Side Agreement for Funds

The Clerk said that this was in hand.

CIL Monies received and invested

The Clerk said that an amount of £58,561.92 had been received from Wiltshire Council in respect of PL/2021/08554 – tranche one of three re. land off Elizabeth Way. This amount she had transferred to the Parish Council's CCLA deposit account, where it could earn some interest.

LHFIG – Appointment of a Parish Council representative

The Chairman said that the Local Highways and Footpath Improvement Group had recently met and changed some rules, in that parish councils could appoint representatives, who could attend their meetings. Cllr. Boreham had volunteered to represent the Parish Council, which was good news, the only caveat the Chairman would put on this being that the meetings were held at County Hall and always during the day.

9. PLANNING MATTERS

Applications

PL/2023/05104 – 21 King's Gardens, single storey rear extension

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

Decisions

PL/2022/05120 – land off Ashton Road

Erection of a five-bedroomed detached house with double garage and private gardens, with vehicular access off Ashton Rise - Approval given.

PL/2023/04332 – Oriel House, 74 Hill Street

Works to trees in a conservation area – reduction in height of a Cypress tree and felling of a damson/plum – no objection.

10. CORRESPONDENCE

There was none.

11. PUBLICATIONS

Clerks and Councils Direct – July, 2023.

12. ACCOUNTS

Payments authorised since the last meeting

Id Verde – Planters and maintenance for June (including £20.27 VAT)	£121.60
Mrs L. House – compost and plants	£74.82
Nathan Coffin – further work to the Parish Clock	£110.00

Payments authorised this meeting

Clerk's Salary for July, 2023	£533.00)	
Clerk's Expenses	£211.40)	£744.40

13. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

Cllr. Prevett said he was still concerned about speeding, and the Chairman suggested that he might approach the Neighbourhood Policing officer.

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, 19th September, 2023.

There will also be an extraordinary meeting on Tuesday, 1st August, starting with a public meeting at the Village Hall at 6.30 p.m., to discuss the recently received McDonald's planning applications, and followed immediately by the Parish Council extraordinary meeting.

The meeting ended at 9.05 p.m.

Signed Date