

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL ASSEMBLY FOR THE PARISH OF
HILPERTON HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL, WHADDON LANE,
ON TUESDAY, 16th MAY, 2023, AT 7.00 p.m.**

PRESENT: Three members of the public plus eight parish councillors.

1. APOLOGIES

Parish Cllrs. Kate Hayes and Pam Fisher, plus Mrs Lesley House.

2. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chairman welcomed those attending the meeting and introduced himself, the Clerk and members of the Parish Council.

3. MINUTES OF THE 2022 PARISH ASSEMBLY

The Minutes of the Annual Assembly held on the 17th May, 2022, were agreed and signed.

4. MATTERS ARISING

There were none.

5. FINANCIAL BUSINESS OF THE COUNCIL

The Clerk reported that the setting of the Precept for 2023/24 was made at the January, 2023, PC meeting, where it was agreed that the levy should remain the same, at £14.28. This would bring in a precept of £23,775. The Budget for 2023/24 was approved at the February, 2023, PC meeting. The accounts for the year ended 31st March, 2023, had been prepared and would be presented to the Parish Council for adoption at the June PC meeting. They would then go forward for external audit towards the end of June/early July.

6. PARISH BUSINESS

Annual Meeting of the Parish Council: Last year Cllr. Ernie Clark was elected Chairman, and Cllr. Pam Turner was elected Vice-Chairman.

Grants made since May, 2022

The Chairman informed those attending that Section 137 of the Local Government Act stated that local authorities could make grants to voluntary bodies where no specific grant-making power existed in other legislation and where - in the council's opinion - the grant would benefit any part of its area and its inhabitants. Section 19 grants applied generally to village halls and community centres, but could also include educational bodies.

£1,000 (Section 19 grant) given in May, 2022, to St. Michaels and All Angels Church to help towards the purchase of anew carpet.

£600 (Section 137 grant) given in May, 2022, to HELP Counselling Services.

£110 (Section 19 grant) given to St. Michael and All Angels church to pay for repairs to the church (public) clock.

£3,038.30 (Section 19 grant) given in July, 2022, to the Village Hall Committee to help with their annual grounds maintenance. (Funding for the maintenance of the playing fields, plus 25% of their public liability insurance, less the income received from football).

£500 (Section 137 grant) given in September, 2022, to Wiltshire Citizens Advice.

£300 (Section 137 grant) given in September, 2022, to St. John Ambulance.

£300 (Section 137 grant) given in November, 2022, to Victim Support.

Allotments/Community Orchard

The Chairman said there was still a waiting list of potential plot-holders. The Community Orchard was well established and this year a pond would be dug to encourage and support wildlife. There were also two solitary bumble bee boxes in place in the orchard.

The late Queen Elizabeth 11

The Platinum Jubilee Fete in June, 2022, was a great success. The new play equipment bought by the Parish Council was installed in time for the jubilee celebrations and was well received by parents and enjoyed by the children. Upon the sad death of The Queen in September, 2022, a letter of condolence was sent to King Charles 111, and a letter of thanks received from Buckingham Palace.

Parish Steward

This now appeared on each monthly agenda, when parish councillors would be asked by the Chairman to let him know what works needed to be done on the steward's next visit.

Defibrillators

The Chairman said that the village had four defibrillators, located at the Lion and Fiddle, the Village Hall, St. Mary's Church and Greenhill Gardens. Last month the scheme with the South Western Ambulance Service was renewed for four years.

Greenhill Gardens – Grit Bin and request for more Lighting

The request from residents for more lighting was approved by Wiltshire Council at the end of last year, with the Parish Council agreeing to pay £1,150 as a contribution towards the total cost of £4,600. The grit/salt bin was now in place and paid for by the Parish Council.

Updating of the Neighbourhood Plan

The Chairman said that work on updating the current Neighbourhood Plan would commence later in the year, now that the Parish Council had found a firm of specialist consultants who would set out a project plan of work for the review.

Wiltshire Council-owned Play Areas in the Parish

Discussion had taken place over the past months about the possibility of the Parish Council taking over the play areas at Foxglove Gardens, Lacock Gardens, Millards Close and Stourton Park, plus – possibly - the open area of land near Towpath. The Chairman said that this was an ongoing matter and would require further consultation with Wiltshire Council.

Speed Indicator Devices

The Chairman said that the plan now was to erect two poles, one in Marsh Road and the other along the Trowbridge Road, to which the devices would be attached. It was hoped that the SIDS would be operational later in the year.

CPRE Best Kept Village Competition

Last year Hilperton came top of the Best Kept Village competition in the West Wiltshire large village category. Hilperton's entry for 2023 had recently been sent to the CPRE.

Street Naming

The Parish Council had provided street names for Barrett Homes and Belway Homes for their developments on land off Elizabeth Way.

Co-option of a new Parish Councillor

The Chairman said that the Parish Council now had a newly co-opted parish councillor, following the resignation of Cllr. Swift towards the latter part of 2022. Cllr. Samantha Woodard was welcomed to the Parish Council last month.

King Charles 111 Coronation

The Parish Council arranged for coronation mugs to be distributed to children attending both the C. of E. Primary School and the Pre-School, and these were delivered last month. The Parish Council had also paid for a high energy assault course combi bouncer and super slide for the evening celebrations at the Village Hall the day before the coronation.

Wiltshire Council Local Plan

Members of the Hilperton Area Action Group (HAAG), headed by Dr. Celia Beckett, had worked tirelessly over the past year to persuade Wiltshire Council not to impose massive development in the Hilperton and Staverton area. It seemed likely that the draft Local Plan would be presented to Wiltshire Council’s cabinet in July, and after that it would go to the full council. Following consultation, the Public Hearing would most likely commence in the spring of 2024.

Police

Jack Thomas still remained the local PCSO and had attended meetings on a few occasions to report on crimes committed in the area. Inspector Andrew Lemon attended the PC’s January, 2023, meeting to address members on the many challenges and changes that had taken place over recent years regarding policing in Wiltshire.

Wiltshire Councillor’s Report

Cllr. Clark said that all matters of importance were discussed at the Parish Council’s monthly meetings and – without doubt- the most important issue currently was the Local Plan.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS NOT HAVING A LEGAL CONSEQUENCE ON THE COUNCIL

There was none.

8. CONCLUSION

The Chairman encouraged people to attend parish council meetings and visit the website for details. Donations from the Sir William Roger Brown’s (Coal) Charity continued to be given at Christmas time to needy, elderly recipients, and the Parish Council would like to know of any residents in the parish who could benefit in a small way.

In conclusion, the Chairman thanked:-

- Mrs Lesley House for the continued upkeep of the War Memorial and planting.
- All parish councillors and clerk for their commitment throughout the year.
- Dr. Celia Beckett and her volunteers for their continued work regarding Wiltshire Council’s Local Plan.

The meeting ended at 7.15 p.m.

Signed

Date