

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HILPERTON PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL, WHADDON LANE, HILPERTON,  
at 7.30 pm on Tuesday, 20<sup>th</sup> November, 2012**

There were five members of the public present.

<b>PRESENT</b>	Mr. E. Clark	Mrs. S. Sawyer
	Mr. T. Carbin	Ms. S. Carleton
	Mr. S. Uncles	Mr. V. Bielecki
	Mrs. K. Hayes	Ms. P. Turner
	Mr. J. Willis	Mr. K. Jackson
	Mr. W. Jameson	

*Before the start of the meeting, Mary Martin spoke about the activities of the Trowbridge Sea Cadets.*

### **1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Mr. David Tucker and PC Mark Hough.

### **2. DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS**

There were none.

### **3. MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 16<sup>th</sup> October, 2012, and the Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on the 6<sup>th</sup> November, 2012, were approved and signed.

### **4. MATTERS ARISING (from the October PC meeting)**

Minute 8 – Best Kept Village competition: The Chairman confirmed that the shield had been put in place on the wall at the War Memorial. The certificate, however, needed unbreakable glass in its frame before being hung in the Village Hall.

Minute 13b – Footpaths: In response to the Clerk's report to the footpath warden about the state of footpaths 5, 6 and 10a, Paul Millard had been to inspect them. He found them satisfactory, in respect of what was required of farmers by Wiltshire Council, and he did not propose to take any action.

Minute 13e – Flooded footpath: Following a report to the Clerk to Wiltshire Highways, an officer had been in touch with Mr. Jackson, who gave an update on the situation.

Minute 13f – Pavement east of 128 Devizes Road (south side): The situation with overhanging branches etc. had again been reported to Wiltshire Council.

### **5. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIR**

a) The Chairman said he had laid a wreath at the War Memorial on Remembrance Sunday, and had thanked the Methodists for the service.

b) He noticed at the time that the War Memorial needed cleaning. It was agreed that a few quotes should be sought so that it could have an overhaul in time for 2014, when the outbreak of World War 1 would be commemorated.

c) The Chairman suggested that plaques should be made and erected for both the Diamond Jubilee Oak tree and the new childrens' play area, and this was agreed.

## **6. WILTSHIRE COUNCILLOR**

Mr. Clark gave a report on the successful appeal by Wiltshire and Somerset councils and the Highways Agency to the Department for Transport in respect of the proposal by BANES to implement an experimental turning restriction on lorries using the A36 in Bath.

At the recent meeting of the Trowbridge Area Board, congratulations were given to Hilperton for winning the Best Kept Village award.

Mr. Clark said that Mr. Jackson had been appointed Vice Chairman of the Steering Group of TCAF.

## **7. POLICE**

In the absence of PC Hough, the Clerk reported that there had been 62 rural crimes in the last month, 31 of which had been in Hilperton. There had been an improvement in some areas but clearly the overall figures were still on the high side.

It was agreed that the Clerk should write to congratulate the newly-elected Police Crime Commissioner for Wiltshire, Angus Macpherson, and to point out to him the Parish Council's concerns on the increase in crime in rural areas.

## **8. ITEMS FOR REPORT AND DISCUSSION**

### **Allotment Matters**

Since the last meeting, parish councillors Bielecki, Carleton, House and Jackson had met to discuss the matter of public and employers' liability insurance in respect of clearing/maintaining communal parts of the allotments. They had prepared a statement, copies of which had been sent to members of the Parish Council.

After a short discussion, it was agreed that the statement as read should be sent to all allotment-holders to be added to their existing Tenancy Agreements. The statement should be referred to as Addendum (1) dated 20<sup>th</sup> November, 2012. (Proposed by Mr. Willis, seconded by Mr. Uncles, all in favour).

Mr. Bielecki said that twelve sheds had been broken into recently but only three allotment-holders had reported thefts to the police.

Changes continued in respect of allotment-holders, with currently four or five moving out and the same number moving in.

### **Parish Steward**

The Clerk said that the next visit by the Parish Steward would be on Monday, 3<sup>rd</sup> December, followed by another one-day visit on the 20<sup>th</sup> December.

### **Trowbridge Community Area Parish Council's Liaison Group**

Mr. Jackson had not been able to attend the meeting on the 24<sup>th</sup> October but said that the main matter discussed had been the Wiltshire Core Strategy. Other issues discussed were the Grange Hill wind farm proposal; Gypsy and traveller sites target numbers; the infrastructure to meet proposed housing targets; the separation distances between wind turbines and dwellings/settlements; and the BANES lorry issue. The next meeting would be on the 6<sup>th</sup> February, 2013, at Southwick Village Hall.

Mr. Jackson also gave an update on the situation regarding the community campus.

### **Child-Minding/Caring Costs for Parish Council Meetings**

The Chairman said there was nothing in the Standing Orders which covered costs such as these. A discussion then followed as to whether or not they could be partly covered by the Parish Council, bearing in mind that the issue of ‘members’ expenditure’ was a very sensitive one with the public.

It was generally agreed that ‘caring’ expenses could be met, from the next financial year, but there should be a cap on the amount paid each year. Any costs should be based on a maximum of three hours for each meeting (including travelling time) up to a maximum of ten meetings each year. The costs should be set at the statutory minimum wage for an eighteen-year old, or the actual cost per hour, whichever was the lower. This was put forward as a resolution by Ms. Turner, seconded by Mr. Bielecki, with nine in favour and two against.

It was further agreed that costs for caring should be included in the budget for the next financial year, the budget to be discussed and agreed at the January, 2013, PC meeting.

### **Sir William Roger Brown’s Coal Charity**

*Under Standing Order 68, this item was classified as confidential*

The Clerk again read out the list of the 2011 recipients – six in total – who had each received £20, and confirmed that one of these had since died. No additions were made to these five people and it was agreed that they should receive £20 each this Christmas, making a total of £100, £60 of which would come from the interest which had accrued and £40 from the Chairman’s allowance. (Proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Mr. Bielecki, all in favour).

### **Village Hall – Section 106 Monies**

A response to the Clerk’s letter to the Chairman of the Village Hall Committee had now been received. The letter said that the Committee recognised that a large number of needs could be met from the Section 106 funds and they would endeavour to carry out a proper business assessment. The Parish Council should be assured that the Committee would add the play area fencing request to the list of items being considered as a whole.

After a short discussion, and bearing in mind the amount the Parish Council had put forward for the play area, it was agreed that the Clerk should write back to ask for its request to be considered as a top priority rather than an item on their list.

### **Requests for Grants:**

The following Section 137 Grants were approved, each having received careful consideration:-

Victim Support - £300

Carers Support Wiltshire - £400

Trowbridge Sea Cadets - £300

(Proposed by Mr. Jameson, seconded by Ms. Turner, all in favour)

### **Process to adopt Dispensations**

The Chairman referred to Section 33 of the Localism Act 2011 which states that ‘a parish council may grant a dispensation to a member in respect of the restrictions which apply to him/her at a meeting which is considering a matter in which he/she holds a disclosable pecuniary interest’. He said that it had been suggested that anyone paying council tax should not be involved in the setting of precepts under the new scheme without dispensations being granted.

There were three ways of doing this:-

- a) The Parish Council could decide on any dispensations
- b) A dispensation sub-committee could be set up

c) The granting of dispensations could be delegated to the Parish Clerk

It was agreed that (c) would be the best way to handle this issue, any requests to be received by the Clerk at least two working days before a particular meeting. It was therefore Resolved that the Council delegate the power to grant dispensations under Section 33 (1) of the Localism Act 2011 to the Clerk. (Proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Ms. Turner, all in favour).

### **Dog Fouling on Footpaths**

Following the reporting of instances of dog fouling in Hilperton and other local areas, the Trowbridge Area Board had discussed the matter at their recent meeting. Some Parish Councils were interested in enforcing the dog fouling control order themselves or could ask the Dog Warden for their area to do this. The Chairman had contacted the Dog Warden and the sites in question in various parts of the village would be looked at to see what could be done.

### **Grange Farm Wind Farm**

The Chairman said that West Ashton Parish Council was appealing for help and support in their fight against the introduction of a wind farm in their parish. The matter was discussed and it was agreed that Hilperton Parish Council should not make a donation.

### **Waiting and Parking Restrictions Review 2013**

The Chairman informed members that Wiltshire Council would be looking at this issue once a year, in January. Unfortunately the Parish Council's requests for 2012 had been left off the list for some reason, so the following would need to be included in 2013:-

- Extension of double yellow lines in Hill Street (from Dymott Square)
- Introduction of double yellow lines in the vicinity of the speed table at Ashton Road/Devizes Road
- Introduction of double yellow lines on both sides of the road at Hackett Place, leading to The Mead primary school (this last as a result of a request from local residents)

### **Grit Bins – Paxcroft Mead**

A request had been made to Wiltshire Council from a resident of Cresswell Drive on Paxcroft Mead for a grit bin to be placed at the bottom of Helpswell Road, but this had been turned down.

After a short discussion it was agreed that the Parish Council should consider purchasing another grit bin but only if it could be located on private property and the local residents could provide salt/grit.

## **9. PLANNING MATTERS**

### **Applications**

12/01941/FUL: Miss C. Howden, 342 Horse Road

Advertisement sign (retrospective)

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

12/01978/FUL: Mr. J. Blowers, 196 Devizes Road

Single storey extension

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

12/01970/TCA: Mrs. E. Abrook, 235 Church Street

Removal of flowering cherry tree

It was agreed that no objection would be made to this application as long as the work was approved by the Landscape Officer.

12/02010/TCA: Mrs. A. Price, 10 St. Michael's Close  
Removal of Atlas Cedar

It was agreed that no objection would be made to this application as long as the work was approved by the Landscape Officer.

12/02069/FUL: Mr. M. Miller, Shar-Kays, Whaddon Lane

Change of use of land to a mixed use for the keeping of horses, and as a residential caravan site for one gypsy family with three caravans, including laying of hardstanding

It was agreed that the Parish Council should strongly object to this application, on the grounds that:-

‘This council is not satisfied that the applicant meets the definition of a gypsy and traveller as a ‘person of nomadic habit of life’ set out in annex one of the ‘Planning Policy for Traveller Sites’.

Accordingly, as the site lies outside the Village Policy Limit for Hilperton, the application falls to be considered against the policies of the West Wiltshire District Plan (first alteration) relating to development in the open countryside. In this regard, the application is not justified in connection with an agricultural, forestry or other over-riding justification. The proposal therefore conflicts with policies C1 and H19 of the West Wiltshire District Plan 1<sup>st</sup> alteration. In addition, if permitted, there is the potential for nuisance to adjoining residential properties contrary to policy CF12 of the West Wiltshire District Plan 1<sup>st</sup> alteration’.

(Proposed by Ms. Turner, seconded by Mr. Willis, nine in favour with two abstentions, one from Mr. Carbin and one from the Chairman).

It was further agreed that a letter should be sent to the local Member of Parliament, referring to this apparent loophole in legislation regarding travellers sites which appeared to enable anyone claiming to have led a ‘nomadic’ life for the past eighteen months to be able to put a temporary or permanent ‘home’ on a site owned by them.

### **Decisions**

There were none.

### **Planning Enforcement - 10/01920/FUL: 202a Devizes Road**

#### **Possible breach of planning permission with regard to roof tiles and windows**

The Chairman said he was waiting for a response from Mr. Willmott at Wiltshire Council on this issue, and it was agreed that this should be deferred to the December PC meeting.

### **Blue Hills Development**

The Clerk had received confirmation from the planning officer involved that the properties were being built as per the plans approved.

## **10. CORRESPONDENCE**

a) Letter of thanks from the Wiltshire West Scout Association for the grant given to them, plus an invitation for the Chairman and/or Clerk to plant a tree on the site.

## **11. PUBLICATIONS**

- a) Clerks and Councils Direct – November, 2012
- b) Wiltshire Council – Parish Newsletter, November, 2012
- c) CPRE – Countryside Voice, Winter, 2012.
- d) Bulletin – War Memorials Trust, November, 2012
- e) Paxcroft Mead Community Centre Management Committee – Minutes of a meeting held on the 10<sup>th</sup> October, 2012
- f) The Clerk – November, 2012

- g) Trowbridge Transport Strategy Development  
 h) Wiltshire Monthly Intelligencer, November, 2012

## 12. ACCOUNTS

### b) Payments authorised:-

#### Since the last meeting

Wiltshire West District Scout Council Jubilee Association	
– Section 137 grant	£1,000.00
Mrs. L. House – Plants	£90.00

#### This meeting

Clerk's Salary for November, 2012	£464.00)	
Clerk's Expenses (including office rental)	£298.36)	£762.36
Alpha Taxis – Sunday Club Transport (including £4.76 VAT)		£28.56
Hilperton Home and Garden Maintenance – Siting of Best Kept Village sign, removal of tree guards, pruning, siting of jubilee Oak tree and new tree guard		£90.00
Wessex Water – Water services for Allotments 27/3/12 to 9/10/12		£90.17
Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal – Wreath for War Memorial		£18.00
Victoria Moore Catering – Catering for Best Kept Village Presentation		£150.00

An invoice had also been received from BT Payphones in the amount of £360 (including £60 VAT) in respect of the yearly advance payment for the payphone at Greenhill Gardens from the 24<sup>th</sup> October, 2012. The Clerk had found out from BT that the payphone had had low usage for the last few years and in fact last year there had been no revenue generated. It was therefore agreed that the statutory three months' notice should be given to BT to terminate the contract and that BT should be asked to send another invoice to cover the three months leading up to the termination.

## 13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS AND VILLAGE MAINTENANCE

- a) Mr. Carbin reported that the litter bin in The Knap had lost its 'bottom'.
- b) Ms. Carleton referred to the traffic lights recently put up along the Devizes Road where the new rugby club was being built. She wondered how long they would be there, and the Chairman said he would make enquiries.
- c) Mrs. Sawyer referred to the grass verge at Greenhill Gardens which had become a quagmire following work by Wessex Water. The Clerk said she would contact Pat Whyte about this.
- d) Mr. Bielecki said that the Parish Council's website was now running on a 'blog' style but he would need the user-name and password to access it when changes were made. The Clerk was asked to contact Dave Huggins on this issue.

## 14. ITEMS FOR PARISH NEWS/LOCAL PRESS

The Clerk said that, owing to time constraints for the Parish News, pre-meeting notes had been sent. Details would be sent to the Wiltshire Times.

## 15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

**Tuesday, 18<sup>th</sup> December, 2012**, with a Planning Committee meeting to be held on Tuesday, 4<sup>th</sup> December, commencing at 6.45 p.m.

**The meeting ended at 9.20 p.m.**

Signed ..... Date .....

