

**Minutes of the meeting of Hilperton Parish Council, held at
Hilperton Village Hall on Tuesday 20th of February 2024 at 7.45pm.**

8 members of the public were present.

Councillors present. Clark, Turner, Hayes, House, Linham, Sawyer, Uncles, and Woolard.

7.45pm Public Question Time.

This section lasted 9 minutes. As it was not part of the formal meeting of the council, minutes were not taken.

It was agreed that the minutes of this meeting would be produced by the chairman.

AGENDA.

24/45. Acceptance of apologies for absence.

Cllr. Allan – work, Cllr. Carbin – at a Wiltshire Council meeting, Cllrs. Prevett and Robinson - away on holiday. All accepted.

24/46. Declarations of interest.

None.

24/47. To receive and sign the minutes of the Full Council meetings held on 21st November 2023, 19th December 2023, and 16th January 2024.

The three sets of minutes were approved and signed as accurate records of the meetings.

24/48. Chairman's announcements.

None.

24/49. Report from Wiltshire Councillor.

WC today set its precept increase at 4.99%. (WC 2.99% plus adult social care 2.00%). Plus, police 5.07%, fire 2.98%. The WC meeting was still taking place at the time the parish council met.

24/50. Report from police.

None.

24/51. Planning applications.

Application PL/2024/00447 - Proposed works to trees in a conservation area. 216 Church Street. Proposal: T1- Silver Birch. Remove to ground level. . T2-Holly. Crown lift to 2m. The lateral branches are touching the property. T3-Bay. Top by 2m. T4-Silver Birch. Reduce top and laterals by 1m. T5-Walnut. Reduce top and laterals by 1.5m. T6- Quince. Remove to ground level. T7-Ash Remove to ground level.

DECISION:

It was resolved that the parish council would concur with the findings of the WC tree officer.

Application PL/2024/00973 - 1 Ashton Rise. Proposal: Rear single storey extension to provide larger kitchen and dining area and utility room.

DECISION:

It was resolved that the parish council had 'No comment' to make.

Application PL/2024/01354 - 26 Horse Road. Proposal: Loft Conversion.

DECISION:

It was resolved to **STRONGLY OBJECT** to the application for the following reasons.

A six-bedroom, four-bathroom property in this location represents overdevelopment, especially along an unmade road.

The development will cause a serious loss of privacy to existing households.

The appearance of the 'louvre bars' on the windows is not in keeping with the area or even the rest of the building.

When the property was given planning permission in approx. 2006, Permitted Development Rights were removed specifically to protect the surrounding area from this type of development.

Proposed Cllr. Sawyer. Seconded Cllr. Hayes.

Carried nem. con. with one abstention from the chairman (Cllr. Clark).

24/52. Planning decisions.

PL/2023/10387 - Coopers Chase, Church Street. Proposal: Erection of Double Garage with Studio in Roof Space. Decision: Approve with conditions.

PL/2023/11111 - 2 Pound Farm Close. Proposal: Extension over existing dining room to form master bedroom. Decision: Approve with conditions.

PL/2023/09157 - 40 Newhurst Park, Hilperton, Trowbridge, BA14 7QW. Proposal: Two-story side extension with accompanying internal modifications, along with a designated hardstanding area for off-site parking featuring a roller shutter. Decision: Refuse.

The above decisions were noted.

24/53. Planning appeals.

PL/2023/08094 - 26 Horse Road, Hilperton Marsh, BA14 7PF - APP/Y3940/D/23/3335096.

"As this appeal is proceeding under the Householder Appeals Service, there is no opportunity for you to submit further comments."

Noted.

24/54. Trowbridge – Melksham cycle route.

Devizes Road closure. Wiltshire Council is considering relocating the closure point to the eastern end of Devizes Road adjacent to the A361 roundabout. Following discussion, it was agreed that the parish council had no preference for either closure point, and that this information should be passed to WC.

Use of Hilperton – Semington by-ways by motorised vehicles. It was noted that WC proposes to make an Experimental Traffic Regulation Order to exclude motorised traffic from the by-ways except for access to the fields adjacent to the by-ways.

24/55. Closure of Trowbridge Road by Wessex Water.

It was noted that Wessex Water plan to close Trowbridge Road between 25th March and 22nd April 2024. Cllr. Sawyer is in contact with the bus company to try and get at least an hourly service to run along Devizes Road/Church Street/Hill Street.

24/56. Parish Steward.

It was noted that any suggestions for work should be forwarded to the chairman.

24/57. Allotments/Community Orchard.

A report from Cllr. House was received which included an update on the water bill. The PC has been overcharged by the water company and the overpayment will be retained on the account to off-set future costs.

24/58. Co-option of new parish councillor and appointment of new parish clerk/RFO.

The council considered applications received for co-option. It was unanimously agreed that the position should be offered to Marc Bayley.

It was agreed that the 'three-page' application form should be used for any future vacancies (as it was for this vacancy).

The Staffing Committee reported that it would be interviewing for the vacant clerk position in the next two weeks.

24/59. New public artwork.

Bellway has commissioned an artist for a 'Hilpertion' piece at their new development on Elizabeth Way. Cllr. Sawyer was happy to be put into contact with him.

24/60. 'Clerk's report.'

24/23. Doric Park. The chairman had contacted Trowbridge Town Council as agreed.

24/27. 'Remembrance Sunday' road signs. The chairman had contacted the Scouts as agreed.

24/28. 'Stourton Park' waste bins. Cllr. Linham reported that he had been in touch with WC and the bins were now being emptied on a weekly basis.

24/41. PC filing cabinets at Rocks East Woodlands. It was noted that these had been moved to the old committee room at the village hall. The chairman wished to thank Cllrs. House and Wollard, and Richard Jameson, for their assistance.

24/42. LHFIDG double yellow lines update. It was noted that all the HPC requests were on the list for TRO later this year.

SIDs. It was noted that Cllr. Clark had returned the 'Ready for Installation' questionnaires to Westcotec on 1/2/24.

Bus stop and noticeboard cleaning. Cllr. Clark reported that he was in contact with the contracted company.

Parish mapping. Cllr. Clark reported that he was unclear who this topic was contracted to. He will investigate further.

Locum clerk. Not proceeded with as precept had been set and Ros Huggins had dealt with HMRC matters for the PC.

24/61. Approval of invoices for payment.

The following items were approved for payment.

1822 IdVerde monthly invoice (January) £121.60 (including £20.27 VAT)

1823 CloudyIT monthly fee invoice £157.56 (including £26.26 VAT)

1824 Scott Uncles laptop charger invoice £16.14 (including £2.69 VAT)

1825 SLCC clerk advert invoice £462.00 (including £77.00 VAT)

1826 IdVerde monthly invoice (February) £121.60 (including £20.27 VAT)

24/62. Internal Audit.

24/32. Confirmation of internal auditor for 2024/25. It was agreed unanimously to continue with existing auditor - Ros Huggins.

24/63. Meetings for councillors to consider attending.

Trowbridge Area Board. 7.00pm. Thursday 14th March. Southwick Primary School. The chairman advised that he would not be able to attend this meeting.

24/64. Correspondence received.

None.

24/65. Items for future meetings.

None.

24/66. Items for notice board or publication.

None.

24/67. Date, time, and venue for the next parish council meeting.

Tuesday March 19th 2024, commencing at 7.45pm at Hilperton Village Hall, Whaddon Lane.

Signed

Dated 19th March 2024.